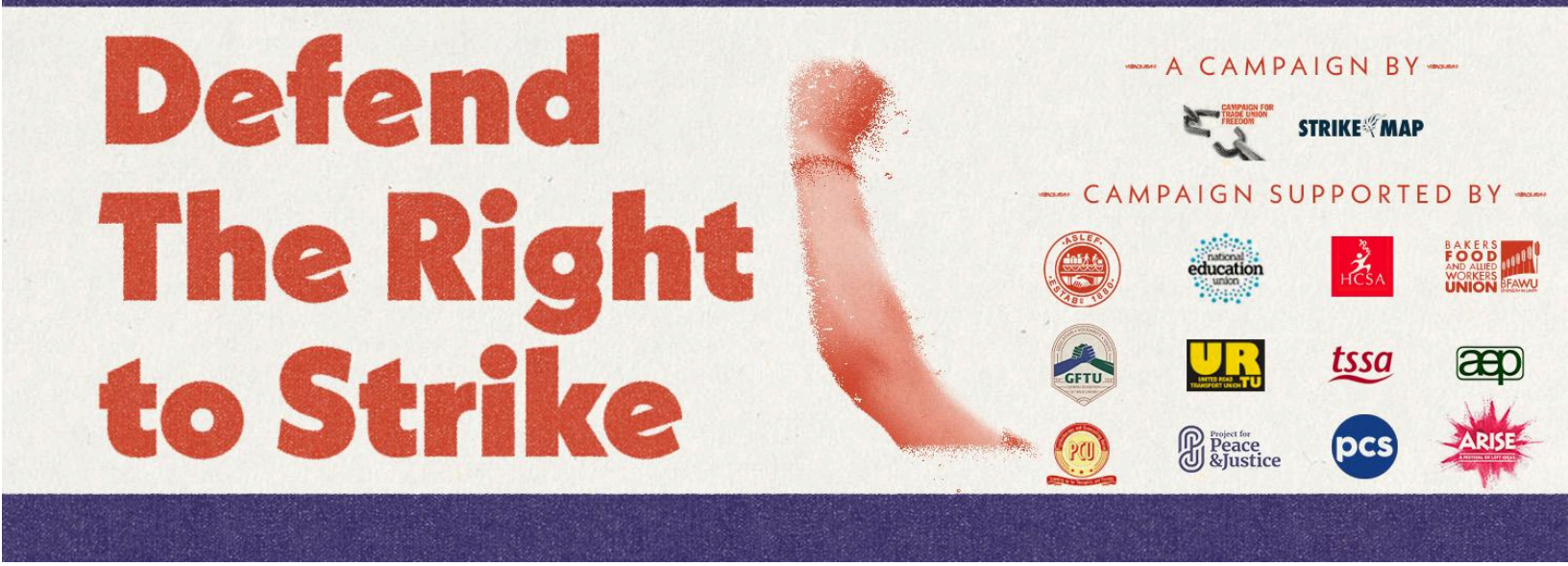


Model motion for councils to oppose the minimum service levels

MOTION REGARDING "OPPOSING MINIMUM SERVICE LEVELS" – TO BE MOVED BY COUNCILLOR XXX XXX AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR XXX XXX

That this Council:

(a) notes:

(i) the right to strike is a fundamental British freedom which is protected by international law; this can be seen in the Human Rights Act, Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the International Labour Organisation's Convention 87 and Article 6(4) of the European Social Charter;

(ii) the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 sets out that when employees in relevant sectors democratically vote to strike they can be required to work by use of a "work notice" and sacked if they don't comply;

(iii) the Joint Committee on Human Rights has expressed concern that this legislation is not compatible with the UK's commitments to human rights for workers and trade union members; and

(iv) the Regulatory Policy Committee has determined that the impact assessment for this law at the Bill stage was 'not fit for purpose';

(b) believes:

(i) the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 is a direct attack on the right to strike, a fundamental freedom;

(ii) that consecutive Conservative Governments have been carrying out brutal attacks on trade unions for decades, culminating with this most recent attack on the right to strike;

(iii) that this Government, instead of tackling the causes of the cost-of-living crisis, are attempting to cut through the recent wave of strikes by trying to shift the blame from profiteering bosses who have manufactured unsustainable levels of inflation, on to ordinary workers who are exercising their right to fight for dignity and fair pay at work and in their lives;

(iv) the Act undermines constructive industrial relations and is likely to inflame and prolong disputes;

(v) the regime initiated by the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023, including the provision allowing employers to issue a "work notice" is draconian, unnecessary and unworkable;

(vi) the issuing of a "work notice" by an employer compelling named workers to attend work under threat of dismissal with no recourse to the courts is a denial of justice;

(vii) that this Act is a direct attack on the freedoms of the ordinary, hardworking residents of our borough/district/city; and

(c) resolves:

(i) to not issue a "work notice" - the Council would, if it issued a "work notice", deny its staff the opportunity to exercise a fundamental human right, the right to go on strike, the Council is an upholder of human rights for residents and workers in the borough;

(ii) to work with unions in the borough/district/city, especially those in the school and college sector, municipal transport and fire and rescue services to oppose this legislation; and,

(iii) to write to the Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer and demand he pledges an incoming Labour government to reverse fines and other measures taken against any union under the terms of the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023.