

TUC

2014 Trades Union Councils' Conference

Resolutions



Trades Union Councils Annual Conference 2014

Thistle Cardiff City Central Hotel – 14th and 15th June 2014

This booklet contains all those resolutions passed at conference

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MOTIONS



1 COORDINATED INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Conference notes:

- The resolution calling for TUC to look at coordinating industrial action and investigating the possibility of a general strike against austerity passed by TUC Congress in 2012 and again by a bigger majority in 2013.
- “This year many affiliated unions have taken strike action, locally and nationally and have been supported by local TUCs”

Conference believes that:

- While rank and file workers such as those at Hovis in Wigan have shown great initiative and courage taking action against zero hours contracts, the TUC has failed to show leadership.

Conference therefore:

- Calls on the TUC to act with greater urgency to co-ordinate union action against austerity.
- “Agrees to restate in the 2014 – 2015 Programme of Work that the TUC should facilitate a programme of co-ordinated industrial action involving unions and local TUCs, up to and including strikes.”

**Greater Manchester
Merseyside**



2. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY WORKERS AND THE FLOODS

This conference recognises and sympathises with the thousands of people who have suffered as a result of the recent floods.

Conference applauds, amongst thousands of other workers and volunteers in the Somerset Levels and elsewhere, all those Environment Agency staff – including many members of the GMB, Unite, Prospect and UNISON – who have been out during unsocial hours and in all weathers to try and help families and stem the flood tides.

Conference notes that the ‘Money no Object’ quote from the Prime Minister David Cameron is already ringing hollow through its subsequent qualifications.

Conference also condemns the 20% cut in the Flood Coastal risk management staff that have already been completed, and the 15% cuts- totalling 1,500 staff posts – that are still being proposed for the Environment Agency.

This Conference resolves to sustain national trades councils’ campaign throughout the rest of 2014 and beyond to restore morale amongst Environment Agency staff by:

1. Reinstating all cuts to Flood and Coastal Risk Management staff and budgets;
2. Shelving the proposed 15% cuts to the Environment Agency staff;
3. Ensuring through our affiliated unions that any incoming Labour Government carries out this policy and ensures that in the dangerous climate-change driven future that awaits us we have a publicly-owned Environment Agency that is publicly owned.

Somerset



3 POLITICAL REPRESENTATION FOR TRADES UNIONISTS AND THE WORKING CLASS

Conference notes the passing of the Collins Review by the Labour Party special conference on 1 March.

Conference believes that the passing of the Collins Review further dilutes the ability of affiliated unions to act collectively within the Labour Party and effectively put forward a political agenda in the interest of their members.

While their relationship with the Labour Party is a matter for the affiliated unions and their members, Conference believes that the lack of a political voice representing the interests and needs of trade union members is a serious concern for the entire trade union movement.

The Labour leadership promises more austerity from a Labour Government and Labour councils are already passing on brutal cuts from the Con-Dem coalition. Labour politicians attack trade unionists taking strike action and Labour's Shadow Education secretary crosses an education picket line. There is no commitment to provide trades unionists with a level playing field by repealing any of the anti-trade union laws which are among the most restrictive in the industrialised world. The Labour leader refers an affiliated trade union to the police for recruiting members to his own party!

Such is the disappointment in labour that many trades unionists have already drawn the conclusion that in order to get such representatives we need to have a new working class alternative to the Labour Party; initiatives like the Trade Union and Socialist Coalition and No2EU won the backing of the late Bob Crow and are supported by the RMT union.

Conference believes that the entire trade union movement needs to begin an urgent debate about political representation for trade unionists and working class people, including whether we need a new mass workers' party and how such a party might come about.

We need political representatives who will act in our interests and vote against all cuts to our members jobs, terms and conditions and against cuts to services in our communities; representatives who understand the importance of solidarity and who will support, rather than condemn, trade unionists for taking collective action to improve the lives of working class people.

Conference encourages trades councils to initiate discussions on how best to secure the kind of political representatives working class people need, considering all options.

Swansea



4 LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST AUSTERITY

Conference reiterates the decision of the 2012 TUC conference calling for the public ownership of banking and finances as the first step to creating a new kind of society, a socialist society where the wealth that workers produce will be socially owned. Only then can we begin to create meaningful jobs, build homes and schools and hospitals, provide a real living wage as well as decent pensions and offer our young and old real hope for the future.

