

Campaign Pack: Time for Rights



Welcome to Labour Students' 2018-19 Priority Campaign! #TimeForRights aims to protect workers on campus from a Tory hard-Brexit, particularly around the Working Time Directive.

This Campaign Pack will cover how to run the #TimeForRights campaign on your campus, including:

- Background to the Campaign
- List of Campaign Resources
- What we want from your Students Union
- What we want from your University
- What we want from Students
- How to utilise your Club Members
- How Labour Students will provide national support

Background to the Campaign

Theresa May's Brexit strategy risks damaging the economy, EU citizens' rights and the frictionless Irish border. It also risks harming workers rights' following the Tories' decision to reject EU employment laws in January. In particular, the Working Time Directive is at risk from a Tory hard-Brexit. It provides certain rights for all EU workers, including the right to at least four weeks holiday per year, rest breaks, restricting excessive night shifts and a maximum 48-hour working week.

Student workers are often on part-time or zero-hour contracts, so have fewer rights than full-time workers. Yet the Working Time Directive applies to all workers, so it's vitally important for students that these specific rights are protected from a Tory Brexit. The Tories blocked it in 1993 before Labour MEPs finally introduced a decade later. Many Tories want it to be weakened, and media reports indicate the Government will try this post-Brexit, creating a race to the bottom on workers' rights which would be a disaster for the country.

Labour Students will fight to protect the Working Time Directive rights in campuses across the country by lobbying institutions to commit to upholding these rights even if the Tories scrap them in Parliament. We will also educate students about the threat of a Tory hard-Brexit to our rights and encourage student workers to join trade unions.





List of Campaign Resources

This Campaign Pack also comes with:

- Model SU Motion
- Model Petition
- Model VC Letter
- #TimeForRights/Join A TU Poster
- #TimeForRights/Protect Your Rights Poster
- Community Trade Union Sign-Up Forms
- Time For Rights Leaflets

What we want from your Students Union

Many Student Unions pay their students 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.

You should utilise your SU to play 4 key roles:

- Guaranteeing these rights for their own staff
- Lobbying the University to do the same
- Raising awareness of the threat of a Tory hard-Brexit among students
- Promoting trade union membership among students

What we want from your University

The demand of your University is quite simple:

- Guarantee the Working Time Directive rights for all workers, student and otherwise, post-Brexit.

What we would like from students

- Sign your petition to the Students Union and University
- Support your SU motion if they have the right to vote
- Join a Trade Union
- Encourage friends to also do the above three actions.
- Inform others about the risks of a Tory hard-Brexit and the importance of trade union membership





How to galvanize your Club Members

- Obvious first steps: Sign the petition & Join a trade union – in fact, students can join Community Trade Union for just £2.69/month!
- Run street-stalls to promote the campaign, gather petition signatures, educate on the threat of a Tory hard-Brexit and encourage students to join trade unions.
- Replicate these ideas online – including an online version of the petition, which the Club can email to members and promote on its social media channels.
- Have a club member submit the Motion to your Students Union. Use the number of petition signatures gathered to persuade your SU Assembly/SU Senate etc. to adopt the motion.
- Ask your members to submit a Letter to your Vice Chancellor. As the petition covers both your SU and Institution, you can also use the number of signatures gathered to persuade your VC to act.
- Encourage members to promote the petition and wider campaign on Facebook and Twitter, using the graphics provided by Labour Students and the #TimeForRights hashtag.
- Encourage members to attend Labour Students national events which will feature sessions on the campaign.

How Labour Students will provide national support

- We will promote your Club's activities on social media: Make sure to post lots of photos, tagging @LabourStudents and using the #TimeForRights hashtag!
- We will run sessions at national events on the campaign.
- We have created the Campaign Resources listed above, which are available via post or on our website.
- We would love to visit your Club on campus during a street-stall day to provide practical help on the ground.
- Please email us at labourstudents@labour.org.uk if you have any questions, need the resources in a more accessible format or to request resources and a Club visit!

In Summary

- A Tory hard-Brexit puts our hard-fought rights at risk. As Labour students, we must protect the rights of workers in Student Unions and Universities across the country. Students oppose the Tories' Brexit – now it's time to fight back.
- Best of luck with the campaign on your campus, and please get in touch if you have any queries!

