



WHAT IS RENT STRIKE?

The rent strike is an evolving conversation about how regular people can keep themselves safe, sheltered, and fed through the coming months.

The basic premise of the strike is simple: If we can't work, we can't pay rent. Instead of being isolated and on your own in worrying about how to pay rent and to feed yourself, regular people can collectively support each other, and can take their lives into their own hands by keeping their rent. Because even if lockdown as it is lifted at the end of this five weeks, we will still have significant restrictions on movement. Life is not going back to normal any time soon, and the most vulnerable people in our most unequal country will be hit the hardest. If you keep your rent today, you might be able to buy groceries tomorrow where you wouldn't have. And that is one of the biggest things you can do to ensure that you will have

some money for food going forward, if you had any money at all in the first place. Government is giving some money to people, but it is insufficient, unreliable, and maladministered, so what are some real practical ways that we can ensure that we are collectively safe together?

But rent strike is not a blanket prescription. Though we emphasise and highlight that the landlord-tenant relationship is inherently exploitative, we understand that many people have complicated lives, we understand that there are occasions where it could be safer for a person to pay rent if they can. We invite everyone worried about rent to get involved and to be able to make the best choices with the most information, because each person knows their own life the best. For rent strike, what is essential is that no-one should be evicted and no-one should starve. Possibly hundreds of thousands of people are going to be unable to pay rent in May, and many more in June and beyond. Rent strike as a group starts with the idea that if we collectively organise around that fact, we will all be safer now and in the long term.

Rent Strike SA is more than just the strike at this stage, it also is including efforts to petition and lobby government to call for a rent freeze and rent cancellation for the period of the pandemic. It is also a call to banks and government to freeze bonds with no interest added for the period of the pandemic, as well as a call to government to reduce rates and taxes. As such, it is a multi-pronged approach that is intended to suit all preferences for organising. But you can't wait for us to do the work, you have to help us because we depend on everyone for this.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Learn about how rent strikes work! On our website and our Facebook page (we also have Twitter and Instagram) there are important resources, where you can learn about the laws of evictions, you can find a sample letter for your landlord, and you can connect with others who are in a similar position.

If you are one of many tenants with the same landlord, you are in luck, because it is easier to win a rent strike that way. Speak with other tenants and get them on board for the rent strike.

Organise safely with proper social distancing in your communities. Teach others about rent strike and get them to join.

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