

Resolution Date: 12th January 2016

Resolution Title: End Social Cleansing

This branch agrees to submit the following motion to Unite Policy Conference 2016:

“This Conference condemns the government’s failure to address the growing housing crisis which is devastating the lives of hundreds of thousands of people across Britain. The end of the secure tenancies for social housing tenants, the loss of social housing through an extended Right to Buy scheme, the removal of controls to keep homes within the social housing sector, cuts to services to prevent and address homelessness, and the rapidly escalating cost of private renting, are all fuelling a dangerously overheated and unstable housing market.

This Conference likewise condemns any local authority willing to engage in social cleansing through the eviction of tenants and the forced dispersal of working class communities from their homes, which are then replaced with luxury accommodation at exorbitant rents.

Unite demands an end to this practice and calls on all Labour controlled councils and the London Mayor to refuse planning permission and/or funding for any project which requires the demolition of existing homes unless the developer agrees to rehouse those tenants in the new development once complete, and on the same contractual terms, rent and service cost levels as before.

The housing crisis is deepening and neoliberal government policies are making it worse damaging both the living standards of our members and the employment conditions of Unite members working in construction and housing. Unite commits itself to a campaign highlighting our unions policies to solve the housing crisis and working with communities to support a fight back.”