



Foto: Ihne Pedersen



We must reclaim control of the housing market

Both housing prices and rental prices are at record highs in Oslo. For more than forty years, Arbeiderpartiet and Høyre have left housing development to the free market.

This has made it too expensive to live.

Norwegians hold the world record in debt, and housing prices only continue to rise.

RØDT WANTS TO:

- **Build affordable housing**

We need non-commercial housing cooperatives, and for that to happen, the law must be changed. These cooperatives should be given the opportunity to borrow money on reasonable terms and with long repayment periods from the Housing Bank. This way, they can offer affordable and high quality housing to people.



Foto: Gudmund Dalsbø



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**Build housing
people can afford**

We've done it before

Does it seem impossible to reclaim control of the housing market? It has actually been done before. In the post-war period, tens of thousands of housing cooperative units were built in Oslo at prices that most people could afford. At the same time, the prices of rental properties were regulated by the authorities.

We can do it again.

In Sweden, Finland, and Denmark, some of this has already been done. In Copenhagen, almost 20 percent of all housing consists of so-called “allmennboliger”, public housing. They represent a separate non-commercial sector, alongside the market. There are enough of these types of homes to help curb price growth for all housing. This way, everyone benefits from it. Except for the housing speculators, of course.



RØDT WORKS TO:

- **Use state-owned properties**

In Oslo, the state and the municipality own many plots of land designated for housing construction. Currently, all these plots are sold to the highest bidder. Instead, they should be used to build affordable housing under public management.

- **Stop the housing speculation**

The largest property developers control plots of land throughout the city. They delay and postpone construction to drive up prices. The municipality should have the right to take over projects when private companies stall.

- **Quality of housing, not just housing machines**

Schools, green spaces, youth services, and sports facilities must be established first, not last. Homes must be large enough, so people won't have to sleep in the living room. A varied selection of housing must be developed.

- **Lowering rent for everyone**

In Oslo, and Norway, rent is no longer regulated. This has created spiraling rental prices. A system must be established that sets a cap on how high rent can be. And a new rental law is needed to ensure the rights of all who rent a place to live.

- **No market price in municipal housing**

The poorest people in Oslo currently pay market price to rent municipal housing. Many cannot afford this and are forced to apply for extra financial support every month to make ends meet. Rent must be set so that people can afford housing.

- **Limiting AirBnB and short-term rentals**

Thousands of apartments are used as 'city cabins,' corporate housing, or short-term rentals for tourists. Parliament must allow the municipality to create regulations for these properties so that they will be used as regular housing instead.