

148 Years



ANNUAL REPORT
on 2020

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE TRADES UNION COUNCIL

Founded 18 January 1873

148th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.00 pm WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2021

By Zoom: Meeting ID: 829 0711 7567 Passcode: 488622

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Election of Tellers (2)
3. Minutes of the 147thAGM
4. Annual Report:
 - 4.1 President's Address
 - 4.2 Secretary's Report
 - 4.3 Treasurer's Report
 - 4.4 Auditors' Report
 - 4.5 Other Reports

5. Election of Officers, EC and Delegates

- 5.1 President:
- 5.2 Secretary:
- 5.3 Treasurer:
- 5.4 Minutes Secretary:
- 5.5 Women's Officer:
- 5.6 Executive Committee (6 additional places)
- 5.7 Auditors (2)

Nominations Received:

- M Levy (UCU)
J Simpkin (Unite)
A Lubbock (Unite)
(none)
(none)
P Ford (USDAW)
P Rutherford (Unite)
R Murdoch (Unite)
K Maddison (PCS)
M Levy, J Simpkin, A Lubbock
M Levy, J Simpkin, A Lubbock
A Kell (USDAW)
(none)
(none)
P Ford
(none)

- 5.8 Trustee (1 vacancy)
- 5.9 Tyne & Wear CATUC (4 places)
- 5.10 Newcastle & Gateshead TUC CAU Mgt Cttee (4)
- 5.11 Trades Councils Joint Consultative Cttee (1)
- 5.12 Tyne & Wear May Day Committee
- 5.13 TUC Annual Women's Conference
- 5.14 Annual Conference of Trades Union Councils
- 5.15 Northern Regional TUC delegates and Executive

Nominations for 5.7-5.15 may be received at the AGM.

6. Amendments to Rule

The retiring Executive Committee is proposing the following amendments:

6.1. Rule 3. Constitution

Line 3: after "the council's area." replace the rest with,

"The application of any organisation desiring to affiliate/re-affiliate shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for its approval or otherwise. If approval is denied the Executive must set out its full reasons for its decision. All decisions of the subcommittees and the Executive shall be subject to the approval of the Full Council before becoming the agreed policy of the Council."

6.2. Rule 5. Representation

Line 8: change "10" to "8"

6.3. *Rule 5. Representation*

Replace last paragraph with:

“Affiliated branches may nominate additional delegates representing the various equality strands, up to a maximum equal to their entitlement according to their membership save for their total number of delegates remaining less or equal to the maximum allowed above. This will be for a nominal sum equal to the cost of postage.”

6.4. *Rule 7. Composition of the Executive Committee*

In b).2, at end, insert:

“This meeting shall agree protocols for dealing with donation requests, in particular the level at which a request requires prior discussion and recommendation by the Executive before decision by the Full Council.”

6.5. *Rule 21. Financial controls*

Delete part b) and insert as follows:

- “b) Any donation requests which do not need prior Executive discussion (see Rule 7b).2) must be received in writing in good time to be circulated to delegates before the Full Council meeting.
- “c) All major financial decisions are to be considered by the full F&GP committee before being put to the Full Council. Requests for very substantial donations will normally require full details of the organisation, a full description of how the donation is to be used in terms of the Council’s Objects (Rule 2), and what targets will be met.”

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE TRADES UNION COUNCIL

Minutes of 147th AGM

Wednesday 5 February 2020

1. New Delegates and Visitors

The president, Martin Levy, welcomed delegates to the 147th Annual General Meeting of Newcastle upon Tyne Trades Union Council. The number of delegates present was for a second year well into double figures, representing 8 different trades unions.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from P Burnett (Unite – illness), D Martin (Unite) and a number of USDAW delegates.

3. Tellers

It was agreed that no tellers would be required.

4. Minutes of the 2019 AGM

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record.

5. Annual Report:

The Annual Report had been circulated in the mailing and only additional comments are recorded in the minutes.

President's Address

The president's address was accepted.

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report was accepted.

Treasurer's and Auditors' Reports

The Treasurer spoke to the printed accounts, dealing also with HMRC issues. The auditors accepted the financial report as a true and correct representation of the accounts. The Auditors' and Treasurer's reports were accepted by the meeting.

Tyne & Wear County Association of Trades Union Councils/Northern Regional TUC

The printed reports were accepted.

