

## **TRADE UNION FREEDOM & ANTI-TRADE UNION LAWS**

### **Branch Affiliation Motion 2010**

[We] note:

- that in March 2010 the United Nation's International Labour Organisation Committee of Experts once more said that UK labour laws fail to comply with international human rights and fundamental freedoms and asked the [UK] Government to review the [law] and consider appropriate measures for the protection of workers and their organisations to engage in industrial action
- that the decision of the Council of Europe's Court of Human rights in November 2008 that the right to form a union involved, in particular, the right to collective bargaining has been supplemented by a judgment in September 2009 that merely imposing a disciplinary warning on someone on lawful strike was contrary to the European Convention.

In contrast, we note with dismay the decisions in December 2007 from the European Court of Justice in Viking and Laval, subjugating collective rights to those of business throughout the EU. These too were condemned by the ILO Committee of Experts.

With increasing frequency, British unions have faced a series of injunctions preventing industrial action that would be lawful under international human rights conventions ratified by the UK and which are applied in civilised countries across the globe. Such injunctions have subverted any notion of democracy at the workplace. These laws have all but destroyed collective bargaining protection in the UK.

The absence of effective collective human rights in the UK continues to undermine the fight against poverty, and for dignity, equality and democracy for working people and their families.

This Branch undertakes to actively promote trade union rights amongst our members and the public. This Branch is committed to the establishment of trade union freedom and collective human rights, preferably above the level of the basic standards required by the ILO, Council of Europe and others.

To that end, this Branch agrees to affiliate to and work with the United Campaign to Repeal the Anti Trade Union Laws.