

To Prime Minister Johnson  
10 Downing St  
London SW1 2AA

13 August 2020

Dear Prime Minister

Government can still act to avert the pending disaster facing tens of thousands of renters across the UK. It's not too late to step back from the brink, and ensure no-one loses their home due to the Coronavirus crisis.

Ministers currently intend to allow evictions to resume after 23 August 2020. Without any real protection, thousands face the threat of eviction due to rent arrears.

Evidence suggests hundreds of thousands are going into rent arrears as jobs are cut, with tens of thousands at risk of losing their homes [https://england.shelter.org.uk/media/press\\_releases/articles/230,000\\_renters\\_at\\_risk\\_of\\_covid-eviction\\_when\\_the\\_government\\_ban\\_lifts](https://england.shelter.org.uk/media/press_releases/articles/230,000_renters_at_risk_of_covid-eviction_when_the_government_ban_lifts). These at-risk families include low-earning frontline workers still battling Covid-19 in the health, food and logistics industries.

Those most at risk of homelessness, eviction and job cuts are disproportionately of black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Powerful groups are coming together to advise Government on how to avert this.

The Big Issue magazine is galvanising an alliance to "make sure that coronavirus doesn't result in a new generation lost to homelessness". They say bold action is needed now to make changes in law to protect renters from eviction due to coronavirus. <https://www.bigissue.com/community-partnerships/introducing-the-ride-out-recession-alliance/>

And more than 70,000 have already signed up to housing charity Shelter's call: to "ensure no-one is evicted as a result of coronavirus". <https://campaigns.shelter.org.uk/coronavirus-ensuring-safe-home-during-crisis>

As Shelter's statement says: "Many are losing their jobs and unable to pay their rent. With the housing element of Universal Credit far too low, people across the country are at risk of huge debts and even losing their home once the evictions ban lifts. More needs to be done."

Tenant unions the London Renters Union, Acorn and Living Rent have come together in an impressive alliance to demand that "Across the UK, protections against eviction should be expanded so no one loses their home while they are trying to cope with Coronavirus and its aftermath." <https://londonrentersunion.org/2020/coronavirus-rent-crisis-open-letter/>

They point out that "Massive rent debt will make it impossible for many to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the pandemic."

We call on the Prime Minister and Cabinet to step in now and legislate to ensure no-one loses their home due to the Coronavirus crisis.

Signed

Eileen Short Homes for All campaign alliance  
The Big Issue  
Polly Neate, Shelter chief executive  
Alicia Kennedy director Generation Rent  
Ben Clay Tenants Union UK  
Radical Housing Network (London)  
Baroness (Ruth) Lister of Burtersett House of Lords  
Lord Cashman CBE  
John McDonnell MP  
Sian Berry, Jonathan Bartley Green Party Co-Leaders  
Ken Loach (film maker)  
Dave Prentis General Secretary, UNISON trade union  
Sarah Woolley General Secretary, Ian Hodson President Bakers, Food & Allied Workers Union  
Andrew Scattergood West Midlands FBU  
John McGowan General Secretary, Social Workers Union  
Jackie Applebee, Chair, Doctors in Unite  
Black Lives Matter Brighton, Portsmouth, Worthing, Hillingdon  
Merseyside BLM Alliance  
The Black Music Movement  
Zo Daniels, Collective Action for Black Matters  
All Black Lives UK  
Weyman Bennett co-convenor Stand Up To Racism  
Barnet stand up to Racism  
Councillor Mike Roberts, Rushmoor DC  
Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Housing lead LB Islington  
Cllr Tricia Clarke LB Islington  
Labour Housing Group  
Labour Campaign for Council Housing  
Labour Homelessness Campaign  
Amanda Bevan Wolverhampton South West Labour Party  
Angie Naylor for Austerity Action Group  
Focus E15 campaign  
Victoria Park Residents' Community Association  
Petra Dando, Chair, Camden Association of Street Properties  
Southwark Defend Council Housing  
Harlow Defend Council Housing  
Catford Against Social Cleansing  
Aysen Dennis Fight for Aylesbury  
Mary Moore Branch Secretary Milton Keynes Area UNISON Branch  
Dr Anna Livingstone Vice Chair Tower Hamlets BMA  
Ben Morris Joint secretary, Redbridge District NEU  
Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Unite Community  
Zarria Phillips Secretary Bristol & Glos Unite Community  
Haringey Unite Community  
East London Unite Community  
Barnet Unite Community

Terry Conway chair Hackney & Islington Unite Community  
Gwen Vardigans Unite Community York  
Harlow Trades Council  
Redbridge Trades Council  
Newham Trades Council  
Islington Trades Council  
Sunali Bhattacharyya, Solma Ahmed Momentum National Co-ordinating Group  
Barnet alliance for public services  
Barnet Housing Action Group  
Barnet Momentum  
Barnet Trades Council  
Kilburn Unemployed Workers Group  
Our West Hendon  
Doug Thorpe, for Left Unity  
Payday men's network  
Linda Burnip, Ellen Clifford, Bob Ellard, Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC)  
DPAC Sheffield  
Jennifer Jones, Arbourthorne People  
Disability Action Islington  
Paula Peters. Bromley DPAC and chair, Bromley and Croydon Unite Community branch  
Mental Health resistance  
Nicola Saunders for Free Psychotherapy Network  
Professor Paul Watt, Birkbeck, University of London  
Dr. Melissa Fernández Arrigoitia, Lecturer in Urban Futures,  
Lancaster University Lecturer in Geography,  
Dr. Katie Walsh, Reader in Human Geography, Department of Geography,  
University of Sussex  
Debbie Humphreys Lecturer in Human Geography, Kingston University  
Duncan Bowie Research Associate UCL  
Dr Salim Haidrani London - Camden  
Terry Harper, Westminster tenant  
Sandra McLeod Victoria Park Community Association, Sustainable Hackney  
Peter Denton,  
[Carrie Hedderwick](#) Sheffield  
Zena Sullivan, London  
Rosamond Perrott  
Margery Thorogood  
Simone, Sasha, Zoe, Dayle Bhangoo  
Angela Spain  
Andrew Toye  
Elaine Hctor  
Pauline Payne  
Anja Ellersiek  
Nile Nugnez