

Motion Date: 29th January 2020
Motion Title: Mass Action on Anti-Union Laws
Submitted by: The Unite Housing Workers Branch (LE1111)
Submitted to: Unite the Union 6th Policy Conference 2020

This union believes that:

The election of the Boris Johnson's Conservative government represents a renewed threat to the pay, jobs and working conditions of workers, as well as our trade union rights.

The Conservative manifesto contained a commitment to introduce new anti-union legislation, targeted specifically at the rail and transport unions which we believe will be extended to other sectors. The Tory government has therefore made no secret of its intention to act decisively against workers in the interests of big business.

Within hours of the General Election result we witnessed judicial and political mechanisms being used to suppress industrial action. The High Court ruled against strike action across the Royal Mail, despite the Communication Workers Union's overwhelming result of a 97% vote in favour of action on a 76% turnout. This served as an early expression of an increasingly worker-hostile environment. The judgement received implicit support from the new government and will further embolden employers wishing to impose job cuts and detrimental changes to our working conditions.

Events in France have shown that trade unions can mobilise masses of workers and achieve victory over injustice. In early 2020, the Macron government, elected with a huge majority, was forced to give significant concessions to the movement due to militant, co-ordinated strike action.

This union resolves:

- To break bad laws through organised action if necessary. After all, our trade union rights were won through decades of struggle and civil disobedience.

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- To call on the TUC and its affiliated unions to prepare the union movement for attacks by the Conservative government by means of a special conference open to all union members or democratically elected delegates.
- To call on the TUC to organise demonstrations demanding repeal of all anti-union laws.
- To ensure that no union fights alone. If any union is targeted by anti-union laws, Unite will lead others in rallying to their aid, supporting any action the targeted union deems necessary.
- Should the TUC fail to act - as it has so often in the past - to organise the campaign ourselves in a coalition of the willing.