

The scale of the UK's housing crisis is a direct result of political decisions made by successive government in the interests of property developers, landlords and Housing Associations to the detriment of working class people and access to council housing.

As a result, millions are facing ill health, homelessness and long-term financial hardship in the private rented sector, and Black and minority ethnic groups face continuing discrimination.

Council housing has been neglected for decades and deprived of the government funding needed to carry out repairs and maintenance, and decarbonise and retrofit existing housing.

As the Labour government boasts about deporting migrants from the UK, this is sowing division within society and diverting attention from the real causes of the housing crisis. The growth of far right and racist parties, including Reform UK, is a stark reminder of the dangers such division can bring.

Oswald Mosley and the Blackshirts exploited them in the 1930s, just as Enoch Powell did in the 1960s and the National Front in the 1970s and '80s. In 1993, the fascist BNP exploited the lack of council housing to win a by-election on the Isle of Dogs in east London.

Today, Nigel Farage continues to spread lies about housing policy to scapegoat minorities to whip up further division within communities and boost his racist party's agenda.

Homes for All is a grassroots alliance of tenants, trade unionists and local housing campaigns. We reject any attempt to divide us and shift the blame for the crisis away from those who have caused it. We aim to build a confident, united, national housing movement that can win a fundamental change in government policy – one that enables everyone to afford a place to call home.



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**HOMES FOR ALL**

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**HOMES FOR ALL**

**Don't fall for the lies...**

**Migrants and  
refugees DON'T  
cause the  
housing crisis!**

Failed government policies are driving the housing crisis and undermining council housing. They give more power and money to private developers, landlords and Housing Associations.

Homes for All is a grassroots alliance of tenants, trade unionists and local housing campaigns.

We reject any attempt to divide us and shift the blame.

Ministers too often spread racist ideas about housing, to cover their own

failures. The far-right exploit this, spreading myths and lies.

**GET  
THE  
FACTS**

**Don't fall for the lies...**

# Migrants and refugees don't cause the housing crisis!

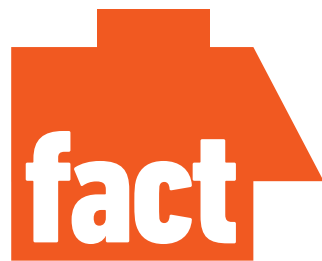


## Immigrants DO NOT jump the housing queue

According to most recent government statistics, 90% of social tenants are UK nationals. Migrants often face additional barriers when accessing housing, such as denied access to benefits, language barriers, discrimination, and lack of savings and proof of renting in the UK.

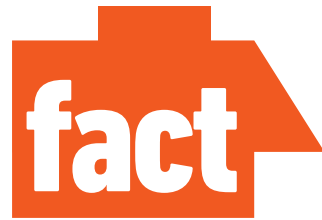
In the last year,

there has been a significant increase in the number of refugees who are now sleeping rough, adding further pressure on Local Authorities. This is a direct result of racist government immigration policies.



## We do have enough space for the homes we need

Less than 15 per cent of land in the UK is built on.



## We can afford to build more homes

Due to the lack of affordable housing in the UK, councils have seen increased pressures on homeless services and have spent over £2bn on housing homeless families in temporary accommodation last year alone.

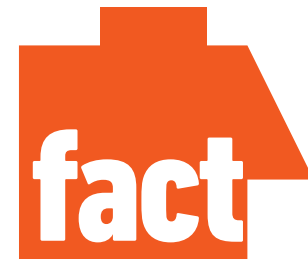
Instead of spending money on expensive emergency accommodation, we could be investing in acquiring council homes and also building more council homes, which pays for itself in the long-run through affordable rent.



## There would be enough homes for everyone – if they were used

The UK has one million empty or underused homes and many second homes that are left empty for most of the year. During 2021-22: 809,000 second homes were owned by households in England. Bringing these properties back into use through initiatives such as the National Empty Homes Scheme Grant in Wales, could provide housing for the one million people currently stuck on the council housing waiting lists. In some councils in England, waiting times for a family-sized home exceeds 100 years.

Yet England has seen a net loss of 12,462 social homes last year, as they were sold off or demolished.



## The richest, not migrants, get all the homes

Immigrants and people from ethnic minorities are far more likely to be homeless or live in sub-standard housing. Two thirds of white British householders own their home; two in five householders from any other ethnic group. When people from Asia and the Caribbean first came to the UK there was tremendous discrimination – the famous ‘no dogs, no blacks, no Irish’ sign was the

worst of that, but Black and minority ethnic people were pushed into the worst private rented housing. (Human City Institute) “There has been a specific rise in homelessness among Black and minority ethnic people families in recent years.” (Shelter 2018)

Research currently being carried out by Heriot-Watt University into “homelessness amongst Black and minoritised ethnic communities in the UK” found that for Black households, they are nearly 50% more likely to risk homelessness than white households (June 2024). Racism and discrimination remain a pernicious factor in accessing housing in both the public and private sector.