

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. 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