

October 2016

Thousands to join demonstrations for housing rights in multiple cities across Europe

Campaigners are planning coordinated housing protests in a show of European unity this October, demanding an end to 'insatiable' profiteering that is causing a housing crisis across the continent. Campaigners say that profiteering - or speculation - by transnational banks and hedge funds is leading to soaring housing costs and lack of secure housing in every European country, with millions facing eviction from their homes, impoverishment and homelessness year on year.

Rita Silva, from Habita!, Portugal said: "With rents and evictions on the rise in Poznan or Belgrade as in Dublin or Madrid, we are all seeing homes and lives wrecked. We face similar housing crises with the same root cause - the insatiable drive for profit. Our cities are being taken from under our noses by developers who don't even live here. But organising across Europe means we can target multinational landlords with overseas headquarters in London or Paris. That's why we're coming together to demand our homes back."

These Europe-wide demonstrations for housing are being coordinated by The European Action Coalition for the Right to Housing and to the City. Campaigners are fighting for #OurCities, saying #EuropeNot4Sale to banks and hedge funds.

Grassroots housing campaigns and protest movements have sprung up across Europe over the last few years in response to these drivers, and recently joined together in the European Coalition. From Focus E15 in London to the PAH in Spain, to Stop Auctions in Greece, the campaigners have one common fight - the right to decent affordable housing.

Actions are planned in Lisbon, London, Budapest, Spain, Czech Republic, Cyprus, France, Belgrade and Milan. A full list of dates is available at www.housingnotprofit.org/en. Most actions occur between October 6-8, but actions span the month, each with a local focus as well as #EuropeNot4Sale.

In Belgrade thousands will march under the banner 'No Fear, No Surrender' against the collusion of government officials with real estate developers. In Madrid a 3 day protest will be held outside the Supreme Court with workshops, video screenings and theatre groups. In London students on rent strike will join community campaigners to target developers building unaffordable student housing.

Some of the actions are planned during the Habitat III megaconference, the UN's housing conference every 20 years, which is taking place in Quito this 17-20 October. Campaigners are also planning an alternative conference in Quito to draw attention to financialisation and the marketisation of housing as a key driver in impoverishment, displacement, and homelessness.

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Notes to editors

For more information on the European Coalition for the Right to Housing and the City see

www.housingnotprofit.org

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