

Video Activity 4

UK HOUSING CRISIS: 1.7 MILLION FAMILIES HOMELESS

In Great Britain the economical crisis is as severe as in the early 1950s, when Harold Macmillan, then Housing Minister, pledged to build 300,000 homes a year. Yet, today's build rate is less than half that, and at its lowest level since the 1920s.

1 Answer the questions before watching the video.

1. What does the word "homeless" mean, according to you?
2. What is the Italian equivalent for "social housing"?
3. Have you recently heard of a "housing crisis" in Italy? If so, what is it about?
4. Do you live in an urban area or in a smaller town or in a village? Have you noticed any change in development of the area where you live?



Video Activity 4: "UK HOUSING CRISIS: 1.7 MILLION FAMILIES HOMELESS"

TV Speaker: *In Britain 1.7 million families are currently waiting for social housing that comes against a background of spreading down across the country and a huge number of homeowners having their houses repossess. RT's Laura Smith reports from London on one of the biggest housing crises the country has ever faced.*

Laura Smith: "It's the biggest social issue facing Britain today. There's a chronic housing shortage and an increasingly dilapidated housing stock that isn't being replaced. It's to do with the recession but a crisis was looming even before that. House building has fallen by 70% over the last 50 years while the population has grown by 20% and to the Prime Minister's pledge to unleash one of the biggest home building programs this country has seen in a generation. His opponents aren't convinced by those words especially coming from a government that slashed four billion pounds from investments in affordable housing shortly after its election".

Jack Dromey. MP "Affordable housing building starts have collapsed by 68% percent, council house building starts have collapsed by 97%. We've not seen a fall like this in our history and it's the responsibility of that failed set of government policies."

Laura Smith "And desperate times call for desperate measures. One council's reportedly considering asking people to rent out rooms in their houses to solve the shortage of accommodation; meanwhile, more than half of social housing in some areas is under occupied. ►

In Hertfordshire, North of London, there are more than 3,000 families languishing on the housing list while 5,700 homes are underused and the problem isn't just with social housing. Decades of undersupply have seen house prices spiral out of reach; banks, when lend to first-time buyers and paying high level of rent, mean they are unable to save up for the huge deposit lenders now require. All that means the average age for buying your first home is approaching 40 years old and many will never be able to afford that own home"

2 What are the Italian equivalents of these words or expressions.

1. currently
2. homeowner
3. pledge
4. unleash
5. affordable
6. policies
7. underused
8. average age

3 Fill in the gaps with a word taken from the video.

1. In Britain 1.7 million families are currently waiting for housing.
2. There's a chronic housing and an increasingly dilapidated housing stock that isn't being
3. House building has fallen by 70 % over the last years while the population has grown by 20%.
4. We've not seen a like this in our history.
5. All that means the average age for buying your first home is approaching years old.

4 Watch the video again and answer the questions.

1. Where is Laura Smith reporting from?
2. What does the MP Jack Dromey say about affordable housing building?
3. Whose responsibility is it, according to Dromey?
4. How many people in Hertfordshire are on the housing list?
5. What does Laura Smith say about house prices?