



# Standing Orders Committee

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## Report No. Three

### 1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Please see the attached scheduled business and the Remaining Order of Business. We are not printing the list of non-prioritised motions again but delegates can view it in SOC Report Number 2.

SOC has written to the NEC, Regions, Self Organised Groups, Young Members, Private Contractors Forum and Retired Members regarding the re-prioritisation of motions for Friday afternoon. SOC would repeat its suggestion that these bodies use the most democratic means available to select their items for re-prioritisation. Also, to repeat, the SOC are clear that this exercise takes place amongst the prioritised Remaining Order of Business and not the Non-Prioritised Items.

### 2. WITHDRAWALS

The Standing Orders Committee has approved the following withdrawals under Standing Order P.10.1:

#### **Motions and Amendments**

None further received

### 3. OFFICIAL COLLECTION

The Standing Orders Committee has decided the beneficiaries will be Love Jasmin, Forget Me Not's, Truth About Zane.

### 4. APPEALS

Amendment to Motion 121 Tower Hamlets. Appeal not upheld.

### 5. CHANGE OF TELLER

Eastern Region teller has changed from Hayley Johnson to Mark Johnson.

<b>PINK</b>
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## 6. EMERGENCY MOTIONS

The SOC received 12 emergency motions. SOC has made decisions on all of them. The following motions have been accepted on to the agenda and the texts are attached to this report.

Motion	Submitted
EM1. Excluding future Higher Education, Further Education and Sixth Form Staff from the Local Government Pension Scheme	National Executive Council
EM2. Defend LGBT Inclusive Education	Walsall General

The following motions were not felt to meet the various criteria applied by the Committee to be emergency business for Conference.

The table below lists those not admitted to the agenda and the texts are attached.

### Summary of Emergency Motions Not Admitted to the Agenda

Motion	Submitted by	Notes
Declaring a Climate Emergency	Salford City	Can be debated via other motions on the agenda.
UBI is not a Silver Bullet for Disabled People	Staffordshire	Not an emergency.
Time to Stop Brexit	Lambeth	Can be debated via other motions on the agenda.
Mr. Trump – Our NHS is not for sale!	Mid Yorkshire Health	Not an emergency.
Hands off our NHS. No to threat from US trade deal or Brexit	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Health	Can be debated via other motions on the agenda.
Standing up to the threat to our public services and workers' rights post Brexit	Cambridge City and South	Can be debated via other motions on the agenda.

Stop the attacks on a Woman's Right to Choose	Camden	Not an emergency.
UK-US trade negotiations: NHS not for sale!	North West Anglia Hospitals	Can be debated via other motions on the agenda.
EU Exit – Protecting our rights and public services in the face of a quick No Deal Tory exit	National Executive Council	Can be debated via other motions on the agenda.
UK-US free trade deal: our NHS not for sale!	National Executive Council	Can be debated via other motions on the agenda.

# UNISON NATIONAL DELEGATE CONFERENCE

18 – 21 JUNE 2019

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Motion	These items will be scheduled at the following times:	Notes
	<b><u>Wednesday 9.30 am</u></b>	
126	Resourcing Our Branches – a UNISON Priority	
126.1		
126.2		
1	Developing Organising Resources in Branches and Regions	
2	Growing the Union	
2.1		
2.2		
	Return to remaining Order of Business	
	<b><u>Wednesday 2 pm</u></b>	
	Speaker – Barbara Tanyanyiwa, National Secretary, Women's Committee, Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions	
80	Curbing Corporate Power	
Composite F	Cuba (84, 84.1 and 85)	
	Return to remaining Order of Business	

	<b><u>Thursday 9.30 am</u></b>	
	Speaker – Patricia King, General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions	
96	EU Exit and Protecting the Peace Process	
97	Public services and EU exit	
	Return to Remaining Order of Business	
	<b><u>Thursday 2 pm</u></b>	
21	Towards a more inclusive Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Self-organised group	
	<b>Amendments to Rules and Schedules</b>	
2	Rule B Union Democracy	If Rule Amendment 2 is carried or lost Rule Amendments 3 and 9 fall.
3	Rule B Aims and Objects of the Union	
9	Rule D Self-Organised Groups	
10	Rule D Young Members' Organisation	
4	Rule C Obligations of Membership	
12	Rule G Branches	If Rule Amendemnt 12 is carried Rule Amendments 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 fall.
13	Rule G The Branch Committee	
14	Rule G Branch Meetings	
15	Rule G Branch Officers	