Cultural Subcommittee

There was a brief oral report, and the printed report was accepted by the meeting.

Tyne & Wear May Day Committee

The written and oral reports were accepted by the meeting.

Trades Union Councils Annual Conference

The delegate, Jim Simpkin, reported. Following the conference report from Manchester 2018, at Bournemouth 2019 again the turnout was low – a similar 60ish delegates from about 150 trades councils and 24 county associations. Based on regional problems, is there a wider issue around participation in local trades union councils? The printed and oral reports were accepted by the meeting.

New Lucas Plan, Labour History, People's Press Printing Society, North East People's Assembly Against Austerity, Electronic Media

The printed reports were accepted by the meeting.

Newcastle Unites

The printed report was accepted. It was noted that the Franklin Graham event had been cancelled.

Newcastle & Gateshead Centre Against Unemployment

Alan Lubbock gave an oral report. The CAU was looking, along with UC issues, to do some work around Dupuytren's Contracture. The report was accepted by the meeting.

Other Reports

included improved number of affiliations, and plans for Heart Unions Week.

6. Election of Officers

Delegates were elected to posts as follows:

President: Martin Levy

Secretary: Jim Simpkin

Treasurer: Alan Lubbock

Minutes Secretary: vacant

Women's Officer: vacant

Executive: Martin Levy, Jim Simpkin, Alan Lubbock and Peter Burnett.

Auditors: Bob Murdoch, Peter Rutherford.

CATUC delegates: Martin Levy, Jim Simpkin, Peter Burnett and Alan Lubbock.

Newcastle & Gateshead CAU Management Committee: Martin Levy and Peter Burnett (Newcastle TUC Group classification). Alan Lubbock and Jim Simpkin did not require election due to their status as Founder members.

Trades Union Councils Joint Consultative Committee: supporting Mandy Penellum (Barrow TUC).

Tyne & Wear May Day Committee: Martin Levy, Jim Simpkin, Peter Burnett and Ron Brown.

Annual Conference of Trades Union Councils delegate: Jim Simpkin.

TUC Women's Conference: vacant.

Regional TUC: Martin Levy (also Regional Executive) and Jim Simpkin.

7. National Assembly of Women: Mollie Brown

Mollie Brown gave a wide-ranging report on the work of the NAW. Arising out of this it was proposed and agreed that the Trades Council affiliate to the NAW, and encourage affiliates to do so too.

REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5 FEBRUARY 2021

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9. Labour History
10. People's Press Printing Society (PPPS)
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12. Newcastle Unites
13. Electronic Media
14. In Memoriam: Peter Burnett
15. Appendix: Motions to outside bodies

Other AGM Reports will be presented to the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: Martin Levy (UCU Northumbria University)

This time last year, the labour movement was still coming to terms with the outcome of the general election. I pointed out then that millions of working-class people had voted for the Tories, and that they would not quickly come back to Labour. I also remarked on a likely shift to the right from whoever became the new leader of the Labour Party and argued that trades unions needed a strategy based on the following 5 points:

1. An uplift in work and community struggles, enabling workers to advance beyond trade union consciousness to educated class consciousness.
2. Building solidarity across the trade union movement, and in communities.
3. A big drive to win union recruits and recognition in unorganised workplaces.
4. Mobilisation to put the government and the newly elected Tory MPs on the back foot over such issues as Just Transition/Green New Deal, the continued cutbacks of public services, and the ways in which Universal Credit is destroying people's lives.
5. Being prepared to take on important issues like the nature of imperialism, the real function of NATO, the 'special relationship' with the USA, the dangers of Britain's possession of nuclear weapons and the imperialist nature of the EU.

Of course, none of us at the time knew what was in store for us with the Covid-19 pandemic. Now we are on the third wave and lockdown in less than a year, with, tragically, over 105,000 official Covid-related deaths, the daily tally having just peaked – we hope – at around 1,500. On the basis of the overall total, the Independent SAGE group of scientific experts reckons that at least 10m people in Britain must by now have been infected with the virus, well above the official figure of 3.8m. There are currently around 300,000 people suffering from Long Covid, but – along with people with other serious and even life-threatening conditions – they are largely sidelined, due to the enormous pressures on hospitals in coping with the nearly 40,000 acute Covid patients.

