

**Resolution Date: 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**Resolution Title: The Fire in Barking Flats**

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**This Branch** notes the fire in Barking this week, almost exactly on the anniversary of the Grenfell fire, highlights the lack of effective action by government and landlords, including housing associations.

The fire is a reminder of inadequate fire safety standards that are widespread throughout the country. The inaction underlines the case for a community based Labour movement inquiry, particularly in the light of multiple delays to the official inquiry.

We welcome Labour's recent proposal that properties should be confiscated from landlords that fail to carry out safety work.

**We further note:**

- The horrific speed at which the fire spread which could easily have resulted in loss of life;
- The fact that the category of wood used was not fire retardant, and the builders are using the weak and confused regulations surrounding fire safety as a defence;
- The involvement of housing associations L&Q and Southern Housing Group; and
- The resident's group has campaigned on fire safety, particularly after revelations in a BBC Watchdog programme but were rebuffed.

We resolve to continue to campaign for better regulation, against cuts and for improved fire safety regulations.

We instruct branch officers to send a message of solidarity from the branch to the resident association and to explore what further concrete support we can offer.