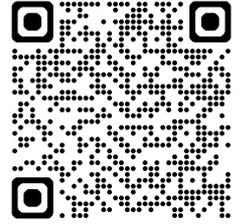


LABOUR LEFT INTERNATIONALISTS



Jan-Feb 2026

Employment Rights Act - campaign needed, and a follow-up bill

The Employment Rights Act finally became law last month. Although scaled down since its earlier versions (including as Labour's New Deal for Working People) it probably still fits the description of "the biggest upgrade to workers' rights in a generation". (The last-minute removal of day-one protection from unfair dismissal was something pretty much forced on the government by the antics of Tory and LibDem Lords - and one Green Lord - as the only way to get the rest of the bill through without another year's delay).

But with implementation phased over two years, and multiple consultations to take place over details, it still needs *defending* - employers' organisations will be using those consultations to try to minimise the powers of the Act.

And it needs *extending* with a follow-up 'day one act' or 'ERA part 2' to restore those manifesto commitments lost through the antics of unelected Lords - see our suggested CLP motion at <https://labourleftint.uk/2026/01/18/template-motion-on-employment-rights-act/>.

The FBU, other unions, and Mainstream, are now campaigning for a 'Part 2' bill. And whilst a straightforward single-clause 'day one' bill would certainly meet with House of Lords delay, the government can and should stick with it until the Lords' maximum one-year delay is over (or until the unelected upper house is abolished, as it should be).

Branches, CLPs and affiliates need to *campaign* for the provisions of the Act - a clear explanation of what it does and how it affects people at work is probably our best means of undercutting Reform, and is an important part of local parties promoting trades unionism and collective assertion of rights at work.

Such campaigning goes hand in hand with protecting the Act from its opponents, including on the matters under consultation - like what simplified trades union recognition and access to workplaces will look like, if there is a number of employees threshold for 'fire and rehire', and the details of provisions to come in during 2027. We need to build pressure, including for the threshold for strike action to go sooner, rather than being further delayed.



Take this motion to your CLP -

For a Mandate to Rejoin the EU!



The coming 'EU reset bill' is a means by which the Government deflects the internal Labour Party pressure towards joining the Customs Union by posing, parts of, the single market as an alternative. The customs union is about tariffs and the single-market about non-tariff barriers. It's not possible to effectively have one without the other. The UK economy and people need and want membership of both, including, reciprocal, free movement of people. Read more at <https://labourleftint.uk/2026/01/18/comment-and-template-motion-on-relations-with-the-eu/> or use the QR-code above.

We note the government plans to legislate to simplify the implementation of the agreements made as a result of the UK EU Summit May 25.

The pace of agreement is disappointingly slow, and there remain eight infringement proceedings outstanding from the withdrawal agreement and the Windsor framework.

We believe "Fixing Brexit" is unachievable and that the attempts to achieve a "Swiss style" deal makes agreement more difficult.

We believe that the government should seek to rejoin the customs union and single market immediately in this parliament, and that the Labour Party should ask for a mandate to rejoin the EU in its next manifesto.

For an inclusive Labour Women's Conference

The left CLP representatives on Labour's National Executive report from the National Executive of 2 December that the staff forced through a decision to have a trans-exclusive women's conference although the trade union reps "raised concerns regarding their inclusive women's policies and felt that, if such a Conference were to go ahead, they would be unlikely to be able to send delegations".

The right of protest

As much as we have disagreements with Palestine Action (including their refusal to even talk with workers employed in targeted workplaces) the government's attempt to ban them and treat them as terrorists is wrong, anti-democratic and counter-productive.

CLPs should pass motions calling on the government to reverse this ban and the Police Act 2022 and Public Order Act 2023 (which Labour opposed when the Tories put them through Parliament).

Solidarity with the workers of Iran



Follow the QR-code for a statement from the **Solidarity With Iranian Workers** committee, chaired by John McDonnell

Venezuela - neither Trump nor Maduro

Trump's actions have not led to the release of a single one of Maduro's political prisoners, and have preserved his regime under a different, Trump-obesant, figure-head. Our suggested motion to adapt for LP branches calls for:

- The US to get out of Venezuela.

- Promotion of the voices of the independent, anti-Maduro left in Venezuela.
- The release of all Venezuelan political prisoners
- Free trade unions, freedom of the press and freedom to protest
- Freedom for left parties to operate
- The election of a constituent assembly, to replace the current Venezuelan constitution
- An end to sanctions on Venezuela

What's happening on Labour's left?

MPs in the soft-left **Tribune Group** tell us that they now have 120 members and a new exec, with position papers planned on a number of key topics that will be shared publicly in the party. We said last month that their statement on the budget was poor, but we looked forward to hearing from them on the Employment Rights Bill, on the Reform-lite immigration policies, and on party democracy - so we welcome this, Both they and the **Socialist Campaign Group** could do with updating their web presence).

Mainstream is getting organised, with local groups being organised across the country and public advertised meetings taking place to draw in more party members - the first was in Sheffield, and the second Brighton on January 31st. A second national organising meeting is launching Mainstream's '**It Takes a Movement**' campaign - based on four points including a Part Two of the Employment Rights Bill to reintroduce the manifesto commitments dropped.

Mainstream is broad, and we in LLI are probably among the furthest left of its membership, but we urge our readers to get involved and support local groups where possible. Local groups could help bring more party members back into activity and stem the tide of membership loss.

www.mainstreamlabour.org.

We are pleased to see the **Renew Young Labour** campaign taking off, describing themselves as

"formed of young members from across the party, who have been involved with Mainstream, Momentum, and Open Labour". Read more in their piece on Labour List at <https://labourlist.org/2025/12/renew-young-labour-launch>, including their take on how the Young Labour's current controlling faction (running in this year's elections as 'Organise' backed by the right wing 'Labour to Win' faction) have stifled YL.



Nominations close at midday on January 29th. See more on Renew's Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/renew.2026/>

Speakers for CLPs:

UK Friends of Standing

Together: <https://ukfost.co.uk>

Pride in Labour:

www.prideinlabour.org.uk

Labour Campaign for Council

Housing: <https://thelabourcampaignforcouncilhousing.org>

Ukraine Solidarity Campaign:

<https://ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org>

Neurodivergent Labour: <https://www.ndlabour.com>

Labour Campaign for Free

Movement: <https://www.labourfreemovement.org>

Keep in touch

This is the third issue of a regular bulletin for supporters and friends to print out and distribute in their CLPs. Email lableftint@gmail.com or download from our website.

<https://labourleftint.uk>