16	Rule G Stewards	
17	Rule G Health and Safety Representatives	
18	Rule G Equality Representatives	
1	Schedule B Benefits of Members in Education	
19	Rule G Branch Meetings	
21	Rule G The Branch Secretary	
20	Rule G Branch Officers	
6	Rule D The Right to Attend and Speak	If any one of Rule Amendments 6, 7 or 8 are lost all three rule changes fall.
7	Rule D Standing Orders Committee	If any one of Rule Amendments 6, 7 or 8 are lost all three rule changes fall.
8	Rule D Standing Orders Committee	If any one of Rule Amendments 6, 7 or 8 are lost all three rule changes fall.
11	Rule D Retired Members' Organisation	
22	Rule I Disciplinary Action	If either of Rule Amendments 22 or 23 are lost both rule changes fall.
23	Rule I Disciplinary Action	If either of Rule Amendments 22 or 23 are lost both rule changes fall.
5	Rule C Arrears of Subscriptions	Withdrawn
	Return to Remaining Order of Business	

	<b><u>Friday 9.30 am</u></b>	
	Speaker – Sonia Bassey MBE, Chair, Mandela 8	
68	Nelson Mandela: Inspiring Future Generations	
Composite D	The Crisis in Social Care (70, 70.1, 70.2, 70.3, 70.4, 70.5, 70.6, 70.7, 71 and 71.1)	
121	Stopping Social Insecurity	
121.1		
121.2		
	Return to remaining Order of Business	
	<b><u>Friday 2.00-3.45pm</u></b>	
	Re-Prioritised Motions	
	<b><u>Friday 3.45-4.00pm</u></b>	
	Closing Session	

	Remaining Order of Business	
17	Suicide awareness training for stewards	
17.1		
107	Abuse in Care Homes	
118	Abolish NHS Car Parking Charges	
27	Rebuilding Collective Bargaining	
27.1		
51	Intergenerational Commission Report	
51.1		If 51.1 is carried 51.2 falls.
51.2		
110	Review of the Devolution Protocol	
43	Violence and Aggression	
43.1		
48	Gun and Knife Crime – Time to Stop the Senseless Killings	
47	Austerity and Public Safety	
47.1		
47.2		
49	Fighting for an Accessible Welfare System	
99	Disability History Month	
8	Recruitment and Retention of Members	
8.1		
77	Progressive Taxes to End Austerity	
77.1		
77.2		
105	Tackling Racism at Work	
20	Challenging Race Discrimination, Inequality and unfair treatment of Black Members	
20.1		



33	Negotiating and Bargaining for Disabled Workers Rights	
10	Building Steward Networks	
54	Television Licences for Over 75's	
82	Colombia	
120	Higher Education as a Public Service	
31	Supporting Members with Caring Responsibilities	
Composite B	Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (37, 38, 39)	
59	Democracy	
66	Blood Donation Campaign	
66.1		
78	Robin Hood Tax	
111	Energy Climate Change a Just Transition and Jobs for a Low Carbon Economy	
111.1		
111.2		
111.3		
111.4		
111.5		
111.6		
122	Upholding Human Rights in the Social Security System	
9	Addressing the Skills Crisis Through UNISON Learning	
9.1		
12	Better Training and Support for Branch Activists	
93	Justice for Palestine	
93.1		
94	Palestine	

94.1		
106	Jane Haining Memorial & Holocaust Study Tour	
14	Supporting our young workers through training opportunities	
98	Workers rights post Brexit	
98.1		
108	Decriminalisation For Safety	
125	Universal Credit / PIP Assessments	
125.1		
67	Say No to Trump Visiting Britain	
69	Combating the rise of volunteerism in public services	
69.1		
123	Universal Credit in-work conditionality	
123.1		
7	Time for Change-A review of how UNISON is structured and funded	
7.1		If 7.1 is carried 7.2 falls.
7.2		
60	Free Our Unions	
62	UNISON De-recognition	
53	Supporting the workforce that are carers	
100	Make 2021 the Year of Disabled Workers	
100.1		
16	Young Members Mentoring and Support	
81	Brazil	
83	Venezuela - Defeat Attempted Capitalist Coup	
88	Workers' Rights are Human Rights - Campaign for Workers' Rights in Iran	

3	Protection and membership for casualised workers	
3.1		
5	Extending Recognition Agreements in Local Government	
46	Collective Defined Contribution Pension Scheme – Improving UNISON members pensions	
91	Palestine	
91.1		
117	Abolish Trust/Foundation Status in the NHS	
117.1		
11	Members Participation on Activism	
61	Free Our Unions - Repeal the Anti-Union Laws	
102	The Trade Union Response to Fascism - No Pasaran	
102.1		
102.2		
102.3		
102.4		
102.5		
114	UNISON Climate Change Declaration	
114.1		
56	Tories Out! - General election now! Brexit- No Trust in the Tories at Westminster or Brussels	
56.1		
76	PFI	
76.1		
76.2		If 76.2 is carried 76.3 falls.
76.3		
79	Nationalise the Big Drug Companies	
116	The NHS Long Term Plan	
116.1		

