



Tower Hamlets Branch Organiser

For information on how to apply, please visit

<https://londonrentersunion.org/2023/tower-hamlets-organiser/>

About this job

Since we launched in 2018, the LRU has grown to nearly 7,000 members, won countless disputes against landlords to improve the lives of our members and won important campaigns against the government on evictions law. We've got big plans to campaign locally and nationally against the huge rent rises many of us are facing right now, and we've got a new 5-year strategy with big plans on growing renter power to back it up.

We're hiring a Branch Organiser to help grow our successful Tower Hamlets branch, which launched in 2021 and has hundreds of members and has won victories against landlords, social housing providers and the council. The branch has a highly committed organising committee and strong connections across the borough and is now looking to further increase its reach and deepen its organising and win an ambitious campaign against unsafe housing conditions in the borough.

We strongly encourage applications from people who live or work in Tower Hamlets and/or who speak Bengali or other languages that are spoken widely in the community. We particularly encourage applications from working class, women, disabled and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic candidates.

Joining the LRU as a paid organiser is your chance to use and develop your community organising skills, to build a leaderful local branch and support local renters to build the power we need to transform the housing system so that it works for people not profit.

Extensive training and support will be provided to the successful applicants.

Main responsibilities

- Supporting new members into the activity of the branch through phone calls and one-to-one meetings.
- Recruiting paying members to the London Renters Union.
- Supporting elected role holders to develop their community organising skills and carry out their roles.
- Support members to develop and implement the strategy of the branch.
- Identifying and organising campaigns and disputes on issues that renters are facing.
- Helping members run effective, welcoming meetings.

Other responsibilities

- Provide administrative support to the branch including responding to members who get in touch via the website and email.
- Making sure branch activities are promoted via email, website and social media.
- Attending and providing a few hours support each month to one union-wide working group.
- Occasionally supporting union-wide trainings and events e.g. our annual All Member Assembly.
- Upholding LRU values and agreed strategies.
- Attending meetings within the branch relating to the support we give to our members to stand up to their landlord.
- Taking part in evaluation and strategy discussions and supporting members to evaluate and plan their organising work.

Essential

- Experience of organising workplace or community-based campaigns.
- Ability to empower and motivate people to participate in and lead collective struggle and to organise effective teams.
- Ability to build trust and motivate people in the community to take action, particularly in 1 to 1 settings.
- 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.
- Willingness to uphold LRU values (londonrentersunion.org/values) and agreed strategies.
- Ability to keep boundaries and look after yourself and those you're organising with when doing stressful work.

Desirable

- Good communication skills in Bengali or other languages that are spoken widely in the community.
- Local connections and excellent knowledge of Tower Hamlets.
- Facilitation skills.
- Understanding of housing law.

Terms and conditions

- The pay is £37,656 pro rata – £33,125 for 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 a 12% subsidy on the regular staff salary for their first child or other dependent and a 6% additional subsidy for any additional children or dependents.
- This role is a 2 year fixed term contract, with an intention to extend subject to funding.
- 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 £1,200 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 Statutory 3% pension contribution.
- This post will be based at the LRU offices in Bethnal Green with some working from home as agreed with your line manager, there is also budget for a satellite space in Hackney
- This post will be managed by an experienced LRU organiser.