

Free Our Unions

Next steps in the fight against the anti-strike laws **Thursday 15 February 2024 at 7pm with Matt Wrack**

The Government's new Minimum Service Level law is yet another direct attack on our right to strike.

We won't be intimidated. The Free Our Unions campaign is calling for:

- The whole Labour Movement to demand the repeal of ALL anti-union laws from 1979 onwards, and their replacement with positive rights to organize and strike
- A rank-and-file conference of union and labour movement bodies, and local meetings across the country, to decide what 'defiance' of the Minimum Service Level law looks like
- A national demonstration in London, at the centre of political power, with mass mobilisations by all unions
- A serious policy of unions refusing to comply with the Minimum Service Law and mass action to defend any unions and workers sanctioned

Attend our online discussion and organising meeting on Thursday 15 February at 7pm, with Matt Wrack - Fire Brigades Union General Secretary and TUC President.

Register for the meeting here:
bit.ly/FightForTheRightToStrike



Please also attend the Troublemakers' meeting on Thursday 1 February at 7pm at troublemakersat.work/meeting.

Pass this motion, initiated by CWU Greater London Combined branch, to build the campaign. Read and add your organisation's support at: bit.ly/scrapantiunionlaws

The multiple crises facing society, the waves of strikes to defend living standards and services, and the Tories' renewed attacks on the right to strike underscore the need for a determined campaign to abolish anti-union laws – all of them.

Whether it's public-sector workers campaigning to reverse huge real-terms pay cuts or private-sector workers fighting to assert their rights against corporate giants – or any other group of workers – all of us need the removal of restraints on quick and effective workers' and trade union action. We need the strongest possible legal rights to organise and strike.

The labour movement must fight for clear proposals to repeal all anti-union legislation and legally enshrine the right to strike.

Labour's "New Deal for Working People" committed to "strengthening the rights of working people by empowering workers to organise collectively through trade unions [and] to repealing anti-trade union legislation which removes workers' rights".

This must be implemented seriously. TUC Congress, the conferences of individual unions and Labour Party conference have repeatedly made clear that means repealing all anti-strike/anti-union legislation – including the Thatcherite restrictions of the 1980s and 90s – and replacing it with strong positive legal rights, including to strike and picket.

We will campaign and urge the whole labour movement to campaign for:

- Complete and speedy repeal of all legal restrictions introduced against strikes and unions, from Thatcher's first in 1980 up to the most recent under Sunak (including the Public Order Act).
- Strong legal rights for workers to join, recruit to and be represented by a union; strike/take industrial action by a process, at a time and for demands of their own choosing, including in solidarity with any other workers and for broader social and political goals; and picket any workplace freely.
- The right to reinstatement for workers sacked unfairly. A complete ban on dismissal for industrial action, however long it lasts. Full rights from day one of a job, with a strong single status of worker underpinning rights for all.
- Strong rights for unions to access workplaces, gain recognition, and establish collective bargaining, including sector-wide, across the economy.
- Unions' right to decide their own policies and activities, determine their own structures and rules, and spend their funds as they choose, free from state and employer interference.

We call on Labour to commit clearly to these demands and include them in its manifesto.



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