

***TUC***

***2015 Trades Union Councils' Conference***

# ***Resolutions***



## **Trades Union Councils Annual Conference 2015**

**Carlsberg Room, Crewe Alexandra FC – 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**This booklet contains all those resolutions passed at conference. Where amendments have been accepted or passed, and incorporated in to the substantive resolution, the mover of the amendment has also been credited.**

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## Resolutions



### 1. **Benefit Sanctions**

In recent years the use of benefit sanctions has increased massively. The recent review by Oakley highlighted problems caused by a breakdown in communications and suggested some improvements. The reality is much more serious. Claimants frequently report that the first impact is a lack of payments. They are then pushed further into debt and poverty and reliance on food banks. When they have family and friends they have to pick up the pieces and help the best they can.

Recent press reports suggest that around 75,000 children have been hit by sanctions against their parent. And at least 40 suicides have been linked to sanctions (Department of Work & Pensions own figures).

The role of non-departmental service providers often initiates sanctions but fails to initiate corrective action leaving the claimant in limbo not knowing what to do. We believe that this is due to payment by results for these service providers.

When the data is reviewed it is difficult to identify patterns but the position in Bedfordshire / Buckinghamshire may show the reality in broad terms when the largest number of sanctions are in Luton & Watford. It has to be that the worst hit has to be those areas already with high unemployment.

More recently we have seen the extension of sanctions to those claiming Employment & Support Allowance so a claimant already with health problems can be sanctioned by service providers when they claim further illness made attendance impossible.

The introduction of Universal Credit with the claimant commitment will extend these possible sanctions to those on low pay.

This Conference calls on the TUC, unions and members to campaign on:

- a return to respect and trust in the benefit system, and to tackle the problems of low pay and zero-hours contracts;
- for Job Centre Plus to help people into jobs paying at least the living wage and not exclude claimants from benefits; and
- the government to tackle the regional and sub-regional issues of unemployment.

### **Tyne and Wear**



## **2. Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**

Conference welcomes and supports Composite 03 on the proposed US-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment (TTIP) adopted at the 2014 Trades Union Congress. We agree that “the dangers to public services, workers’ rights and environmental standards outweigh any potential benefits” and we support the position of outright opposition to TTIP in the resolution.

Although seemingly about trade, TTIP is a ‘Trojan horse’ treaty which is mainly about furthering the agenda of privatising public services, dismantling hard-won protections and transferring power to big business through the undemocratic Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms.

As opposition to TTIP has mounted in Britain and the EU, European Commission officials have been giving ‘off-the record briefings’ to the British media, implying that the NHS is exempt from TTIP, when it is clearly not. However, even if it were the case, that would still leave enormous swathes of public services – including privatised parts of the NHS – within the scope of the Treaty and thus the ISDS mechanisms.

Conference resolves to step up campaigning locally in order to increase public awareness about the dangers of TTIP and to bring pressure on MPs and Euro-MPs to resist the imposition of this dangerous legislation.

### **Tyne and Wear**



## **3. Low Pay**

Low pay is an issue that even mainstream politicians have come to accept is huge. Even Cameron has hypocritically called for employers to give their workers a pay rise.

Low pay has been a problem for an entire generation. Wages for UK workers have stagnated since the early 1980s, when the Thatcher government's attack on the trade unions severely set back the ability of our movement to win decent pay rises for workers.

The government's attempt to boost consumer spending by increasing the availability of credit created the enormous credit bubble which ultimately burst in 2008, sinking the economy.

Since 2008 the working class has seen the price of every crucial commodity go up whilst the privatised energy and train companies continue to rip people off with above-inflation price rises.

The mainstream parties are using this crisis to create a permanent low-wage economy. This is why the demand passed by the TUC last year for a minimum wage of £10 an hour is so important. It is a demand that addresses a crucial need in every working class community and a demand that will draw new workers into the trade union movement.

Harnessed to the fast food rights campaign run by the BFAWU, it provides a powerful organisational tool for the trade union movement.

Trades councils are uniquely placed to assist in these campaigns. We have in our ranks the best rank and file activists from every trade union. We can take action to support these campaigns in a way that is able to draw on the best examples from the entire trade union movement.

Therefore this conference resolves to:

- 1) Build campaigns across the country based on the TUC policy for a £10 an hour minimum wage.
- 2) Link this with the BFAWU Fast Food Rights Campaign in order to build public campaigns for unionisation in the fast food and catering trades.

### **Greater Manchester**



#### **4 Health and Social Care in Devon.**

We, Torbay and South Devon Trades Council, call upon the Annual Conference of Trades Union Councils to seek the adoption of this Resolution and Motion on Health and Social Care in Devon.

We call on the TUC.JCC to campaign for the NHS to avoid cuts to Primary Care and Hospital Services. The closure of hospital beds in rural and community hospitals and even whole service closures are impacting on these communities. The patients are being left short of NHS and Community services due to Centralization to General Hospitals.

