

SU Motion: Time for Rights



PREFACE

Many Student Unions pay their staff the real Living Wage, despite this not being a legal requirement. Currently, EU workers' rights legislation – including the Working Time Directive – applies to UK workers. These rights are at risk from the Tories' Brexit, and therefore – like with the real Living Wage – Student Unions must take proactive steps to protect workers on campus.

NOTES

- The EU has long been a strong advocate for workers' rights, including maternity and paternity pay, agency worker rights and health and safety laws.
- The EU's Working Time Directive is another example, which includes the right to at least four weeks holiday per year, rest breaks, restricts excessive night shifts and ensures a maximum 48-hour working week.
- Some workers' rights in the UK only apply to full-time workers, meaning many students – often on short-term or zero-hour contracts – don't receive them.
- In contrast, the EU's Working Time Directive applies to all types of workers including students in insecure employment.
- The Tories have repeatedly opposed EU workers' rights legislation, including attempting to block the Working Time Directive in 1993 and rejecting EU employment laws in a parliamentary vote in January 2018.
- The Tories' Brexit Secretary, Dominic Raab, has specifically criticised the Working Time Directive, claiming that "Britain should secure a total opt out" from the legislation.

BELIEVES

- That the rising cost of living is forcing more students to take on work while at university.
- That students and other low-paid workers are becoming increasingly exploited, particularly those on insecure contracts.
- That the Tories' Brexit strategy poses a huge threat to hard-fought workers' rights, particularly the Working Time Directive.
- That one of our Student Union's main responsibilities is support workers' rights, particularly of students.
- That with these rights at risk, our Students Union should actively defend and promote workers' rights.

RESOLVES

- To guarantee the protections outlined in the Working Time Directive for all Student Union student workers, even if they're removed or diluted in law post-Brexit.
- To similarly guarantee these protections for all Student Union non-student workers.
- To lobby [YOUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION] to also commit to guaranteeing these protections for all its workers.
- To educate students on their rights at work and the danger to these rights posed by the Tories' Brexit.
- To promote trade union membership among students.

