

HEAT STRIKE

Heat Strike – Workplace Temperature & Climate Justice Model motion & resources

[Sign up to Heat Strike](#)

[Download the Heat Strike leaflet](#)

Watch [Heat Strike online rally](#) (June 2024) – with speakers from the TUC, Italian union CGIL, Amazon India Workers Association (AIWA), Fire Brigades Union (FBU), the Bakers union, Unite Hospitality, CWU at Royal Mail and the Hazards campaign

[Watch our online session](#) with Hazards Campaign, BFAWU, Tipping point & the Rapid Response Unit (only the speakers part was recorded).

Model motion (469 words)

With last year the hottest year on record, we are likely to experience record breaking heat again this summer, putting many people at risk around the World and also in the UK, especially the elderly, infants, pregnant women and disabled people, but also workers working outdoors with no protection.

We need workers and their Trade Unions, as well as Climate Justice activists and organisations to unite in their struggle to build a mass movement for a change, where the poorest don't pay the price for climate change. The Climate Crisis is a Trade Union issue whether it is about a Just Transition and defending jobs or health and safety.

This Branch / Trades Council / conference welcomes the fact that the theme for 2024's Workers' Memorial Day is/was "Climate Change & Workers' Health" as the impacts of climate change become increasingly an occupational hazard and a health and safety issue for Trade Unions. Deaths at work and employment disruption as a result of global warming, not to mention occupational illnesses caused by polluting fossil fuels, are rising everywhere, and are only expected to increase.

This Branch / Trades Council / conference therefore agrees to campaign for the following demands:

- **Set national maximum working temperature**

When it's too hot to work, Heat Strike. Since 2008 unions have been calling for a maximum working temperature, but the UK government still isn't listening. We demand the UK government set a national maximum working temperature.

- **Put in place a heat wave furlough scheme**

Heat waves in the UK are only set to get hotter and more frequent, working people can't afford to bear the cost of climate breakdown and they shouldn't have to. We demand the government and employers set up a heat wave furlough schemes.

- **Make a climate action plan**

The UK government's climate action plan has been ruled illegally inadequate. People are feeling the heat right now. We demand the government make a plan to protect workers and vulnerable people now, and to avert the worst of climate collapse in years to come.

This Branch / Trades Council / conference welcomes the idea of organising a Heat Strike as joint Days of Action between workers, trade unions and Climate Justice groups on the model of the Youth Climate Strikes. The Heat Strike is not legal union strike but can take many forms by workers and citizens including direct actions and protests, workplace lunch time walkouts and awareness raising, lobbying of politicians or community actions.

This Branch / Trades Council / conference therefore agrees:

- [Sign up to take part in Heat Strike this Summer](#) when temperatures go above 36 degrees
- Circulate and disseminate information about Heat Strike:
<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-up-for-heat-strike>
- Download, print and distribute the Heat Strike leaflet in your Branches:
<https://tinyurl.com/HeatStrikeleaflet>
- Support campaigns to establish a heat furlough and maximum workplace temperature, including Heat Strike and Cool It
- Campaign in our workplaces to raise awareness of the links between the Climate Crisis and Health & Safety issues

More information and resources

- [Heat Strike sign-up page](#)
- [Amazon Indian Workers Association demand urgent measures to tackle heat waves](#) (CounterCurrent article – June 2024) – follow [AIWA on twitter](#)
- Hazards Magazine on [Heat at Work](#)
- Hazards Campaign [resources on Climate issues and Health & Safety](#)
- ITUC report [“Working in a Bad Climate”](#)
- [Sign the TUC petition](#) for a maximum workplace temperature
- [Health & Safety Executive page](#) on temperature
- [Britain workplaces aren't ready for extreme heat](#), article by apolly Smythe at Novara Media, July 2022

Unions advice during heatwaves

- [TUC Cool It Temperature guide](#) – A TUC guide for trade union activists on dealing with high temperatures in the workplace.
- [TUC's webpage – Steps to keep cool at work and Interactive Guide](#) for Union reps
- [Joint advice from 10 unions involved in Education/Schools](#)
- [Cool It! leaflet](#) by the BFAWU with tips for workers & reps & their [Cool It! video](#)
- [Unite – Health & Safety Guidance – Temperature at Work](#)
- [Unison – Health and Weather warnings for extreme heat](#)
- [GMB Health & Safety – Feeling the Heat](#)
- [National Education Union – Hot weather & classroom temperature](#)
- [Video on extreme Heat and Health](#) by the Natural Resources Defence Council
- [Heat Stress Awareness Guide by Canadian unions](#)

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CAMPAIGN

BAKERS
FOOD
AND ALLIED
WORKERS
UNION

TIPPING
POINT ▲

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