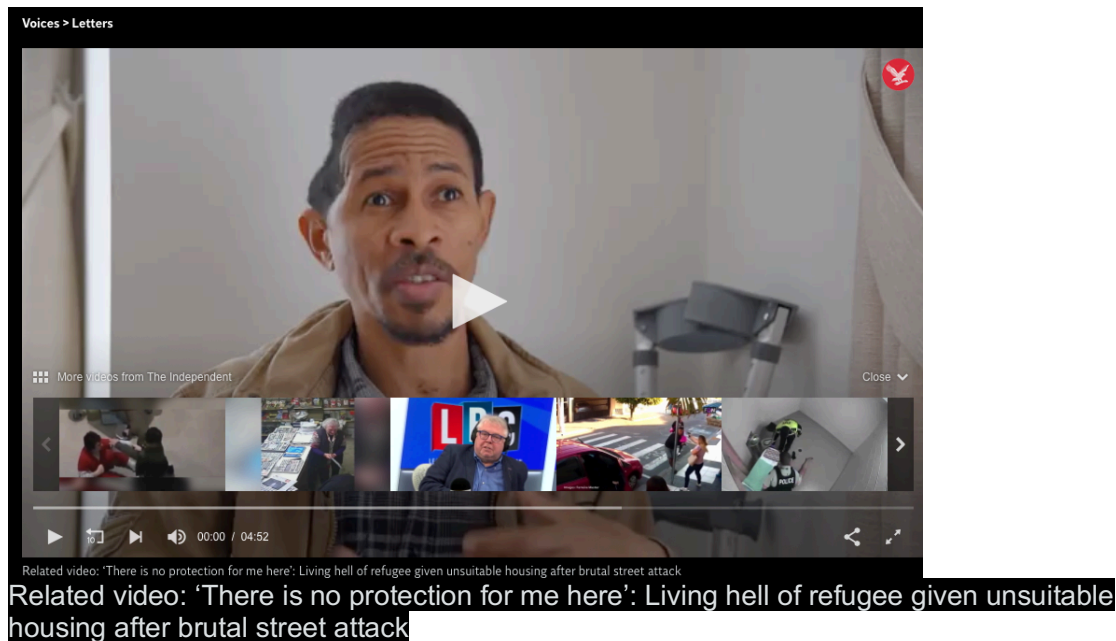


Robbins, G., Dorling, D., Hall, S. et al. (2020) Migrants aren't to blame for the housing crisis – chronic underinvestment is, Letter, The Independent, 25 February, <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/letters/bernie-sanders-corbyn-housing-crisis-bbc-a9356511.html>



***Migrants aren't to blame for the housing***

***crisis – chronic underinvestment is***

25 February 2020

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On Radio 4's World at One on 19th February, Iain Duncan Smith – like the NF, BNP and UKIP before him – blamed immigrants for the [housing crisis](#). As housing academics, we wish to point out that there is no evidence for this assertion. Far from creating the housing crisis, immigrants are much more likely to be its victims, often living in sub-standard, over-crowded, private-rented accommodation. Immigrants are very unlikely to be permanently housed in council or social housing, as Mr Duncan Smith implied. They are, however, likely to help build new homes.

The real reason for the housing crisis is four decades of underinvestment in council housing, while policy has been dominated by the private market that Duncan Smith's own government admits is broken.

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