129	On-Line Joiners	
4	Using Digital Organising to Reach Members	
6	Health and Safety Representatives	
75	The Fire Service After Grenfell	
75.1		
130	Membership Subscription Payments	
Emergency Motion 1	Excluding Future Higher Education, Further Education and Sixth Form Staff from the Local Government Pension Scheme	
Emergency Motion 2	Defend LGBT Inclusive Education	

## **EMERGENCY MOTIONS ADMITTED TO THE AGENDA**

### **Emergency Motion 1**

#### **EXCLUDING FUTURE HIGHER EDUCATION, FURTHER EDUCATION AND SIXTH FORM STAFF FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

Conference opposes this government's continued attacks on public sector pensions, the latest of which comes in the form of the recent consultation "Local Government Pension Scheme: Changes to the Local Valuation Cycle and the Management of Employer Risk" launched in May 2019, from the Ministry of Housing, Local Government and Communities.

These changes, if implemented, would allow Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), further education colleges and sixth form colleges to choose not to offer the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) to new staff.

When combined with the publication of the government's "Review of post 18 education and funding" by Dr Philip Augar, published at the end of May 2019, it is easy to draw a line from the commentary on cutting costs relating to non-teaching activities, to that of providing a mechanism for education providers to reduce expenditure on pension costs. This potential restriction in scheme participation could substantially impact the LGPS and risk its future sustainability.

With scheme members working in local government, higher and further education, schools, community, housing, police and justice, private contractors, energy, and water, environment and transport, this is a significant cross-sector and cross-service group issue. Any detrimental change to the LGPS constitutes a major attack on the current and future living standards of hundreds of thousands of UNISON members and their dependents.

Conference opposes the plans because:

- 1) This is an attack on the pension rights of working people delivering public services;
- 2) Whilst initial figures suggest approximately 3% of LGPS membership is at risk it could grow to around 20% of the potential membership of the LGPS if later extended to all admitted and scheduled bodies;
- 3) This would lead to serious cash flow issues for LGPS funds and impact on local services through increased costs;
- 4) It would lead to a two tier workforce in pensions with new starters being offered inferior and less cost effective schemes;
- 5) If not challenged, it would discriminate against support staff, particularly women and low paid, and will lead to many retiring into poverty with a cost to the individual and state in the form of additional benefit payments;
- 6) This would undermine universities and colleges who decide to still provide access to the LGPS including HEIs and FE colleges in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland;

- 7) By not seeking the advice and views of the LGPS Scheme Advisory Board before consulting on this, the governance structure for the LGPS agreed by the government is undermined;
- 8) The proposed changes would potentially affect the future viability and security of the scheme;
- 9) UNISON is concerned that if this change proceeds that other groups of workers may, in time, also be excluded from accessing the LGPS or even forced out of the scheme altogether.

Conference recalls the UNISON policy set by the 2010 National Delegate Conference which required the “placing of the defence of the LGPS at the centre of a strategy to build unity across service groups and sectors and with other unions to oppose any proposed detrimental changes to pension rights”.

Conference calls on the National Executive Council to coordinate a cross service group campaign against this proposal by:

- a) Seeking support from employers to reject this proposal in the consultation which closes on 31 July 2019;
- b) Working with the TUC and other unions to campaign against this proposal;
- c) Lobbying MPs and Lords to oppose this and vote against any statutory changes to the scheduled status of HEIs and FE and sixth form colleges;
- d) Considering all legal means to oppose and challenge this, including (but not limited to) service groups independently considering industrial action ballots through their own processes.

*National Executive Council*

## **Emergency Motion 2**

### **DEFEND LGBT INCLUSIVE EDUCATION**

Conference is concerned by the protests seen particularly at a small number of Birmingham schools since March against inclusion of LGBT themes with young children.

In recent weeks, the scale of action has escalated to regular large protests outside Anderton Park School. It was reported on the 20 May that the head teacher at the school had received threats and on Friday 24 May the school had to be closed early to protect staff and pupils from intimidation.

On Friday 7 June, local MP Roger Godsiff increased the level of pressure on the school and head teacher to an unprecedented level by telling demonstrators he backed them, saying they are right. He also told a woman local councillor that she had no right to an opinion on the issue because she does not have children. The MP criticised the LGBT themed books while admitting he has only seen the covers.

Hate preachers from a variety of religious backgrounds, often from outside the area, have appeared outside the school in the last few weeks, attempting to increase tensions by using lies and misinformation to spread similar protests across the country.

This is now a growing national issue with a religious cleric who is also a school governor on 7 June, calling for the government's proposed Relationships and Sexual Education programme to be abandoned.