Conference believes that this should be the first step, as we also need to bring back into public ownership the giant companies, the railways, the water companies and the enormous monopolies that dominate the economy and dictate to governments. All these should be run under democratic control.

Conference calls upon all TUC affiliated trades unions and the Trades Union Councils to vigorously campaign for the adoption of a programme of public ownership under democratic control, a socialist programme to put an end to austerity, so that working class people do not continue to pay for the crisis of capitalism

West Midlands



5 EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL LAW

This Conference condemns the insertion of fees to bring Employment Tribunals cases and the doubling of the qualifying period to claim unfair dismissal to two years. This Conference recognises that the changes are designed to weaken what little legal protection workers have and will only serve to limit access to justice to claimants who have the financial status and ability to pay.

This Conference instructs the TUC to campaign to repeal all recent changes to the Employment Tribunal cases and to assist Trades Councils in campaigning against these changes.

Essex



6 FOOD POVERTY AND THE RISING COST OF FOOD

This Trades Councils Conference notes that a recent report (Walking the Breadline) by Oxfam and Church Action on Poverty has revealed that over half a million people are now reliant on food aid, triple the number of a year ago. Changes to the benefits system are the most common reason for people using food banks. This level of food poverty has not been seen in Britain since the 19th century. It is completely unacceptable that whilst this is happening, wealthy individuals and corporations continue to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

Meanwhile, farmers in Britain are forced to sell their goods for less and less and to throw away perfectly edible produce under the pressure of supermarkets for low cost food and aesthetics of products. Moreover, Britain is progressively more reliant on imports of food generating 17 trillion miles each year to reach us. Land in developing countries is increasingly being grabbed by multinational companies to grow food and biodiesel crops for the developed world, depriving local people of growing their own food. Climate change is further exacerbating the situation by having a detrimental effect on the production and supply of food.

Various initiatives are occurring in Britain aimed at getting communities to grow, cook and eat fresh sustainable food; Incredible Edible promote Guerrilla Gardening using any land available, be it waste ground, cemeteries, public flower beds, bus stops or grass verges.

This Trades Councils Conference:

- Calls upon the TUC to step up the campaign against tax avoidance by companies and wealthy individuals;
- Calls upon Trade Union Councils:
 - to work together with groups such as FareShare collecting surplus food from the food industry and distributing it to community groups and homeless shelters;
 - to approach local councils to turn over public land for the use of community projects growing fruit and vegetables for local people;
 - to help local communities in establishing Incredible Edible and Guerrilla Gardening projects;
 - to approach local schools and colleges to utilise space on their premises to grow sustainable products, thereby educating young people in food production;
- Calls upon the TUC to campaign against unnecessary imports of food, and the TUCJCC to produce a leaflet explaining to the general public why we should avoid buying these imports;
- Calls for the TUC to examine the feasibility of a nationalised food distribution industry.

Merseyside



7. FIGHTING RACISM AND FASCISM

This Annual Conference of Trade Union Councils fully commits the rank and file trade union councils to the campaign against racism and fascist organisations and the far right.

There is a real need to combat the growing racism and the victimisation of refugees and economic migrants and minority religious communities whilst continuing to oppose the destruction of our public services and the attacks on people's benefits under this coalition Tory/Lib Dem government.

The European elections in themselves create little interest amongst the majority of people. People from every part of Europe are bearing the brunt of austerity measures imposed by their governments and the capitalist system cuts in public sector services and jobs.

A wave of protests, demonstrations and strikes have been seen, particularly in Greece, Spain, Portugal, France and Germany. In the run up to the European elections, right wing parties such as Golden Dawn in Greece, National Front in France and BNP in Britain try to answer these problems by proclaiming national interest and by seeking to set the majority against various ethnic groups. They attempt to divert attention from the real issues and the real culprits by attacking and scape-goating black and ethnic minorities.

In the North West, the regional TUC has made the sacking of the fascist BNP MEP a priority. Trade union councils have been requested to link in their communities with anti-fascist organisations and work together with green activists, trade union branches and anti-cut campaigns, all united in the focus to remove racism and fascisms which we expect to lead to the sacking of Griffin at the Euro elections.