The closure of care homes for the elderly must be curtailed and previous closures and service reductions reversed. As this puts many vulnerable, elderly and infirmed patients into the hands of the corporate sector who rely on profits from illness. This must end and Local Authorities and Members of Parliament left in no doubt that we will fight for our relatives, trade union members and communities to end this.

### **Torbay and South Devon**



#### **5. Housing**

We live in a system which is in such a state of crisis that, within the UK alone, there are over 700,000 empty houses and 60,000 homeless people. The worst case scenarios are of those living on the streets. According to the latest figures published in February 2014, 2,414 people are estimated to be sleeping rough on any one night; up 37% from 2010.

Many people who become homeless do not show up in the official figures. This includes people who end up staying with family members or friends, living in squats or other insecure accommodation and surviving by “sofa surfing” and sleeping on floors.

The bulk of official homelessness is manifest through temporary local authority accommodation, an artificial stopgap which allows local councils to meet their “statutory

housing obligations” but which merely lines the pockets of private landlords at the expense of the tax payer. Young people are the hardest hit, forming the largest group of people who do not have a place to call their own. Many exploitative landlords also reap large sums from benefits claimants, charging huge rents, whilst simultaneously neglecting the properties they let.

This Conference believes that the capitalist system is incapable of providing a decent place to live for whole sections of our communities due to exploitative laws which favour profiteering landlords, banks and building societies. Conference therefore calls upon the trades union movement to:

- Mobilise rank and file trades unionists to support working class people fighting exploitative landlords by engaging in community campaigns on all questions of homelessness and poor housing.
- Put pressure on the next government to pass legislation giving councils legal powers to ensure unoccupied dwellings and properties are brought into use.
- Campaign for the government to provide sufficient funding to allow councils to undertake a crash programme of house building to solve the crisis.
- Put pressure on local authorities to draw up plans for slum clearance and renovation schemes involving local residents. This process should be democratic and transparent and managed by the local authority, construction unions and future tenants of any new build.
- To urge Local Authorities to create Direct Labour Organisations in the building and maintenance of Council-owned homes.
- To campaign for national legislation that means those renting privately have security of tenure.
- To strongly support a policy of rent controls for those in the private rented sector.

## Northumberland



### 6. **Attack on PCS and Trade Union Organisation**

This conference notes:

- The Government anti-union offensive and opposition to anyone who challenges them
- The blacklisting and victimisation of union reps
- The Government attacks on the largest civil service union PCS by attacking facility time, trade union rights and the latest attack to withdraw the check-off facility of members to pay union subs in their salary
- The clear intention of Maude and the Tories is to try to destroy PCS financially by withdrawing check-off from government departments
- The attacks by local government on union branches who defend members from cuts in jobs and services
- The necessity of challenging the cuts and austerity as a movement

This conference recognises this is an attack on our movement and needs to be challenged by our whole movement to stop any other employers going down this road. An attack on one is an attack on us all.

This conference therefore resolves to:



- Encourage trades union councils to contact PCS branches locally to offer solidarity and support to show PCS that they are not on their own
- Ask PCS what practical assistance we can provide locally such as helping leaflet workplaces to get PCS members signed up to direct debit, lobbying politicians, campaigning hard against the anti-union attacks
- Give solidarity to all branches and individual reps who are under attack for defending members

## Cardiff



### 7. Attacks on Trade Unions

Conference notes the continuing attacks on trade union organisations and leading trade unionists, seeking to limit their effectiveness defending their members pay and conditions, jobs and the services they deliver.

We note the attacks on facilities time, especially in public sector unions. Conference applauds those unions who have actively campaigned to defend and win back facilities time where it has been cut.

We recognise in particular the attacks on the Public and Commercial Sector Union (PCS), a union which has consistently put forward a position of 'no to austerity', and has instead argued for alternatives to cuts,

The lack of an effective political opposition within Parliament means that trade unions have become the de facto opposition to the austerity agenda. This has put unions like PCS in the government's crosshairs and PCS is now being subjected to various attacks designed at weakening the union thereby attempting to remove one of the obstacles to the austerity agenda.

Conference notes the recently leaked document which details a programme of measures aimed at reducing PCS's ability to organise within the workplace, with the goal of reducing the union's influence within HMRC.

Conference believes that this is one of the most blatant examples of 'union busting' seen since the miner's dispute in the 1980's. We believe that if these measures are successful then they may be the thin edge of the wedge and become the tactics used as a model by other employers when they are in dispute with an "awkward" trade union.

This Conference condemns the attempts to weaken the effectiveness of workers organisations to defend their members.

Conference pledges to:

- 1 Support campaigns which highlight the importance of trade union Facilities Time for representatives and the benefits that brings to employees and employers.
- 2 Ensure that information is circulated to Trades Union Councils across the region to defend trade unionists who suffer attacks.

