

London is in a cascade of crises, and we are grateful to #TheForgotten519 for shining a light on the immediate threats to life for our unhoused neighbours, the stress on London's care community, and the need to act with urgency. Your colleagues at Pillar Nonprofit Network join in mourning the deaths of unhoused Londoners and in believing that urgent action can prevent further premature deaths while we seek long term solutions to meet the housing needs and human rights of all.

We are encouraged that City staff recognize the expertise of #TheForgotten519 and the many hundreds of frontline workers, healthcare workers, and community members who have responded to an online survey, joined the coalition, and supported #TheForgotten519 in other ways. We recognize that London City Council has made housing a focus and that City staff are using new, made-in-London approaches to housing Londoners and some best practices from elsewhere. As an association of social purpose organizations, many among our own members are helping to deliver those programs while many deliver immediate comfort and relief.

We try at Pillar Nonprofit Network to evaluate our actions through a lens of radical accountability, identifying where we ourselves might contribute to harms. Where we seek to champion cross-sectoral and intra-sectoral collaboration, we know we are part of a web of relationships that can foster competition, distrust, and disengagement – among organizations and between organizations and their workers. To whatever degree we have been part of the problem, we are prepared to be part of the solution.

We continue to advocate that greater resources be made available for long term solutions, and for urgent relief; we continue to advocate for conditions of work that support a healthy frontline workforce and better conditions of care; and we continue to support trustful collaboration among service providers, governments, and community members.

In this moment, we are grateful to #TheForgotten519 for daylighting the challenges of frontline work and the immediate peril to unhoused neighbours. We believe homelessness is solvable. We hope new meetings between care workers, organizations, and the City will identify real solutions that centre our unhoused neighbours and respect their human rights to housing. We know we have the wisdom and caring among us to do so.

We are in this with all of you.