The conference recognises that most unions now have anti-racist policies in place in unionised workplaces. However, many non-unionised workplaces still see racist practices. Local TUC's are in a good position to address the problems in non-unionised workplaces when vulnerable workers have no knowledge of their legal and employment rights.

This conference agrees to:

- Analyse the results of the European elections and the far right and fascist vote.
- Try and create unity among all anti-racists groups at a local level.
- Disseminate information/best practice by trade unions including case precedents, cases won and involvement in anti-racist campaigns.
- To continue to make anti-racism and the campaign against racists organisations a priority.

Merseyside



8 GOVERNMENT ACCESS TO TRADES UNION MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

This Conference fully supports the decisions of the 2013 TUC Congress in regard to the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act. In particular, we support the Congress decision to explore the potential for legal action against the Act's implementation and to investigate and report on the practicalities of a policy of non-cooperation with the Act. Clause 37 of the Act provides that the Government has a right of access at all times to the register of the names and addresses of a union's members and to all other documents which it considers may be relevant to help assess whether a union has complied with the membership audit requirements. It is significant that the Government has not explained what it considers are the legitimate aims and pressing social needs for these measures. The whole section of the Bill concerning trade union membership records is not compatible with the main aim of the Bill and was tagged on to the Bill at a late stage as a publicity stunt to attack trade unions.

We will campaign for an organised trade union legal challenge to the access the Act gives to union membership records as being potentially in breach of Articles 8 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Lancashire



9 THE CONTINUING ATTACKS ON THE WELFARE STATE

Conference notes with serious concern, the continuing attacks on the welfare state since the 2010 General election.

(a) Disabled

While individual impact assessments of benefit changes have been published, the government continues to refuse to produce a wider impact assessment on the disabled, saying it is too technically difficult. When in reality they are trying to avoid the truth of the impact of the many benefit changes to individuals and families with disabilities.

(b) Sanctions

The changes to the sanctions regime in October 2012 has been followed by a policy to incentivise more sanctioning of job seekers leading to more poverty, more food banks and maybe more homelessness and more family break-ups.

It would appear that repeated changes to claimant's job seekers agreements is a hidden attempt to increase the numbers who fail to meet the agreement. Some may say that claimants are being set-up to fail.

The current benefit sanctions system is leaving people destitute for weeks. The DWP is desperate to keep MPs' support for the sanctions system. We will organise full support for sanctioned claimants and carry out a campaign in every area to make sure any MP who supports the way sanctions are working stands to lose their seat in the 2015 election.

(c) Housing

Many government policies from the "Right to Buy"; the "Bedroom Tax" and "Help to Buy" just tinker with the margins and incentives in the housing market but fail to recognise the need for more affordable social housing.

(d) Alternatives

The government boasts that it has created more private sector jobs, but if 80% have been created in London, then other areas of the UK must have lost more jobs than have been created, we need a proper regional development policy that better shares growth around all the regions of the UK.

The government often complains about welfare dependency, so can we see some action against those corporations living on the backs of the welfare state and tackle the tax avoidance or evasion prevalent in many large companies.

Conference calls on the TUC, trades unions, and trade union members to challenge all the attacks on those least able to defend themselves and to stand up for all vulnerable groups in our society.

Conference calls on the TUC, Local TUCs, all unions and members to:

- Challenge all attacks on those least able to defend themselves and to stand up for all vulnerable people and groups in society.
- Establish closer working relations between TUC Unemployed Workers Centres, local TUCs and unions in DWP.
- Create a new charter for all claimants in line with Article 25 of the European Convention on Human Rights, no claimant to be subject to inhuman or degrading treatment.”

Conference also agrees to:

- Work with PCS and Unite Community Branches providing a series of advice leaflets contacting practical advice to benefit claimants;
- Build a political campaign against the effects of sanctions and conditionality regime
- Take legal advice, including the practicalities of challenging decisions under Human Rights legislation, seeking a test case against unfair decisions.

Tyne and Wear
Lancashire
Greater Manchester
Merseyside



10 INTERNATIONAL TERROR AND NEO LIBERAL ECONOMICS IN INDONESIA IN 1965

This conference acknowledges that in 2015 it will be the 50th anniversary of the bloody military coup in Indonesia which occurred in 1965. The military were backed by the USA Central Intelligence Agency, and the economic plan was provided by the right wing Chicago Business School.