Conference further pledges to include in its campaign the need to defend and enhance public services, jobs, wages, terms and conditions, and to explain that the attacks on all

of these reflect a capitalist system in crisis that can only survive by taking away the gains made by workers in struggle during the past period.

## **West Midlands**



### **8. Defending the Right to Strike**

Throughout the world, neo-liberal governments are challenging workers' fundamental rights to form trade unions, to collectively bargain and especially the right of workers to peacefully withdraw their labour.

Therefore we stand totally opposed to the Tories' manifesto commitment to restrict the right to strike for workers in essential/public services, notably by setting new unrealistic and undemocratic voting thresholds in future ERS ballots. The Conservative Party 2015 Manifesto states:

- trade union strike ballots must achieve a minimum 50% turnout of eligible members to be valid
- a strike affecting health, transport, fire services or schools would need the backing of 40% of eligible union members
- An end to the ban on using agency staff to cover for striking workers
- A three-month time limit after a ballot for action to take place
- New curbs on picketing.

Only a handful of Tory MPs would be able to take up their seats if a 40% support of all eligible electors was required. British democratic tradition has always been based on the principle of a majority vote of those taking part - and should remain so.

If workers cannot withdraw their labour, then they are powerless against the employer and collective bargaining is meaningless. Without collective bargaining then the boss sets the wages. The collective power of the employers to abstract maximum wealth for themselves and pay the bare minimum to the mass of workers has been underway in UK for some time already and poses grave dangers for the survival of democracy itself. Only through free collective bargaining, backed by the right to strike, can we hope to regulate wages and conditions in our society and achieve a fairer distribution of wealth from the rich to the poor.

This Conference therefore commits to:

- ensure the defence of trade union rights, including the right to strike, is added to the TUC Work Programme
- develop campaigns to defend the right to strike, oppose further restrictions on that right and argue for greater trade union freedoms, not less.
- offer solidarity and assistance where practicable to affiliates where these rights are under attack
- proactively campaign to ensure UK Government complies with ILO Conventions 87 and 98

**South Yorkshire**  
**Greater London**



## **9. The Rise of the Far Right and their manipulation of the Child Sexual Exploitation scandal**

This Conference unequivocally condemns the crime of Child Sexual Exploitation. Equally we totally condemn the rise of the Far Right and their attempts to whip up racial tensions around this issue.

The failure of the authorities to act on reports of child sexual abuse owed more to the social class of the victims making reports than it did to the ethnicity of the perpetrators. Given the knowledge that over 80 per cent of child abuse in this country is committed by perpetrators of white British origin, and the emerging reports of cover-ups of child abuse at the heart of the British establishment, we must recognise that CSE is a crime that affects all communities within this country, and that the failure of the authorities to act speaks to the degree of engrained sexism and classism within wider British culture that portrays young working class girls as responsible for their own abuse.

This Conference views with serious concern the rising levels of far-right activity across the country over the past 12 months. Islamophobia has been at the heart of an increasing number of mobilisations of groups such as the English Defence League, Britain First, North West Infidels and the South East Alliance within South Yorkshire. Media reportage of the Rotherham Child Sexual Exploitation scandal has served to exacerbate tensions. Unprecedented austerity cuts have hit local government expenditure on social work and social care budgets, increasing the likelihood that further such tragedies will be allowed to occur in the future.

The failures of South Yorkshire Police to properly investigate the crimes that were occurring in Rotherham and now also, it is reported, in Sheffield serve to demonstrate a historic culture of cover-ups in the force that cannot be ignored and extends to the Hillsborough Tragedy and the Miner's Strike.

To this end, we call for:

- More resources for local authorities, not less, so that underfunded and overstretched social workers are available to those with need.
- Greater transparency and accountability from our Police, ensuring that those who allowed considerations of public image to prevail over the duty to investigate a crime are properly disciplined.
- A more concerted response from trade unionists to the challenge of a resurgent far right and to provide unequivocal support to organisations such as Unite Against Fascism in their efforts to challenge racist myth-making.

### **South Yorkshire**



## **10. Attack on PCS and Trade Union Organisation**

This conference supports the fight of unions against attacks on trades union activity being carried out by employers. With the context of anti-union laws employers are increasingly attacking union organisation by cutting facility time, time off for union duties

and check off. The biggest challenge is being made by the Government in trying to break PCS by stopping meaningful negotiations, reducing lay rep facility time by 60%, cutting other time off provision and seeking to end check-off. It is also conniving in the setting up of a yellow union in the HMRC. But there are attacks across both the public and private sector on these aspects of trade union activity which were won over decades of struggle.

The attack on check-off has been going on for a long time and was backed by the 1993 Trade Union reform and Employment Rights Act provision. RMT was hit in 1993 when the rail employer withdrew check-off and it was part of the continuing attack on the NUM in the same year Wandsworth Council also joined in at the same time.

