



- Consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council
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Resolution of the IUT Executive Committee

International Tenants' Day 2026

Affordable, Stable and Secure Housing for Young People

Adopted by the Executive Committee of the International Union of Tenants (IUT)

The Executive Committee of the International Union of Tenants,

Recalling that the International Tenants' Day was established by the IUT in 1986 and is observed annually on the first Monday of October alongside the broader global recognition of housing issues represented by World Habitat Day,

Recognising that the theme of the International Tenants' Day 2026 is *Affordable, Stable and Secure Housing for Young People*, reflecting one of the most urgent housing challenges facing societies across the world,

Reaffirming that adequate housing is a fundamental human right recognised in international human rights instruments and promoted by the United Nations and UN-Habitat, and that housing must be understood first and foremost as a home rather than a commodity,

Alarmed that millions of young people face increasing barriers to independent living due to rising housing costs, inadequate housing supply, insecure tenancies, forced displacement, financialisation of housing markets, and growing economic inequality,

Recognising further that housing insecurity negatively affects education, employment opportunities, family formation, health, social inclusion, democratic participation, and overall societal development, especially among younger generations,

Recognising also that the housing challenges faced by young people must be addressed within a broader framework of housing justice and intergenerational solidarity, and that measures to improve access to housing for younger generations should strengthen, rather than weaken, the affordability, stability and security of housing for older persons and other tenants, consistent with the principle that housing rights apply throughout the life course,

Acknowledging the important role of tenant organisations in defending tenants' rights, promoting housing justice and strengthening democratic participation at local, national and international levels,

The Executive Committee:

1. **Declares** that every young person should have access to affordable, stable, safe and adequate housing regardless of income, gender, family status, ethnicity, nationality, disability, or other social circumstances.
2. **Affirms** that policies designed to improve housing opportunities for young people must complement and reinforce the rights and protections of existing tenants, ensuring that no generation is disadvantaged in order to benefit another and that housing systems promote fairness, affordability and security across all age groups.
3. **Calls upon** national governments, regional authorities, municipalities and housing providers to place the housing needs of young people higher on the political agenda and to develop long-term housing strategies that ensure affordability, security of tenure and equal opportunity.
4. **Urges** public authorities to increase investment in public, social, cooperative and non-profit housing, recognising that a sufficient supply of affordable housing is essential for social cohesion, economic resilience and sustainable development.
5. **Calls for** effective measures to prevent excessive housing cost burdens on households, recognising that housing costs should not prevent young people from accessing education, employment, healthcare, culture or participation in public life.
6. **Encourages** governments to strengthen tenant protections, including safeguards against arbitrary eviction, unfair rental practices and excessive rent increases, while ensuring transparency and fairness in rental agreements.
7. **Expresses concern** about the growing financialisation of housing and calls upon decision-makers to ensure that housing policies serve social needs and human rights objectives rather than speculative interests.
8. **Supports** policies that promote tenure neutrality and recognise renting, cooperative housing and other forms of tenure as equally legitimate pathways to secure and dignified housing.
9. **Calls for** housing and energy policies that promote environmental sustainability while protecting affordability, ensuring that tenants, including young tenants, are not made to bear disproportionate costs associated with the green transition.
10. **Affirms** that young tenants must be given meaningful opportunities to participate in decision-making processes affecting housing policy, urban development and tenant representation.
11. **Encourages** IUT member organisations to use the International Tenants' Day 2026 as an opportunity to engage young tenants, promote public awareness of housing challenges facing younger generations, and strengthen tenant organisations for the future.
12. **Invites** governments, international organisations, civil society, trade unions, housing providers, researchers and all relevant stakeholders to cooperate in advancing the realisation of the right to adequate housing for present and future generations.
13. **Calls upon** the international community, including the United Nations system and UN-Habitat, to continue supporting policies and initiatives that promote affordable, stable and secure housing as a cornerstone of sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies.

Conclusion

On the International Tenants' Day 2026, the International Union of Tenants stands in solidarity with tenants around the world and reaffirms that affordable, stable and secure housing for young people is essential for social justice, equality and sustainable development. No young person should be forced to postpone their future because housing is unaffordable, insecure or unavailable.

At the same time, the legitimate housing needs of younger generations must be addressed in ways that uphold the rights and interests of older persons and all other tenants. A fair housing system is one that guarantees affordability, stability and security throughout every stage of life. Housing must be recognised and treated as a human right, not a commodity.

Adopted on 20 September 2026 by the Executive Committee of the International Union of Tenants (IUT).