



formerly called
Militant

Part of the
Trade Unionist
and Socialist
Coalition
(TUSC)



END THE HOUSING CRISIS!

WE NEED

EVICITION RESISTANCE!

NO COVID EVICTIONS

WRITE OFF COVID ARREARS

COUNCIL HOMES

RENT CONTROL

TAKE OVER EMPTY HOMES

**If they can bail out banks and big business,
they can bail out workers!**

The temporary ban on evictions gave a short reprieve to many working class families losing their jobs, trying to survive on furlough pay, struggling to pay extortionate private rents. Even so, 130,000 evictions still took place. But now the ban is over and many more are facing eviction.

Evictions are the just the tip of an iceberg of homelessness, over-crowding, rotten unfit conditions, lack of fire safety, sky-high rents and service charges, impossible house prices, and profiteering private and housing association landlords.

Four years after Grenfell, residents still live in unsafe tower blocks. Councils and housing associations alike have been exposed as leaving tenants struggling to live in appalling conditions.

Meanwhile Labour councils and mayors 'solve' the housing crisis by handing public land over to private property developers to build tower blocks of tiny expensive flats nobody but the well-off can afford. Many of these stand empty or are bought and sold by speculators, while working class people are forced out as areas become gentrified.

**The Tory and Blairite model of
privatised provision of housing
has failed**

**We need mass working class
action and a bold socialist
housing programme to provide
decent homes for all**

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HOW TO FIGHT

Don't move

In echoes of the poll tax bailiff-busters 30 years ago, communities are mobilising to physically defend their neighbours from eviction. Socialist Party members have assisted residents to organise such resistance.

Five years ago tenants on the Butterfields tenants in Walthamstow resisted eviction as a whole group and won, with the simple message - "Butterfields Won't Budge".

Even when people's homes are not safe and they need immediate rehousing, we must still demand that we will not move from our communities.

Don't pay

in an organised, collective way. In Newham, key workers in One Housing defeated a 40% rent increase when they organised and refused to pay. When homes are not safe and the council is slow to act, as was recently exposed in Croydon, why should people still pay full rent?

The same applies to service charges - around the country, through the campaign group SHAC (Social Housing Action Campaign), housing association residents are preparing a "service charge strike".

Trade union and community action

Get organised. Set up democratic Tenants and Residents Associations. Trade unions and trades councils should work with local communities, building collective strength to mobilise for eviction resistance and demonstrations.

In the 1940s, so desperate was the housing crisis that the community in West London occupied luxury houses. Local people may need to return to those traditions!

Working class political representation

Keir Starmer's Labour Party has ruthlessly driven out Jeremy Corbyn and the programme he stood for of council housing and rent control. Working class people need our own political voice. The Socialist Party stands in elections as part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition, which offers a banner to enable anyone who wants to fight to stand together in elections. The Socialist Party stands for a new mass party based on working class and young people, that can fight for a socialist housing programme.

A SOCIALIST HOUSING PROGRAMME

- No Covid evictions - write off Covid-related arrears
- Build council homes with lifetime secure tenancies. Take over empty property for council housing
- End all housing privatisation
- Regeneration without loss of social housing - no more handing public land and homes over to property developers. Residents' right to vote on all regeneration schemes
- Rent control that caps the level of rent. Fair rent decisions should be made by elected bodies of tenants, housing workers and representatives of trade unions
- Reverse the cuts to housing benefits - end evictions due to austerity cuts
- Remove all dangerous cladding now - councils should do the job immediately and bill the government
- Decent pay, conditions, and safety for all housing and construction workers, including stopping the use of blacklisting firms
- For genuinely independent, democratic Tenants and Residents Associations. Genuine accountability and control, including over repairs
- Sell-back option and 'portable discounts' for current leaseholders and shared-ownerships to escape the trap. End any future leasehold and shared-ownership - we need council housing and cheap mortgages instead!
- End the commercialisation of housing associations and registration of for-profit providers, run in the interests of big business and hedge funds. Take the housing associations into democratic public ownership. This could include the option to return to council ownership with independent tenant democratic control, or co-ops
- Nationalise the large building companies, land and banks to ensure enough good standard council housing and cheap mortgages

A democratic socialist society could plan and provide decent homes, jobs and services for all.

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