Conference firmly believes that all public services, and particularly education, need to be inclusive of LGBT people and welcomes the No Outsiders programme which addresses inclusion of people in all equality strands. In the case of younger children LGBT inclusion is simply including same sex couples alongside mixed sex couples in stories books and stories that include people with different gender identities and having a framework to support discussion around this.

Inclusive education programmes like No Outsiders in Birmingham, promote the inclusion of all nine protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

In line with the Act, OFSTED issued guidance for schools so they can teach a curriculum which promotes respect and understanding of our richly diverse communities.

Protestors are specifically targeting three books which feature LGBT characters and families, in a programme of 35 books. LGBT inclusive education for younger children is simply about including stories with same sex couples alongside mixed sex couples in books and resources or including a diversity of gender identities.

Conference believes that the growing protests outside Anderton Park School are clearly right wing in nature. In May, protestors were filmed outside the primary school saying that to be LGBT is wrong and that women were created for the pleasure of men. Conference is concerned about the impact the protests are having on the school and wider community.

Conference welcomes that at Birmingham Pride on the 24 May, the parade was led by No Outsider's creator Andrew Moffat and local LGBT Muslims in a show of solidarity.

Conference firmly believes that all public services, and particularly education, needs to be inclusive of LGBT people as all other equality strands.

Conference welcomes the No Outsiders programme which addresses inclusion of people in all equality strands.

Conference is committed to leading and informing its members to deal with challenge of right wing attacks. We are committed building solidarity and unity against prejudice discrimination division in our movement. We are united in the fight against racism, facism and austerity.

Conference asks the National Executive Council to:

- 1) Urgently liaise on this issue with the Local Government Service Group Executive and the Schools Committee within the Local Government Service Group;
- 2) Produce guidance to support our members where this issue arises;
- 3) Support branches and regions where there is public controversy over this issue;
- 4) Work with Labour Link to call to account Labour Party MPs and councillors who express anti LGBT views;
- 5) Work with the UNISON LGBT Self Organised Group, other education unions, and LGBT organisations to promote LGBT inclusive education;
- 6) Work with anti racist and anti fascist trade union campaigns and organisations to build a united fight against LGBT phobia and racism;
- 7) Send a letter of support on behalf of Conference to staff at Anderton Park School in Birmingham.

*Walsall General*

## **EMERGENCY MOTIONS NOT ADMITTED TO THE AGENDA**

### **DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Conference notes the impact of the recent Extinction Rebellion protests and their challenge the people of the world to act to address the emergency facing the global climate, as well as the inspirational actions of Greta Thunberg and the thousands of school students she has inspired to participate in school strikes to draw attention to the same emergency.

We recognise the steps the Labour Party has already taken, particularly the drawing up of proposals for a “Green New Deal”.

In the material published to promote the “Green New Deal” to be adopted as Labour party policy, Labour for a Green New Deal states the following:

- 1) We have 11 years to keep global temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to stop runaway climate change;
- 2) Globally, the poorest communities are bearing the brunt of increases in extreme weather events, including wildfires, storms, floods and droughts causing ill health, death and displacement;
- 3) The UK is suffering from a number of acute environmental problems e.g. one in seven species in the UK are at risk of extinction or are already extinct;
- 4) In the UK and globally, high levels of inequality and deprivation arise from factors including:
- 5) The lack of access to basic needs such as clean air, water, healthy food, adequate healthcare, housing, transportation and education;



- 6) De-industrialisation, deregulation, privatisation and anti-union policies leading to stagnating wages, and widening inequality, as evidenced by variances in life expectancy by as much as 20 years;
- 7) Systemic racial and gender injustices result in people of colour in the UK being more than twice as likely to live in poverty as white people, and women being 10% more likely to live in poverty than men.

Having acknowledged these facts, the material then goes on to resolve Labour should commit to delivering a Green New Deal that:

- a) Achieves zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers;
- b) Creates good quality, high-wage, unionised jobs for everyone that wants one;
- c) Builds resilience against climate change related disasters, such as extreme weather, drought or flooding;
- d) Secures for all people:
  - i) Clean air and water;
  - ii) Healthy food;
  - iii) Access to nature;
  - iv) A sustainable environment, based on respect for planetary tipping points and boundaries.

The methods proposed to achieve this over a ten year period include:

- A) Overhauling the transport system to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and equitably connect all people with cheap, high-speed public transit;
- B) Building affordable, safe and high-quality housing for all;
- C) Committing to well-funded, publicly provided health and social care;
- D) Providing resources, training and high-quality education from cradle to grave so that all communities may equally participate in the Green New Deal mobilisation;
- E) Deepening and diversifying manufacturing and industry locally and regionally to equitably rebalance the economy;
- F) Working collaboratively with farmers to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector;
- G) Dismantling the fossil fuel industry by ending subsidies and finance and developing transition plans for every affected workplace, town and city;
- H) Promoting the international exchange of technology, expertise, products, resources and services to learn from and help other countries achieve a Green New Deal;

- I) Enacting measures that support the 'right to stay' for people on the front lines of climate breakdown including through the transfer of resources to build physical and social infrastructure to combat severe and unpredictable weather.

