

Housing is a Human Right

The right to housing was enshrined as a basic human right in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet here in Ireland, hundreds of thousands of families are still being denied their right to a suitable, affordable and secure home.

The housing sector has been in a rolling crisis for at least fifteen years – a crisis that was created by the housing policies of successive Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, Labour and Green Party governments.

Those policies put private landowners, developers, bankers and landlords in effective control of housing, with predictable and disastrous results. It's time for new thinking on housing. It's time to put the needs of families ahead of the greed of the property profitters.

UP Housing would permanently end the housing crisis and transform Irish society for the better. Read on to find out more about UP Housing and how you can help make it a reality.

Why UP Housing?



10,000+ homeless adults and children

100,000+ families on social housing waiting list and HAP

320,000+ families trapped in private rental

600,000+ people denied security of tenure



What is UP Housing?

UP Housing, or Universal Public Housing, is a proposed new type of housing for Ireland. Under this model everyone that needs a home would have a legal right to rent one from the state, in much the same way that every child currently has a legal right to a school place. UP Housing would provide a real alternative for everyone who cannot afford to rent or buy in the private sector.

Who could access UP Housing?

Access to UP Housing would be universal. In other words, it would be open to any individual or family that needs a home, regardless of their income. Nurses, pensioners, teachers, retail workers, students, carers, construction workers, the self-employed and anyone else that is in need of a home would live side by side in well designed and sustainably built UP Housing developments.

Would UP Housing be affordable to rent?

Yes. The rent that each household would pay for UP Housing would be linked to the overall household income. No household would pay more than 30% of their after-tax income on rent – the level above which rent is deemed to be unaffordable. Rents would also temporarily drop during illness, unemployment, re-training or other periods of reduced income.

Q&A

Would UP Housing provide security of tenure?

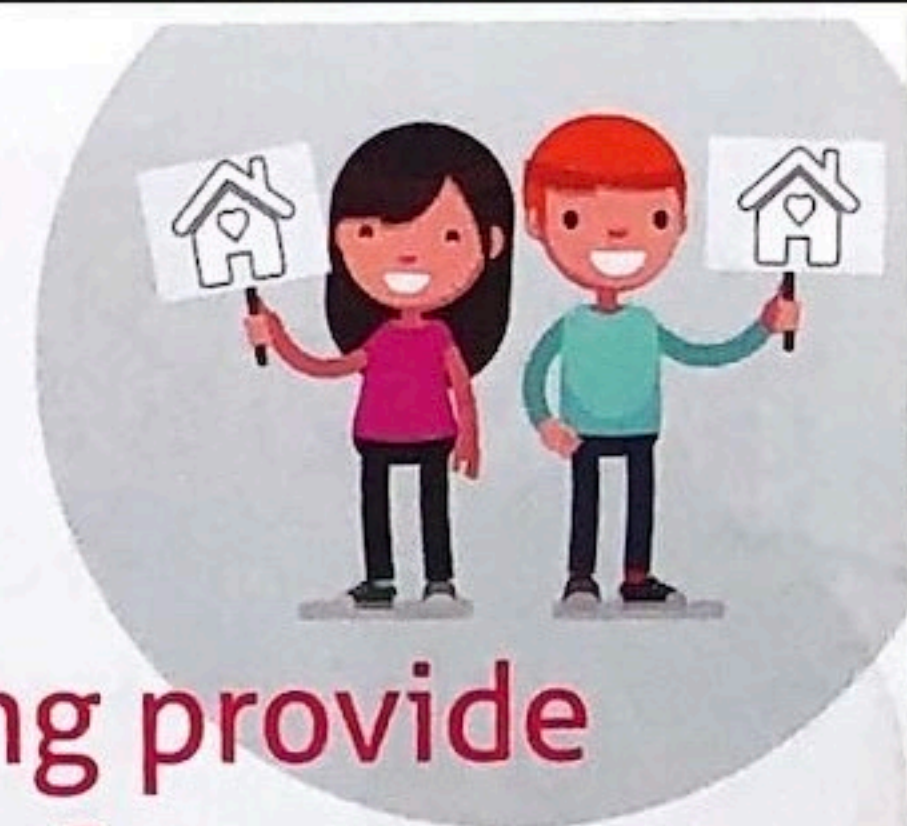
Yes. Unlike the private sector, UP Housing would provide all tenants with full security of tenure. This would allow people to put down roots and make long-term decisions about jobs, schools and other important areas of their lives. A mature UP Housing system would even allow for multi-generational tenancies within the same family to help build stable communities.

