



International Union of Tenants

Association Internationale des Locataires

- Consultative status with
UN Economic and Social
Council
- Participatory Status with
Council of Europe

IUT Head Office
P.O. Box 7514
103 92 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel: +46 10 459 11 20
info@iut.nu
www.iut.nu

IUT Liaison Office to the EU
Avenue des Rogations 28
B-1200 Brussels, Belgium
Tel +32 2 51 30 784
brussels@iut.nu

Press release
International Union of Tenants
International Tenants' Day - 5th October, 2020

This year's theme: Housing for all – a better urban future

Housing is a fundamental human right and in the battle against the spread of the COVID-19 virus where it can be a matter of life and death. Without adequate housing, it is impossible to carry out social distancing and observe good hygiene practices – and around 1.8 billion people, or more than 20 percent of the world's population, lack adequate housing. The pandemic is highlighting as well as compounding the pre-existing global housing crisis.

Marie Linder, President of The International Union of Tenants call on governments, local authorities and cities to make sure:

- that no tenants get evicted from residential properties,
- that there is affordable housing for all including the homeless and
- that there is direct financial assistance and rental payment funds available for tenants in need.

Housing is a fundamental human right and to manifest that IUT has produced a short film on the theme for the International Tenants' Day, which members can share and translate into their own language if they wish. It will be sent out by 2nd October 2020 and can be distributed on and from 5th October, 2020.

Throughout the pandemic, many local and national governments have put in place mechanisms to protect those who are most vulnerable, including measures to address homelessness and evictions, as well as the provision of basic sanitary services. However, long-term interventions, focusing on reviewing the current approaches to housing and land are crucial, as they could significantly shape the success or failure of urban areas to respond to extreme events and future post-disaster recovery.

The International Tenants' Day 2020 presents the opportunity to engage in a global discussion on the transformative impact of COVID-19 on the rental sector and to explore how to build societies back better, by leveraging the role of housing as a catalyst for progressively delivering human rights and as a foundation of people's well-being. Issues around housing must be at the centre of sustainable and inclusive urban development. Inclusive, affordable and adequate housing is the key to sustainable transformation of our cities and communities.

In the light of this pandemic, we call on all stakeholders to participate.

Cities must integrate the vulnerable, poor and excluded in overall city development. Governments need to re-shape policies, strategies and legislation for diverse housing solutions for all including the vulnerable, the poor and excluded as well as the key workers and middle income groups.

IUT will act as a hub to coordinate and share information about rental solutions and best practice for tenants, and we invite our members in 47 countries to share their activities and campaigns with us. Each national, local or regional organisation will be able to design their own additional activities and celebrations of the International Tenants' Day if they so wish.

Stockholm 24 September, 2020 END