

Passing the campaign Motion in your CLP

As well as taking on the Tories' disastrous policy on the front lines through eviction resistance, we also want to push the Labour party and the Welsh Labour government to announce more ambitious policies on this issue that not only defend renters in the short term, but also begin to transform our housing system. We want a Britain where a house is treated as a fundamental human need, instead of as an opportunity for landlordism and rent extraction.

We want as many CLPs as possible to pass this motion to prepare local Labour parties to support frontline resistance as well as send a message to the Party that we want the party to be fighting for reform.

Our campaign fights for three transformative reforms:

1. Extend the eviction ban in England and Wales for at least a year, until August 2021.
2. Legislate to force landlords to forgive all rent arrears accumulated during the pandemic, with means tested financial support to compensate small landlords where necessary.
3. Follow through on commitments made by both the last Conservative government and Welsh Labour conference [to end section 21 'no fault' evictions](#), which can force renters from their homes for no reason with as little as eight weeks notice.

The Motion - [Click here for a view only doc version](#)

Labour Tenants United Covid-19 CLP Motion

This CLP notes:

- That in a tenant-landlord relationship the tenant is almost always the more vulnerable party.
- That 60 per cent of renters have suffered a loss of income since the pandemic hit.
- That while the evictions suspension has protected tenants from immediate evictions caused by COVID-19, this is not a long term solution.

This CLP believes:

- That the Labour Party (**including the Welsh Labour Government and Scottish Labour**) should always serve to protect a tenant's right to safe and decent housing before a landlord's right to profit.
- That the Labour Party should, as a matter of priority, advocate for the government to write off rental arrears that have accrued during the Covid-19 outbreak.

EVICTION RESISTANCE

- That a substantial package of renting reforms in response to the pandemic and the wider housing crisis - including rent controls, abolishing no-fault evictions and Right to Buy, and ending the hostile environment in renting - could control the narrative and help put tenants' interests onto the agenda.

This CLP resolves:

- To engage with and support any local tenant organising, including renters' unions.
- To instruct the CLP secretary to write to the Regional Director and the Leader of the Party (and the leader of Welsh and Scottish Labour Party's) expressing the CLP's support for a proactive campaign to cancel rental arrears as a part of the solution to the evictions crisis.
- Call upon the English and Welsh governments to scrap section 21.
- To ask the MP, **MS and MSP** to undersign a letter that can be delivered to Letting Agents in this constituency demanding they:
 - refrain from Section 21 (In England and Wales) and Section 8 evictions of tenants whose incomes have been affected during the crisis.
 - cancel rent arrears where income has been affected during the crisis and there were no other means to pay rent, such as via uncapped housing benefit

Passing the motion

This motion should not be controversial and therefore we expect it to pass without much push back, if any. However, for many CLPs this will be one of the first times they are meeting to run normal business in months. A few CLPs have started meeting again this September for NEC nomination meetings, and some even for their first AMM (All Member Meeting) back.

This is good practice for mobilising for and passing motions at these Zoom meetings. This could be our new normal still for months to come when it comes to organising in the Labour Party. The key parts to focus on with passing this motion is practising winning on Zoom, and following up on the actions in the 'resolves' section.

As per usual functioning, the best way is to email your Branch or CLP secretary with the motion. If you are emailing your CLP secretary, especially if you are in England, it is worth pointing out that evictions are legal again and demand action fast, and that you want the motion considered as an Emergency Motion. Depending on your Sec and Chair, they may include it as an Emergency Motion which will bump it up the list.

Winning the motion on Zoom

EVICTION RESISTANCE

Your first hurdle is making sure that those who you want to be able to attend are able to participate now the meeting is on Zoom. Although this will be less of a problem now than at the beginning of the pandemic, don't assume that everyone will know how to work Zoom.

Getting people set up on Zoom

- If you haven't got one already, it is worth signing up for a free account on Zoom so that you can schedule a practice meet up
- Send an open invitation out to those in your Momentum Group and other left caucuses for a short meet up just to practice things like raising hands, requesting to speak, good Zoom etiquette and polls
- Once they feel confident, make sure to message them to make sure they actually attend the CLP meeting!

Clear voting systems

- If your CLP hasn't decided what voting system it is using, it would be worth suggesting using the inbuilt Poll Function
- Zoom have a [support video for how to](#) use the Polling function

For general support with organising on Zoom, we have a [recording of a session](#) run on exactly this as part of [Momentum Slack](#)'s Lunchtime Sessions project.

Focusing on the Actions

This is purposely an action heavy motion, so you need to be proactive to ensure that they are indeed acted upon. A reminder of the resolves in the motions and the actions to follow:

This CLP resolves:

- To *engage with and support any local tenant organising, including renters' unions.*
- To instruct the *CLP secretary to write to the Regional Director and the Leader of the Party* expressing the CLP's support for a proactive campaign to cancel rental arrears as a part of the solution to the evictions crisis.
- Call upon the English and Welsh governments to scrap section 21.
- To ask the *MP to undersign a letter* that can be delivered to Letting Agents in this constituency demanding they:
 - refrain from Section 21 and Section 8 evictions of tenants whose incomes have been affected during the crisis.
 - cancel rent arrears where income has been affected during the crisis and there were no other means to pay rent, such as via uncapped housing benefit.

MP to undersign a Letter

EVICTION *RESISTANCE*

If you are planning an action to march and deliver letters to letting agents across your area, then the last action is clearly time-sensitive to when you plan on doing this action. We have a separate guide for the [Letter Delivery](#) action that includes the template Letter which means that you will be able to immediately send the letter to your MP alongside a copy of the passed motion.

Before the CLP motion you can also get Councillors in your Local Authority to undersign too, adding weight to the motion and the likelihood of a quick response from your MP.

CLP secretary to write to the Regional Director and the Leader of the Party

This one has the easiest follow up, which is just to check in with the CLP secretary after perhaps a week to see whether they have done this yet. Don't forget to ask for the response too!

Engage with and support any local tenant organising, including renters' unions

This point gives you the most scope and provides you with an opportunity to make specific asks of your CLP. These asks can be in the way of another motion or directly to the Executive Committee.

Some examples of ways the CLP could support local tenant organising:

- Include details of training being run by renters' unions in Local Labour emails
- Financial support if needed
- Providing space to meet
- Ring round Labour members to find out whether they are facing housing issues, and put them in touch with the local renters' union