



A CALL TO 'BACK THE BILL' – the right to adequate housing in Wales

Wales is in the midst of a housing crisis. Demand significantly outstrips supply. Many people are unable to afford homes in their local communities. And, for some, the suitability – and safety - of their home is grossly inadequate. It was the housing crisis that contributed to the tragic circumstances of the Grenfell fire in North London in 2017, claiming 72 lives. We must put measures in place to avoid this ever happening again.

We believe that at the core of any solution to the housing crisis is a national commitment to the fundamental principle that every one of us should have a human right – underpinned by law – to access adequate and sustainable housing.

As we consider this landmark legislation, the country is battling its worst public health crisis in living memory which has sadly led to loss of life. Governments at all levels have responded to unprecedented demand for support, including in the housing sector where a rights-based approach has been adopted, in particular for those experiencing the blight of homelessness. Out of tragic circumstances, there is a renewed understanding of – and momentum behind – the concept of housing as a basic right; **for a Wales where the threats of homelessness, inaccessibility and unaffordability are things of the past.**

A Bill for the right to adequate housing would create a legislative framework to help address some of the key issues of the day:

Homelessness: ensuring we build on some of the measures taken during the COVID-19 crisis, including maximising investment in social housing and support

Security of tenure: strengthening the position of Welsh Government in its rights-based approach, better balancing the rights of tenants to live in security with those of private landlords

Accessible housing: ensuring proper consideration of disabled people's rights in a housing context, giving them a voice to have those rights recognised and, if needed, enforced

Black, Asian and minority ethnic people, young people and other minority or disadvantaged groups' access to affordable housing: where local authorities would need to consider the needs of particularly disadvantaged groups in the development of local strategies and the supply of affordable homes

Resource: will push housing up the policy priority list and in turn ensure increased focus of resource and investment, tackling the chronic under-supply of housing as well as support services



Chartered
Institute of
Housing
Cymru

SIGNATORIES AS AT 10 DECEMBER 2020:

Alicja Zalesinska

Director, Tai Pawb

Ruth Power

Director, Shelter Cymru

Mark Isherwood MS

On behalf of the Welsh Conservatives Group

Victoria Slade

CEO, Cynon Taf Community Housing

Paula Kennedy

CEO, Melin Homes

Jason Wroe

CEO, Newydd Housing

Jas Bains

CEO, Hafod Group

Andrew Bowden

CEO, Cartrefi Conwy

Adrian Burke

CEO, First Choice Housing Assoc.

Marcia Sinfeld

CEO, Family Housing Assoc.

Nick Hampshire

CEO, Ateb

Lindsay Cordery-Bruce

CEO, The Wallich

Victoria Winckler

Director, Bevan Foundation

Sophie Howe

Future Generations Commissioner, Wales

Kath Palmer

CEO, Cadwyn

Rebecca Woolley

Director, CAB Cymru

Dr Helen Taylor

Cardiff Metropolitan University

Allison Hulmes

National Director, BASW

Zoë King

Acting Joint CEO, Diverse Cymru

Matthew Dicks

Director, CIH Cymru

Michael Sheen

Actor and activist

Jane Dodds

On behalf of the Welsh Liberal Democrats

Ffrancon Williams

CEO, Adra

Hayley Selway

CEO, Cardiff Community Housing Assoc.

Sian Morgan

CEO, Hafan Cymru

Karen Courts

CEO, Merthyr Tydfil Housing Assoc.

Shan Williams

CEO, Grwp Cynefin

Scott Sanders

CEO, Linc Cymru

Amanda Davies

Group CEO, Pobl

Cerys Furlong

CEO, Chwarae Teg

Frances Beecher

CEO, Llamau & Chair, EYHC

Jon Sparkes

CEO, Crisis

Katie Dalton

Director, Cymorth Cymru

Hugh Russell

End Youth Homelessness Cymru (EYHC)

Prof Geraldine Van Bueren QC

Queen Mary University of London

Rocio Cifuentes

CEO, EYST

Zoe Richards

CEO, Learning Disability Wales

Owain Hanmer

Education Officer, Undod

Jess McQuail
Director, Just Fair

Prof. Aoife Nolan
School of Law, Uni. Nottingham

Prof. Colin Harvey
Queen's University Belfast

Dr Luke D. Graham
Lecturer in Law, Coventry University

Dr Azadeh Chalabi
University of Liverpool

Kelly Roberts
Together Creating Communities

Joy Kent
Independent consultant

Bill Rowlands
Individual

Dr Pete Mackie
Cardiff University

Judith Bueno de Mesquita
University of Essex

Dr Kolda Casla
University of Essex

Dr Meghan Campbell
Deputy Director, Oxford Human Rights Hub

Dr Claire Lougarre
University of Southampton

Sian Summers-Rees
Chief Officer, City of Sanctuary UK

Keith Edwards
Independent consultant

Joy Williams
Individual