

Jobs and Homes for ALL!

'Our shortage of affordable housing is now leaving families on a decent wage unable to cover the cost of their homes. This isn't sustainable or right. In the 1970s around 80 per cent of government housing spend went on building homes with about 20 per cent on housing benefits, but today it's the other way round. Billions of pounds being spent on housing benefit are just a costly sticking plaster. What we need is a long-term solution to build the affordable homes we need.'

David Orr, Chief Executive of the National Housing Federation

With 600 households in England at risk of losing their homes every day (Shelter) and only 'a tenth of landlords are able to confirm tenants are gas safe' housing is not just unaffordable but also a threat to our security and safety.

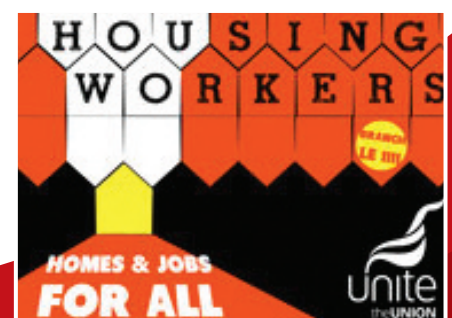
According to **Inside Housing magazine's annual pay survey** housing association chief executives have had ten years of inflation busting pay rises. Average basic salary is now £155,761; with the average total salary for the UK's top 100 largest organisations was £167,587. The highest of all received £407,874 including his bonus. Since 2005/06 average CEO pay has risen a whopping 42% (12.5% in real terms). Clearly money for some and don't mention the bankers or the MPs...

What are we going to do about it?

We are joining protests and campaigns FOR decent housing AND decent pay and against the growing marketisation of housing in this austerity robbery. The ConDems demanded cuts to bring down the deficit yet have increased it by borrowing £700m more! They argue for 'Austerity' for the 99% and yet the richest 1% are getting richer.

Many of our members are now at risk of losing their homes with pay cuts, a lack of a pay rise and increased living costs. We will continue to fight for decent pay through our campaigns and, where necessary, strike action.

We desperately need to raise the minimum wage (which has become for many companies the 'maximum wage') to £10ph for all ages. This would lift around 5 million people out of dire poverty, the majority being women, young people and BME communities. Just months ago in the Seattle, US, a \$15ph minimum wage was won in a vibrant grass roots campaign linking community organisations with trade unions and a supportive political representative.



Strike Against The Cuts

We have taken effective strike action in Equinox, One Housing Group and HCA as well as winning many battles by campaigning with members and deploying the strike threat, showing that the withdrawal of our labour can have an impact.

Our 600 members in StMungos Broadway have just voted overwhelmingly for industrial action (96% in favour) following a shocking attack by management on their pay, conditions and trade union rights.

Who are we: We represent over 2,000 social housing and support workers mainly in London. Key services are being run down leaving many in London without affordable good quality housing or support. We believe this is not necessary and there is enough financial and intellectual resources to ensure there are enough decent, affordable and accessible homes for all as well as a properly paid workforce.

Unite LE1111 Housing Workers say:

1. **Cap Rents Not Benefits**
2. **Bring Rents under control** and stop lining the pockets of private landlords
3. **Scrap the Bedroom Tax** now and repeal all related possession or eviction notices
4. Reverse all benefit cuts and pay full benefits regardless of age
5. **Start a mass council house** building programme
6. Full support for mortgage interest payments for those claiming relevant benefits.
7. **Implement a £10ph minimum wage** and lift around 5 million out of poverty
8. **End zero hour contracts** and full employment rights from day one
9. **Stop the race to the bottom**, and develop sector-wide standards in social care and housing
10. **Tax the bankers and super rich** instead of cutting jobs and services.
11. **Co-ordinate national and local strike action to stop the austerity robbery**

If you're not member of a trade union, we'd urge you to join Unite and get involved. The unions will be at their best with more people taking part. Not working? How about Unite Community **0333 240 9798**
<http://bit.ly/UCommunity>

Keep in touch and work with us to turn these demands into live campaigns and reality!

Branch Secretary **Suzanne Muna: suz.muna.unite@gmail.com**

Branch Chair **Paul Kershaw: kershawpaul@hotmail.com**

Info: Unite.LE1111@gmail.com

