

**Defend
Council
Housing**

**HOUSING
EMERGENCY**

**GOVERNMENT ATTACKS INCREASE HOMELESSNESS
NO EVICTIONS – CUT RENTS NOT BENEFITS
BUILD THE HOMES WE NEED NOW**

**TIME FOR
HOUSING
ALTERNATIVE**

With **KEN LOACH** (film director, 'Cathy Come Home', 1966 TV play on homelessness); **OWEN JONES** (author, 'Chavs: the Demonisation of the Working Class'); **ANDRE ROSTANT** (private tenant under threat); **STEPHEN BATTERSBY** (Pro-Housing Alliance); **AUSTIN MITCHELL MP**; **Councillor CATHERINE WEST**, (Leader, Islington Council); **GAIL CARTMAIL** (Assistant General Secretary, Unite union); **EILEEN SHORT** (Defend Council Housing); and councillors, tenants and trade unions

**6.30pm, Tuesday 21st February 2012,
Committee Room 14, House of Commons**

**STOP HUGE COUNCIL RENT RISES
NO TO MARKET RENTS
MORE SECURE TENANCIES NOT LESS**

Support the Housing Alternative: come to an organising meeting 6pm, Tuesday 7th February at Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

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HOUSING EMERGENCY

1.3 million tenants face homelessness or debt; 7 million use credit to pay rent or mortgage; 800,000 forced out by housing benefit cuts; Overcrowding and homelessness rising

Government is fuelling a housing emergency, with an all-out attack on tenants and council housing.

House building is collapsing, mortgages unaffordable, and private rents rising. The market is failing. But Ministers want to force up rents, attack secure tenancies, and cut housing benefit.

They want to spread the misery of high rents, disrepair and insecurity. This will hit the poor, the sick, elderly and under-35s, creating rich ghettos across Britain.

Already overcrowding, homeless applications and rough sleeping are soaring; there are 4.5 million people on housing waiting lists. Instead of

regulating rents and building new council homes, politicians want to criminalise travellers, squatters and tenants.

It's time to stand together, in a united, determined campaign. We can stop these attacks and fight for investment in the homes we need. Tenants, campaigners, councillors and MPs can defeat privatisation, evictions and rent rises.

Come to the organising meeting and get involved to launch the campaign. Stop the attacks on tenants and those in housing need. We want mass investment in existing and new council and other housing for rent, secure, accountable and genuinely affordable.

Housing Emergency brings together organisations and individuals to oppose attacks on Housing Benefit, rents and secure tenancies, and for investment in new and improved council and affordable secure rented homes

Supported by Defend Council Housing, House of Commons Council Housing Group, Islington, Barking & Dagenham Council; Leeds, Southwark and Tower Hamlets Tenants Federations; London Coalition Against Poverty; Muslim Council of Britain; Housing Justice; South East Region TUC and trade unions Unite, GMB, PCS, Unison and UCATT; Right to Work Campaign; Labour Representation Committee; Disabled People Against Cuts; tenants from housing associations and private tenant groups, and members of National Tenants Council

**Contact Defend Council Housing – info@defendcouncilhousing.org.uk; 0207 987 9989 PO Box 33419
Or Housing Emergency – mitchellav@parliament.uk 020 7219 4559**