



Mamdani fights for renters with transformative ‘Block by Block’ NY housing plan

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New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani arrives for a press conference at Staten Island University Hospital Com

New York [mayor, Zohran Mamdani](#), unveiled his groundbreaking ‘Block by Block’ housing plan yesterday, which will see 400,000 affordable homes with stabilised rents.

This restoring news follows a [successful collection of more than \\$9 million in unpaid fines](#) from [billionaire Bezos](#) Amazon.

Mamdani has long made clear that he grasps the scale of the financial crisis facing ordinary people, who find themselves increasingly priced out of housing and have an uphill battle to [achieve financial security](#)

The New York mayor will also target rogue, exploitative landlords, and create tens of thousands of jobs needed to build new homes. In turn, he will help make home ownership genuinely possible for working-class people.

Announcing this ‘ambitious housing plan’, Mamdani refreshingly declared:

New York is facing a historic housing crisis. We’re pursuing a historic solution.

We can only hope that politicians in the UK take heed of this policy because this housing crisis is something millions of Brits recognise in their own lives.

Today we announced the most ambitious housing plan in our City's modern history: Block by Block.

We're building 200,000 new affordable homes. We're overhauling code enforcement. We're cracking down on bad landlords. We're creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs.

We're re-[a??: pic.twitter.com/sea4liWEmg](https://pic.twitter.com/sea4liWEmg)

â?? Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani (@NYCMayor) [May 26, 2026](#)

Mamdani: â??Publicly owned and publicly operatedâ??

In an incredible reprioritisation of the stateâ??s role in ensuring workers have the ability to own their own homes, Mamdani highlighted how 70% of New Yorkers donâ??t own their properties. Home ownership has a massive impact on social mobility, with more and more people pushed into paying [extortionate rents](#).

This has, of course, been a boon for [private landlords](#) whilst hard-working people find themselves increasingly entrenched under [ever-rising living costs](#).

Powerfully, and bang on the money, Mamdani [stated](#)

When New Yorkers can afford a home, they can afford to dream.

He added:

For centuries, New York City built enough housing to keep pace with our population growth, until the 1960s.

Over the past 60 years, however, government helped create the housing crisis we now face through a series of choices.

If the absence of good government created the conditions we now face, the presence of good government can build the solutions we now need.

In contrast to British MPs who continue to [pander to the richest in society](#) whilst disavowing, disenfranchising and frankly, [abandoning those without hoardes of cash](#), Mamdani makes clear that he is working for the masses.

Pledging to build 200,000 new homes over the next decade, whilst preserving and applying rent controls in New York, Mamdani said:

This historic production push will increase the number of homes for homeless New Yorkers by nearly 45%.

In order to make this pretty incredible policy work, New York will receive a capital investment of \$22 billion in just five years.

Mamdani emphasised that "no plan of this scale has ever been imagined by a past mayor, let alone proposed".

Private tenants to receive greater protection

Recognising that home ownership won't be instant, and that renters are long overdue adequate protections from exploitative landlords, he also revealed extensive protections for private tenants.

It appears the NY mayor is finally making it so that rich people face real consequences for their profiteering whilst providing no value for money.

However, these positive, progressive, people-first policy commitments don't stop there: Mamdani will also require the city to investigate every heat complaint made through New York's 311 system and send inspectors to each case.

In a remarkable change of direction to typical liberal politics, Mamdani will transfer ownership for buildings which have long been neglected to "responsible stewards".

He said:

Stewards that include community land trusts, non-profits, or even the tenants themselves.

NOW: Mamdani says his admin will transfer ownership from bad landlords to non-profits.

"For buildings that have suffered chronic neglect, we will work to transfer ownership to responsible stewards.

Stewards that include community land trusts, non-profits, or even the tenants!

pic.twitter.com/YHhzGWPgWh

Brecca Stoll (@breccastoll) [May 26, 2026](#)

Going further, Mamdani has equally committed to the "largest capital commitment" to New York City's Housing Authority (NYCHA).

Promising to invest \$5.6 billion over five years and, in a move that highlights how corrupted our own politicians are, he has refused to sell out publicly owned assets.

And we will do all this while ensuring NYCHA remains publicly owned and publicly operated.

Therefore, it's apparent that Mamdani plans to maintain this landmark investment in the prospects and futures of ordinary families, rather than allowing it to be steadily eroded in favour of rising profits, as seen in the increasingly privatised state in the UK.

Nevertheless, the 'Block by Block' plan does commit to including private developers, so it will be essential to maintain public pressure to ensure that long-forgotten people remain the priority over the profits of developers and their shareholders.

Will British MPs take heed of Mamdani's courage?

Mamdani's politics have been popular amongst voters, particularly in New York where [nearly a fifth of children under 18 live in poverty](#). With [increasing poverty in the UK](#), and a widening [chasm of inequality](#), British MPs and commentators would do well to remember that all human life has value regardless of how bottomless their bank accounts are.

In a society where [ordinary people are waking up](#) to the abuses of [corporate interests and billionaires](#), there is a pretty stark absence of any real meaningful efforts to address the cost of greed crisis in the UK.

Housing associations have taken over much of the responsibility for social housing, and this shift reduces value for money for both taxpayers and renters alike.

Thankfully, Mamdani's 'Block by Block' policy underscores the reality that having the political will to stand up for the masses is all that is required to make sure actual change is delivered.

As Mamdani makes clear, [public ownership](#) is the way forward to lift the country off its knees, not [endless privatisation which fleeces us all](#).

Featured image via Michael M. Santiago/ Getty Images

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