



Wolverhampton Homes

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**13<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**Ordinary People Extra Ordinary Lives Exhibition  
arrives at the Palace of Westminster**

Alvine Dongmu-Noumey from Ashmore Park and a group of other tenants and residents from across England attended the formal opening of the 'Ordinary People: Extraordinary Lives' photography exhibition at the Palace of Westminster.

Hosted by Lady Victoria Borwick, the National Federation of ALMOs (NFA) exhibition celebrates the lives of tenants and residents living in social housing. Each person featured in the exhibition, including Alvine, makes a really positive and meaningful contribution within their neighbourhoods and communities, and each has an extraordinary story to share.

Challenging the unpleasant and sensationalist stereotyping of social housing tenants portrayed by some media in recent years, the NFA launched its portrait photography competition to tell our tenants' stories. The exhibition, initially sponsored by Resource, shows that even in what may seem like the most ordinary of streets, in the most unassuming of houses, the most inspirational of stories can be found.

Alvine is a full-time volunteer and chairperson of the Migrant Empowerment Group, helping refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants from around the globe to feel welcomed in the city, bringing them together to tackle stress and poverty.

At the opening event, she shared her story with MPs and Peers and had the opportunity to chat to her own constituency MP, Emma Reynolds, about her experience of living in social housing.

Sue Roberts MBE, NFA Tenant Board Member and chair of Wolverhampton Homes added:

"We are absolutely delighted to be invited to exhibit our photographs at the Palace of Westminster and share our stories. We know we are not going to be able to change perceptions overnight but we are making a start. Tenants are good, decent people, with hopes and aspirations for themselves and their families. Sharing these stories through photography is the inspiration for this exhibition."

Emma Reynolds, Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton North East, said

“It was a pleasure to welcome Alvine to Parliament to congratulate her on her winning photo for this exhibition. I had the chance to hear her story about the really positive difference that social housing has made to her. The photo exhibition is an excellent way of showcasing the beneficial contribution that people in social housing make to their local communities, both here in Wolverhampton and around the country.”

The exhibition opened on Monday 10th October 2016 and will remain on show at the Palace of Westminster until Friday 14th October 2016.

## **ENDS**

**For more information please contact Wolverhampton Homes Communications Team on 01902 550455.**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

- Wolverhampton Homes is an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) which manages 23,000 properties including 1,900 leaseholds on behalf of the City of Wolverhampton Council.
- More than 20% of households in Wolverhampton are managed by Wolverhampton Homes.
- It was established in 2005 and is currently rated 3 stars (Excellent) by the Audit Commission, with excellent prospects for improvement.
- Since it was established, customer satisfaction with overall housing services has increased from 65% to 85%.
- Since 2005 we've been making improvements to more than 22,000 local homes.
- In 2016, it achieved Best Companies One Star accreditation in recognition of being a great place to work and has been in the Top 100 best not-for-profit organisations in the last four years.
- Wolverhampton Homes also manages 5000 garages and 270 shops in the city.
- The UK has 38 ALMOs managing over 510,000 council homes across 41 local authorities
- [www.wolverhamptonhomes.org.uk](http://www.wolverhamptonhomes.org.uk)
- [www.twitter.com/WolvesHomes](https://www.twitter.com/WolvesHomes)
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