

Homes for All meeting, via Zoom, 18th April 2020

## ACTION POINTS

Excellent, constructive meeting, with 50+ taking part including some we hadn't met before. This is a critical time to try to build a national campaign to make sure there's no "back to normal" for housing.

Welcomed the involvement of students who are facing housing problems, particularly because of Covid-19. Agreed to circulate the details of Crib Advisor - <https://cribadvisor.uk/>

OPEN LETTER: Our statement on the crisis is on the website and is waiting to be hosted on the House of Commons website. When that's done, all encouraged to invite signatures of support, including from outside housing campaigns e.g. church/faith groups, community organisations etc.

The disproportionate impact on Black people must not be swept under the carpet. We stand united - we won't blame each other.

SURVEY: Suggestions were made for how to improve the survey asking people about how the crisis is affecting them. A working group will work on this and get it out asap. Several volunteers to phone those on our database who don't have email.

NO EVICTIONS: Eviction a looming danger for all tenants, and particularly private renters. Also agreed that demands around possible rent strikes need to be carefully pitched to take account of all sectors e.g. co-ops and attempt to link with the current pressures on housing workers.

Young teachers in London National Education Union "We can't afford London" campaign, could set a good example - <https://www.facebook.com/wecantaffordlondon/>

Local councils must be proactive to prevent evictions, including by telling tenants their rights. Also need to raise the issue of tenants in temporary accommodation, living in council housing, but being charged double (or more) usual council rents.

DEMOLITIONS: This threat hasn't gone away. Our demands to include 1) All demolition must halt during the crisis 2) All empty homes on estates facing demolition/redevelopment should be populated immediately and 3) People in temporary accommodation living in council housing should be given permanent secure tenancies.

Noted that there are (at least) 125,000 empty homes in London alone. See more here - <https://www.actiononemptyhomes.org/news/coronavirus-how-englands-half-a-million-empty-homes-can-help-the-nhs-a-three-point-plan?fbclid=IwAR0Qb7Op00yc45RtXbler1DI1DK2vywg7eoRBtDdGjolHWzUuOpO2gYukVo>

Discuss in more detail at next meeting – proposed 2 May 2020 11am

PUBLIC MEETING: Agreed in principle; important to build with other groups e.g. London Renters Union, Acorn etc and possible US, Spanish tenant activists, plus possible high profile eg MP