

UNISON Housing Manifesto, England: Safe, Decent and Affordable Homes for All

Key recommendations

Housing is a human right. Everyone deserves to live in a safe, decent and affordable home. Tell the Government to commit to eight key policy measures to tackle the housing crisis, set out in our [manifesto](#):

1 Invest in more new quality council and social rented homes for the people

Waiting lists, overcrowding, poverty and homelessness are on the rise. The Government needs to invest in a national house-building programme led by councils and housing associations to ensure that people on modest incomes have access to a decent and affordable home.

2 Redefine Affordable Housing to make homes truly affordable

The Government's so-called "affordable rent" model is not affordable for people on low incomes. UNISON wants to see a new definition linked to household incomes, with 'housing stress' understood to mean housing costs that exceed one third of a household's income.

3 Protect existing social rented housing stock for current and future generations

There are around 1.5 million fewer social rented homes in England today than there were in 1980. The priority must be to protect existing social housing stock for current and future generations by ending the stealth privatisation of social rented homes.

4 Overhaul the Welfare System and provide families with adequate support

Since 2010 significant changes to the Welfare System has left thousands of low income families (and those with disabilities or long term medical conditions) thousands of people worse off and facing poverty and homelessness. UNISON wants to see a Welfare System where families receive adequate support to meet their housing and living costs.

5 Overhaul Regeneration Schemes to meet local housing needs

Regeneration Schemes should improve the quality of homes - but instead can lead to a net loss of social rented homes with private developers often profiting. UNISON wants to see a new framework for regeneration schemes which meets the housing needs of local communities and protect residents' right to remain.

6 Overhaul Standards and Consumer Redress, and give a voice to social tenants

The Grenfell Tower tragedy highlighted that tenants and residents' voices are not always heard or acted upon. UNISON would like to see the Government introduce a new regulatory system and measures to guarantee a stronger voice for residents in decision-making about social housing.

7 Overhaul the Private Rented Sector to make renting stable and affordable

The Private Rented Sector is the sector with the least regulation, highest number of homes falling below decent homes standards, the highest rents and most insecure tenancies. UNISON wants to see a fairer private rental system that benefits tenants and landlords alike, and protects tenants from unnecessary, unwanted evictions.

8 Invest in the Housing Workforce

Housing workers are at the frontline of the housing crisis - with limited budgets and a challenging environment. UNISON wants to see a well funded, well resourced housing service to ensure that the housing needs of local people are met, and housing workers have the tools, training and resources needed to do their jobs effectively and safely.

What supporters can do:

- Read the [full manifesto here](#)
- Tell the government, politicians, councillors, decision-makers and citizens to support the key policy measures in the manifesto
- Share on Facebook and Twitter using # I support UNISON's Housing Manifesto
- Publicise widely in housing campaigns in England for others to see

