



Regional Work Programme

Northern TUC, June 2009

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Regional Secretary

The Northern TUC Regional Work Programme highlights the goals and priorities for the Regional TUC.

The Work Programme is informed by:

- the Annual Regional Conference
- the National Operating Plan – derived from the Trade Union Congress
- current and ongoing local and regional activity

The key role of the Regional TUC is to:

- be the voice of working people
- represent the views of trade unions
- to support union capacity building.

The goals of the TUC strategic plan are to:

- raise the quality of working life
- achieve greater equality in society and within unions
- boost trade union organisation and representation
- improve economic and social justice
- strengthen global solidarity
- increase workers' life chances through life-long learning

Supporting Organising

Strategic Priorities

- promoting trade unionism, especially to under-organised groups and communities
- Support union organising capacity in key areas;
 - Organising vulnerable workers
 - Organising under-represented groups and communities
 - Linking health and safety and organising and occupational health and wellbeing
 - Linking learning and organising
- Ensure trade union education responds effectively to trade union organising goals

Activities will include campaigning work with the Young Members Network, including 'Speakers in Schools' and with community organisations representing vulnerable and under-served communities; continue support for health and safety training activities, focusing on organising and developing occupational health and wellbeing interventions; ensuring the trade union learning and reps education agenda remains clearly focused on organising outcomes.

Public Services

Strategic Priorities

- support public service trade union campaigns
- improve the quality of employment and working life in the public sector
- effective engagement in key public sector bodies

Activities will include support for anti-privatisation campaigns; supporting and building workplace reps' engagement in key workplace and strategic interventions; engaging effectively with organisations like ANEC, the Regional Improvement Partnership and key public sector agencies.

Learning and Skills

Strategic Priorities

- Support and develop trade union engagement and capacity in learning and skills
- Support trade unions in supporting reps and workers in responding to the economic downturn

Activities will include maintaining the effectiveness of the Learning for All Fund in engaging trade unions in stimulating and developing workplace learning activity; continuing excellent support and development for trade union life-long learning activity, including supporting workplace learning centres and continuing development for Union Learning Reps; developing and implementing a programme of activity to support trade unions and reps in their efforts and ambitions to support members in the downturn.

Equalities

Strategic Priorities

- Support and develop trade union engagement in anti-racism work in the workplace and in the community
- Support campaigns and activities to promote gender equality and inclusion of under-represented groups
- Support trade union efforts to challenge discrimination in the workplace
- Engage trade unions in activities and actions to tackle poverty

Activities will include ongoing campaigns to counter the BNP and the far right; capacity building for reps to promote equality and diversity and challenge discrimination in the workplace; working to increase representation of women in public bodies; key events such as International Women's Day and Reclaim the Night; support for actions to increase and improve the participation of under-represented groups; engagement in activities and actions to tackle poverty, in the workplace and in the community.

International Solidarity

Strategic Priorities

- Facilitate and support trade union actions on international solidarity, including awareness raising
- Raise awareness of and facilitate engagement with relevant issues in the European Union

Activities will include supporting ongoing work in Colombia, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Burma and Palestine; producing regular bulletins and seminars on international solidarity themes; 'sounding board' seminars with Stephen Hughes MEP and regular updates on key European Union issues.

Influence Regional Strategies

Strategic Priorities

- Engagement in shaping emerging Single Regional Strategy
- Engagement in Local Area and Multi Area Agreements
- Engagement in relevant learning and skills strategies
- Engagement in Regional Public Health Strategy
- Engagement in Equality and Diversity Strategy, including Migration Strategy in the region.

Activities will include effective engagement in the development processes and construction of the Regional Strategy; developing an understanding of the key aspects of the LAAs and MAAs within the Northern Region and seeking to influence reviews; engagement with Local Strategic Partnerships and City Regions; effective engagement in the regional and sub-regional skills infrastructure and strategy developments; engagement and involvement in the regional public health organisations; engagement in the equality and diversity partnerships and strategic migration partnership.