

# Council tenants are treated like dirt. We need to organise and fight back.

It's been the strategy of government after government to run down council housing so that they can push people out and into the hands of private landlords. They slashed the level of state home building while intentionally running down existing council estates.

This is why we are living in mouldy damp conditions. This is why repairs don't get done. This is why we, working class people, are mistreated by the councils. They want us out.

They brought in an income threshold to deny most workers access to social housing and then make us struggle through poverty for years and years on housing lists to even eventually get a place to live.

The tenant's union CATU have been organising in estates like Emmet Buildings, Pearse House and Cromcastle Court. They've taken the fight to the council and demanded that tenant's voice be heard. This is a great start.

We need to unite the estates and put pressure on the council and on the landlords in government to deliver housing, to maintain estates when they're built, to regenerate those estates that need it and to provide decent facilities for all our estates.

The problem is that the logic of pandering to the market - to vulture funds, landlords and developers - means it's going to be an uphill fight for all council tenants unless the overall economic context changes and that's going to take more than a few protests.

The Dáil works for the rich. Electing people to represent the working class can help movements but real change will come from a battle against the Dáil and the establishment machine that it sits on top of.

We need a socialist, planned economy, where working class people get to say what happens to all the wealth we create with our blood, sweat and tears. We need to kick out the establishment and put the working class in the driving seat.

In the short term we need to fight for every crumb we can get. But the establishment can roll back reforms as long as they hold power. In the long term this country needs a working class, people power rebellion because that's the only way you're going to get a 32 County Workers' Republic. Nothing else will make change secure.

*If you agree you should get involved with the Red Network.*

We are a new working class socialist organisation with members from places like Fatima Mansions and Basin Street Flats. We have activists in Dublin, Cork and many other towns. We have activists in workplaces and unions who work hard on the issues of today but fight for workers to see the power we have when we come together - we argue for us to use that power to take down the Dáil and replace it with real democracy.



[www.rednetwork.net](http://www.rednetwork.net) or search for "Red Media" on Facebook, Instagram, X and Tiktok.

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