

Homelessness: Moral Crisis of Our Time

In a city as prosperous as Los Angeles, and a state as wealthy as California, homelessness is a moral crisis that will define this region's civic legacy for future generations. Every night, in every corner of Los Angeles, more than 41,000 individuals are without a home.

Confronting this growing crisis is not only one of our highest priorities, it is our most enduring civic commitment. Together with nonprofit service providers and other partners, using evidence-based practices, street-based outreach and engagement teams, new safe interim housing and a full spectrum of supportive services coupled with a portfolio of affordable housing have been created. As a result of these new practices, since 2019, the service providers housed more than 22,000 people in the region.

But despite these great strides, the homeless population continues to rise. The forces of poverty and the realities of the housing and employment markets are such that for every 207 individuals that exited homelessness every day in 2019, another 227 became homeless - every day.

But as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has said, "God never intended for one group of people to live in superfluous inordinate wealth, while others live in abject deadening poverty". Addressing homelessness is within our power. And we will not live with the fact that some of our fellow Angelenos will be consigned to a life in the streets. We must commit to building a *Right to Housing* framework that seeks to redress structural disparities and redouble our collaborative efforts.