

# Newsletter

For The United Campaign to Repeal the Anti-Trade Union Laws

**RECLAIM  
OUR  
RIGHTS!**

**UNITED  
CAMPAIGN**

Issue 1

April 2007



“Welcome to this first edition of our Newsletter — a positive sign that our campaign is growing in strength. And the time could not be better. The Trade Union Freedom Bill is now on the political agenda and BNP attempts at infiltration defeated. Together we can reclaim our rulebooks and reclaim our rights.”

John Hendy QC

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## The Trade Union Rights and Freedoms Bill - Where Now for The Campaign?

The **United Campaign Rally** in support of the Trade Union Freedom Bill on 1 March 2007 was a great success. With standing room only, many could not get in. Speakers lived up to expectations and there was an enthusiastic and informed audience.

By no mean feat we had the necessary 100 MPs on a Friday in the Commons, however Government Minister, Jim Fitzpatrick, “talked out” the Bill listed in front of the **Trade Union Freedom Bill** and John McDonnell MP was not called to put the case. This

came as no surprise. The disgrace was that the Bill that was talked out was Paul Farrelly’s **Temporary and Agency Workers’ Bill**. However, both Bills will be placed before parliament again on **19 October 2007** and we will be pushing for a Rally in support. As part of the ongoing campaign, It is important for everyone to continue to encourage MPs to sign the **Early Day Motion 532**.

The previous early day motion (1170) had the support of 187 MPs by the time it fell at the end of the parliamentary session. It has not gone

away and was brought back for the latest session. So far, we have 87 MPs who have signed. If your MP has not signed, lobby him or her to do so. There is further information available on our website.

### Further information:

A copy of the bill can be found through a link on our website at [www.unitedcampaign.org.uk](http://www.unitedcampaign.org.uk) or on the TUC website at [www.tuc.org.uk](http://www.tuc.org.uk)

Lobby your MP to sign **early day motion 532**. Follow the link from our site to check whether your MP has signed or download and send a model

## BNP Infiltration — Trade Union Rights are Fundamental Human Rights

In the United Campaign news report last year we predicted this result...and the European Court of Human Rights found in favour of ASLEF in a case that will have profound and positive implications for trade unions.

In ASLEF v UK, the European Court of Human Rights, accepted the position that Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights – **the right of freedom of association and to form trade unions** – means that the right of ASLEF to choose its members outweighed the BNP



member's right to freedom of expression (para. 50). And it goes further to say that "*under Article 11 unions must remain free to decide, in accordance with union rules, questions concerning admission to and expulsion from the union*" (para. 39).

We say that Thatcher's law that outlawed unions from “unjustifiably” disciplining, or expelling strikebreakers must go as it is in breach of Article 11. This is another argument that we have been putting over the years and was referred to in our last news report. If this Government does not repeal these laws, we believe it further distances the UK from the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Social Charter and the International Labour Organisation Conventions 87 and 98 among others.

**The United Campaign believes** that many of the current anti-trade union laws introduced by the Conservatives between 1979 and 1995 must be repealed or replaced with other laws. These laws are repressive and illegal - they contravene the UK's international obligations under ILO Conventions, the Social Charter of the Council of Europe and United Nations declarations and covenants.

Tony Blair wrote on 31st March 1997, the changes his Government introduced, "*would leave British law the most restrictive on trade unions in the western world.*"

Labour laws now are worse than they were over 100 years ago. The European Green Paper published in November 2006 is a sign that we can expect nothing better, unless we act now.

Positive legislation in the field of industrial relations is required - laws which will protect trade unions from legal attacks, allow them to operate democratically and protect their members; laws which restore and extend collective bargaining, give each worker the right to strike and be represented by a union, protect workers against exploitation and provide the basis for a fairer and more just society.

## Speakers for your event

We have several speakers lined up at union branches, trades council meetings and regional TUC. If you are interested we will try and supply a speaker for your event—just contact us at [postmaster@unitedcampaign.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@unitedcampaign.org.uk)

## Contact the United Campaign

Write to us at:  
C/o 39 Chalton Street  
London  
NW1 1JD

Visit our website at :  
[www.unitedcampaign.org.uk](http://www.unitedcampaign.org.uk)  
Affiliation forms can also be downloaded from here

Email us at:  
[Info@unitedcampaign.org.uk](mailto:Info@unitedcampaign.org.uk)

## National Unions affiliated to the United Campaign



There are also over a hundred individuals, branches and organisations affiliated to the Campaign

## Become a campaign supporter

The United Campaign is financed solely by supporters fees from trade union bodies and individuals. By becoming a supporter you or your organization show your agreement with the recall to repeal the anti trade union laws, and aid the Campaign's fight.

	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> National Unions - 100,000 or more	£600
<input type="checkbox"/> National Unions - 100,000 or less	£120
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Unions	£60
<input type="checkbox"/> Union Branches - 500 or more	£60
<input type="checkbox"/> Union Branches - 500 or less	£30
<input type="checkbox"/> Trade Union Councils	£30
<input type="checkbox"/> Associations of TUCs	£30
<input type="checkbox"/> Strike Committees, non-union organisations and Individuals	£12

Please make cheques payable to United Campaign, and send to the United Campaign Secretary, 39 Chalton St, London, NW1 1JD. Donations are greatly received.

Union/TUC \_\_\_\_\_

National/Region/Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Name (of Secretary) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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