

**PRESS
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LISBON JOINS THE VANGUARD PROGRAM

The city of Lisbon and the Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH) have entered into a formal partnership to strengthen local efforts to address homelessness, as part of IGH's global initiative to support cities advancing innovative and data-driven strategies.

In July 2025, **Lisbon became the 16th city to join a growing global movement**, signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IGH to formalize its partnership. This milestone marks the first Portuguese city in the Vanguard Program and underscores Lisbon's commitment to systemic, evidence-based approaches to homelessness.

"Colleagues in the Vanguard Cities will want to learn from you, and we stand shoulder to shoulder with you in the fight to both prevent and combat homelessness. So thank you very much to colleagues in Lisbon," stated Baroness Louise Casey of Blackstock, Chair of IGH.

The Vanguard Program, launched in 2017, unites cities across six continents that are leading efforts to transform homelessness strategies. By joining the initiative, Lisbon aims to reduce street homelessness by implementing effective policies and ensuring that the voices of people with lived experience remain central to its efforts.

Sofia Athayde, council member of the Câmara Municipal de Lisboa, affirmed the city's commitment to "reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness through a strategic and effective integration of these individuals," stressing that "this response must be more effective as a society."

A virtual signing ceremony took place on July 7, 2025, featuring remarks from all stakeholders involved in the MOU: the **Câmara Municipal de Lisboa, CRESCER, Instituto da Segurança Social, Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa, and the Institute of Global Homelessness.**

This multisectoral collaboration is essential, as addressing this issue demands a coordinated response.

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