The death rate has been highest among care workers, security guards and people in certain manufacturing roles – in general, in jobs which exposed people to known Covid cases or which required working in close proximity with other people more generally. Many of the highest risk jobs have also been relatively low-paid, and are more likely to be casual or insecure, without sick pay – including hospitality, care work or taxi driving. Given the degree of racial job segregation, it is no wonder that case rates have been highest among BAME people.

Unemployment is rising inexorably:

- internationally, 4 times more jobs have been lost during the pandemic than in the 2008-9 financial crash;
- in Britain, 828,000 workers have lost their jobs since February 2020;
- BAME workers have been hit 26 times harder than white workers by the Covid jobs crisis; and
- the current UK unemployment figure of 1.6m is set to rise by 1m more when furlough ends in April.

Furthermore, under cover of Covid, 10% of workers have been told to reapply for their jobs on worse terms and conditions, or face the sack.

Daily life has been drastically transformed for the worse. Activities which we all took for granted, like shopping, travelling to work, socialising and even attending weddings and funerals, have become difficult if not outright prohibited. Regular face-to-face trades council and trades union meetings, together with many labour movement events such as the May Day March and Rally, the Durham Miners' Gala and the Tolpuddle Festival, have had to be cancelled.

Yet it is not all doom and gloom – and indeed, in spite of, or perhaps because of, the pandemic, there has been movement in terms of some of the 5 points above. Public spending has been massively increased: right at the outset of the first lockdown, trades union pressure forced the government to bring in the Job Retention ('furlough') scheme and the Universal Credit £20 top-up. The government has also had to invest heavily in the NHS, for provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies, and had to call on defence manufacturers to step up to the challenge of producing ventilators – a temporary diversification. Further union pressure led to the promotion of home working where feasible,

and the closure of schools, most spectacularly this January. Many employers were forced to provide PPE – albeit not as fast as was needed – and to consider new ways of working. Unions – or at least their key activists – learned to make use of videoconferencing technology; and throughout the pandemic there has been a big growth in union membership, particularly among school teachers.

There have also been significant industrial disputes. UCU at Northumbria University became the first union to win a successful industrial action ballot over health and safety connected with Covid. Although no action has taken place yet, because the employer has backed down, for the time being, on face-to-face teaching, the ballot result remains live and can be enacted at two weeks' notice. Other UCU branches have also been balloting over similar issues. GMB members at British Gas and Unite members at Heathrow have struck over 'fire and rehire' – the latter victoriously – and Unite members at Go Ahead North West in Manchester are about to do the same. Unite members at Rolls Royce in Barnoldswick struck to prevent their jobs being offshored, and won an outstanding victory. CWU members were able to secure victory without strike action in their pay and conditions dispute with Royal Mail, a result made possible by the key value of the service provided.

Indeed, all over the country there has been growing recognition of the contribution made by key workers, many of them low-paid – not only nurses and other medical staff but also care workers, hospital cleaners, bus drivers, shopworkers, delivery drivers and so on. There is growing clamour for them to be decently paid.

Boris Johnson wept crocodile tears on TV over the 100,000 Covid deaths, claiming that the government had done the best it could. That was a lie. Many people regard the government as incompetent, but it's much deeper than that. Throughout, the government has been acting to defend the interests of the big corporations, to try to keep production going in order that profits can be maintained. That is why it has been so keen to keep schools open – despite clear evidence of their becoming hot spots for spreading the virus – to allow students' parents to go out to work.

The government was ill-equipped for the pandemic, firstly because of years of running down public services, and secondly because it didn't want to invest ahead of time in the necessary measures identified in the Project Cygnus epidemic exercise in 2016. Then it refused to follow the World Health Organisation guidelines of 'Find – Test – Trace – Isolate – Support', which would have relied heavily on local authority public health departments and NHS hospitals and primary care, instead setting up a business-led consortium to run the national network of Lighthouse testing laboratories, and handing over tracing to privateers like SERCO. Whereas countries such as China, Vietnam and New Zealand have managed to keep case levels very low by following WHO guidelines stringently, Britain now has the third highest Covid mortality in the world, after Belgium and Slovenia.

