

# **Coalition Marches to Demand Winter Eviction Ban**

## **“Abolish Winter Evictions Before End of Moratorium!”**

*Tenants, clergy, and supporters marched in downtown Manhattan to demand that evictions be abolished during the winter months to prevent homelessness, protect New Yorkers from cold weather injuries and related health threats, and keep tenants healthy and safely housed.*

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**New York City, NY** - Today, tenants, clergy, and supporters - including members of the Crown Heights Tenant Union, Flatbush Tenant Coalition, Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES) and the Right to Counsel NYC Coalition - gathered in lower Manhattan to speak out against the cruelty and inhumanity of evictions, and to demand an end to evictions during the cold winter months. Tenants called on the State to take action to enact a permanent ban on winter evictions before the COVID-19 eviction protections expire on January 15th.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, universal eviction moratoria have proven to be an effective tool at keeping tenants securely housed, preventing homelessness, and protecting tenants from the health threats posed by both the pandemic and exposure to cold weather during the winter months. Learning from the success of eviction moratoria and the threat of mass eviction, displacement, and homelessness, and associated health risks, we're demanding that the State put in place a permanent ban on evictions during heat season for ALL tenants across New York State.

### **Lloyd Smith, Tenant Leader and Steering Committee Member with the Flatbush Tenant Coalition**

explains why RTCNYC Coalition is rallying today: "We demand a permanent winter eviction moratorium so no one in New York State can ever lose their home during cold winter months. There are too many children, seniors, and our brothers and sisters on the brink of becoming homeless. Paychecks that stopped during the pandemic and never started again. Low paying jobs that can't make ends meet. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'Injustice anywhere, is injustice everywhere.' Making people homeless during the winter is immoral and unjust. We demand justice now."

"We are here to fight for a Winter Eviction Moratorium. A permanent ban." **said Fidele Albert, Tenant Leader with the Flatbush Tenant Coalition.** "We are entering the coldest time of the year. Already we have thousands of people who are homeless. Due to the pandemic a lot of people are still on the market without jobs. The ERAP program is stopped. People can't even afford to buy food. People have children they need to take care of. Some families apply for affordable housing for years and get nothing. To put people out in the cold is inhuman. All evictions must stop. But until then, we at least need no evictions during the winter. And until our elected officials pass this permanent winter eviction moratorium, they must extend our temporary eviction protections until at least the end of June 2022. We are human, and we are fighting to have the basic human rights we deserve. To have a home during these cold winters and onwards."

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