

Nasim, K., Shaheen, F., Thorp, D. et al (2018) One year on from the Grenfell fire, and yet so little has changed, Letter, The Guardian, June 13th, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jun/13/one-year-on-from-the-grenfell-fire-and-yet-so-little-has-changed>

One year on from the Grenfell fire, and yet so little has changed

It is scandalous that politicians are whittling down public housing budgets and failing to take action to keep residents safe, say 57 representatives of housing and tenants' groups across London

Letter

Wed 13 Jun



A year ago we witnessed Britain's deadliest fire in living memory. The morning after, we learned that warnings about fire safety from residents had been ignored. Later we heard about the safety failures at national and local level, and companies hawking unsafe building materials unchecked.

After Grenfell, many argued that the atrocity should signal a turning point in housing policy. We have yet to see this turning point. We hear that cladding like that used at Grenfell will not be banned. Indeed, it took 11 months for Theresa May to commit £400m to remove existing cladding from tower blocks. Even this modest and long overdue announcement was revealed as a sham: the £400m was to be pinched from affordable housing budgets. It is scandalous that a year on from this tragedy, politicians are whittling down public housing budgets and failing to take action to keep residents safe.

This political disregard for social tenants is rooted in state disinvestment from public housing, and unaccountable private interests taking over the building and management of social housing. Our estates are being run down and demolished while public assets are sold off. Meanwhile 80% of new homes built in [London](#) are affordable only to the richest 8% of the city.

The mayor of London is to enforce ballots on some estates facing “regeneration”. This is a start – but we need political will at all levels to ensure that development benefits tenants first, and that what gets built locally meets local needs.

A tragedy like Grenfell must never happen again. We need public investment in safe, decent public housing that is affordable for everyone. We want a housing system where tenants are listened to. And we need housing policy driven by public interest, not by the market.

Katya Nasim *Radical Housing Network*

Dr Faiza Shaheen *Director of CLASS*

Doug Thorpe *StopHDV Campaign*

Emma Dent Coad *Labour MP for Kensington*

Sian Berry *Green party London assembly member*

Piers and Tanya Thompson *Save Our Silchester*

Richard Chute *Chair, Earls Court Tenants' Association*

Joe Beswick *Head of Housing and Land, New Economics Foundation*

Eileen Short *Chair, Defend Council Housing*

Pilgrim Tucker *Community Organiser*

Dawn Foster *Journalist*

Cllr Jonathan Bartley *Co-leader, Green party*

Jean Lambert *Green party MEP for London*

Susan Pashkoff *Chair, East London Unite Community*

Martin Goodsell *Secretary, East London Unite Community*

Rachael Hookaway *GMB Young London*

Professor Danny Dorling *Author of All that is Solid: The Great Housing Disaster, University of Oxford*

Anna Minton *Author of Big Capital: Who is London for?, Reader in Architecture, University of East London*

Dr David Madden *Author of In Defense of Housing: The Politics of Crisis, London School of Economics*

Samir Jeraj *Author of The Rent Trap*

Dr Sally Zlotowitz *Clinical and community psychologist, Housing and Mental Health Network*

Sabtir Singh *Chief executive, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants*

Sahaya Guthrie *Stop the Elephant Development*

Danielle Gregory and Hannan Majid *Ledbury Action Group*

Pauline Wamunyu *Save Reginald House and Tidemill*

Jacqueline Utley *Achilles Stop and Listen Campaign*

Lucy Butler *Deptford People Project*

Heather Gilmore *No Social Cleansing in Lewisham*

Luciana Duailibe *Chair, Co-oPepys Community Arts Project*

Bill Perry *Lambeth [Housing](#) Activists*

Potent Whisper *Our Brixton*

Amina Gichinga *London Renters Union*

Anne Cooper *Save Cressingham Campaign*

Andy Thornes *Crossfields Residents Association Secretary*

Anuj Vats *Citiscap Residents Association*

Aysen Dennis *Fight 4 Aylesbury*

Simon Hannah and Ruth Cashman *Joint branch secretaries, Lambeth Unison*

Sonia Mckenzie *Chair of the Fred Wigg and John Walsh Towers Tenants and Residents Association*

Terry Harper *Millbank Residents Association*

Uzoamaka Okafor *Chair, Myatts Field North Residents Association and PFI Monitoring Board*

Dr Vickie Cooper *Open University*

Dr Debbie Humphry *Kingston University*

Dr Stuart Hodgkinson *University of Leeds*

Dr Nicholas Falk *Urbed Trust*

Michael Edwards *Hon professor, UCL (Bartlett School of Planning)*

Ben Beach *Concrete Action*

John Hamilton *Lewisham People Before Profit*

Heather Kennedy *Digs (Hackney Renters)*

Sophie Morley *Architecture Sans Frontières UK*

Tom Wilkinson *Architectural Review*

Hannah Sheerin *President, Cambridge University Architecture Society*

Liza Fior *MUF architecture/art*

Douglas Murphy *Writer, RCA/CSM*

Elizabeth Wilbraham *Workers Inquiry: Architecture (Architectural Workers Union)*

Charlotte Grace *Novara Media*

Andrea Luka Zimmerman and David Roberts *Film directors of The Estate We're In*

Paul Sng *Film director of Dispossession*