

## Protect Your Right to Strike

Being able to organise at work and be part of an independent trade union is a hallmark of living in a free society. So too is the right to withdraw your labour. Without this right we do not live in a free society.

The UK has the most restrictive laws across Europe for being able to take industrial action.

Successive Conservative governments have restricted and limited trade unions from taking effective action over the years by:-

- Imposing postal ballots with specific timescales for notice of action.
- Making any action in support of other workers illegal.
- Removing benefits for strikers.
- Extending the notice period of action.
- Forcing re-ballots every six months.
- Imposing at least 50% turnout for any vote being able to call legal strike action.

Now the Tories have imposed 'Minimum Service Levels' on those who vote to strike, which is designed to undermine effective strike action by forcing some to work or face the sack. With the bosses deciding who should work!

This is not the hallmark of a free society.

Last year saw several strikes across the UK as workers tried to maintain their living standards in the face of a cost-of-living crisis.

If you want to be able to defend yourself at work, or fight for better pay in the future, then join the march called by the TUC on Saturday 27 January.

## Protect the Right to Strike: National march and rally

**Saturday, January 27, 2024 • 12:00 PM**  
**Assemble Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham**

Contact the Branch if you wish to go  
email [sandwellunison@btconnect.com](mailto:sandwellunison@btconnect.com)

## Your Union's AGM Tues 5<sup>th</sup> March

All members are invited to the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Sandwell General UNISON Branch. Invites are in the post.

There are two opportunities to attend. Either at lunchtime between 1pm and 2pm, where a free buffet will be available for members from 12:45pm. Or at 7:30pm.

**At the AGM there will be an update on what is happening to the pay claims for 2024.** If you want to find out the latest, then come along.

**Council Chambers  
Sandwell Council House  
Oldbury**

**1pm for lunchtime (buffet from  
12:45pm) or  
7:30pm for the evening**

Please register your interest to attend to receive the agenda.

Don't miss out on entering the free prize draw for prizes of £250 and £100. Look out for your AGM invite in the post to enter.

## Celebrate 50 Years of Sandwell!

UNISON members who were working for Sandwell MBC in 1974 will be invited to attend to mark the occasion.

# £422,721

The amount won in personal injury claims for UNISON members in Sandwell for the month of October 2023 alone.

It pays to be in UNISON.

[Join UNISON and get essential cover](#)