

BRIGHTON RENTER

The only way out of the housing crisis is renters' power!

What is the Brighton Renter?

The Brighton renter is a monthly bulletin, produced by a group of renters who are sick of paying a huge proportion of our wages for poor quality, insecure housing. We've seen that when we get organised landlords and letting agents can't ignore us. The only way out of the housing crisis is renters' power.

Co to jest Brighton Renter?

The Brighton Renter to comiesięczny biuletyn wydawany przez grupę lokatorów, którzy mają dość wydawania dużej części swoich dochodów na nędzne i niepewne mieszkania. Wiemy, że gdy zorganizujemy się, właściciele i agenci nieruchomości nie będą mogli nas ignorować. Jedynym rozwiązaniem kryzysu mieszkaniowego jest jedność lokatorów.



Rent Strike Wins £64k

Back in 2017, students who had just moved into the Kings Rd. accommodation block on the seafront were slowly realising they'd got a raw deal.

The majority of flats in the block suffered from rodent infestations. Many kitchen appliances, showers and toilets are non-functional. Some flats have gone without hot water for weeks. Other didn't have working lights. They were paying £502 per month.

But the renters didn't just accept crap conditions. They started to get organised. Before long, a group of thirty students, supported by ACORN renters' union, had decided to go on indefinite rent strike. They demanded that the Sussex University-owned block was fully repaired, and that they were paid serious compensation.

The students declared victory for their rent strike after just four days, after a deal was negotiated with management which met all their demands. The deal included £515 of compensation per student (£64k total), alongside a guarantee that all necessary repairs will be carried out before the beginning of the Spring term.

'This victory is only one small step in solving the Brighton housing crisis,' said ACORN member Ellie Ferguson. 'Now,

Can You Help?

There are two things we need help with.

1. Printing and distributing the Brighton renter to people on your street, in your block, and at your work.
2. Writing for us about your renting situation and what you've done to change it.

You can contact us via email at: brighton@acorncommunities.org .uk or on Facebook via our page, ACORN Brighton.

As of next month we'll be having open editorial meetings to decide what goes into the bulletin. See issue 2 for details, or drop us an email.

Supported by Brighton ACORN and the Class Inquiry Group.

Launch Meeting Details

Tuesday 13th February

7pm - 9pm

Friends Meeting House,
Ship Street, BN1 1AF

Children welcome

Wheelchair accessible

RSVP:

[actionnetwork.org/
events/acorn-brighton-
launch](http://actionnetwork.org/events/acorn-brighton-launch)

we need to continue to get organised. Our union branch is only just beginning to take the fight to the landlords. There is so much more to be done to fight the housing crisis all across the city, not just in student halls.'

MyLets Forced to Stick to Contract

In November, a renter with MyLets letting agency attempted to end their contract using an early release clause - only for MyLets to say no! They refused to end the contract or hand back the renters deposit. The tenant came to ACORN, and we decided to get involved.

Three representatives from the ACORN member defence team paid the letting agents a visit, and told them that they would stick to the contract or else we would call a demonstration outside their offices in Hove. They cracked straight away and gave in to all our demands. The tenant's demands, adding up to over £2k, have been met in full following ACORN's intervention.

If you have a problem with your landlord or letting agent, don't just accept it. Together, we can win!

Brighton Vs. The Housing Crisis

Brighton's housing is in crisis. With rent prices increasing by between 10 and 20 per cent a year many of us are just one pay-check away from homelessness. We need to fight back!

You're invited to the launch even of ACORN Brighton to decide how we do this. ACORN stops evictions, lobbies landlords for repairs and campaigns for policy change - in Newcastle we put a stop to evictions caused by Universal Credit, in Bristol we halted changes to council tax that would've hit 16,000 of the city's poorest households and in Brighton our new group is ready to make the same impact.

How are we going to do this? We're putting it to a vote! Be part of a unique event to decide our first big campaign - by working together we can affect real and lasting change.

There is power in a union!