

Bring Down the Government



Local residents search for missing people. Photo credit: Steve Eason

Grenfell: arrest the killers

For seven years, Tory governments have decimated emergency services, scrapped health and safety protections and batted away every complaint. Grenfell is the latest example of these policies literally murdering the working class.

2010: David Cameron announces a “bonfire” of health and safety regulations.

2013: Tory/Lib Dem coalition cuts the legal aid that could have helped Grenfell Tower residents to carry forward their campaign to raise awareness of the tower’s hazardous circumstances.

2014: Then-Mayor of London Boris Johnson slashes firefighting services across the capital. Ten fire stations close and 552 firefighters lose their jobs.

2016: Gavin Barwell — then Housing Minister, now Theresa May’s Chief of Staff — suppresses a report into the safety of tower blocks.

2016: Tory MPs (72 of whom are landlords themselves) block Jeremy Corbyn’s motion requiring rented homes to be “fit for human habitation”.

Yesterday: Theresa May makes a “private visit” to Grenfell for the TV cameras, but refuses to speak to a single resident.

Enough is enough.

We must now demonstrate, occupy, strike and fight until this teetering Tory government is put out in the street where it belongs.

The class divide in housing

Only last year, Conservative-run Kensington and Chelsea Council spent some £8.7 million on “refurbishing” Grenfell Tower.

But somehow none of that money was earmarked for opening a second escape route, or installing sprinklers or functional fire alarm systems.

Instead, combustible plastic panels were fitted on the front of the block to improve its appearance to people living in affluent areas nearby.

The council never wanted Grenfell’s residents to feel safe – it wanted to grind them down and then have them transferred to somewhere outside the borough.

Even now, there’s a chance they may try to do so again, using this very disaster as the pretext.

Fighting for safe, affordable and spacious housing

Working-class people are not an eyesore or a problem. There is no reason we can’t build huge amounts of safe, clean, spacious and affordable housing for every member of society. This was done before, and it can be done again.

Jeremy Corbyn has been standing up for social housing for the last three decades. Yesterday, he called for Kensington’s thousands of empty homes to be requisitioned and used to house displaced Grenfell residents.

We should back this kind of action – and not only in Kensington. Luxury homes should not sit vacant whilst people go homeless on the streets.

Time to evict Theresa May and the Tories

On 8 June, Theresa May went into an election which she had called as a naked play for total power for the Conservative Party.

Faced with Jeremy Corbyn’s campaign – which pledged to build 500,000 new council houses — her bluff failed.

She is now dangling by a thread and her party are in panic mode.

Let’s make Grenfell the last straw for this brutal, deceitful, oppressive government.

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What next?

Not One Day More: March to bring down the Tories

A demonstration has been called by the People’s Assembly. Make this the end of the Tories.

1st July, 12pm, marching from BBC Broadcasting House to Parliament Square.

Politics Beyond Parliament

Join rs21 to discuss the election and where we go next.

Tomorrow, Sat 17th June, 10am-5pm.

There will be sessions on Corbyn, the election results, and building on the momentum to change our society in the interests of the working class.

All welcome.

www.bit.ly/beyondparliament

Seven Dials Club, 42 Earlham Street, London, WC2H 9LA.