There had been warnings within the trade union movement about how check-off was giving the employers a weapon and associated concerns but the planned attacks of the 1980s and 90s was a clear part of the Thatcher anti-union strategy, carried on by major and later Governments.

The current attack on PCS is union busting at the heart of Government and is intended, as were the attacks on rail, steel and mining unions under Thatcher, as a political lead to other employers to hit at trade unions.

This Conference gives its full support to PCS in resisting this attack and on all other trade unionists hit by similar attacks on facility time, time off for union duties and on check-off agreements. It re-states its opposition to anti-trade union laws and anti-trade action by public and private employers and for stepping up of campaigning by the movement on these issues. It reinforces the call for organised joint action by trade unions against attacks on jobs, services and trade unions.

## **Greater London**



### **11. Local Conferences Against Cuts**

We call on the ACTUC to urge County Associations and Trade Union Councils to organise local conferences of councillors, trade unions and other activists opposed to Government imposed service cuts. The aim of the conferences will be to build and strengthen existing anti cuts movements and to resist cuts and to fight for alternatives to austerity.

The People's Assembly helps co-ordinate the work of a wide range of anti-austerity organisations in an integrated national and local campaign, generating a deep-rooted movement in communities "with the Trades Union movement at its heart and head". Conference fully supports The People's Assembly, encourages TUCs to work closely with it, and TUCJCC to include this in the Plan of Work.

## **Greater London**

### **Derby Area**



## **12. Union Busting**

This conference expresses its anger and concern at the systematic attempt by the coalition government, driven by the Cabinet Office, to attack PCS through the use of union-busting tactics. Their campaign is clearly anti-union but is also anti-democratic in its aims to silence any effective opposition to their cuts, privatisation and austerity programme and to crush even the idea there can be any alternative.

We note the withdrawal of check-off in a number of departments and welcome the PCS union's coordinated response aimed at maximising sign-up and securing financial stability of the union.

Conference notes these attacks have been stepped up in the HMRC group with the removal of facilities, unilaterally withdraw from negotiations, the formation of a staff association and a strategy, revealed in a leaked management document, to marginalise and reduce the influence of PCS and victimise democratically elected reps.

The document reflects the union-busting ideology in government sand amongst HMRC senior managers.

Conference therefore agrees the following:

1. That the widest campaign of communications is carried out to explain the nature of this attack amongst trades councils.
2. To publicise these attacks as widely as possible in the movement, amongst other unions and the TUC.
3. That MPs are lobbied in terms of influencing what is a political decision to attack the viability of the PCS as an independent union.
4. Support is given to PCS in terms of support for demonstrations, lobbying and its wider campaigning on this issue.

## **Suffolk**



## **13. Child Abuse**

This Conference notes that approximately 11 million people have suffered child abuse in this country. The Child Abuse Inquiry points to a culture amongst the establishment of victim blaming, tolerating and covering up child abuse amongst its ranks and at the highest levels of government. These people have operated beyond the law limiting the ability of law enforcement agencies and courts to tackle child abuse, making the life of many whistle-blowers reporting abuse intolerable, threatening their livelihoods and health.

We recognise that the Prime Minister's decision to include on-line child abuse in the Serious Crime Bill is a step in the right direction with GCHQ and National Crime Agency working together. Current structures supporting child abuse victims are

woefully inadequate due to successive government cuts in funding of support services such as social work, privatisation of children's homes and moving disabled and mentally ill children hundreds of miles from home and their communities. Cuts to youth services, which are often the first point of call for abused youngsters, the crisis in the Child and Adolescent Mental health services, 90,000 homeless children and just plain poverty affect any serious attempt to take this seriously.

We call on the government to establish a National Institute for People Abused in Childhood with the task of setting up:

- integrated nationwide support systems for abuse victims and survivors
- non-adversarial Truth Commission linked with dedicated Police teams that can pursue abuse allegations
- developmental teams to improve disclosure, whistle-blower and survivor-support services
- investigation into reform or elimination of the role of insurance companies in abuse litigation, ensuring that employers can focus on dealing with alleged abuse and abusers, which is currently severely restricted by insurance contracts.

We call on the TUC and TUCJCC to make contact with national and local survivors' groups to launch a campaign for

- members disclosing knowledge of past and current incidents of child abuse in the workplace
- full support for members assisting in bringing abusers, whether they be establishment figures or not, to justice
- strengthening the legal and other support structures for whistle-blowers
- government funding to ensure Police teams can bring all paedophiles to justice
- employer-funded training on disclosure procedures
- union-funded training on disclosure procedures for all staff and elected representatives
- government funded support for survivor-led organisations
- a government funded National Institute for People Abused in Childhood

## Suffolk



### 14. The Digital Divide

Conference notes that Government changes to the benefits system and assistance to the unemployed to find work, assume that they will be able to apply online. They ignore the fact that many people in these situations may not have the skills or the equipment to do this. They are being encouraged to use public libraries but hundreds of these are being closed or 'offered' to local communities to run as volunteers. In these cases neither the equipment nor staff to assist claimants will be available. The roll out of broadband is not complete and in need of public funding to bring it to all areas of the country.

