

The current government has created a state of austerity, putting people in positions of vulnerability. Poverty, disability and lack of opportunity is leading to homelessness, which in itself has been criminalised.

The State's 'solutions' to the problem of homelessness are degrading, dehumanising and nothing more than a quick fix. The process is riddled with long waiting lists, poor living standards and often only worsens people's well being. Countless buildings are left disused and unoccupied, whilst landlords and speculators profit at the expense of the people. The idea that it is a criminal offense to claim a roof over your head on a cold night is offensive and ridiculous.

We were shocked and angered when we learned of the new squatting law, which came into effect on the 1st of September 2012. This law criminalises squatters when there are already adequate laws in place to protect people's homes. Hundreds, if not thousands of people are threatened with jail, homelessness, and unpayable fines. This law has already found its first target in the form of Alex Haigh, with surely more to follow.

We are the Gremlins, currently squatting at Gremlin Alley, City Road, Cardiff, formerly known as Spin Bowling and the Gaiety Cinema. We are diverse group of squatters, activists, queers, anarchists, travelers and of different colours, sexualities, ages and cultural backgrounds. The building was previously empty for several years before we occupied it to reopen it for the use of the community as an active social centre. Since its revival the space has been host to art exhibitions, live music, a variety of workshops, with future projects including; political, educational, cultural and social events. These projects have all been free and supported by volunteers. The eviction of the social centre would cause these current and future projects to cease, leaving the building unoccupied, disused and left to rot.

In the light of the further criminalisation of homelessness, George Osborne's increased austerity machine which joyfully announces a further ten billion pounds in cuts and sanctions to the most vulnerable persons in society, we hold strong and encourage others in our determination to stand up and resist the government and its hired thugs, who protect private property and big business over the lives of any living being, especially the poor, vulnerable and the homeless.

The State preaches the need for people to have the necessities of life, including shelter. But at every turn they contradict their rhetoric. They expose themselves for the farce that they are.

Love and Rage and solidarity to comrade Alex Haigh. Your imprisonment continues to anger and inspire us. Stay strong and we will see you on the outside.

We will remain in our barricaded state with security now increased to the ability to monitor and record outside activity. This is in addition to rooftop and front of house monitoring 24/7.

Our numbers are growing and with every eviction and every imprisonment our rage and determination burns brighter. Soon the flames of our struggle shall engulf their system.

**Love and Rage**  
—The Gremlins