Indonesia had a Communist Party of three million members, a strong trade union movement, and a strong democratic tradition, with an open and active social movement, and free and democratic Government in place. It is of some significance that in 1965 the Indonesian Communist Party was the largest in the world outside of the Soviet Union and China.

The Government was overthrown, the communist party leaders murdered, and the party banned, the trades unions and other mass based democratic movements smashed and outlawed, in a reign of terror resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths.

What was created was a pilot for smashing resistance to neo liberal economics. That was followed next in Chile by General Pinochet in September 1973, and throughout much of Latin and Central America and beyond for decades to come.

The Chicago Business School which had renowned economists such as Friedrich Von Hayek and Milton Friedman on its staff, had the ear of the CIA, who in turn wanted to find a dictator keen to eliminate their political opponents, and the military dictatorship in Indonesia fitted the bill perfectly.

The Chicago Business School went on to influence the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation, and nearly every Government and political party in the world, with or without dictatorships, managed successfully to impose neo liberal economics on working people worldwide.

We call on the TUC JCC to organise a public event in each region in 2015 to highlight the significance of the Indonesia Military Coup, and how the right wing pro business, Chicago Business School took global capitalism from the liberal centre to the conservative right wing form it now occupies, and how disastrous it is for the trade unions in Britain

Tyne and Wear



11 HOUSING

Conference recognises the importance of proper housing and its central role in the economy. The current situation puts massive obstacles in the way if those seeking good housing, rented or purchased, especially low earners. Young people are forced to continue living with their parents; families cannot afford adequate housing and the market is distorted by developers concentrating on high rent builds.

Government policy is exacerbating the situation – not ensuring enough housing, not meeting public housing need, capping housing benefit, introducing the bedroom tax, accelerating the sell-off of public housing and support for high earners. Some city authorities are ignoring the funds for ‘affordable housing’ preferring luxury flats, often for foreign millionaire investors.

Government policy is driving lower income families from city centres and not providing affordable housing in urban and rural areas. This distorts the transport system with many having to travel long stressful journeys to work with crippling fares, adding to transport infrastructure costs. The current housing market creates greater homelessness, exploitation by private landlords, more sleeping rough or in hostels. This damages health, education and the life of growing numbers of people. It fails housing needs for the disabled and elderly.

We support –

1. A massive increase in the council sector by new builds and taking over available housing
2. A massive increase in private sector dwellings regulated as to types of new builds
3. A publicly run scheme assisting purchase of accommodation and mortgage supply
4. New rent controls enforced by local authorities with private rental dwellings not meeting adequate standards being taken over by the public sector plus introduce new private sector tenure with rights and security
5. Providing adequate funds to councils for housing provision and administration
6. Legal obligation for each new development to have at least 30% of genuinely affordable housing
7. Abolishing the bedroom tax and the housing benefit cap instead capping private rents for council requirements

8. Ensuring new developments are only sited after proper consideration of local needs including transport, flood plains, environment and other local provisions rather than the interests of developers
9. A balance of housing provision with commercial development which will reduce commuting and ensure properly mixed communities
10. Greater use and modernisation of existing housing stock, a system ensuring unoccupied dwellings are brought in to use and to decriminalise squatting of empty accommodation

This to be part of the Programme of Work

Greater London



12. WILFUL NEGLECT

This conference believes that the proposed extension of the law on “wilful neglect” to cover health service employees is both reprehensible and inadequate. It is a further example of the Government directing a concerted assault on working people rather than recognising the failings of management policy and resource provision which can create an environment in which neglect can occur.

For such an extension to be adequate it would need to cover employees and employers on an equal basis. It otherwise neglects to address the failure of the law on corporate manslaughter to deliver sufficient custodial sentences for employers responsible for the death of workers or members of the public.

We therefore call on all affiliated Trades Union Councils to campaign for this proposal, should it pass into law, to be extended to cover employers guilty of health and safety offences which lead to the deaths of workers or members of the public where there is insufficient proof for the more serious charge of corporate manslaughter to be prosecuted.

When employers place profit before the safety of workers and members of the public by failure to implement adequate and reasonable health and safety procedures there is surely as much a case for a charge of wilful neglect as there is for that proposed for health care workers who fail to provide adequate care leading to the deaths of patients.

