

Tenant Rights during COVID-19

The Covid-19 pandemic is causing an unprecedented rent crisis.

Although evictions are suspended for three months, we have to come together to protect each other once the lockdown is lifted. You may also be able to win a rent holiday from your landlord during the crisis.

Community Organisations

Problems with your landlord? Here are two organisations that can help you fight for your rights:

ACORN
OXFORD

Acorn Oxford is a new branch of the nation-wide community union. **Join them** to fight with other tenants, get support writing letters to your landlord or letting agent, get assistance in resisting evictions, and for general community building. Get in touch via oxford@acorncommunities.org.uk.

Oxford Tenants Union (OTU) is primarily for support in writing letters to your landlord or letting agent, with tenant rights, and with solidarity and advocacy and signposting to services and/or legal advice. **They hold Open Meetings every Monday at 6pm on Zoom, everyone welcome.** **More info here.** Send them an email via oxtenantsunion@gmail.com.



Key Rights as a Tenant during COVID-19

- ✘ All court action for **evictions are SUSPENDED until the end of June**. Your landlord cannot evict you before then (unless you are a casual lodger). You have the right to stay in your home.
- ✘ If your landlord wants to evict you, **you are now entitled to three months notice**.
- ✘ The government has given landlords a three month mortgage holiday, which they are encouraged to convert into a rent holiday for tenants. **Click here for a letter template to help pressure your landlord or letting agency to give you a rent holiday!**
- ✘ **You have the legal right to know who your landlord is and their address.**
- ✘ **Landlords should not be making a visit to your house, or showing anyone around** (unless it is 'serious and urgent') during the lockdown. If they are harassing you, especially threatening eviction, this is illegal.
- ✘ You may be entitled to Universal Credit, Housing Benefit or the Employment and Support Allowance to help you pay the rent. See what you can claim **here**.

There is much more to know about your rights as a tenant. For more details, see Oxford Tenants Union page **here**, and more resources **here**. Acorn has additional resources **here**.

ACORN
OXFORD

acorntheunion.org.uk



oxfordmutualaid.org



oxfordtenantsunion.com