Conference notes that where TUC Unemployed Workers Centres exist they frequently provide support, guidance and advocacy to benefit claimants to benefit claimants.

Conference urges all Trades Councils to get involved in local campaigns to support claimants and the unemployed and resist closures of public libraries and to campaign for public investment for full access to broadband in the UK.

Conference urges Trades Councils to set up TUC UWCs where they do not exist to provide support, guidance and advocacy. Conference calls upon the TUC and TUCJCC to give full support to TUC UWCs in performing this role.”

**Essex**  
**Merseyside**



**15. Repeal the Anti-trade Union Laws**

This Annual Conference of Trades Union Councils notes that the Anti-Trades Union laws, initiated by the Thatcher regime but redefined and carried forward by successive governments, are the most repressive in Europe and amongst the most repressive in the industrialised world.

These laws, by weakening the trade union movement, have played a major part in the rise in inequality over recent years. The weakening of trade union power has been noted by the International Monetary Fund as an impediment to growth in that it drives a reduction in spending power of large sections of the population. It also results in an increase in personal debt levels which have fuelled at least one major economic crisis and have a potential to cause the same effect in the future.

Given the pernicious and unjust nature of these laws, we are dismayed to see that there is little to no sign of any campaign against them in any programmes of the TUC. This is marked in the Trades Union Councils Programme of Work 2014 – 2015 and also in TUC Reports, both at Regional and national level. In none of these documents is there any mention of a campaign to repeal the laws. TUC Conference 2014 proposed that, in the event of a Tory victory at the polls, the TUC would campaign ‘with other political parties’ against further anti-trade union laws, but this is totally inadequate, given the onslaught which has already taken place. It also places no pressure on a future labour administration if one is elected.

We call on the TUC and the Trades Union Joint Consultative Council (TUCJCC) to rectify with urgency this omission and to campaign for the repeal of the Anti-Union Laws.

**Leicester**



**16. Support for PCS**

This Trades Councils Conference deplores the attacks being made on PCS and its members. The removal of check-off represents a massive attack on the union finances comparable to the attack on the NUM in 1984/5 which led to its near destruction. PCS has been leading the fight back against austerity and cuts; the trade union movement should support PCS against these attacks in every way possible. Conference applauds the continual battle our comrades in PCS are leading.

This Conference congratulates Merseyside CATUC and Yorkshire and Humberside TUC who have taken the decision to waive affiliation fees for PCS which means that PCS will still be actively involved in the TUC at all levels and trades councils will still receive information on the problems facing PCS and be able to offer support. Assistance has also been offered with leafleting or lobbying of past and current members of PCS to move to direct debit membership payments.

Whichever sector PCS members work in they are facing job cuts and privatisation; they are scape-goated by the media and politicians for failing to prevent tax evasion, smuggling of goods and people, benefit fraud and a host of other allegations. All at a time when the departments concerned are massively under resourced in terms of staffing and funding.

Simultaneously PCS members in the DWP, in particular, are attacked on both sides:

- By clients whose benefits have been attacked or have been sanctioned; who are forced into low paid jobs often on zero hour contracts; who are forced to go hungry just to ensure that their children eat and are consequently reliant on food-banks.
- By management enforcing targets of all kinds including those for benefit sanctions.
- From April by low paid workers facing the prospect of universal credit in-work conditionality

The level of benefit sanctions imposed against working class unemployed workers is the highest ever, with over 1,200,000 affected, sanctions varying from 4 weeks, to 13 weeks to 156 weeks.

This Trades Councils Conference:

- Calls on all trades councils to waive affiliation fees for PCS branches
- Calls on the TUC to waive affiliation fees from PCS
- Calls on all trades councils and the TUC to assist PCS in any way possible, including financially, in their fight against this attack on the union
- Calls on all trade councils and the TUC to help PCS to recruit members and to transfer to direct debit membership payments.

## **Merseyside**



### **17. Sub-standard Housing**

Throughout the regions there is a large amount of inadequate housing particular in the private sector. This is a particular acute problem if families with children are unable to secure council accommodation and this sub-standard housing has a detrimental effect on the health and educational achievements of these children.

This conference believes that in the fifth biggest economy in the world this is totally unacceptable.

We therefore call on Conference to:



- Campaign for a change in law so that any sub-standard and inadequate housing in the private sector may be compulsory purchased by the Local Authority.
- Campaign for Local Authorities to receive adequate funding from central Government both for this compulsory purchase and for repairs and measures to make them energy efficient.

Conference further believes:

- That the Local Authority should employ direct labour for these improvements
- That the right to buy be rescinded for this accommodation unless there is no waiting list for Local Authority housing.