Conference pledges full support to the peaceful protests undertaken by Extinction Rebellion, Greta Thunburg and the striking school students. We believe the trade union movement must use our strength in numbers, our resources and our political leverage to support these actions.

We further support the initiatives outlined in Labour's "Green New Deal" but we believe that if we are to genuinely address the emergency climate change proposes, we must go further.

In a Guardian article on 25 April 2019 entitled "Dare to declare capitalism dead – before it takes us all down with it", noted journalist and environmentalist George Monbiot stated: "The economic system is incompatible with the survival of life on Earth. It is time to design a new one."

Conference believes if the planet is to survive, capitalism must end.

In its place must be created a global system of democratic socialism, where the profit motive can no longer be used by a powerful few to justify an existential threat to us all.

Conference believes that for Labour's "Green New Deal" to be properly implemented in a way that can end this climate emergency, it must involve an extension of democratic public ownership, that goes beyond the energy companies themselves, but which involves all of the commanding heights of the economy – oil companies, building companies, transport companies etc.

The people cannot control what they do not own and until we are able to rationally plan our economy so as to base it on the needs of life on this planet, we will continue to face extinction.

Conference therefore calls upon the National Executive Council to:

- I) Encourage service groups and branches to actively participate in and offer support to peaceful protests organised by campaigns like Extinction Rebellion and actions such as school student strikes;
- II) Urgently establish a lay led committee that can develop concrete plans as to how we can continue to develop UNISON's work on the environment;
- III) Work with Labour Link to encourage the Labour Party to further develop its work on the Green New Deal to incorporate clear demands and plans for a massive increase in democratic public ownership, as a step towards a global system of democratic socialism.

*Salford City*

## UBI IS NOT A 'SILVER BULLET' FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Conference notes the publication on 7 May 2019 of the report 'Basic Income as Common Dividends: Piloting a Transformative Policy' report from the Progressive Economy Foundation (PEF) which was produced for John McDonnell, Labour Shadow Chancellor. Conference notes that on 11 May 2019 the Shadow Chancellor was reported as pledging that if elected Labour will trial Universal Basic Income (UBI) in four areas of the UK.

Conference notes that four of the five forms of UBI considered in the PEF report involve removing all benefits designed for disabled people. These models propose instead that a flat rate is paid to everyone, whether you are disabled or not. There is no account taken of the additional financial needs disabled people have.

Conference is keenly aware that the current political impasse may mean a general election is called with minimal notice and that UNISON needs to be ready to comment on any Labour manifesto proposals that affect our members.

Conference further notes that on 29 April 2019 Public Services International (PSI), the global public service trade union federation to which UNISON is affiliated, produced the report 'UBI: A union perspective' which found that UBI is not a 'silver bullet' and in particular found that:

- 1) Making cash payments to individuals to increase their purchasing power in a free-market economy is not a viable route to solving problems caused or exacerbated by neoliberal market economics;
- 2) There is no evidence that any version of UBI can be affordable, inclusive, sufficient and sustainable at the same time;
- 3) There is no evidence that UBI will help to increase the bargaining power of workers and trade unions or solve problems of low pay and precarious work;
- 4) Money needed to pay for an adequate UBI scheme would be better spent on reforming social protection systems, and building more and better quality public services.

Conference therefore calls on the National Executive Council to work with National Disabled Members Committee and the Labour Link where appropriate to:

- a) Make clear UNISON's commitment to a benefit system which meets the financial needs of disabled people and supports disabled people to live independently;
- b) Robustly challenge any proposed forms of UBI that do not support disabled people's independence;
- c) Work with PSI to publicise some of the issues around UBI in terms of the potential impact on properly funded social protection and public services.

*Staffordshire*

## TIME TO STOP BREXIT

Conference welcomes the timely and important TUC report "Building solidarity, stopping undercutting - A trade union response to the Immigration and Social Security Coordination Bill", released on 16 May.

Conference joins the TUC in their calls on the government to:

- 1) Scrap the Immigration and Social Security Coordination bill and any plans to introduce a more restrictive visa system;
- 2) Repeal the Immigration Act (2014) and Immigration Act (2016) to end requirements for document checks in health, housing, drivers' licenses and banking as well as pre-emptive document checks in the workplace;
- 3) Separate immigration status and employment rights so all workers can claim rights at work;
- 4) Unilaterally guarantee the right to remain for EU citizens in the UK. This must include rights at work and the right to continue to claim social security entitlements.

