

# TAKE TO THE STREETS ON APRIL 14TH! AGAINST RENT EXPLOSIONS AND HOUSING SHORTAGE

On April 14th, thousands of people will take to the streets of Berlin to push back against increasing rents, displacement and this wretched development of the city. We will too. The same evil game being played everywhere else is being played in Neukölln: Landlords/landladies do not miss a chance to press more money out of their houses; anyone who does not happen to belong within the ranks of the higher-earners, must ask oneself when they have to move to the city outskirts - and even there affordable flats are hard to find.

A few examples: In Manitusstraße and on Maybachufer, around 100 tenants will have to pay one third more, because their flats fall outside of the "social restrictions". The tenants defend themselves vigorously. In Gropiusstadt, thousands are also threatened by an eye-watering rent increases, as the owner wants to modernise and refurbish the houses. They are also fighting back. In North Neukölln there is no housing block without seething unrest. Because there is less space for more and more people. And the so-called politically responsible officials are not improving the situation. While affordable housing is getting fewer month by month, the "Alte Post" building is going to house offices for "start up businesses" and luxury flats - this was approved by the same borough government which ordered the brutal eviction of the social centre "Friedelstraße 54" through a massive police intervention. The planned Google Campus in Ohlauer Straße is going to "upgrade" the area even more - thus making it unaffordable for us.

Many people place great hopes in the new Senate, because they talk a lot about protecting tenants. They have to say so, since Berlin is a city of renters and protests are getting louder.

Furthermore, the Senate has a skeleton in the closet - in the 2000s, the red-red Senate sold thousand of public houses to investors.

Today it is declared a huge success when the borough government makes use of its right to first refusal every now and then, in order to take a house off the market, for ridiculous sums of money. Of course, that is better than leaving the door open to the next private investor. And a little bit of "Milieuschutz" (social environment protection) is better than no protection at all. Yet despite various measures, with which Senate and boroughs try to project themselves as advocates of tenants, the story continues unchanged; rent increases are, if anything, minimally stopped, but they are not reversed.

No government can afford to appear "hostile" to the economy. We cannot expect them to make a long-due declaration of war against private owners. This can only come from below - from the tenants. From people who do not see why they have to squander more and more of their small income to have a roof above their head. Who do not see why we even have to pay rent. After all, houses could be owned and administered collectively.

For things to get better, we have to work towards such collective ownership in the long-term - while here and now we have to persistently resist against the greed of the house owners. This is already happening, sometimes with success. Political change (i.e. social housing without private actors, an effective cap on the rent prices, the abolition of the modernisation allocation) can only be achieved with a huge amount of pressure from tenants.

**NO PROFITS WITH HOUSING!  
HOUSES FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THEM!**

**Demonstration:  
#Mietwahnsinn  
Saturday, 14th April  
2pm Potsdamer Platz**

We meet at 1.15pm at Hermannplatz and go together from there.



## kiezversammlung **44**

COME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETING!

It is equally important to bring tenants together in their houses. That is the only way we have a chance against the battles we are being forced to fight with the owners. Therefore, we meet every month at the neighbourhood meeting 44 in North Neukölln, in order to get to know each other, exchange stories and organise. In order to argue for a completely different city.

Every first Sunday of the month at 12 am in the Manege (Rütli-Schule) in Neukölln.