



Newham & Leytonstone Branch Organiser (Maternity Cover)

The role of the Newham & Leytonstone Branch Organiser is to support the growth and collective leadership of the Newham & Leytonstone branch, while our current organiser is on maternity leave. This work will support the union's fundamental goal of transforming the housing system, in alignment with our values and strategy agreements. The work will include facilitating leadership from a broad base of renters, with a particular emphasis on working with those who face the worst impacts of the housing crisis.

The successful candidate will be available to start in June or July (at the latest) for one year.

Core responsibilities

- Building relationships with renters in Newham and Leytonstone, including through phone calls and one-to-one meetings.
- Supporting renters to take action, such as by helping to organise pickets against estate agents, landlords and other power holders who profit from the housing crisis.
- Ensuring the Branch is reaching and recruiting a wide range of renters, such as through organising street stalls and door knocking sessions and meeting with local renters and leaders.

- Empowering renters facing marginalisation and deprivation to participate and lead the branch, by developing their skills and confidence through coaching.
- Supporting the organisation of branch meetings and other meetings and events to ensure they are welcoming and empowering spaces for a wide range of members.

Additional responsibilities when time allows

- Supporting the development of teams and roles within the branch, including the outreach, member solidarity and planning teams, so as to ensure the branch is led strategically and effectively by renters, especially renters most impacted by the housing crisis.
- Identifying opportunities for and coordinating collective action on the housing issues that are important to renters.
- Building strong, deep relationships with relevant groups and organisations in the area.

Skill and Experience Requirements

Essential

- Ability to empower people to participate in and lead collective struggle, including people who face oppression.
- Understanding how to organise people in a community towards a shared goal.
- Ability to speak and build trust with people in the area and different organisations.
- Understanding of the housing crisis in London and its impacts on people and communities
- Self-motivation and ability to prioritise tasks and work to urgent deadlines in an unstructured environment and able to work independently as well as in a team.
- Commitment to working with honesty and integrity and to equal opportunities and opposing oppression.

- Ability to keep boundaries and help look after yourself and those you're organising with, when doing stressful work.
- Facilitation skills

Desirable

- Local connections and excellent knowledge of Newham and/or Leytonstone
- Basic understanding of the housing system
- Experience of organising workplace or community-based disputes
- Experience of coaching others to carry out political organising work

Terms and conditions

- The pay is £28,000 per year (with an annual pay increase due imminently). The post is 30 hours per week, usually spread over 4 days. LRU workers are expected to be available to work some evenings and weekends.
- Staff with children or carer responsibilities are entitled to an 8% subsidy on the regular staff salary for their first child or other dependent and a 4% additional subsidy for any additional children or dependents.
- This position is a maternity cover role, fixed for 1 year from June or July 2021.
- There is a 6-month review period.
- Workers receive 23 days of paid holiday each year plus bank holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year. Sick pay is provided.
- The LRU provides its workers with up to £1200 per year towards counselling or other forms of agreed wellbeing support.
- A phone and reasonable expenses are provided.
- Membership of the LRU is not open to landlords, police, bailiffs or others who carry out evictions.

- The LRU provides a 3% pension contribution.
- The post will be based at the new LRU office [location TBC], but working-from-home is possible, pending current COVID/lockdown requirements. It is expected that more travel around Newham & Leytonstone will be required, as it becomes safer to do so.

To apply for this job:

- To apply for this role, please send your CV and cover letter using the application form at <https://londonrentersunion.org/2021/work-with-us/> by **10am on June 1.**
- Be sure to write your cover letter in a way that addresses each of the points in the Skill and Experience Requirements listed above.
- If you're unable to use the form for any reason, feel free to send us an email.
- If you have any questions about the role, feel free to email Amina amina@londonrentersunion.org.
- Interviews will be carried out on the 1st or 2nd of June. Follow-up interviews may be requested the following week, if there are outstanding questions.