

## WE NEED A HOUSING

## REVOLUTION

**T**here is a Housing Crisis in Britain. Capitalism and neoliberalism has failed us on one of the most basic things we need as humans - somewhere to live safely. 8.5 million people don't have access to adequate housing, this has a direct relationship on child poverty, 4.3 million children - 30% of the total - are living in relative poverty.

The housing crisis is not just young people out of university; 'Generation Rent'. All generations are affected and if we let it carry on, it will only get worse including for those who struggle to pay rent on their pension.

Councils spend millions on emergency accommodation, mainly B&Bs. As of October 2024, over 323,000 households are on waiting lists for social housing in London alone. Without social housing, vital workers are unable to do their jobs and live comfortably, people doing (badly paid) social care for instance are forced to live miles away from where they work.

The 'right to buy' your council house has led to this social crisis.

The Tory government failed on its promise to replace the social housing it allowed to be sold off. This is the consequence of seeing housing as a commodity and not a right.

### **Change can happen**

We need to fight the massive growth in second or third homes. We support initiatives such as the referendum in Whitby, Yorkshire that called for a ban on selling new properties as second homes. Also the decision of the Senedd in Cymru/Wales to allow local councils to charge up to 300% of the standard council tax rate on long-term empty and second homes is a good development.

Our legal system and political parties prioritise landlords over tenants - they act with impunity and engorge themselves off our rents.

Housing is more than just a roof over our heads. It's security. This lack of security contributes to another crisis, a crisis of mental health. **We need a revolution in housing and a mass movement to fight for it!**

# Anticapitalist Resistance's Housing Fightback Plan

- Introduction of rent controls now
- Abolish Section 21 so-called No Fault Evictions
- An end to housing benefit caps
- Introduce mandatory increases in council tax on long term empty properties to 300%.
- A massive programme of retrofitting to improve housing stock and reduce energy use.
- For significant financing of local councils to allow them to build more social housing.
- Allow councils to compulsory purchase long term empty properties at massive reductions.
- Pressure the Labour

government to acquire land through a Compulsory Purchase

Order to build social infrastructure and new social housing

- Make green planning easier to build accessible, eco-homes.
- Restore and dramatically expand squatters rights and seize long term empty properties.
- Socialise under democratic control the building companies, developers and the banks that finance them
- Ultimately, we need to nationalise all land and socialise housing so it is a social good and not just another commodity.

