

Housing: Campaign for high quality housing as a human right

On August 15th the Office of National Statistics released statistics showing that the average UK house price increased by £10,000 in the last year.

Conference notes:

- The current housing crisis, which has seen the doubling of homelessness since 2010, a massive increase in families living in temporary accommodation, and a drop in homeowners by 900,000.
- The rising cost of housing benefit and the increasing share going to private landlords.
- That over a million children live in poor quality housing, resulting in asthma and allergies.
- The increasing refusal of landlords to rent to people under the age of 35.

Conference believes:

- That houses should be for living in rather than for investment or speculative activities.
- That the lack of affordable housing, skyrocketing rents, exploitative landlordism, and poor quality housing are the outcome of a model which treats housing as an asset to speculate on, and that this model has failed millions of people across Britain.

Conference applauds:

- The Labour Party manifesto which included a commitment to build at least 100,000 council and housing association homes a year for genuinely affordable rent or sale, as well as support for the rights of private renters.

Conference calls:

- For the Labour frontbench, working alongside Labour councils and mayors, to investigate models of controlling rent rises in proportion with incomes.
- For cuts to subsidies, tax breaks and other incentives to buy to let or landlords, and efforts to ensure that property speculation is penalised not encouraged.