The impact of the pandemic has given rise to calls within the labour movement for not going back to the pre-Covid situation. The TUC's *A Better Recovery* (<https://www.tuc.org.uk/ABetterRecovery>) calls for an "investment for growth" strategy from the government, meaning taking action in 6 key areas:

- New business models based on fairer employment relationships. A fairer share for workers of the wealth they create, with a higher minimum wage and new collective bargaining rights.
- Economic stimulus for a just transition to net zero carbon. Rebuilding the UK's industrial capacity with modern tech and training in new skills.
- Reforms to social security to provide help faster and prevent poverty. A job guarantee scheme so everyone can work and long-term unemployment does not take hold.
- Bringing our public services back to full strength, with decent pay for those who looked after us in the crisis, and a new focus on good jobs and direct employment in social care.
- Specific actions to make sure women, disabled people and BAME groups do not suffer disproportionately from the impact of the coronavirus recession.
- New international rules must prioritise decent jobs and public services for all.

The Scottish TUC's 'The People's Recovery: A Different Track for Scotland's Economy' (<http://www.stuc.org.uk/files/Policy/Research-papers/peoples-recovery-full.pdf>) is however much sharper, reflecting a clear working class position and targeting the domination of the

economy by the multinationals; while the North West Regional TUC Executive's *Aims for a Post-Pandemic Workers' Consensus* (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yelmRPKzUAFQM1eYehG_8pOg9MMxx7Y_/view) says that "minor reforms do not represent the sum total of our ambitions", and commits to building regional and local-level alliances with "organisations sharing our broads aims", and seeking, through its network of trades councils, "to play a leading role in the community organising necessary to prepare to win the post-pandemic social settlement in our interests."

Consideration of these documents poses the question about the political structures needed to achieve the objectives. The STUC is naturally focussed on the Scottish Parliament; but powers over the economy, devolved from the EU as a result of Brexit, have now been reserved to the Westminster government under the 2020 UK Single Market Act. While the SNP is campaigning for independence, the STUC is calling for a third option of a more radical devolution to be on any referendum ballot paper, and that more radical devolution is something that we too should be campaigning for in the English regions too, so that working people can exert their collective power over the economy. This should be a different form of devolution from the minimal variety offered by John Prescott under the previous Labour government.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jim Simpkin (Unite Tyneside EEES Branch)

Since our last AGM we have had just one meeting in town on 4 March. From 1 April 2020 all meetings have been held online on the Zoom platform. Many individuals, organisations and premises started to 'Stay at Home' even before the government announcement on the 23 March. After some initial disruption we settled into regular Zoom meetings including additional informal meetings on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesday of the month, as required, to keep in contact with delegates; and our paid Zoom subscription has also been made available free to the County Association of Trades Union Councils (CATUC) and the Trades Councils Regional Forum. Many of our formal and informal meetings have focused on the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on the local community.

In the autumn, when – with Covid cases rising rapidly – Andy Burnham (Greater Manchester Mayor) had his debates with the government around lockdown, and Liverpool Council was discussing mass lateral flow testing, the CATUC organised an online meeting with Gateshead MBC leader Martin Gannon. The government response to 'Test, Trace & Isolate' was minimal and we were looking for a local response to include local public health, local primary care and hospitals. The large increase in cases in various regions shows the need for 'Test, Trace & Isolate' and for more information on local outbreaks in schools, universities, factories, offices and other workplaces – not just the work processes, but the social contact.

Early in December we held a discussion with various interested parties in the local community about practical and campaigning steps on the issue of child hunger. This matter had already been raised in a motion to the Trades Councils Annual Conference (see below, motion P16), in Marcus Rashford's campaign over free school meals and in Liverpool West Kirby MP Ian Byrne's early day motion on 'Food Insecurity'. Liverpool City Council has just recently called for the 'Right to Food' to be incorporated into the government's 'National Food Strategy'. While the first aim of the Newcastle discussion was to coordinate assistance during the Christmas period, longer term the issues of fair pay, jobs and benefits need to be addressed, so that families do not have to rely on food banks and charity. There are sadly over 2,000 food banks around the country, more than McDonalds and Burger King restaurants combined.

One casualty of Covid-19 restrictions has been the plan to host Townsend Productions' play about the UCS work-in, now postponed until public performances can be resumed.

Not connected with the pandemic, we sadly lost two former secretaries during the year: Peter Burnett in July and Ken Ternent in October, both after a long period of poor health and both former members of the Unite Newcastle Engineering (TEEES) Branch. A tribute to Peter Burnett is included in this Annual Report.