West Yorkshire



13 NHS

Conference calls on the TUC to step up, prioritise and take a lead role in the campaign to save our National health Service from cuts and privatisation.

Since the Coalition came to power the NHS has experienced an unprecedented assault. Not only has the government starved the NHS of funds, but more fundamentally, the Health and Social care Act has struck at the heart of the basic principles of the NHS as a publicly funded and provided service.

Whilst local campaigns have been active in response to this twin-pronged attack, it is clearly essential to develop a national campaign, to include the following elements:

- Encourage the formation of local campaign groups in all areas to bring together all those who want to defend the NHS and to support organisations such as Keep Our NHS Public who are already doing so. This involves resources for campaigning, lobbying MPs, putting pressure on Clinical Commissioning Groups, and engagement with councillors on Scrutiny Committees.
- Encourage health workers to take a stand against cuts and privatisation. This includes stepping up the campaigns to defend and improve health worker' jobs, pay and conditions.
- Campaign nationally with demonstrations, lobbies and political pressure. A national demonstration must be organised on a working day in the run up to the next general election to put defence of the NHS at the heart of the political debate.

The key political demands must be:

1. Scrapping the Health and Social care Act in its entirety, including restoration of the secretary of state's duty to secure a comprehensive health service that was abolished by the 2012 Act.
2. Bringing those NHS organisations which have been privatised back under public ownership and control, and restoring a health service based on 'social solidarity', not markets.
3. Ending the 'purchaser/provider' split, which is at the heart of the marketisation and privatisation of the health services.
4. Working for much closer integration of health and social care, under public management and control.
5. Campaigning against the impending trans-Atlantic trade agreement, under which US private health industry giants can demand the right to run NHS services on pain of ruinous legal action.
6. Making health and social care funding a priority when it comes to government spending decisions; this must include real protection for NHS budgets, taking into account actual increases in health provision costs.

Cambridgeshire



14 NO TO LOW PAY AND ZERO-HOURS.

Conference notes that two minimum rates of pay exist in Britain - the national minimum wage and the living wage.

This begs the question: why isn't the minimum wage the living wage?

The benefits of a higher legal floor for wages are simple. Paying people properly lowers the taxpayer-funded subsidy for “scrooge” businesses that comes in the form of social security payments for the low-paid.

This and increased tax revenues from wages would free up more cash to spend on pensions, education, health, infrastructure and a better environment.

The living wage would put more money into the pockets of those of us who provide economic fuel within local communities, including helping smaller local businesses that would be obliged to pay higher wages.

Elsewhere the exploitative set-up that encourages the poverty-pay outsourcing model of operation would no longer be so attractive, raising the likelihood of work being kept in-house.

The Con-Dems are on the side of the exploiters, forcing through vicious squeezes on social security benefits but letting the low-pay barons get off scot-free.

This Conference is also concerned about zero-hours contracts which exploit workers via unpredictable hours and earnings. Employers use these contracts as a tool to reward or reprimand employees for any or no reason thus raising issues about how adequately workers can assert their employment rights or maintain decent employment relations.

Conference is also appalled by the recent government announcement that jobseekers face being stripped of their benefits if they refuse to take some forms of zero hours contracts under the Coalitions welfare reforms. For the government to support these contracts in the way it does must be opposed by the labour and trade union movement.”

This Conference calls upon the TUC to combat the exploitation of working people including zero-hours contracts and to establish a campaign for a living wage for all. The campaign must include co-ordinated industrial action where necessary.

Oxfordshire
Cardiff



15 COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS OF TRADES COUNCILS

Conference deplores, albeit lately, the removal from current Model Rules for Trade Union Councils and County Associations the clause in previous Model Rules which state:-

“It is a condition of recognition by the TUC that a Trades Council must affiliate to, and play an active part in, the work of its appropriate County Association of Trades Councils”

Conference believes that it is essential that all Trades Councils should work together to further the aims of the TUC both at National and Regional levels. It should be obvious that only by full co-operation can we achieve the objectives set out for us by our Trade Union ancestors.

Conference therefore asks that we be given clarification not only when and why this important clause was removed but what, if anything, the TUC intends to do towards reinstating it.

West Midlands

COMPOSITES



Composite 1 FAST FOOD RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

This Conference notes that according to a Unite the Union survey, it is estimated that there are 5.5 million workers on zero hours contracts in Britain. The extent of the use of these contracts fully emerged when news stories showed some companies such as Sports Direct, employ up to 90% of their staff on zero hours contracts.

