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On Leaving Refuge?

- Even after leaving refuge, where do they go then?
- **THEY HAVE THE EXACT SAME OPTIONS...**
 - 'Sofa surfing' – the HIDDEN HOMELESS – **victims have been isolated/want to protect**
 - Temporary Accommodation – B&B, hotel – **not safe options!**
 - Supported Accommodation – a different offer to refuge – **not confidential (safe)**
 - Private rent - **simply not affordable** – also subject to references and **credit searches**
 - Social Housing – **options are poor and single person availability is even worse!**
 - **Return home.... THIS ESCALATES THE VICTIMS RISK IMMEDIATELY!**

RISING RENT AND A SHORTAGE OF HOUSING STOCK HAS A DEVASTATING
IMPACT ON VULNERABLE FAMILIES!

#CovWP

The Reality?

The STARK reality:

- **Women are forced to stay in abusive relationships, or return to**
- **Women are faced with the choice of making their children homeless or safe**
- **Homeowners cannot afford both** temporary accommodation AND paying the mortgage, multiple bills
- **Women in FTE** cannot access refuge – unless leave job
- **Universal Credit** provides the abuser with even more power and control over finances
- **Benefit Caps and Pre-Tenancy Checks** disproportionately affect women
- **Local Housing Allowance (LHA) Rates** in the private rented sector are completely out of step with market rents
- **Shared Accommodation Rate (under age 35) – exemptions are not applied effectively** – women forced to share **mixed gender** shared accommodation
- **Why should victims have to leave their homes?**
- **Why should victims have to choose between staying in their own home (and fear for their life) or uproot everything and leave their home behind?**