



HOME PRICES FUEL ANGER

Laura Colgan



#JournalismMatters

FOLLOW ON TWITTER... @LAURA_COLGAN



Despair for Generation Rent

WE KNOW the housing crisis is getting worse and every day there is new information putting that into context.

The latest facts and figures from Royal London show househunters should be moved out of home before the age of 24 and to have their first house bought before the age of 29 in an ideal world.

That's at least five years before the national average of first-time buyers at 34. The figures were described as aspirational — but it shouldn't be aspirational to have somewhere to live.

We saw at the Raise the Roof rally earlier this month that the crisis has seeped into all parts of society.

Young professionals unable to rent, pensioners whose adult children, and even grand-children, live at home and families staying in hotels and B&Bs

lined the streets in protest.

I once heard a young teacher say they were in a state of "suspended adolescence".

They were on a temporary contract, on a low wage and sleeping in their childhood bedroom. There are thousands more that would fall into that category as one in four of us aged under 35 are still living at home.

The facts and figures don't tell us anything we don't already know. We

know that despite studying hard, working hard and saving hard, we're no closer to getting a foot on the property ladder.

So-called snowflakes and millennials put their lives on hold, but our frustration has turned to anger.

Dream

Last week, when the Government had the chance in the Budget to help renters and first-time buyers, it chose to line the pockets of landlords and private developers with more money.

I honestly despair for Generation Rent — whose only dream for the