

***Water charges.  
Housing crises.  
Building a new  
politics.***



## **Public Meeting with Joan Collins TD**

**Iveagh Grounds, Crumlin Rd.  
Thursday 30th July 7.30pm**

Joan Collins TD will introduce will introduce ideas from the United Left submission to the Right2Water policy conference for discussion and debate. All are welcome to participate.

*We're  
not  
going  
away  
you know*

**RIGHT<sup>2</sup>  
WATER  
29.08.15  
NATIONAL 2.00pm  
DEMONSTRATION**

## **Water Charges update.**

Irish water has eventually revealed that 57% of those billed for water charges have not paid. This a major success for the campaign against the charges.

If this level of non payment continues throughout the year, and when the 'conservation grant' is taken into account, this will be the first tax in history to have cost a government money!

The government have now introduced legislation to try and bully people into paying. However, this is not like the Property Tax where the Revenue can automatically deduct the tax from your pay, pension or social welfare.

Irish Water will have to go to court to get the debt legally recognised and then to seek an attachment order. The water charge is an annual bill which will not be due for payment until January of next year. You will have a further three months before you are officially in arrears, by which time there will be a general election. Meanwhile at the Irish Congress



of Trade Unions' Biennial Delegate Conference, delegates voted to make abolition of these water charges their policy for the next two years. By then we believe the people's movement against these charges will have succeeded in protecting our human right to water and abolishing these regressive charges.

The Conference also endorsed ensuring water remains in public ownership through a referendum.

## **Housing Crisis.**

The housing crisis is now a humanitarian crisis. There are 600 families, with 1,000 children in emergency accommodation. If this was the result of a natural disaster it would immediately be declared an emergency.

The crisis is as a direct result of this and previous Governments' policy of effective privatisation of the sector whereby responsibility of housing of those in need of social housing has been transferred to private landlords subsidised by the state.

What is required is an immediate plan to provide a minimum of 10,000 units of accommodation per year for the next 10 years. This would require funding of

at least €1 billion a year. The Residential Tenancy Act of 2004 only secures tenancies for a period of four years. This should be increased to a minimum of 10 years and most importantly the right of a landlord to terminate a tenancy on the basis that the property is to be sold should be changed to simply give a right to the landlord to sell the property with the tenant in situ. We also propose that rent caps in the short term be introduced.

Disgracefully, local authorities which have massive waiting lists cannot raise capital to build social housing in their own right as local authority loans are considered an on balance sheet liability for the purpose of borrowing limitations under the fiscal rules. This policy needs to be immediately changed to allow local authorities to build social housing.

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# **Join the United Left Alliance**

## **Text 087 7675691**

### **Contact Joan Collins TD**

If you need any assistance you can contact me at my constituency office at 10A Old County Road. Phone 4540085-4540086. You can also meet me the first Monday of the month at the Orchard Community Centre 7 to 8pm.

You can also phone me at Dáil Eireann, 6183215, or email joan.collins@oir.ie joancollinstd/facebook.



**Title:** Water Charges. Housing Crisis. Building a New Politics [Public Meeting]

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