

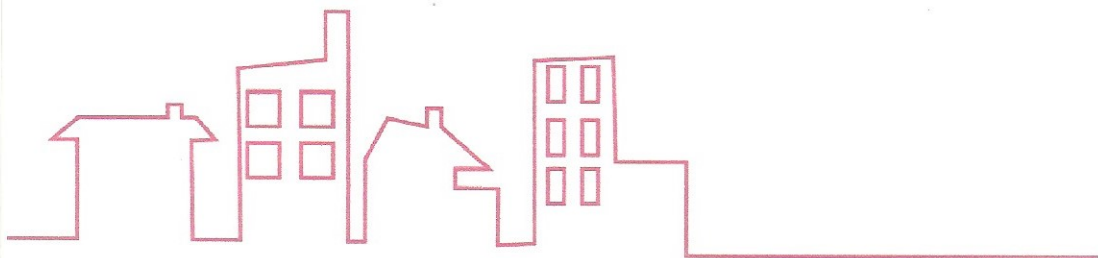
HOUSING CRISIS: GOVERNMENT & THE RICH ARE TO BLAME

The housing crisis in Ireland is unprecedented. Over 10,000 people are officially homeless. Only a tiny amount of social housing is being built and many are stuck on the housing list for over ten years. Most young people cannot afford to buy a house because they are so expensive. More and more are caught in the rent trap where they pay out huge sums.

The housing crisis is a direct result of successive right-wing governments. They see housing as an opportunity for profit and have devised policies to boost house prices. So, they invited in vulture funds to buy up €200 billion of Irish property to push up prices. They pay out €1 billion a year in subsidies to private landlords rather than build social housing.

These policies reflect the interests of the wealthy and privileged. The Irish rich have a love affair with property speculation and their interests are represented by Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael. There are 80 landlords or landowners in the Dáil and some, like Simon Coveney, have multiple properties.

No one should fall for the lie that we have a housing crisis because of refugees. It began long before the war in Ukraine and is caused by greed of landlords, bankers and speculators. We should stand up against any racist argument that asylum seekers are to blame.



WHAT CAN WE DO?

We can step up the protests like we did on water charges.

But we need to go further. We need to drive FF and FG out of office and form Ireland's first left wing government without their presence.

People Before Profit wants to solve the housing crisis by ending the reliance on the market. Here are three simple measures we advocate.

1. Full rent controls to reduce rents and provide security of tenure to renters.
2. Stop the sell-off of public land. Build social housing and create a national construction company tasked with clearing the housing list in five years.
3. A "Use it or Lose it" scheme whereby vacant properties and sites that are not activated within 6 months without reasonable excuse are acquired by the state.

If you agree, then we invite you to join
People Before Profit.

You can do so by going to pbp.ie/join

Post March Drink & Discussion

Join PBP after the protest for a discussion on how to solve the housing crisis, Downstairs in Kennedy's Pub, Westland Row.



**Come to the special
People Before Profit
meeting on the housing
crisis next Wednesday
in Wynn's Hotel at 8pm**

Speakers: Mel Reynolds (architect & housing expert),
Richard Boyd Barrett TD, Cllr. Madeleine Johansson,
Molly Greenough (President UCD Student Union)

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