Who would own the UP Housing?

The establishment political parties helped create the current housing crisis by selling off more than 220,000 publicly owned homes. Many of these homes are now owned by private landlords charging rack rents to desperate families. UP Housing would belong to the people of Ireland and remain in permanent public ownership to prevent another housing crisis from happening in the future.

Is UP Housing the same as 'social housing'?

No. 'Social housing' was developed by the political establishment as a form of income-segregated housing. It's designed to create concentrations of poverty and by extension concentrations of the problems associated with poverty. UP Housing would see people from all incomes and backgrounds living side by side in properly managed developments where there would be zero tolerance of anti-social behaviour.



UP Housing

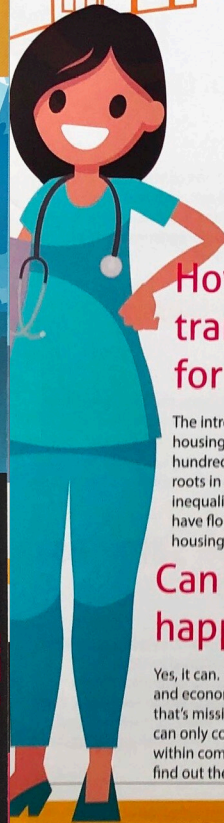
Universal Public Housing



Delivering Affordable
Secure Homes for All



www.eirigi.org



Q&A

How would UP Housing be paid for?

The cost of building and maintaining UP Housing would be self-funded by the rent that would be paid by mixed-income tenants and the indirect benefits to the wider economy. Billions of euros of public money that is currently being handed to private landlords through schemes like HAP would instead be used to provide families with secure, affordable permanent homes.

How would UP Housing transform Irish society for the better?

The introduction of UP Housing would do more than end the housing crisis. It would also increase the disposable income of hundreds of thousands of families and allow them to put down roots in a permanent community. And it would reduce wealth inequality and help break down the damaging class divisions that have flourished under the current system of income segregated housing.

Can UP Housing really happen?

Yes, it can. The state has the land, finances, expertise, legal powers and economies of scale to make UP Housing a reality. The only thing that's missing is the political will to make it happen. That political will can only come through the building of mass support for UP Housing within communities across the country. On the next page you can find out the ways that you can help build that support.

What can I do to help?

Universal Public Housing is the only system that can deliver housing as a legally enforceable human right. It alone can end the housing crisis and transform Irish society for the better. Here are some ways you can help build popular support for UP Housing:

- **Sign the UP Housing petition at www.eirigi.org and encourage your friends to do likewise.**
- **Share UP Housing content from www.eirigi.org on your social media accounts.**
- **Distribute a batch of these leaflets to your family, friends, neighbours and workmates.**
- **Help to organise an UP Housing public meeting in your community, college or workplace.**

UP Housing

You can find out more about
UP Housing at
<http://eirigi.org/up-housing>



If you want to get involved in the UP Housing campaign
please email UniversalPublicHousing@gmail.com

Title: UP Housing: Delivering Affordable Secure Homes for All

Organisation: Éirígí

Date: 2022

Downloaded from the Irish Left Archive.
Visit www.leftarchive.ie

The Irish Left Archive is provided as a non-commercial historical resource, open to all, and has reproduced this document as an accessible digital reference. Copyright remains with its original authors. If used on other sites, we would appreciate a link back and reference to us, in addition to the original creators. For republication, commercial, or other uses, please contact the original owners. If documents provided to The Irish Left Archive have been created for or added to other online archives, please inform us so sources can be credited.