

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LIBERATION



Dear Gainesville Community,

National Women's Liberation is formally endorsing the Renters' Rights ordinance proposal put forward by the Alachua County Labor Coalition (ALCLC). Every renter should have a safe place to live, freedom from discrimination, affordable utility bills, and disclosure of their rights and responsibilities as tenants. The proposal put forward by the Alachua County Labor Coalition, in consultation with City and County Commissioners and Florida Legal Services as well as landlords, renters, neighborhood associations, faith communities, civic organizations, and other stakeholders throughout our community, builds upon already existing services and establishes basic protections for renters that are long overdue.

National Women's Liberation (NWL) is endorsing the Renters' Rights ordinance because every person should have the right to safe housing and to be treated fairly when looking for a place to rent. According to the Pew Research Center¹, more American households are renting their homes now than at any point in the last 50 years; and Black and Latinx households are twice as likely to be renters as whites. NWL recognizes that the Renters' Rights ordinance will strengthen and protect our broader Gainesville community; it will improve quality of life for those of us who rent, as well as those of us whose family members, neighbors, and coworkers rent their homes.

We hope that in addition to passage of this ordinance, our elected officials will prioritize increasing the amount of *affordable* housing and introduce measures to protect renters from rent increases and gentrification. According to the 2018 Out of Reach Report², 46% of Alachua County's households are renters. To afford a modest 1 bedroom apartment at the fair market rent of \$725 per month in Alachua County, a minimum wage worker would have to work 68 hours per week. NWL recognizes the need for housing justice as women still struggle for equal pay. According to research by Eviction Lab³, "[l]ow-income women, especially poor women of color, have a high risk of eviction. Research has shown domestic violence victims and families with children are also at particularly high risk for eviction." Far too many women stay in abusive and unsafe households or endure sexual harassment from landlords due to a lack of economic power and alternative housing options. Passage of this ordinance would show that our elected officials recognize that all renters in our community deserve the basic rights and protections described in the ALCLC's proposal, and that they want the Gainesville community to be informed on our rights.

Fighting Until We're All Free,

National Women's Liberation

¹ Pew Research Center, Anthony Cilluffo, Abigail Geiger and Richard Fry, "More U.S. households are renting than at any point in 50 years" (July 19, 2017)

Available at: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/07/19/more-u-s-households-are-renting-than-at-any-point-in-50-years/>

² National Low Income Housing Association, Report "Out of Reach 2018" Available at: <https://reports.nlihc.org/oor/florida>

³ Eviction Lab, "Why Eviction Matters" Available at: <https://evictionlab.org/why-eviction-matters/#who-is-at-risk>