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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