

Resolution Date: 13th October 2015

Resolution Title: The Trade Union Bill

This branch notes that the Government's Trade Union Bill is a fundamental attack on our right to organise and strike in the face of ongoing austerity. The bill is yet another attempts to limit our ability to collectively resist the ongoing attacks on our standard of living and our public services. It is also an assault on one of our most basic civil liberties, the right to withdraw our labour. The Tories elected by only 24% of the electorate, are imposing balloting thresholds that few MPs have met in their own election.

The Bill will:

- a) *Require relevant public sector employers to publish any information...relating to facility time for relevant union officials..." and that the new regulations "...may impose publication requirements on certain categories of Relevant public sector employer, or on all such employers..."*
- b) *Increase the ballot threshold to limit industrial action.*
- c) *Massively limit the ability of the unions to communicate by setting unrealistic advance warning of messages on social media.*
- d) *Allow for employment agencies to be used to break or weaken industrial action.*

This branch believes that this is designed to compel local authorities to change local agreements with council unions with the aim of undemocratically drastically reducing union facility time and overall strength. If the government steamrollers this through, we believe it will also be used across the trade union movement.

This branch resolves to:

1. Oppose the Trade Union Bill and calls on all members and affiliates to attend the TUC lobby of Parliament on November 2nd – starting with a rally at 1pm in Westminster Central Hall
 2. Approach other unions, trades councils and anti-cuts organisations to organise a public rally, meeting, or protest and establish a local 'Kill The Bill' committee to organise local activities
 3. Call on Labour controlled councils to make a united public statement of opposition along with the council unions and refuse to comply with the regulations concerning union facility time, agency staff and check-off
 4. This year's TUC conference rightly supported calls for 'generalised strike action' against the Bill and called on unions to make 'preparation for supporting workers taking joint/coordinated industrial action'. We urge our Union to prepare to lead this process prior to the final reading and mobilise members to take part.
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