

Professor Green: Hidden And Homeless

By **Alexander Baron** - Feb 13, 2016



Stephen "Professor Green" Manderson (Image: Instagram)

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There aren't many professors who have tattoos on their necks, but this one is a white rapper rather than an academic. Fortunately, he doesn't rap to us tonight, but for a guy from the wrong side of the tracks, he does a fair job in presenting in one hour the story of what are called here Britain's hidden homeless.

These are not the stereotypical wino with a bottle in one hand and a hand rolled cigarette in the other, but the young who end up taking drugs, including girls, who are of course doubly vulnerable. It includes too the sofa surfers and people stuck in bed and breakfast accommodation.

Herein Stephen Manderson (Green's real name) speaks to a tiny number of these people who some estimate number around 300,000. He sees how young and at times troubled men live rough on the streets of Manchester, and visits a hostel for young

women in North London. Although he presents their stories well, he doesn't strangely enough, comment on the reason they are there, Cameron's so-called austerity, something which actually predates not only the current Conservative Administration but the previous Labour one, as testified by the song *Low Life In High Places*, which was recorded when Green was just nine years old.

This **BBC 3 documentary** will be on iPlayer for only 28 days from its first broadcast on February 9, but if you miss it, some thoughtful person has already uploaded it to YouTube.

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