Conference believes:

- a) The recent poor performance by Labour in the Euro elections is deeply worrying for the prospect of a Corbyn led Labour government;
- b) Brexit will even further boost the nationalist right and its xenophobic, anti-migrant agenda;
- c) Trump's recent comments about the NHS being 'on the table' for trade deals post Brexit will be used as a license for further austerity and attacks on working-class living standards and to privatise the NHS;
- d) We must defend our members, include thousands of EU citizens whose rights are under attack, non-European migrant workers who are victims of the increasingly racist and xenophobic environment, and all black workers facing racism;
- e) Freedom of movement is a right for workers in Britain too; we do not support our rights being taken away.

Conference further believes:

- i) The disappointing Labour vote in the European elections shows an ambiguous position on Brexit is not working. The labour movement needs to stand up and fight Brexit;
- ii) A public vote on any Brexit deal, with an option to Remain, is the best way to prevent Brexit;
- iii) Our opposition to Brexit is not support for the status quo, in Britain or Europe. In the words of Labour MEPs during the election want to "Remain, rebel and transform";

- iv) It is a principle to defend and fight to extend free movement and migrants' rights.  
We oppose "Fortress Britain" and "Fortress Europe".

We therefore call on the National Executive Council to:

- A) Campaign energetically for a public vote and to remain in the EU;
- B) Continue to campaign against any form of racism, racist harassment, racist violence, etc, encouraging members to report such incidents and providing support to members who experience any form of hate crime;
- C) Campaign to separate immigration status and employment rights so all workers can claim rights at work;
- D) Encourage branches and regions to actively build trade union, labour movement and community anti-racist campaigns;
- E) Encourage other unions to adopt a left, pro-worker, anti-Brexit position and coordinate campaigning with those who have.;
- F) Work with Labour Link to consider how we can encourage the Labour Party to support all these demands.

*Lambeth*

## **MR TRUMP - OUR NHS IS NOT FOR SALE!**

Conference is appalled at the recent statement by Donald Trump on his recent state visit to the UK that when negotiating a new trade agreement with the USA "everything would be on the table including the NHS". There was rightly outrage at such a suggestion. The UK is due to leave the EU on the 31 October and Conference believes that we can no faith in a Tory government to negotiate trade deals in the interest of workers be it with Brussels or Washington.

As part of our campaign to defend the NHS this conference agrees to call a national demonstration before the 31 October on the theme of our NHS is not for sale.

Conference agrees to approach Health Campaigns Together (HCT) to whom we are affiliated with a view to organising and planning the demonstration.

Conference also agrees to approach all other trade unions and the TUC to support the demonstration.

*Mid Yorkshire Health*

## **HANDS OFF NHS. NO TO THREAT FROM US TRADE DEAL OR BREXIT**

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*Tees Esk and Wear Valleys Health*

## **STANDING UP TO THE THREAT TO OUR PUBLIC SERVICES AND WORKERS RIGHTS POST BREXIT**

Conference shares the concerns expressed by the TUC about the erosion of workers' rights post Brexit. The Tory government under Theresa May failed to gain agreement in her own party and in parliament on the terms of withdrawal from the EU. We now face a Tory leadership challenge that could result in the next Tory government prepared to leave the EU without a deal.

While the European Union (Withdrawal) Act is due to protect workers' rights on the day we leave, we recognise that the Act won't prevent future governments from repealing or watering down these rights in the future. We recognise that strong unions are the best defence against erosion of our hard won rights whether won by UK or by EU workers. We pledge to stand firm against a 'race to the bottom'.

UK workers face an increasingly uncertain future with major industrial employers announcing redundancies, some blaming job losses on Brexit, the resulting redundancies will further increase the strain on our cash-starved public services in those communities.

We now know that Donald Trump's intends that any future deal that the UK has with the US will include opening up our NHS to the greedy corporate vultures that want to run our health services for profit. Recent victories against privatisation in the NHS by domestic staff at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow and at Southmead hospital have once again affirmed that an organised group of workers prepared to campaign and take strike action keeps services in house. But we are going to have to do even more to protect our NHS.

Conference calls on the National Executive Council to:

- 1) Launch a major campaign as part of the 'Public Services Champions' events to let the public and our members know that UNISON is the union that will challenge any threat to our NHS being part of any future trade deal, this should include campaigning for and taking industrial action, where appropriate;
- 2) Co-ordinate a wide-ranging campaign to improve future employment rights involving our members, branches and regions in educating and consulting on what our future rights at work should be;

- 3) Work with the TUC, STUC, WTUC, ICTUR, Labour Link and European trade unions that share our values in strengthening our employment rights and to campaign for a legally-binding guarantee for workers' rights written into the treaty with the EU.