## **West Yorkshire**



### **18. Decline of Trades Councils and CATUC's Influence**

Conference is well aware of the major concerns of TUCC's and CATUC's of their declining membership and ability to participate and influence local and country wide trades union, labour movement and local community, public services and political issues.

Conference calls upon the TUCJCC and the TUC to help in stemming this decline by:

1. Engaging in a plan of action to encourage more unions to affiliate to local TUCs and their delegates to participate in local and national activities
2. Provide local TUC's with specific grants to publicise the work of local TUCs and CATUCs to oppose all forms of racism and prejudice
3. Sharing information on activities and encouraging branches across unions to work more closely together
4. Encouraging trade union officials to participate in TUC as part of their industrial remit
5. Making local union facilities if available assist the work of local TUCs and CATUCs
6. Provide local TUCs and CATUCs with basic literature and model literature, aimed at recruiting young people including students and apprenticeships into unions
7. Providing literature designed to attract women, ethnic and minorities and immigrants into trade union activities and report progress to Conference in 2016.

## **Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire**



### **19. Opposing all forms of racial discrimination and prejudice**

Conference is aware of the concerns of union members, TUCs and CATUCs of the rising support within union structures for some right wing groups and political parties within the UK and the European Union. Conference sees these groups as a real threat to unity amongst workers and their struggles to defend living standards, jobs, public services and cohesion within workplaces and communities.

Conference calls upon the TUCJCC and the TUC to:

1. Issue new guidelines on disciplinary action against members who seek to divide and disunite members on grounds of race, racial origins, religion or beliefs contrary to the Equality Act 2010
2. Encourage all TUC affiliated unions and their branches to work with local TUCs and CATUCs to oppose all forms of racism and prejudice
3. Share research information and press releases on these right wing forces to enable local TUCs and CATUCs to share such information with the local media
4. Congratulate Searchlight, Hope Not the and UAF for their good work on combating and exposing racism at work and in the community
5. Encourage all unions to affiliate to these groups national and also at local TUC levels
6. Assist local TUCs and CATUCs that are prepared to carry out local research and produce reports on the importance of promoting racial justice, engaging in anti-racist awareness promotions and sharing TUC and union anti-racist materials within the workplace and local communities.

## **Bedfordshire**



### **20. International Links**

Conference accepts that although trade unionism is nothing if not an international moment, very little has been done to support and assist trades councils making links with trades council equivalents, or similar local or regional combined trade union bodies in other countries.

As a first step, this Conference requests the TUC General Council to research, compile and publish a comprehensive report, before TUC Congress 2015 on trades councils and or trades council like bodies in other countries.

This report shall include details of how trades councils can contact these bodies directly, so facilitating real and practical links that will help to strengthen our whole movement.

## **Somerset**



### **21. Trades Union Councils and TUC Congress**

This conference notes the vital role played by trades councils in bringing together trades unions at local level to develop a clear perspective on the local impact of government and employer actions as they affect working people and their families, work in solidarity with and support the activities of individual member unions, link trade unions with communities and local organisations through activities and campaigns and ensure that the work of trades councils and the understanding developed from it informs the trade union movement at every level and strengthens its ongoing struggle for justice and a decent life for all.

This conference therefore calls on the TUC to grant time at its annual congress for a verbal report to delegates presented by a member of the TUC JCC covering the following:

- How the TUC General Council has dealt with and proposes to deal with motions passed at the Trades Council's Conference that year and any relevant update on work on motions passed in previous years
- The activity of local trades councils during the previous twelve months and key issues arising from it
- An appeal for all TUC affiliated unions to play a full and active part in the work of local trades councils

This conference also affirms the increasing importance of the trades councils continuing to send both a delegate and a motion to the annual TUC Congress and repeats its request that its motion is moved by its delegate as the person best placed to explain its significance to delegates.

## Somerset



### 22. Climate Change

This Conference notes with concern the increasing evidence that man-made climate change caused by global warming is already affecting the world's weather patterns, which in turn is pushing up the price of food and increasing the likelihood of extreme weather events.

We are especially concerned at statements by climate scientists and organisations like the international energy Agency that without urgent remedial action by governments the world is on course for a rise in global temperatures of around six degrees centigrade before the end of the century. Such an increase would have a devastating effect on the stability of the planet for future generations.

We believe that tackling climate change, especially through the creation of climate jobs, is of immediate relevance for trade unionists and their families. The *One Million Climate Jobs* campaign was set up by trades unionists with the Campaign against Climate Change and is supported by a number of national trade unions, including PCS, CWU, UCU and TSSA. The *One Million Climate Jobs* report sets out the work that needs to be done in the transition to a low carbon economy fit for the future.

Conference therefore resolves to encourage affiliation by Trades Councils, National, regional and Local Union Branches to the Campaign against Climate Change and to seek to elect delegates to its Trade Union group.  
Affiliation rates are Local £25, Regional £50 and National £150.

