**TUC 150thAnniversary article**

Recently, a McDonald’s worker at the Crayford branch was left homeless due to poor pay and conditions. Meanwhile, public sector workers have suffered nearly a decade of pay freezes and cuts, leaving fire fighters down several thousand pounds in their pay packets. Both stories represent stark evidence of the challenges facing working people today and remind us that the role of unions in campaigning for decent working conditions and fair pay has never been more important.

In 2018, the TUC will celebrate 150 years of standing up for working people. The 150th anniversary - #TUC150 - is a chance to celebrate our proud history and reach out to a new generation.

The actual anniversary falls in June 2018, so that will be the focal point of our celebrations. And the anniversary activities will continue when we bring Congress back to Manchester in September, where the TUC first met in 1868. But all year we’ll be sharing content and talking about building stronger unions – and that’s where you come in.

The main anniversary project will be 150 stories for 150 years. We will capture 150 inspiring trade union stories and share them widely on social media and at events through the year. The stories will represent our regions and nations; reflect the diversity of our movement and our wide-ranging work.

#TUC150 will provide a way to involve you as union members in organising campaigns and growing our membership, winning key campaigns and securing new recognitions. As part of that, the TUC will train a cohort of 150 new reps by Congress 2018. And we’ll launch a pilot trialling new ways to organise young workers. The Royal Mail is producing a commemorative stamp sheet and a civic celebration is planned at the Speakers House in Westminster. And as the TUC was founded in Manchester, TUC North West will be organising a programme of local events.

All the key information about #TUC150 will be at tuc.org.uk/TUC150. We’ll keep adding to it in the run up to 2018 and we hope that activists and staff from across the movement will get involved in the anniversary celebrations. If you have events or activities planned for 2018, please consider how they could be used to mark the anniversary. You could tell the story of trade unions on social media using the hashtag #TUC150 or do something public to get non-members involved in trade unions.

#TUC150 is about looking forwards, not backwards. Our prime focus is the future of our movement. Through celebrating the role of trade unions, we can position ourselves as a modern, confident movement with a central role in today’s workplace, protecting the working rights of fast food workers and fire fighters from Kent to Kendal.

**452 words**