

"Streets of London" is a song written by Ralph McTell.

It was released in the United Kingdom as a single until 1974. The song was re-released, on 4 December 2017 as a charity single for CRISIS, the Homelessness Charity, featuring McTell with Annie Lennox.

The song was inspired by McTell's experiences busking and hitchhiking throughout Europe, especially in Paris and the individual stories are taken from Parisians. McTell was originally going to call the song *Streets of Paris*; eventually London was chosen because he realised he was singing about London.

The song contrasts the common problems of everyday people with those of the homeless, lonely, elderly, ignored and forgotten members of society.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Streets_of_London_\(song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Streets_of_London_(song))

1	Have you seen the old man	37	
2	In the closed-down market	38	<i>So how can you tell me you're lonely</i>
3	Kicking up the paper	39	<i>Don't say for you that the sun don't shine</i>
4	With his worn-out shoes?	40	<i>Let me take you by the hand and</i>
5	In his eyes you see no pride	41	<i>Lead you through the streets of London</i>
6	Hand held loosely at his side	42	<i>Show you something to make you change</i>
7	Yesterday's paper telling yesterday's news	43	<i>your mind</i>
8		44	
9	<i>So how can you tell me you're lonely</i>	45	Have you seen the old man
10	<i>And say for you that the sun don't shine?</i>	46	Outside the Seaman's Mission
11	<i>Let me take you by the hand and</i>	47	Memory fading with the medal ribbons
12	<i>Lead you through the streets of London</i>	48	that he wears
13	<i>Show you something to make you change</i>	49	In our winter city
14	<i>your mind</i>	50	The rain cries a little pity
15		51	For one more forgotten hero
16	Have you seen the old girl	52	And a world that doesn't care
17	Who walks the streets of London	53	
18	Dirt in her hair and her clothes in rags?	54	<i>So how can you tell me you're lonely</i>
19	She's no time for talking	55	<i>And say for you that the sun don't shine?</i>
20	She just keeps right on walking	56	<i>Let me take you by the hand and</i>
21	Carrying her home in two carrier bags	57	<i>Lead you through the streets of London</i>
22		58	<i>Show you something to make you change</i>
23	<i>So how can you tell me you're lonely</i>	59	<i>your mind</i>
24	<i>And say for you that the sun don't shine?</i>		
25	<i>Let me take you by the hand and</i>		
26	<i>Lead you through the streets of London</i>		
27	<i>Show you something to make you change</i>		
28	<i>your mind</i>		
29			
30	In the all-night cafe		
31	At a quarter past eleven		
32	Same old man sitting there on his own		
33	Looking at the world		
34	Over the rim of his teacup		
35	Each tea lasts an hour		
36	And he wanders home alone		