## Cheshire

## Composite

### Trades Councils Conference Delegate to Congress

This Trades Union Councils Conference calls upon Congress to recognise the vast amount of positive work Trades Union Councils have undertaken during this period of austerity, taking an active part in supporting trade unions in campaigns and disputes.

Trade Union Councils have been the bridge between trade unions and local communities: they have given guidance and support to local community groups' campaigns including opposing the bedroom tax, library closures and welfare benefit cuts whilst explaining to those same groups the effects of government cuts and why trade unions are in dispute and eliciting support for those disputes amongst the general public.

This Trades Union Councils Conference of 2015 re-affirms the goal that a trade union council delegate attends TUC congress and moves the trade's union council's conference motion as a delegate.

Conference instructs the TUCJCC to persuade Congress to acknowledge the valuable positive work undertaken by trades union councils and to implement in full this motion.

## **Merseyside Greater Manchester**

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### **Emergency Resolutions**



#### **ER 1: Support for Candy Udwin and National Museums Dispute**

This Conference of Trade Union Councils condemns the National Gallery for sacking Candy Udwin on 15<sup>th</sup> May and for their attack on the PCS Trade Union. Candy was suspended in February before the first strike by PCS members against privatisation in an unsuccessful attempt to intimidate them. Tory Government union busting measures have given the green light to employers like the National Gallery to go on the attack.

This Conference sends solidarity to Candy and the National Gallery PCS members and congratulates them on the stand they have taken so far, as well as for organising a successful national demonstration in Trafalgar Square on 30 May. This Conference recognises the full support PCS have given to the National Gallery dispute as well as the support provided by many Trade Union Councils across the country and pledges support for further action to reinstate Candy and stop the privatisation.

We all now face a Tory government for 5 years and it is even more crucial we develop a national movement against austerity. The first step is to make sure that we identify the real enemy and that anyone who is fighting back is given support to win. The National Gallery dispute has also shown how strikes can win massive support and can encourage other members to take a similar stand.

This Conference calls on the TUC JCC and TUC:

1. To support, publicise and mobilise for the campaign to reinstate Candy and to stop the privatisation and to do so in the context of the wider picture: austerity, destruction of public services, union busting
2. To launch a national campaign to support all unions under attack from the Tory Government and to create a policy of solidarity and unity.

3. To create a mass trade union recruitment campaign at city and town level through local TUCs to bring more workers into all trade unions. This would include recruitment of people not in employment into community unions including Unite community branches,

This conference calls on all local Trade Union Councils:

1. To organise solidarity collections for the National Gallery and invite strikers to Trade Union Councils meetings
2. To redouble their efforts to support all industrial disputes in their geographical area.  
**Merseyside**



## **ER 2: Intensification of austerity measures**

Whereas the recent general election results will lead to an intensification of austerity measures, this conference calls upon Trade Union Councils and trade union affiliates to work with community activists and others opposed to the government's austerity agenda to discuss how we can build broad based coalitions to oppose cuts in public services, privatisation of service provision and attacks on the rights of trade unions. The outcome of the meetings should be shared through the network of trade union councils and Regional TUCs across the country in order to promote good practice.

### **Northampton**

## **ER 3: Trades Unions and the General Election**

This Conference advises the delegations to this year's Congress of the TUC that changes in direction are required if our movement is to remain a force in British politics. We expect the Tory Government will most likely be in office until 2020, and it will continue with a program of austerity and public service cuts.

We propose that the delegations to Congress consider rejecting any responsibility for workers repaying the deficit which the financial services institutions owe to the Government, further they consider building a plan for industrial action to stop cuts to public services and to protect jobs in both the private and public sectors. This industrial action plan could be linked to civil disobedience and protest actions by a united anti austerity movement.

We urge the delegations to Congress to support the Peoples Manifesto produced by the People's Assembly and reject the discredited neo liberal economics of the Government, the Manifesto serves the interest of trade unionist, working class, middle class and socialists instead of the rich and powerful and the right wing.

We suggest delegations to Congress consider the implications for working class political representation if the Labour party continues to support the continuation of Neo liberal economics, austerity and public services cuts and rejects the rights of trades unions to take industrial action to defend job, wages, working condition and pension rights.

### **Tyne and Wear**



#### **ER 4: Tory Government needs a united trade union response**

This conference recognises that the election of a majority Tory Government needs a united trade union response.

Whilst some unions previously have taken a more conciliatory approach in talks it is clear that our whole movement is under attack and trade unions are all that stands in the way of this Government continuing and accelerating its brutal cuts programme. So the maximum unity in action is essential.