Zero hours contracts, along with low-hours' contracts (e.g. 4 hour contracts) are masking high levels of unemployment. Many young people are now under-employed – working but still not earning enough to survive. The use of zero-hours contracts is linked to other methods of super-exploitation such as workers not being paid overtime, not receiving tea and lunch breaks and earning below the living wage.

In the USA many under-employed and super-exploited workers, particularly in the fast food industry, have taken part in a wave of action and have campaigned for a \$15 a hour wage.

This Conference Notes:-

- The exploitative nature of zero hour contracts and widespread use of these contracts both in the private and public sector.
- The strike action of fast food workers in the US demanding \$15ph minimum wage.
- The fast food forum organised by the BFAWU and involving campaigners from a wide range of groups including youth fight for jobs
- The key role that trades councils play being active in the community and promoting trade unions

In January, the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union (BAFWU) launched a new initiative, Fast Food Rights, along with Youth Fight for Jobs and other supporters. This initiative came on the back of the victory against zero-hour contracts at the Hovis factory in Wigan.

Fast Food Rights aims to organise unorganised workers in the fast food industry. It was launched with a national day of action targeting McDonalds, Burger King and Costa Coffee on Saturday 14 February. On March 28th, there will be a national day of action in towns and cities around the country to raise the profile of the Fast Food Rights initiative.

This conference agrees to:-

- Support the Fast Food Rights initiative and for the Trades Union Councils and the trade unions to use it as part of the campaign to fight for a living wage.
- Support unions recruitment campaigns in the fast food industry, as the best way to win rights is to get organised.
- Support campaigning to highlight the disparity between multi-million pound profitable companies and their refusal to treat workers properly.
- Campaign for a living wage for all workers.

This Conference calls on the TUC, trades unions councils and trade unions to campaign to:

- Scrap zero-hours contracts
- Organise the lost generation of young workers

Cardiff
Suffolk



Composite 2 ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

This Conference notes with concern the extreme storms and devastating floods we have seen this year in Britain. While no individual weather event can be conclusively said to be due to climate change, there is increasing scientific evidence that human-induced 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 in the future.

We are especially at statement 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 at 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.

Conference is further concerned by the extreme energy extraction methods such a hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” and the extraction of unconventional gas, such as coal bed methane and shale gas which have the potential to increase global warming as well as creating other environmental damage and contaminating water supplies.

It believes that tackling climate change, especially through the creation of climate jobs, is of immediate relevance for trades union members and their families.

Conference notes:

1. The reality of human caused global climate change is acknowledged by a majority of informed scientific opinion
2. The reality of human caused global climate change seems to be only grudgingly accepted by parts of the current coalition government.
3. We are not only faced with climate change resulting from previous human activities but a likely intensification of climate change unless urgent action is taken to combat the continuing contribution of human activities to climate change

Conference believes:

1. Immediate remedial action in response to climate change caused disasters and emergencies and fine sounding rhetoric is not an adequate response to dealing with existing climate change and lessening its likely future impact.
2. Austerity policies designed to facilitate continuation of the current economic status quo severely hamper attempts to combat climate change
3. Conference recognises that the recent severe storms and floods are among many extreme weather events world-wide linked to human-induced climate change: average global temperatures being around 0.8 of a degree above pre-industrial conditions.
4. It therefore condemns the government's "dash for gas" and its promotion of fracking and other forms of "extreme energy", disregarding the warning in the second Stern Report that to avoid catastrophic climate change, 80% of known fossil fuel reserves should remain in the ground.
5. Hydraulic fracturing and all types of extreme energy extraction should be banned in the UK
6. A sustainable energy future depending on renewables is achievable.

Conference therefore resolves:

1. To support campaigns for governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions urgently, promoting renewables and energy efficiency. This includes the Time to Act! campaign launched by the Campaign against Climate Change and supported by its Trade Union Group
2. Campaign against fracking and the extraction of unconventional gas, such as coal bed methane and shale gas
3. To recognise that issues such as fuel poverty, affordable food and public transport, and unemployment cannot be resolved without addressing climate change
4. To support and promote the campaign for One Million Climate Jobs.
5. Call on the TUC to give endorsement to the One Million Climate Jobs campaign
6. Support the GMB's demand that Environment Agency jobs are protected.
7. Call for increased funding for flood defences, and to support more effective use of natural protection against floods.
8. Support a strengthening of the planning system.
9. Support increased funding for renewable energy and energy conservation measures.
10. Support freezes in household energy prices, and the renationalisation and democratic control of the "Big 6" energy suppliers.

