

## The right to a place to live is one of the most fundamental human rights of all.

We call on our public officials to strengthen legal protections for renter's rights. These should be based in international law, which holds that **all levels of government** must guarantee people's access to "adequate housing" —which includes affordability, legal security of tenure, habitability, availability of services and infrastructure, accessibility, location, and cultural adequacy. International human rights law also demands democratic and transparent policy making.

Existing policy now prioritizes property rights over human rights, allowing landlords to exploit and mistreat tenants. Pittsburgh residents demand the following rights to make our communities places of dignity and justice for everyone.

## Have you faced these issues?

- Threat of eviction
- A rent increase you can't afford
- Unsafe living conditions
- Landlords refusing to fix problems like leaking roofs, broken heat, bad plumbing, or dangerous lead hazards

## You are not alone!

Renters in Pittsburgh deal with these problems all the time. The adoption of a tenant bill of rights will help all of us! Together, we can build stronger communities and a better future for all Pittsburgh residents.

## Join the campaign!

Visit: [pittsburghunited.org/housing/](http://pittsburghunited.org/housing/)  
Email: [info@pittsburghunited.org](mailto:info@pittsburghunited.org)  
For more info and updates on housing rights, contact [HRCA@theglobalswitchboard.org](mailto:HRCA@theglobalswitchboard.org)

# TENANT BILL OF RIGHTS

#KEEPPITTSBURGHHOME



# PGH TENANT BILL OF RIGHTS

## THE RIGHT TO SAFE AND HEALTHY HOUSING

All renters deserve safe and healthy housing. Renters should not have to live in dangerous or unhealthy conditions.

## FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

All renters deserve full access to the housing of their choice regardless of race, ethnicity, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, place of birth, immigration or citizenship status, language, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, source of income, disability, presence of support animal, pregnancy, family size, changes in household composition, birth of a child, marital or familial status, criminal or eviction history, and status as a survivor of domestic violence.

## THE RIGHT TO FAIR TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW

All renters deserve equal access to legal counsel and a court hearing for eviction proceedings. All renters also deserve an equal access housing market that is free from unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive practices.

## THE RIGHT TO STABLE RENT

Tenants should have reasonable protection against unaffordable rent increases, including reasonable advance notice of rent increases.

## THE RIGHT TO JUST CAUSE FOR EVICTION

Tenants who are in compliance with their legal obligations should not fear losing their housing for arbitrary reasons. Governments must take all reasonable steps towards eviction prevention, diversion, and relief.

## THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

All renters deserve the right to organize, to engage in collective action, and to form tenant associations without obstruction, harassment, or retaliation from their housing provider or property manager. Renters should have access to information about the owner of their building and how to contact them, and tenant associations should be recognized by their housing provider or property manager.

## THE RIGHT TO REASONABLE FEES AND DEPOSITS

All renters deserve to search for and secure housing free from the imposition of unavoidable fees that are exploitative, excessive, unreasonable, or anti-competitive. Security deposits should be reasonable, placed in an interest-bearing account for the duration of the lease, and fairly provided at the end of the lease if tenants' responsibilities are met.

## THE RIGHT TO UTILITY SERVICE

All renters deserve equitable access to safe, affordable and reliable home energy, water, telecommunication and broadband services.

## THE RIGHT TO CLEAR AND FAIR LEASE TERMS

All renters deserve leases that are free from unfair and deceptive practices & that are written in simple language that clearly defines rental terms, rights, and responsibilities, including advance notice of entry inspection.

Governments must support renters rights and ensure that renters have adequate access to education and enforcement.

## THE RIGHT TO RESIDENTIAL PRIVACY

All renters deserve to be able to use and enjoy their home without unreasonable interference by their landlord.

**These rights have been envisioned and advanced through decades of housing rights advocacy, and they are formally recognized by governments around the world—including the United States.**

Check out the White House Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights (2023) and the UN Fact Sheet #21 (Rev.1), The Human Right to Adequate Housing.

