

IUT Welcomes the Tenants Union of Ukraine as Its Newest Member

The International Union of Tenants (IUT) is pleased to announce that its Board has officially approved the membership application of the Tenants Union of Ukraine. Their admission comes at a time when Ukraine faces some of the most severe housing challenges in Europe. Years of war have displaced millions of people, destroyed housing stock, and intensified pressure on an already fragile and not fully functional rental market.

Today, renting a home in Ukraine is often unpredictable, insecure, and financially burdensome, particularly for internally displaced people who now rely on the rental sector as their only means of securing shelter. Rising demand has driven up rents, especially in safer western regions of the country, while the lack of transparent rental agreements, weak tenant protections, and informal practices leave many renters vulnerable. These challenges have only deepened since Russia's full-scale invasion, which forced approximately 4.6 million people to leave their homes and placed extraordinary strain on affordable housing supply.

In this difficult environment, the Tenants Union of Ukraine (Спілка орендарів і орендарок житла) has emerged as a crucial grassroots organisation. They work to unite and support tenants, advocate for fair rental policies, and push for systemic reforms to ensure safe, inclusive, and dignified rental conditions for all. They also provide direct assistance to tenants whose rights are being violated — an increasingly vital service during wartime and mass displacement.

By joining IUT, the organisation becomes part of a global network committed to improving tenant rights, influencing housing policy, and strengthening the voice of tenants in national and international forums.

Marie Linder, President of the International Union of Tenants, says: *"At a time when Ukraine is experiencing one of the most challenging housing crises in its modern history, we are deeply honoured to welcome the Tenants Union of Ukraine into the International Union of Tenants. The war has displaced millions, destroyed homes, strained local housing markets, and left countless families dependent on an insecure and largely unregulated rental sector. Tenants face rising rents, limited legal protection, and great uncertainty about their housing future.*

Against this backdrop, the work of the Tenants Union of Ukraine is both courageous and indispensable. Their commitment to defending tenant rights, promoting fair and transparent rental conditions, and supporting people whose lives have been upended by conflict reflects the very mission and values of the international tenant movement. Their voice, experience, and determination will significantly strengthen IUT, and we look forward to close cooperation as we support their efforts to build a more secure, just, and humane rental housing system in Ukraine."

Lesia Berezdetska, President of Tenants Union of Ukraine, says: *"We are honoured to join the International Union of Tenants at a time when housing in Ukraine has become such a painful and urgent issue. For millions of people who were forced to leave their homes, renting is not a choice — it is the only way to find safety. Yet too often this path is uncertain, expensive, and unprotected.*

We founded the Tenants Union of Ukraine because we believe that public organisations and tenants themselves should play a crucial role in changing the system, and because we clearly see the urgent need for these changes.

For us, becoming part of IUT is a powerful opportunity to strengthen the voice of tenants in Ukraine and to learn from the experience of colleagues across the world.

We firmly believe that protecting tenants' rights is essential to strengthening our resilience as a society. Even in times of war, everyone deserves secure, fair, and dignified housing. Together with our partners, we will continue working to build a rental system in Ukraine that is transparent, fair, and centred on people. We firmly believe that protecting tenants' rights is essential to building a more just society. Even in times of war, everyone deserves secure, dignified housing. Together with our partners, we will continue working to strengthen and reform the rental system in Ukraine so that it is transparent, fair, and centred on people."



Celebrating the establishment of the TUU.



Presentation on the Urban Forum in Lutsk.

To learn more about Tenants Union of Ukraine and their work, please visit:

<https://tenants.org.ua>

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