

What Housing Defense Looks Like

Picture a neighborhood where no one fears the knock at the door.

Where no family lives under the shadow of eviction. Where kids grow up in the same home long enough to memorize the cracks in the sidewalk, and elders sit on the porch knowing someone will check on them when it rains.

That's not a fantasy. That's housing defense. And it's already happening every time a neighbor refuses to stay silent when the landlord jacks up the rent. Every time someone shares legal aid info in a tenants group. Every time a crowd gathers outside an apartment to stop an unlawful eviction.

Housing defense isn't about fighting alone; it's about refusing to be picked off one by one. It's about locking arms instead of locking doors. It's people saying, you can't steal their home without coming through all of us.

Fascism wants fear. It thrives when people feel isolated, disposable, and silent. But we are none of those things.

We are rooted.

We defend homes like we defend bodies because housing is a human body issue. You can't fight for justice if you're sleeping in your car. You can't raise your voice if you're worried about where your kids will sleep. You can't build power if you're always on the move.

And it doesn't just happen in houses. If you live in an apartment building, yes, **you too** can defend

your space. You're not alone. That peeling paint, that moldy ceiling, that landlord who's never available until rent is due? You're not the only one. Organize with your neighbors. Leave notes, talk in the hallway, start a group chat. Compare stories. You'll realize you're all dealing with the same broken systems and you can push back together. From hallway meetings to tenant unions, apartment buildings can be fortresses of resistance too.

Because here's the truth: housing defense doesn't start with paperwork or policies. It starts with people. It starts with conversations. With checking in. With keeping watch. With knowing who lives upstairs and what they need. It starts with lifting each other up when the system tries to knock us down.

Maybe you start a tenants' council. Maybe you organize a rent strike. Maybe you help someone appeal an eviction notice or turn an empty lot into a community garden. Or maybe you just make a sign that says this block defends its people and tape it to your window or your apartment door.

There's no script. No one-size-fits-all solution. There's only this question: What are you willing to do to make sure no one is thrown out into the cold?

If you do one thing just one do this: make your building, your block, your neighborhood dangerous to fascism. Make it so strong, so aware, so organized, that no slumlord or sheriff dares to tear a family apart without hearing from you and everyone you know.

When we defend housing, we're not just saving roofs we're saving dreams. We're saving histories. We're saving futures. That apartment isn't just drywall and pipes. It's where the baby took her first steps. It's where grandma passed down recipes. It's where somebody found the courage to try again.

They want us scattered. We plant roots.

They want us silent. We knock on doors.

They want us scared. We show up anyway.

This is what housing defense looks like.

It looks like us. All of us. Together.

Want to keep this close? Share it with your neighbors?

****Download this PDF. Print it. Pass it around. Tape it to the laundry room wall.****

We dont just need to resistwe need to *remind* each other: were in this together.