



# TENANTS NEWSLETTER

A SAFE HOME IS EVERYTHING

## TENANT UNION ON A CROSSROAD

The tenant union is at a crossroads. It has been two and a half years since the union was re-established, and a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since. The union started a fierce battle for better conditions for tenants and better regulations in the rental market.

At the same time, the union has worked hard to identify and educate tenants about the forces that cause great damage to their livelihood.

It is becoming more and more obvious that a system is brewing aiming to suppress the rights of tenants, because it feeds the enormous accumulation of wealth in the housing market.

It is and must continue to be the struggle of tenants to bring that system to the grave so that tenants and other people of the country can live with dignity and with security and equality in the housing market.

## OPEN MEETING IN BOLHOLT 6

Wednesday April 24 at 18:00 an open social meeting for tenants will be held. The meeting will be held at Bolholt 6, 105 Rvk in the building of the People's Association. In the same building there is, among other organisations, office of the Tenant union, Samstöðin, Vorstjarnann charity. and the Socialist Party.

At the meeting, we are going to discuss the situation of tenants and the situation in the rental market. Afterwards, we try to agree on what the tenants' reactions can be, possible actions and the importance of tenant solidarity.

It is important that the tenants join the ranks and participate in the effort that lies ahead. Our strength will determine how we succeed.

The board of the Tenants union encourages all tenants to attend and participate.

**24** APRIL

## UNION MEETING

**The tenant union calls for an open social meeting in Bolholt 6, 105 Rvk. April 24 at 18:00.**

**At the meeting, the rental market situation and the situation of the union will be reviewed. Additionally we will discuss tenants reactions, possible actions and solidarity.**

**Light refreshments will be available**



**THE ICELANDIC TENANT UNION**



## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY & REGULATION

### VOLUNTEERING & POOR FINANCE

Since the restoration and almost since the foundation of the union in 2013, it has been run on a voluntary basis.

In 2022, the organization received a grant of 5 million ISK from Vorstjarnan, which has been used to conduct opinion polls, obtain a legal opinion and to rent part of an office space.

The tenant union applied for an operating grant to the Minister of Social Affairs in the fall of the same year and received a part of the amount applied for. The grant was used to pay the chairman ISK 290,000 in salary (before taxes) part of the year 2023.

As can be understood, the scope of the work is enormous and it is urgently necessary to be able to pay people a decent wage for work that is sometimes on a par with what the trade union's offices produce.

The strategy is to make the Tenants union financially independent and sustainable, thus increasing visibility and strengthening lobbying.

### WEAK REGULATION FOR TENANTS

The OECD has analyzed rent regulation within its member states. A questionnaire was sent out, where the following elements were checked

- Regulations on contract prices
- Rules for the frequency and implementation of increases
- Rules on the duration of leases
- Housing security
- Powers to terminate a lease
- Short-term rental restriction rules

Based on the responses of the member states, a scale was created for the extent of regulations within them. The scale is from 0 to 1.0.

Iceland had the fourth lowest value, or only 0.14. The only countries below Iceland are UK, New Zealand and Israel. It is therefore clear that there is anarchy in the Icelandic rental market.

The tenantsunion has compared the increase in rent within the states with rent regulation and thus confirmed a very clear correlation between excessive increases in rent and weak regulation.

## Rent regulation in OECD member states

Rent regulation policy



OECD, Brick by Brick - rental market regulations <https://stat.link/cvw46t>





## THE SPRING IS HERE

### NEXT NEWSLETTER MAY 1ST.

The Tenants union's newsletter is a project in the making. Our goal is to educate tenants and enrich their understanding of the various issues related to tenant issues.

In the letter, we try to tell you news about the main things that have been discussed between newsletters, as well as writing analyzes of the state of affairs, whether in the political arena or elsewhere. We also regularly report on various numerical results and research from countries around the world and thus share knowledge with tenants. Knowledge is power.

The tenant union also wants to encourage further participation from the tenant community as well as various stakeholders. We are therefore looking for guest writers. Columns, news, analysis and opinions are all welcome, whether from the academic community, interested parties or tenants themselves. However, we especially encourage tenants to send in columns and tell their stories. It is important for tenants have a voice in the society.

Interested people are therefore invited to submit suggestions for newsletter content to the email address [sli@sli.is](mailto:sli@sli.is) under the heading "Newsletter".

we invite you to participate in important sharing of information about the community of tenants in Iceland.

*Jón Ferdinand Estherarson*

### WE RISE TOWARDS THE SUN

Now spring is here. It's still going on with late winter showers and torrential rains, but despite that, the flowers have started to sprout from the soil and reach for the sunshine that stays longer and longer in the sky. The colorful bulbs that have stored their energy over the winter under the surface brighten the environment and inspire creativity.

We have a lot in common with them, we love spring, we are colorful and brighten the environment. We have the creativity and power to rise from the soil.

It is important that we recognize our position and boldly promote an identity based on perseverance, justice and importance in the progress of society. Our solidarity as a class will be decisive for success in the struggle for better living conditions and for security and equality in the housing market.

Although there are spring storms ahead, let's reach for the sun and let the environment enjoy the changes that we can bring about together. In us lives the hope of better times for society as a whole, in us lives the sacred primal force of nature.

Let us consider how necessary it is for our petals to spread, however difficult it may prove to be for a weak stem. Let's rise together towards the sun.

*Guðmundur Hrafn Arngrímsson*

**REGISTER FOR THE  
TENANT UNION**

You can register for the tenant union here:  
[www.leigjendasamtokin.is](http://www.leigjendasamtokin.is)

**THE TENANT UNION  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

You can find the tenant union on [facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)

**SUPPORT  
THE TENANT UNION**

The tenant union does not receive any official funding, nor membership fees. You can support the union through our website.