



Photo: John McDonnell speaking on the pay cap

Public Sector Pay Campaign: One per cent is not enough!

Camden Trades Council organised a very informative and motivational meeting on breaking the Government's public sector pay cap of 1% in Camden Town Hall. Speakers included John McDonnell (Shadow Chancellor) and Lucy Masoud (FBU regional treasurer). John McDonnell said it would be necessary to have coordinated industrial action to defeat the public sector pay cap. There was an emphasis on the importance of taking strike action to achieve a real increase in public sector pay. It was also considered that there has never been a better time to break the pay cap with a weak and divided government in place, but workers across all unions need to unite, organise, mobilise and demonstrate for a real pay rise and better working conditions. As a member in the audience said, pay action should not just be about pay. It should also be about securing and retaining better terms and conditions for all workers.

TUC Protest about pay – backed and supported by all the major unions including UNISON

Tuesday 17 October, Parliament Square SW1P 3JX

2-5pm Lobby your MP

5.30pm Assemble Department of Health, Whitehall and march to Parliament Square for a rally

2017 Events for the diary

- Stand Up To Racism conference, Saturday 21 October, 10.30 am – 4.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. Camden UNISON is sending a delegation of members. Contact us on x1633 if you want to come.
- Camden Black Workers Group (CBWG) – Black History Month, Friday 27 October, 6pm - 11pm, Coopers Lane Community Centre, Hampden Close NW1 1HW.
- UNISON nationally is backing the Abortion Rights Campaign event, Saturday 28 October to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1967 legislation. This is due to a motion that originated with our branch committee - thanks to Maddy Cooper.

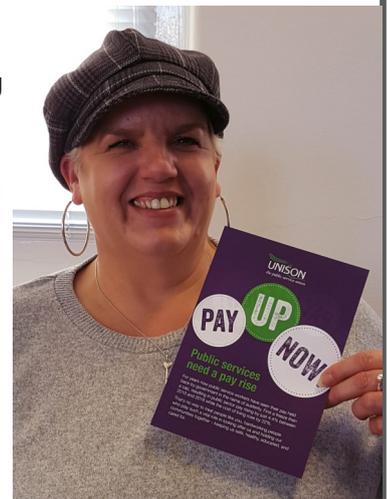
REINSTATED - UNISON member wins job back

Camden UNISON represented a member when they had been sacked and helped them to win their job back in their appeal to Councilors. UNISON argued that the member's manager did not appear to have taken their duties under the Equalities Act seriously enough even to have filled out the correct paperwork, never mind acknowledge the member's medical condition. Despite the appeal hearing being delayed so long that the member had found other temporary work, they have now returned to a permanent job in Camden. As you can imagine, though, this has undermined the member's belief that Camden is a caring employer.

Please note that this article appears with the member's permission, but Camden UNISON has chosen to protect the individual. See website for full article.

Liz Wheatley becomes Camden UNISON'S new Branch Secretary

Welcome to Liz, who has taken over the position from George Binette who stood down at the end of September. George has worked tirelessly as Branch Secretary for the past eight years, representing members and campaigning in local and national campaigns to secure better terms and conditions for members across the workforce. We are confident that Liz will take up the mantle and carry on fighting on behalf of our members and increasing membership. Liz has been a housing officer in Camden and an active UNISON steward for 15 years, relentlessly campaigning against war, racism and austerity.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Occupational Health referrals

Do you consider you are being stonewalled on your request for an occupational health referral?

Your employer has a duty of care to ensure your health and safety at work. If you think that your request for a referral is not being considered within a timely period - speak to your rep or contact the branch office. If you have been on a long term sickness absence, a return to work interview should be carried out before your full return to work.

Workstation assessments

If you use a computer to do your work the computer should have an adjustable screen. You should request a workstation assessment if you are working with a fixed screen which cannot be adjusted – speak to your rep. See the link from essentials <https://lbcamden.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet/HR/Pages/Set-up-your-workstation-safely.aspx>

Reasonable adjustments

If you have a disability, whether hidden or visible, and need reasonable adjustments to minimise risks of injury, your employer is legally required to make such adjustments to help you stay in work. The term 'reasonable adjustment' is specified in disability discrimination law, and refers to any changes or adaptations which an employer is obliged to make to work premises or to the way work is done in order to make a bad, unpleasant situation better or more tolerable for the employee; removing substantial disadvantage to the disabled worker. Employers should consider whether adjustment is likely to enable you to remain in or help you return to work after a period of absence. You will need to contact the government department Access to Work (AtW) for an assessment of your needs. Your employer will need to comply with the AtW recommendations regarding any need for reasonable adjustments.

Campaign

Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI)

Born in the 1950s?

Please support this cause and make people aware. Women who are affected should make a written complaint. The template letters can be found on the WASPI website <http://www.waspi.co.uk/dwp-template-letter>

If you go to the link above - all the template letters are there. You also need to look at the WASPI action page re instructions to complete them.

JOIN UNISON

You cannot defend your terms and conditions on your own. You need to join a union. With over 3,000 members Camden UNISON is the largest union in the Council. Join online or access PDFs of application forms at: www.camdenunison.org.uk/join. If you are already a member why not ask your colleagues to join? There's strength in numbers.

Editor: Marilyn Bramble-Litchmore

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Contributors:

Pete Ainsley: Trump is wrong—there is a climate crisis

George Binette: A Camden UNISON success story

Update your details

Have you moved or changed your job/workplace recently? If so please update

your membership at: www.camdenunison.org.uk/update

CONTACT

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Phone: 020 7974 1633

DEPARTMENTAL CONVENORS

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Supporting People (non-schools children and young people)

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Supporting People (adults)

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Supporting Communities (culture and environment)

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Supporting Communities (housing)

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Trump is wrong - there is a climate crisis

President Trump has proclaimed that climate change is just an invention and has withdrawn the United States from the Paris agreement which seeks to limit further planetary warming to between 2 or 1.5 degrees centigrade. This is a setback but Trump is now seen as isolated on this. Many states and cities have set goals to increase the use of renewables and decrease emissions.

The overall impact of climate change will cause rail fares in the UK to increase while providing £337 million extra profit for the train operating companies (TOCs) which are mainly owned by other countries such as France and Germany. The fragmentation of the different TOCs and the separate control of the track by Network Rail prevents the environmentally desirable electrification of the network. British Gas has increased its electricity prices by 12.5% even though wholesale gas prices have fallen and its parent company has rocketing profits. A YouGov poll showed half those surveyed wanted energy suppliers to be publically owned. Four million households now live in fuel poverty. Children in cold homes are more likely to suffer from asthma or bronchitis due to climate change. If you want to get involved contact the Campaign Against Climate Change

Go to www.Climatechange-jobs.org for information on the Million Climate Jobs campaign

Visit Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/679148728948487>

Please visit website for full article