MEMBERSHIP & DUES

• National Membership 974
• Monthly dues income averages out at £5000 this year but is increasing each month
• £30,573.00 dues income in 2018
ACTIONS: 30
(2018 only)
BRANCHES & GROUPS

• BRISTOL BRANCH
  • 1 X neighbourhood group established
  • 1 x neighbourhood organising drive underway

• SHEFFIELD BRANCH
  • 1 x neighbourhood organising drive underway

• NEWCASTLE BRANCH
  • 1 x neighbourhood group established

• BRIGHTON BRANCH (Members only, no staff)
• MANCHESTER BRANCH (Members only, no staff)
• BIRMINGHAM group (Members only, no staff)
MAIN CAMPAIGNS
2017 campaigns (since last AINT meeting)

Renters Vote

Save the Council Tax Reduction
RENTERS VOTE

• Government called a snap election in June 2017
• Organised a voter registration campaign along with Generation Rent
• The ground operation registered hundreds of mainly homeless people
• Our online campaign pushed 4000 people to the site to register online
Save the Council Tax Reduction

• Council Tax is a tax collected locally and used to fund public services
• Low-income households get a discount or are exempt from paying
• Bristol City Council planned to introduce a minimum charge that would affect 25,000 households
• ACORN members in Bristol organised door knocking campaigns, an online petition and ‘none of the above’ responses to the consultation and made plans to begin (or at least threaten) to organise a tax strike if necessary.
• Also organised within the grassroots of the Labour party, resulting in a clear rejection of the proposals from members and a rebellion from Councillors.
• The Mayor was forced to give in and we saved up to £8.3million for Bristol lowest – income households
TSB buy-to-let mortgage contracts banned landlords from renting to: welfare recipients, students, asylum seekers

ACORN’s response:

- Mobilised members for a national day of action in Sheffield, Bristol, Newcastle & Brighton to occupy bank branches and demonstrate outside, demanding that they drop the policy
- Secured national media coverage in the Guardian
- TSB dropped the clause as it applied to claimants and students and is currently reviewing its policy on asylum seekers
END UNFAIR EVICTIONS

• Joint campaign with Generation Rent and other renters organisations
• Calling on government to ban Section 21 evictions
• Allows landlords to evict tenants for no reason, with only 2 month’s notice. Called ‘no fault’ evictions as the tenant does not need to have broken the terms of the contract to be evicted
• Over 45,000 signatures on the petition as of 05/07/18
• Generation Rent working more on the policy and media side of things, ACORN delivering the direct action aspects such as targeting landlord MPs
MAIN CHALLENGES
RESOURCING STAFF EXPANSION

- Our staff are very overstretched at the moment and we’ve now got only 2 permanent full time organisers on the ground
- Need to hire at least part time organisers in Brighton and Manchester, ideally full timers and several full timers in Birmingham
- Need to replace Tom on either a part time or full time basis in Newcastle
- Although we’re relatively sustainable at current staffing levels and can absorb the costs of hiring new staff to an extent we need to access significant funding in order to expand into key strategic areas where we don’t yet have a presence but where we have had interest
MAIN PRIORITY
FUNDRAISING

• We know that we can recruit enough members to become self-sustaining through dues payments.

• The issue is that we’re seriously under-capacity in terms of organisers and we need to raise significant amounts of money in order to service our existing membership and grow and sustain our existing organisation.

• We have a long list of places for potential expansion but don’t have the money to resource this.

• Beyond initial hiring in the immediate short term, our national priority is the creation of a small team of fundraisers to secure outside grant funding to ensure we’re able to pay our organisers in the short terms while they build our current organisation and to fund the hiring of new ones.
EVICTION RESISTANCE VIDEO