

Supporting Communities (Northern Ireland) – New Member of the IUT Board

The International Union of Tenants (IUT) is pleased to announce that Supporting Communities (SC), based in Northern Ireland, has been formally approved as a member of the IUT Board. This decision marks an important milestone in SC's longstanding commitment to advancing tenants' rights, strengthening community engagement, and improving housing policy across Northern Ireland.

Supporting Communities is an independent charity that has, for more than 45 years, championed tenant and community participation across Northern Ireland. The organisation works through a grassroots approach, providing tailored support, training, and capacity-building to tenant groups, social housing providers, statutory organisations, and local communities. Their mission is to empower tenants, strengthen active citizenship, and promote best practice in tenant engagement across the island of Ireland.

As recognised experts in tenant participation, SC collaborates with social housing providers and community organisations to raise standards, improve engagement processes, and ensure that tenants' voices are heard in decisions affecting their homes and neighbourhoods. Their ethos—empowering society—aligns closely with IUT's commitment to protecting and advancing tenants' rights globally.

Marie Linder, President of IUT, says: *"We warmly welcome Supporting Communities to the IUT Board. Their sustained dedication to tenant participation, community development, and housing justice makes them a highly valuable addition to our international network. Northern Ireland's housing sector faces complex challenges, and Supporting Communities' long experience, professionalism, and innovative methods will strengthen the work of IUT. We look forward to close cooperation as we continue our shared mission to promote fair, secure, and equitable housing for tenants everywhere."*

Ian McCrickard, Chair of Supporting Communities, says: *"Joining the IUT Board is a proud moment for Supporting Communities and a recognition of the work our members and staff have carried out across Northern Ireland for nearly five decades. Tenant and community participation is at the heart of everything we do, and becoming part of this global network gives us a powerful new platform to share what we have learned, to learn from others, and to champion the rights of tenants at an international level. We look forward to contributing to IUT's vital mission and to bringing the experiences and voices of tenants in Northern Ireland to the wider world stage."*



**Supporting[™]
Communities**
Empowering Society



A recent photo with one the Supporting Community Development Officers and community representatives taken in the Doury Road estate, Ballymena – the same estate from where Supporting Communities was founded in 1979 – showing the local community growing vegetables from allotments.

To learn more about Supporting Communities and their work, please visit:
<https://supportingcommunities.org/>

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