

Name of Project: Star Partnership
Lead partner: Shelter
Delivery Partner: Stonewall Housing

"I am a transwoman originally from Qatar. I hold an expired holiday visa in the UK. After being outed to my father for identifying as a trans, pansexual woman, I faced a prolonged period of abuse – including physical and emotional abuse and coercive control. My father made plans to send me to Qatar for Conversion Therapy and removed my passport, ceasing any financial support.

I found the STAR Partnership and Stonewall Housing through an internet search and completed the self-referral form online. I was contacted within 48 hours of receiving the referral and a triage assessment was completed. During our assessment, I disclosed that my father had been arrested in the past by the police and charged with assault and battery. I was staying with a friend at the time but was at high risk of homelessness and I needed to find my own safe accommodation.

Stonewall Housing supported me to access safe accommodation through an Air BNB whilst a Part VII application and request for emergency accommodation placement was submitted. So that I would receive further specialist emotional support regarding the abuse I had been through, Stonewall Housing supported me to engage with Galop, the LGBTQ+ anti-abuse charity.

My Stonewall Housing case worker met with a Praxis caseworker at the immigration drop-ins to seek guidance to address any barriers resulting from my immigration status.

Stonewall Housing then helped me find suitable accommodation and have ensured that I have been allocated supportive resettlement support. They have helped me with so much: my housing; benefits and immigration issues. Crucially, and for the first time, I was able to receive vital support regarding my gender and sexual orientation. It was so important for me to receive this support from a specialist LGBTQ+ organisation like Stonewall Housing.