*Cambridge City and South*

## **STOP THE ATTACKS ON A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE**

Conference notes:

- 1) Donald Trump has started a war on women. Since his inauguration two and a half years ago a women's right to choose to have an abortion has been continually attacked. This year alone, 13 states have passed restrictive laws. Six US states now only have one abortion clinic;
- 2) The new law passed in Alabama in May is in effect a ban on abortion, and carries a 99 year prison sentence on doctors who carry out abortions. An abortion is now illegal unless a "serious health risk" is present. There is no exception in cases of incest or rape. This law is now the most restrictive in the whole of the US;
- 3) Other states have passed 'heartbeat' laws that ban abortions after just 6 weeks of pregnancy;
- 4) These laws not only change the situation in individual states but will trigger legal battles in the Supreme Court, where Trump has filled vacancies with anti-abortion judges. This could lead to Roe Vs Wade, the law giving women access to abortion, being overturned.

Conference further notes:

- a) We have an Alabama on our doorstep. In Northern Ireland the laws surrounding abortion are even more severe because the 1967 Abortion Act was never extended there.

Conference believes:

- i) The attacks in the US are part of a wider attack by the right on women having control over their bodies and their fertility, as seen in Poland. However, all of these attacks are being resisted.
- ii) We are a union with over a million women as members, and should be at the fore of campaigns nationally and internationally defending a woman's right to choose.

Conference resolves:

- A) To continue our national affiliation to Abortion Rights and to encourage regions and branches to affiliate;
- B) To publicise campaigns defending a woman's right to choose wherever they occur;
- C) To encourage regions and branches to support local campaigns and initiatives defending abortion rights;

- D) To send a message of support to Planned Parenthood (US) and NARAL (National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League) for their continued campaigning against some of the most restrictive abortion laws in the world;
- E) To urgently investigate what further support UNISON can offer to the pro-choice movement in the US and elsewhere.

*Camden*

## **UK-US TRADE NEGOTIATIONS: NHS NOT FOR SALE!**

Conference notes with alarm the comments made by the American ambassador to the UK, Woody Johnson, on the BBC's Andrew Marr Show on 2 June 2019.

The ambassador's suggestion that, along with the rest of the economy, healthcare should be "on the table" in any future trade negotiations between the UK and the US raises many serious concerns for the future of our NHS.

Conference notes that a number of American healthcare corporations have long harboured desires to break into the UK healthcare market, and the combination of a potential hard exit from the EU and the continuation of the Trump presidency would make this more likely.

Conference is also fearful of the impact of a toxic Tory leadership race in which many of the contenders have already sought to win over a small right-wing electorate with increasingly radical small-state policy commitments.

Conference notes that it was only due to the intervention of UNISON and Opposition peers in the House of Lords that the Tories were forced to reign in the ambitions of their Healthcare International Arrangements Bill in early 2019, that had the potential to open the doors to wider American involvement in our NHS.

Against this backdrop, Conference also notes the current NHS England process – as part of implementing the recent NHS Long Term Plan – that seeks to rid the NHS of the worst aspects of the disastrous Health and Social Care Act 2012, legislation that contains within it the potential for much wider privatisation of the NHS than we have hitherto witnessed, whether by UK firms or those from overseas.

Conference therefore calls upon the National Executive Council to work with the union's health, international and Labour Link sections to:

- 1) Campaign in the strongest possible terms for the NHS to be excluded from any future trade negotiations with the US;
- 2) Work with the TUC, other trade unions and campaigning organisations to demand that the UK government make clear that it will not countenance any expanded role for American companies in our NHS;
- 3) Continue to push for an end to the NHS market, including support for the current plans to remove the worst aspects of the Health and Social Care Act.

*North West Anglia Hospitals*



## **EU EXIT – PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS AND PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE FACE OF A QUICK NO DEAL TORY EXIT**

Conference notes the first round of voting on June 13th in the Conservative Party leadership contest has brought to the fore three candidates, Boris Johnson, Dominic Raab and Michael Gove all committed to leaving the EU on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 if negotiations with the EU cannot be re-opened this summer. A day earlier on June 12th the Labour Party in parliament failed by 11 votes to take control of the business so that MPs across parties could prevent a no deal exit being imposed by a new prime minister without potentially a parliamentary vote.

UNISON accepted the EU referendum result in June 2016 to leave the EU and conference believes that any future EU - UK deal must not leave working people in the UK worse off that they were before EU exit. Any new deal that replaces the current EU membership must match the benefits and rights that we have currently and protect Northern Ireland.

