Draft motions for consideration

**Growing authoritarianism**

This DM is appalled by the police’s use of legislation contained in the Terrorism Act 2000 against journalists and members of several campaigns such as Just Stop Oil and justice for Palestine.

It is also shocked by the Home Secretary’s backing for the new powers the police have been given under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 to constrain demonstrations and arrest protestors.

This DM believes the increased use of terrorism legislation and new police powers mark a shift toward a more authoritarian state.

This DM instructs the NEC to:

1. Closely monitor instances of police behaviour toward journalists and photographers, and to continue to contest instances of wrongful detention and arrest.
2. Work with Liberty and other human rights organisations, and with the trade union movement, to campaign to reign back police powers.

Proposed: Alan Gibson

**Palestine**

This DM congratulates Belgian media workers for halting the broadcast of the Israeli delegation's performance in solidarity with Palestinians during the Eurovision song contest in May.

This DM instructs the NEC to:

1. Support the ACOD-VRT branch and invite speakers on Zoom or in person to branch or union body meetings.
2. Encourage the exchange of information to further international solidarity action regarding Palestine.
3. Send a message of support applauding the action of ACOD-VRT members at the Eurovision event.
4. Send this motion to the NEC of the Bectu media workers’ union.

Proposed: Alan Gibson

**Staffing**

This DM notes:

1. A significant increase in staff shortages at Headland House.
2. Lay members who volunteer to handle members’ cases being asked to take on complex matters involving individuals with emotional concerns.
3. That the union has a duty of care toward its members.

This DM believes lay members should not be placed in situations that:

1. Demands greater training that that which they have attained
2. Contain undue time-consuming emotional pressures.

This DM instructs the NEC to carry out a survey of staffing levels in order to snsure lay members carrying out case work are not placed in situations that cause undue stress and upset.

Proposed: Alan Gibson

**Anti-racism**

This DM notes:

1. Fascist riots have taken place in towns and cities across Britain leading to attacks on mosques and hotels housing migrants.
2. Tommy Robinson, Nigel Farage and others exploited the horrific knife attack in Southport in August 2024 to stir up Islamophobia and sow division by spreading misinformation about the attacker’s identity.
3. Across Europe we see the rise of far right and fascist forces, from Marine Le Pen in France, to Georgia Meloni in Italy to the AfD in Germany. In Britain after the general election, there are, for the first time, 5 far right Reform UK MPs in parliament giving a much bigger platform for their racism.
4. Fascist Tommy Robinson mobilised over 15,000 in Trafalgar Square on 27 July. He is threatening to return in the autumn.
5. The TUC’s decision to back Stand Up To Racism’s counter-demonstration against Robinson’s march in London on 26 October.

This DM believes:

1. This is the most serious breakthrough of violent fascists onto British streets for at least a decade.
2. Racism and Islamophobia in Parliament, echoed by significant sections of the media, is leading to racism and Islamophobia on the streets.
3. All those who are disgusted by this resurgence of the far right in parliament and on the streets must join in a united mass movement powerful enough to drive them back.
4. We can defeat them. We must Stand Up to Racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism. We must unite and mobilise against the far right and fascism.

We therefore resolve to instruct the NEC to:

1. Support Stand up to Racism’s emergency unity fund to stop the far right, to make a donation to the fund, to encourage members to support the fund and join with Stand Up To Racism in opposing the far right wherever it seeks to mobilise.
2. Encourage members to support all counter demonstrations against the far right locally, regionally and nationally.
3. Send delegations, banners and flags onto these demonstrations.

Proposed: Alan Gibson

**Government pensioners’ benefit cut**

This DM condemns the UK government's decision to make cuts to the universal Winter Fuel Payment, which withdraws the winter fuel payment for most pensioners. This DM recognises this adversely impacts on many of our older members.

This BDM instructs the NEC to:

conduct a survey of NUJ members to evaluate in more detail the negative impact of the government’s decision on older members

support the campaigns by other trade unions and pensioners' organisations, including the National Pensioners’ Convention (NPC), to have this benefit restored

support the NPC demand for the basic state pension to be set at 70% of the living wage (outside London rate) and above the official poverty level, regardless of their National Insurance contributions, and every year the state pension should rise in line with the best of earnings (the Consumer Price Index, the Retail Price Index or 2.5%.

Proposed: Niall Mulholland