Conference calls on trades union councils to:

- 1) Affiliate to the campaign against Climate Change and encourage trade unions to do the same
- 2) Raise awareness of climate change and the devastation it is likely to cause

**Greater Manchester
Suffolk**



Composite 3 NATIONALISATION OF ENERGY INDUSTRY

This annual TUC conference of Trades Union Councils notes the energy crisis in Britain: where over 3 million face fuel poverty. We note also government attempts to gerrymander fuel poverty figures by altering the criteria in an attempt to remove 1 million people from the figures.

Whereas gas and electricity were formerly public utilities, privatisation has served to place intolerable burdens on the most vulnerable in society. This Conference notes with deep concern that there were 31,000 deaths between December 2012 and March 2013 from cold related illnesses, the vast majority of these as a result of cold homes. It is estimated that between 20,000 and 40,000 elderly people die because of cold every year. This was caused by a number of factors, including high energy costs and poor insulation.

Conference calls on the Government to address the need for higher winter fuel payments, widespread insulation programmes and the introduction of a block on the right of energy companies to simply put up bills without any regard to the economic climate in which they operate.

Conference takes the view that privatisation of utilities has failed, and that the conflict between maximising profits and meeting the nation's needs is not reconcilable.

While Thatcher argued for "popular capitalism", it has turned out to be a complete fiction with just six companies dominating the industry. Profits have surged in recent years; British gas, E.On, EDF, npower, Scottish Power and SSE – enjoyed a surge in profits of 73, rising from £2.16bn in 2009 to £3.74bn in 2012.

The concentration of power in so few hands means essentially it is the energy companies that dictate to the government, not the other way round. This explains the response to the Labour leader's proposal to freeze energy prices.

Conference believes that the most effective way to control the energy industry is through nationalisation under democratic control with compensation only on the basis of genuine need. Conference therefore calls on the Labour Party to include in its next election manifesto a promise to return electricity, gas and water to public ownership.

The Conference therefore resolves to campaign for the nationalisation of the energy industry within the TUC.

Northumberland

Essex



Composite 4

TRADES COUNCILS' CONFERENCE DELEGATE TO CONGRESS

This conference has major concerns that Motion 1 "Supporting Local Campaigning" chosen to go to Congress 2013 by this conference and passed by delegates at Congress 2013 has since been put on the back burner by the General Council. This General Council "reservation", apparently rules out bullet point 3 contained in the motion that a trade union council delegate attends TUC congress and moves the trade's union council's conference motion as a delegate.

This conference deplores the decision of the General Council of the TUC to confirm a "reservation" concerning the trades councils' successful motion to the 2013 TUC Congress.

We further call for immediate action by the General Council on the implementation of this motion which was carried by Congress.

Trades Councils Conference of 2014 re-affirms this goal and requests the TUCJCC puts immediate pressure upon the General Council to rescind the reservation disallowing our trades council conference delegate right to move a motion.

Somerset

Greater London

Cambridgeshire

Emergency Resolutions



Emergency Resolution 1 Help to Work Scheme

This Trades Union Councils Annual Conference notes the publication of the Sunday Times Rich List on 11th May 2014.

There are now 104 billionaires in the UK and 72 in the City of London alone, more than any other city on the planet. The rich are getting richer and the UK is still the seventh richest country in the world.

The Sunday Times publication comes two weeks after the coalition Conservative/Lib Dem government introduced its latest workfare scheme 'Help to Work'. This is aimed at people unemployed after two years on the existing work programme.

Those who fail to take part in the new scheme or refuse to take zero hour contracts will have their benefits sanctioned; the first time for four weeks, the second time for 13 weeks. This new rule will affect up to 200,000 people.

Government minister Esther McVey claims that this is not about punishing people but 'fulfilling their potential'.