Conference welcomes the NEC decision to create six tests based on previous National Delegate Conference decisions to help evaluate what we would like to see included in a future EU - UK deal to protect our members' rights and public services:

- 1) Protect existing health and safety and workers rights through a level playing field of regulations, with a non regression clause, an enforcement mechanism and accessible dispute mechanism that enforces the adherence and future upgrade on these rights;
- 2) Protect public services from a bad economic deal that will prevent growth of the UK economy, continue public service austerity instead of increased funding, lower living standards and offer less training and skills opportunities for workers;
- 3) Keep UK public services out of global trade deals, maintain only the existing beneficial social provisions in public procurement regulations, expand the right to public ownership and the positive use of State Aid;
- 4) Safeguard rights, standards and regulations (e.g. employment, environmental, consumer and climate change) and any new EU measures in the future so that they cannot be weakened in the UK through any future trade deals with non-EU countries like the USA;
- 5) Maintain existing equality and human rights, EU citizen rights, EU freedom of movement;
- 6) prevent a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland, uphold the Good Friday Agreement and respect the devolution legislation of the Governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Based on these tests, conference endorses the decision of the NEC to campaign against the previously proposed Withdrawal Agreement. Conference also takes very

seriously the threat of a Free Trade Arrangement (FTA) with the EU replacing the current EU deal. Trade unions could be the casualties of the actions of a new Tory leader and Prime Minister elected by a small group of individuals to deliver a No Deal EU exit.

Conference believes that the closest deal to UNISON's six tests so far including continued participation in the single market and customs union – known as “common market 2.0/Norway Plus”.

Conference calls upon the National Executive Council:

- a) To campaign for UNISON's six tests to be at the core of any new deal, working with Labour Link, UK and EU politicians, trade union federations and civil society alliances;
- b) To call for a General Election to break the deadlock in Parliament to get a deal based on the six tests, and further extension to article 50 as needed to then renegotiate a deal;
- c) To campaign against leaving the EU without a deal on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019;
- d) To ensure an overriding priority will remain the protection of our members in Northern Ireland and the Good Friday Agreement;
- e) If these options fail, and also to avoid the devastating consequences of a 'No Deal' EU Exit, in principle to support a confirmatory public vote on any deal that then emerges;
- f) Campaign for all future trade deals to be scrutinised and meaningfully agreed by the UK Parliament;
- g) campaign with the ETUC, EPSU, TUC and Labour Link alongside our alliances to ensure that any future EU trade deal (and non EU trade deals) have a:
  - i) Non regression clause, so that we secure and lock in our existing rights;
  - ii) Dynamic alignment clause, so that future alignment is achieved to prevent the UK from falling behind any gains made in the EU;
  - iii) Enforcement mechanism clause, to allow workers and trade unions to have direct representation to proper courts and not rely on secret arbitration panels;
  - iv) Direct effect clause, where UK laws will mirror EU laws and sit in any new treaty so that they have direct effect.

*National Executive Council*

## **UK-US FREE TRADE DEAL: OUR NHS NOT FOR SALE!**

Conference notes with alarm the comments made by Boris Johnson MP on June 12th at his official campaign launch for the Conservative Party leadership. These confirmed that if he were to shortly become Leader and Prime Minister that he would seek a swift EU exit based on a free trade agreement with the EU that facilitated a further quick free trade agreement with the USA.

Coupled with comments by the suggestion from the US Ambassador to the UK that, along with the rest of the economy, healthcare should be “on the table” in any future trade negotiations between the UK and the US. This raises many serious concerns for the future of our NHS.

Conference notes that a number of American healthcare corporations have long harboured desires to break into the UK healthcare market, and the combination of a potential hard exit from the EU and the continuation of the Trump Presidency would make this more likely.

Conference further notes that the Health and Social Care Act has already opened up health services in England to liberalisation and outsourcing. This means that it would not be sufficient to exclude the NHS within a Services Chapter in any future trade deal with the US. So-called ‘Ratchet’ and ‘standstill’ clauses would also need to be removed and the NHS would need to be specifically excluded from the Investment Chapter of the agreement to prevent challenges through private investment tribunals from private providers seeking to prevent bringing NHS services back in-house.

Conference is also fearful of the impact of a toxic Conservative leadership race in which many of the contenders have already sought to win over a small right-wing electorate with increasingly commitments to cuts and de-regulation and trading under the minimal World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

Against this backdrop, Conference notes the current NHS England process – as part of implementing the recent NHS Long Term Plan – that seeks to rid the NHS of the worst aspects of the disastrous Health and Social Care Act 2012, legislation that contains within it the potential for much wider privatisation of the NHS than we have hitherto witnessed, whether by UK firms or those from overseas.

Conference therefore calls upon the National Executive Council to:

- 1) Campaign in the strongest possible terms for the NHS to be excluded from any possible future trade negotiations with the USA, whether Boris Johnson is Prime Minister or not;
- 2) Work with the TUC, other trade unions and campaigning organisations to demand that the UK government make clear that it will not countenance any expanded role for American companies in our NHS;
- 3) Continue to push for an end to the NHS market.

*National Executive Council*