So this conference calls on the TUCJCC to:

- encourage trades councils to continue to play the key role in pulling unions together at local level, supporting disputes and campaigning against the cuts.
- build support and momentum at local level to maximise the coordination of any industrial action.
- build confidence of trade unionists that we can defeat this government
- Vigorously campaign against any attacks to worsen the anti-trade union laws
- Actively support unions building in unorganised areas such as the BFAWU organising in the fast food industry
- Promote unity between public and private sector workers as we all need decent jobs, pay and pensions including campaigning and taking action together
- Call on the TUC to pull together the unions to implement its policy of building coordinated action against the pay freeze as part of working towards implementing the practicalities of organising a 24 hour general strike

#### **Cardiff**



#### **ER 5: People's March Against Austerity**

The General Election has given the go ahead to the Tories to continue, and even step up, their attacks on the poor and vulnerable in society. Unemployed people, disabled people, low paid workers and those on zero hour contracts have borne the brunt of Tory cuts.

We are told that we are all in this together and that the way out of austerity is by making cuts to wages, benefits and public services. But to most people in this country austerity means making the poor poorer and the rich richer. Never before in modern history has the gulf between rich and poor been so great. The total wealth of the richest 1,000 individuals and families in Britain has more than doubled in the last 10 years to £547bn yet the poor are reduced to taking handouts from food banks and seeing their children go to school hungry.

The 20 June national demonstration will be our first major opportunity to show this government that we won't accept any more cuts. We need to keep up the pressure on the government and all take part in protests against them and find ways to involve the public in these protests wherever possible.

This Conference congratulates the decision of the Merseyside TUC Unemployed Workers' Centres Co-ordinating Committee on 27 May to hold a four day people's march from Wirral to the Tory Party Conference in Manchester on 4 October. This decision has been supported by Merseyside TUC and the National Unemployed Centres Combine Committee. The march will be called the People's March Against Austerity and will go back to the basics of marching in the streets of our town and cities and including local communities in our protest.

This Trades Councils Conference calls on the TUC and TUCJCC to give their full support to the People's March Against Austerity.

This Trades Councils Conference also calls on other regions of England and Wales to hold their own People's March Against Austerity from their regions to the Tory Party Conference on 4 October, thus creating a massive National Star People's March Against Austerity.

## **Wirral**



### **ER 6: Securing proper political representation**

This Trades Union Councils Conference recognises that there is a crisis in working class political representation reflected in the Labour General Election Manifesto, its General Election campaign and the result.

We need policies against austerity, for progressive taxation, for publicly owned and provided services and industries and for an end to anti-Trade Union laws. Labour's leadership election and October Conference must not see the crisis in working class political representation continue.

Conference calls on all Trades Councils and TUCJCC to immediately begin a process of discussion and debate locally and nationally around how working class people can best secure proper political representation.

## **Derbyshire**



### **Emergency Motion 7: Cities & Local Government Devolution Bill**

This Conference notes with concern the announcement in the Queen's Speech of the "Cities & Local Government Devolution Bill".

The Bill provides for the so-called 'devolution' of a range of powers based on the Devo Manc model, to combined authorities in England and Wales (and for the creation of combined authorities where they do not currently exist) based on a prior acceptance of a 'Mayoral' model, which includes a cabinet composed of local council leaders within each combined authority area.

Whilst this conference welcomes the principle of a devolution of power from Westminster to the regions, it believes that the proposals contained in the Bill, and its method of implementation, should its provisions become law, appears to have little to do with a genuine devolution, and empowerment of the people of the regions, and have more to do

with the more 'efficient' implementation of cuts, privatisation and austerity by 'local' politicians, and denying the public any say whatsoever.

Announced by the Chancellor as a "Revolution in Government", this Conference believes, because it constitutes precisely that, that no such 'devolution' of powers should take place anywhere, without a full public consultation, the widest public debate, and full public scrutiny of the proposals, and a prior referendum amongst those affected by the proposals, take place before they are implemented.

Also, that provision should be made, to enable the public to have the right to propose alternatives to the Mayoral system of government (such as an elected Assembly) and to have a say on what 'combined authority arrangements' it is proposed they should be a part of.

Conference applauds, and resolves to support the efforts of GMATUC and the Greater Manchester Referendum Campaign in seeking to secure these principles and a referendum on Devo Manc in the Greater Manchester, and a policy of devolution by consent, rather than diktat.

### **Greater Manchester**



#### **ER 8: Orgreave.**

This conference deplores the news that the IPCC are not going to investigate the police who were involved in the battle of Orgreave during the 1984 - 85 Miners' Strike.

We call upon the Trade Union Movement to campaign for a public enquiry into the events at Orgreave.

### **Battersea and Wandsworth**



#### **ER 9: Tata Steel strike**

This national conference of Trade Union Councils, meeting in Crewe on 13th and 14th June 2015, extends the hand of solidarity and support to the 17,000 Tata Steel workers taking industrial action, including a one day strike on June 22nd, in defence of their final salary pension scheme.

We call upon the TUC General Council to seek support amongst its 54 affiliated unions for the Tata Steel workers. An injury to one is an injury to all.

### **Coventry**