The government is trying to blame unemployed people for losing their jobs and being unemployed. However, the government austerity program has seen hundreds of thousands

public sector jobs and services cut. The effect is a direct policy of continuing to drive wages down and create a climate of fear in the jobs market and this allows employers to financially exploit their workers and is attempting to discourage public sector workers campaigning for pay rises.

The public sector workers in the Department of Work and Pensions are increasingly being pressurised to enforce benefit sanctions which are driving unemployed people into economic poverty, depression, into the arms of loan sharks and in many cases threaten and carry out actual suicides.

This conference calls on the TUC, TUCJCC and public sector unions to develop policies and strategies which will see the trade union movement:

- Support and defend claimant's rights to state benefits
- Campaign against zero hour contracts.
- Campaign for a new Human Rights Charter in line with Article 25 of the European Charter of Rights which covers the right not to be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment.
- Call on the TUC to work jointly with PCS and provide financial support to take a test case against the sanctioning of claimants and forced participation in the workfare scheme to the European Court of Human Rights.
- Building a unity of purpose between unemployed workers and employed workers and their union organisations.

MERSEYSIDE



Emergency Resolution 2: TTIP – The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Conference notes EU elections appear to have reinforced the likelihood of the TTIP being adopted, which could be a disaster for the NHS.

If the EU and the US agree to TTIP without excluding the NHS from its provisions, the result could mean the end of the NHS as a public service. Corporations could permanently have the legal right to run health services with or without approval of the British Government. The marketisation of the NHS under the Health and Social Care Act means that the NHS will no longer be categorised as a 'public service' and would therefore be included in the provisions of the TTIP which restrict or prevent national governments from determining how industries are run. TTIP can override not only health and safety, but pay arrangements, union agreements and other basic standards. The markets take legal priority.

We endorse the concerns that have been expressed by General Secretary Frances O Grady, and many labour movement figures and health campaigns.

Therefore as secret negotiations on TTIP continue, we call on the TUC and Trades Councils to make this a key national and local campaigning issue in the coming weeks and months. We need to urgently alert the public to this threat to our NHS and as well highlight the dangers of the huge power of transnational corporations under TTIP and other agreements.

EALING



Emergency Resolution 3

Secret Trials

This conference opposes the proposal for a completely secret trial currently being proceeded with by the Government and we support the view expressed by the defence lawyers in the case that the plan amounted to "*an unprecedented departure from the principles of open justice*" and was inconsistent with democracy and the rule of law.

This would be a dramatic further erosion of fundamental civil liberties already attacked by previous "anti-terrorist" legislation. It gives total control to the State pushing back citizen's rights hundreds of years and given previous experience would be used against those opposing the State and its policies. We urge all organisations to oppose this move including the TUC and Labour Party.

Greater London



Emergency Resolution 4

Argos Industrial Action

This conference supports the 24-hour strike of ARGOS warehouse workers at four depots, Bridgwater, Basildon, Magna Park and Heywood, this Sunday 15th June.

ARGOS are seeking to impose drastic changes to contracts and shift patterns against the wishes of ARGOS UNITE members.

This conference sends its best wishes to UNITE ARGOS workers, and will encourage all trades councils in the vicinity of these depots to support UNITE picket lines this Sunday from 6am till 6pm."

SOMERSET



Emergency Resolution 5

Fire Brigades Union

The Annual Conference of TUCs 2014 in Cardiff notes that the FBU is set to begin another round of industrial action to defend pensions. From 9am on June 12th to 9am on June 22nd the industrial action will consist of strikes and action short of strikes with the first strike from 9am on June 12th to 9am on June 13th.

Conference also notes that this action has been forced on the FBU by the government:

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- refusing to enter into any meaningful negotiations over a three-year period of proposed changes to the pensions of FBU members
- refusing to make available to FBU negotiators crucial information about the effects of the proposed changes

Conference also notes that a proposed 1% pay offer to firefighters on top of increased pension contributions coupled with inflation has led to a fall in the standard of living of firefighters.

FBU members are in the forefront of the battle of working class people to defend their living standards as they are being forced to pay for an economic crisis that was triggered by the credit policies of the banking system.

Conference calls on TUCs across Britain to give full support to the FBU.

Conference also calls on the TUC nationally to:

- inform affiliated trade unions and their members of the reasons behind the dispute
- offer the FBU the full support, politically and financially, of the trade union movement in Britain

Conference recognises that a victory for the FBU will be a victory for workers everywhere.