



Regional Retired Members Committee Campaign Proposal – For 2024

At the AGM in January 2023 we agreed a number of actions related to campaigning. These are set out below.

5.	To research current campaigns (both within and outside Union) and bring a plan to the Regional Retired members Committee for campaigning on the following issues:
	• Election Act of 2022 -- voter identification will have a disproportionately impact on older members ability to vote. Encourage retired members to move to postal voting. • Care of adults in homes. • Current legislation on restricting the right to strike, freedom of speech and demonstrations.

In light of developments since the AGM meeting, the issue of legislation affecting the right to strike, freedom of speech and demonstrations is especially topical. Some initial research into these three issue has identified some key points around which we could build or supplement campaigning activity.

- The Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act was passed on 20th July and imposed legal obligations on trade unions to provide minimum service levels during any industrial action.
- The Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 was introduced, ostensibly to "protect the freedom of speech" but in reality could allow holocaust deniers to spread their poison on University campuses.
- The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (PCSC) 2022 gave the police extra autocratic powers to ban demonstrations on grounds of noise, impose sentences of up to 10 years for damaging a statue or for "intentionally or recklessly causing a public nuisance" and introduced offences relating to demonstrators who are equipped to "lock on" to public buildings or obstruct transport works.
- The government have since reduced the threshold from "serious disruption" to "more than minor" via a statutory instrument to avoid the legislation getting rejected in the House of Lords. Campaign group Liberty describe the new police powers as "almost unlimited" which should bring a chill to anyone interested in democracy and the rights of workers to organise and protest.

There have been protests this year across the country over all the above legislative changes by Unison, the TUC and other trade unions as well as various campaign groups. With the prospect of the Tories being heaved out in 2024 there is an ideal opportunity for pressure to be brought to bear on the Labour Party and trade unions to see these acts repealed as part of a move towards the reinstatement of full rights to strike and demonstrate.

We propose to :

1. Draft a circular to all retired members officers, Branch Secretaries and RMOs in the North West encouraging them to pass motions in their supporting the repeal of these antidemocratic measures by the next Labour Government.
2. Circulate a model motion as a guide to the key points we believe need to be raised on the three issues above.
3. Encourage branches to engage in lobbying MPs and local councillors in furtherance of these aims.
4. Offer to speak at AGMs, Branch Committees etc.

Proposed Model Motion

This body notes that the Tory government have introduced increasingly draconian laws to restrict the right to strike, freedom of speech and the right to demonstrate.

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We believe these measures provide further evidence that the Tory government is interested only in the pursuit of the interests of their big business friends and is determined to crack down on any organised opposition from trade unions and any other organisation which challenges their greed.

We believe the next Labour government as a minimum needs to repeal these egregious and spiteful laws and set out bold measures to remove all other anti-trade union and undemocratic restrictions on the right to protest and demonstrate. We note that the next Labour Government is committed to a New Deal for Working People. This commitment will

- Introduce day one workers rights
- Make the minimum wage a real living wage
- Ban exploitative zero hours contracts
- Anyone working regular hours for twelve weeks or more receives a fair contract
- End the practice of fire and rehire
- Make flexible working a day one right
- Strengthen protections against redundancy
- Compensate workers when not enough notice is given for cancelled or changed shifts
- Close the gender, ethnicity and disability pay gap
- Put mental health on par with physical health.

We pledge to write to all local MPs and councillors setting out these demands and asking for their public support as part of a campaign to put pressure on the Labour Party to support the interests ordinary working people and protect our public services.