

## **Resolution Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

## **Resolution Title: The Housing and Planning Bill**

---

This branch notes that the Housing and Planning Bill is having its 'second reading' in the House of Commons on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The main points of the Bill are:

- The extension of the Right to Buy to Housing Association tenants.
- A compulsion for local councils to sell-off their most 'valuable' homes, with the proceeds to be used to pay for RTB subsidies.
- The imposition of 'Pay to Stay' which requires tenants with an income of over £30,000 (£40,000 in London) to pay rents at anything up to the market rate.

As a union branch representing housing workers, we condemn these proposals because:

1. They will do nothing to address the acute housing crisis. On the contrary, they will make the situation worse by reducing the number of permanent, genuinely affordable homes for rent.
2. They are divisive, setting up conflicts of interest between councils and housing associations who are all committed to reducing housing need.
3. That Pay to Stay introduces direct means-testing into council and social housing.
4. They will impose additional work burdens on our members, including the potentially sensitive collection of income data.

We therefore resolve:

- a) To join with other sections of Unite, community campaigns, and other unions to oppose the Bill.
  - b) To call on councils and housing associations to unite in opposing the Bill.
  - c) To seek discussions with employers about the practical implications of the Bill for our members.
  - d) To be part of a national campaign demanding more decent, secure, genuinely affordable homes.
-