



HOUSING IN CRISIS

BRITAIN HAS A HOUSING CRISIS

caused by decades of failure to invest in public housing. In London there is an acute shortage of housing, but across the country houses lie empty.

Why? It's because there is more profit to be made by demolishing them than by refurbishing them – yet all the main political parties' only answer to the crisis is private investment.

Councils, including Labour-run councils, are tearing down council housing and selling off the land to private developers. And the Tories want to extend the 'right to buy', which will reduce the amount of social housing even further.

PRIVATE PROFIT AND SOCIAL CLEANSING

These private developers are only interested in making profit, not housing people. Their luxury developments are priced at levels most people can't afford.

Many of these properties are being sold as investments instead of homes, marketed at high prices to financial speculators. They can make obscene

profits from empty homes as prices rise, while thousands sleep on the streets.

The small number of so-called 'affordable' homes are allowed to be at up to 80% of market prices or rents. In some areas this means 'affordable' rents are really more than the entire income of an average family.

This is what is causing the 'social cleansing' of our communities, driving people out of inner-city areas. We need social housing, not social cleansing.

DIRECT ACTION

We support and take part in the tenants' campaigns fighting mass evictions and social cleansing, as well as against the bedroom tax. Campaigns such as Focus E15, New Era and Our West Hendon are using direct action to publicise the crisis and resist evictions, linking up through the Radical Housing Network.

These grassroots campaigns and occupations are vital, and we stand 100% with them against the landlords and councils who are trying to evict people. **We believe everyone should have a decent home.**

LEFT UNITY CALLS FOR

- 1** A massive expansion of publicly owned and democratically controlled housebuilding, which can be funded by the government at low interest rates and will create hundreds of thousands of jobs
- 2** Social housing not social cleansing: social housing to be allocated according to need
- 3** Rent controls to ensure genuinely affordable rents, with secure tenancies for public and private renters
- 4** Councils to be given new powers to ensure private rentals are up to standard, with tenants protected from 'revenge evictions' for reporting poor conditions
- 5** An end to the 'right to buy', which takes housing out of public hands and funnels it towards buy-to-let landlords
- 6** No more extortionate letting agent fees or discrimination in access to housing
- 7** Protection from eviction for people who find themselves unable to pay their mortgage or rent
- 8** Reverse cuts in emergency accommodation for homeless people, create units to meet all needs – legalise squatting of empty buildings and take vacant accommodation into public ownership
- 9** No to the bedroom tax, and no restrictions on housing support because of age or immigration status
- 10** Existing housing to be renovated to make it modern, energy-efficient and sustainable

LEFT UNITY is a new political party that believes in doing politics in a new way, shaped democratically by our members, in the interest of people not profit. Join us.

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