# Migrant camp on Park Lane sparks new wave of outrage amid historic cycle of displacement



In one of London's most affluent areas, a camp established by a group of migrants has ignited significant public outrage and raised pressing discussions regarding homelessness and migration policy. Within the shadow of luxury hotels and fine dining establishments on Park Lane, 19 tents have sprung up on a small patch of green, where residents have been seen engaging in alarming public behaviour, including defecating on the grass. This encampment has become a focal point for continuous debate over the challenges of urban homelessness and local governance’s response to transient populations.

The migrant group, predominantly of Roma heritage, claims to have travelled from Italy but originally hails from Romania. Many residents, like Diana, have disclosed their struggles, admitting that they don’t work and rely on begging for their sustenance. Diana stated, “We don’t steal because it brings trouble. We beg. We beg.” Despite having been in the UK for over two years, she and her peers lack proficiency in English, speaking primarily Italian, and express a desire to find work—specifically in cleaning roles. Their circumstances paint a stark picture of urban poverty against a backdrop of affluence, highlighting the disparities prevalent within the city.

Witness accounts from the area describe a daily scene of disorder, with reports of individuals drinking alcohol early in the morning and conducting daily activities such as cooking and laundering in public view. These actions have intensified calls from local residents and business owners for authorities to take more decisive action. Yet, Diana claims that local police visit frequently but take no measures to disband the encampment, reportedly verifying that the residents have access to food and water, rather than addressing the underlying issues driving them to live in such conditions.

The situation is not unprecedented; the return of itinerant populations to Park Lane has historical roots. Similar encampments have emerged in the area over the years, with local authorities grappling to find effective solutions. In 2013, for example, Romanian gypsies returned to Park Lane just days after being evicted by police, indicating a recurring cycle of displacement that has plagued local governance. This recurring issue points to broader systemic failures in addressing homelessness and provides a revealing contrast between luxury living and the stark realities faced by vulnerable populations.

Responses from local officials reflect a concern for public welfare. A spokesperson for Westminster City Council acknowledged, “The central reservation of Park Lane is not a safe place for anybody to live,” affirming that they are working in conjunction with Transport for London to resolve the issues surrounding this encampment. However, they emphasised the complexity of homelessness, acknowledging that many who find themselves living on the street have varied and intricate needs, and are keen to facilitate pathways into accommodation.

While this encampment remains, it continues to stir conversations around migration, social responsibility, and local governance in one of the world’s most recognised cities. The juxtaposition of privilege and poverty raises fundamental questions about the adequacy of systemic support for disadvantaged communities and the imperative for effective strategies to address street homelessness. As historical patterns suggest, without consistent and compassionate interventions, the cycle of encampments may only re-emerge, ensconcing London’s public and political landscape in ongoing conflict between community needs and infrastructural inadequacies.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055779/migrant-camp-fury-park-lane)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055779/migrant-camp-fury-park-lane)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055779/migrant-camp-fury-park-lane)
4. Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055779/migrant-camp-fury-park-lane)
5. Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055779/migrant-camp-fury-park-lane)
6. Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055779/migrant-camp-fury-park-lane), [[4]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/416870/Park-Lane-gypsies-back-with-a-vengeance-just-THREE-DAYS-after-being-turfed-out-by-police), [[7]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1946359/uk-tent-city-london-romanian-beggars)
7. Paragraph 7: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055779/migrant-camp-fury-park-lane), [[3]](https://www.twocitiesconservatives.org.uk/news/its-taken-8-months-park-lane-tent-city-has-finally-been-cleared)
8. Paragraph 8: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055779/migrant-camp-fury-park-lane), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/09/11/sadiq-khan-is-turning-londons-parks-into-illegal-tent-city/)
9. Paragraph 9: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055779/migrant-camp-fury-park-lane), [[4]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/416870/Park-Lane-gypsies-back-with-a-vengeance-just-THREE-DAYS-after-being-turfed-out-by-police), [[7]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1946359/uk-tent-city-london-romanian-beggars)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055779/migrant-camp-fury-park-lane> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/uk-news/2023/06/02/migrants-stage-pavement-protest-outside-london-hotel/> - In June 2023, a group of migrants staged an overnight protest outside a London hotel, barricading the entrance with suitcases after being allocated bunk beds. The protest highlighted tensions between migrants and accommodation providers, underscoring challenges in managing asylum seekers and the complexities of housing arrangements in the UK.
3. <https://www.twocitiesconservatives.org.uk/news/its-taken-8-months-park-lane-tent-city-has-finally-been-cleared> - In October 2024, Westminster City Council cleared a major 'tent city' encampment from Park Lane after months of community efforts. Councillors Paul Swaddle and Tim Barnes expressed relief over the removal but emphasized the need for more proactive measures to address tent encampments and associated anti-social behavior in the city.
4. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/416870/Park-Lane-gypsies-back-with-a-vengeance-just-THREE-DAYS-after-being-turfed-out-by-police> - In 2013, Romanian gypsies returned to Park Lane just three days after being removed by police. Despite initial eviction efforts, the group re-established their camp, leading to ongoing tensions and highlighting challenges in managing transient populations in central London.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/09/11/sadiq-khan-is-turning-londons-parks-into-illegal-tent-city/> - In September 2024, The Telegraph reported on the proliferation of homeless encampments in London's parks, including Park Lane. The article criticized Mayor Sadiq Khan's handling of the issue, highlighting the contrast between luxury areas and the growing presence of rough sleepers, and called for more effective solutions.
6. <https://readsector.com/migrants-camp-opposite-hilton-hotel-in-londons-park-lane/> - In 2020, a group of rough sleepers, believed to be migrants, set up camp opposite the Hilton Hotel in London's Park Lane. The encampment led to concerns among local businesses and residents, prompting Westminster Council to collaborate with various agencies to find a solution.
7. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1946359/uk-tent-city-london-romanian-beggars> - In 2021, a homeless encampment, referred to as a 'tent city,' emerged in Park Lane, London, primarily inhabited by Romanian beggars. The situation led to complaints from local residents and businesses about anti-social behavior, prompting authorities to seek legal action to remove the encampment.