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Housing

This conference notes that research suggests that:

- a) a disproportionately high number of LGBTQ people live in private rented sector housing,
- b) a disproportionately low number LGBTQ people live in council or social housing,
- c) around 50% of older LGBTQ people would like the option of living in LGBTQ shelter /extra care accommodation - currently there is none in Britain,
- d) other older LGBTQ people who don't want specific LGBTQ accommodation want to live in safe and secure homes,
- e) young LGBTQ people, many of whom are estranged from their families , have been hit by housing benefit cuts and will be forced on the street if the Conservatives scrap it for under 25s,
- f) there is increasing homelessness and sofa surfing by LGBTQ youth because of cuts in emergency accommodation and refuges just as demand jumps due to welfare 'reforms',
- g) that a factor in cause of the current recession was a housing boom caused by the lack of house building and the buy-to-let bubble.

This conference believes that:

- h) all, including those who rent privately, have a right to a decent and secure home , without fear of excessive rent increases,
- i) council/social housing should be an option for all, not a just a safety net
- j) no one should ever have to sleep on the streets or sofa surf,
- k) the housing market is still over inflated, which is bad both for the economy and those in insecure accommodation.

Left Unity will campaign:

- l) to defend housing benefit for under 25 year olds, and for reversal of previous caps

- m) for housing legislation to be reviewed to:
- 1) ensure that Local Authorities are required to house all those who are unintentionally homeless.
 - 2) restore greater security for private renters and regulate rent rises
 - 3) re-legalise rent strikes
 - 4) de-criminalise squatting of abandoned properties
 - 5) to keep the 'right to buy' but only at market value with its income ring fenced to build or renovate properties
 - 6) for all Private Landlords to be registered with their local authority
 - 7) for local authorities to proactively ensure that private accommodation meets the decent home standard
- n) to reverse the cuts in legal aid
- o) to reverse cuts in emergency accommodation with the creation of a diversity of units that meet all needs
- p) to abolish all new buy-to-let mortgages with lender only allowed to loan on existing not predicted income
- q) to build at least one LGBTQ shelter -extra care units in every major conurbation
- r) to increase the building and renovation of Council, and truly affordable, housing to at least 250,000 units a year