

PUBLIC MEETING

THE CRISIS IN HOUSING

& WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT



ONE OF CAMERON'S MANY HOMES



COUNCIL FLATS

While David Cameron and his cabinet of millionaires live it up in their multiple luxurious mansions, they propose to hit those who have only one roof over their heads with an all-out assault on housing benefits and social housing.

Thursday 8 December 2011
7:30 pm
Friends Meeting House Ship Street
Brighton

The Government's proposals include:

- Housing benefit to private tenants to be paid only up to the lowest 30% of rents in an area, rather than the current 50%
- Housing benefit levels not to increase in line with rents any more
- Benefit to under 35s only for bedsits or shared accommodation
- New council tenants to have only 2 years security of tenure and this will include successor tenants
- A resumption of Thatcher's disastrous 'right to buy' policy, to sell off what council houses remain
- Mortgage interest payments already slashed by half and time-limited after two years of being unemployed

The government seek to divide and rule by claiming that these cuts are being made against 'scroungers' who are out of work, in the interest of those in work. This is nonsense. In London, for example, 80% of those in receipt of housing benefits **are** in work. Most people need to claim housing benefit because of **low wages**.

According to the Chartered Institute of Housing, in the south-east alone more than 750,000 people are at risk of losing their homes because of the cuts. They will throw households into spiralling debt, swell the numbers of street homeless, and 'cleanse' large areas of cities like Brighton of ordinary tenants on a low wage.

While the rich continue to rake in enormous bonuses and obscene profits, the Institute for Fiscal Studies has predicted that the living standards of ordinary people in the UK will decline until **at least** 2013/2014. But rather than changing course, the government has begun to crack down on those who oppose them. The families of those involved in August's riots have been threatened with arbitrary evictions and other collective punishments, while the disgraceful Hove MP Mike Weatherley has led a campaign pressing for draconian new legislation against squatting, to further punish those who will be made homeless and to forestall effective opposition to the cuts.

We need to fight back now. Only a large, determined, and organised campaign can force the government back and defend our wages, living standards, and homes.

BRIGHTON BENEFITS CAMPAIGN

We are a group of workers and claimants who have joined together to resist the attacks on welfare.

We meet every Thursday at 6pm at the Duke of Wellington, Upper Gloucester Road near Brighton Station. **Join us!**