Around the country, some trades councils have continued to hold socially distanced meetings; some have held socially distanced demonstrations and lobbies as local rules

allowed; and some have struggled with technology and broadband access/speed and may not have met online. While online tools like Zoom protect us from Covid-19 and bring delegates together on a regular basis, activities around meeting and conferences, such as discussions over a pint, have been lost.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF TRADES UNION COUNCILS 2020: Jim Simpkin

The 2020 Trades Union Councils Conference was planned to take place at the Holiday Inn, Leicester, on the week-end of 13/14 June 2020. The motions to the preliminary agenda reflected concerns discussed at trades council and county association meetings in January and February. At that time, we did not know the impact which Covid-19 would have. The Conference final agenda, below, included emergency motions reflecting changing concerns after the start of the first lockdown on 23 March.

Rights and Equality

- P1 Oppose New Tory Anti-Union Legislation (Greater London ATUC)
- P2 New Tory Anti-Union Laws (Berkshire CATUC)
- P3 Alf Morris – Voice of Disabled People (Greater Manchester CATUC)
- P4 Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (Lancashire CATUC)
- P5 Police Surveillance (West Yorkshire CATUC)
- P6 No to European Historical Revisionism (Tyne and Wear CATUC)

Stronger Unions

- P7 International Workers Memorial Day 2021 – a Memorial in Barking Town Square (GLATUC)
- P8 Building a Mass Movement for Social Change (Derbyshire CATUC)
- P9 New Deal for Workers: Precarious Work – a role for Trades Union Councils (Derbyshire CATUC)
- P10 Organising Young Workers in Precarious Employment and the Gig Economy (South Yorkshire CATUC)

Economy and environment

- P11 Educating and Organising for the Climate Emergency (West Yorkshire CATUC)
- P12 Action on Climate Change (Greater Manchester CATUC)
- P13 Global Sustainability (Essex CATUC)
- P14 Nuclear Annihilation and Environmental Catastrophe (Tyne and Wear CATUC)
- P15 A Housing Programme for all Tenures (Essex CATUC)
- P16 Child Hunger and Equal Rights (Port Talbot & District Trades Council)

Public Services

- P17 NHS Unions and Trades Councils (Somerset CATUC)
- P18 Public Transport should be a Public Service (Suffolk CATUC)
- P19 Reinstate Free Bus Passes for People Aged 60+ Living in England (Lancashire CATUC)
- P20 Integrated and Green Transport Network (South Yorkshire CATUC)

Administration

- P21 Unity Trust Banking Charges (Cambridgeshire CATUC)

Around June all the TUC conferences were cancelled, at least in face-to-face form. The Trades Union Councils Joint Consultative Committee included all the above motions into its Work Programme, plus (apparently) 4 of the 5 following emergency motions:

- E1 Fighting for Jobs and Skills, Post-Pandemic
- E2 Capita and Benefit Claim Assessments
- E3 National Recovery Council – NOT IN LINE WITH TUC POLICY
- E4 The NHS and Social Care after Coronavirus
- E5 Temporary Changes to Public Services.

Decisions about the motion and delegate to the TUC Annual Congress were processed by email (P1 and Martin Mayer (Sheffield TUC) respectively).

A replacement online meeting, for all trades union council delegates, took place on Tuesday 28 July 2020 for 90 minutes. This meeting was chaired by Steve Gillan (POA general secretary) with about 66 participants. There were speeches by Dave Ward (CWU general secretary) and Steve Turner (UNITE), followed by a Q&A session and contributions from many about local issues and the impact of Covid-19 on the local communities. Later in the year (September) the online Congress took place and Covid-19 was at the top of the agenda.

At present, I put the chances of a normal Trades Councils Conference in 2021 at 50:50, particularly given likely travel restrictions. In whatever form it goes ahead, I would expect more motions on Covid concerns, such as benefits, housing/homelessness, social care, public services, health etc. Pay and working conditions will also be high on the agenda. The response of some employers to cut pay using a 'fire' and 'rehire' mechanism are at the extremes for some 'poor' employers wanting to profit from the pandemic. Those in precarious employment on low pay, zero hours contracts and bogus self-employment as well as the unemployed, sick and disabled, whose income is mainly benefits, have been negatively impacted. That the government has prioritised helping business, rather than workers has led to calls for changes to free school meals (first introduced in around 1910), universal basic income, statutory sick pay, financial help to shield and many more issues to be tackled in the years to come.

TYNE AND WEAR COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TRADES UNION COUNCILS: Martin Levy, Jim Simpkin and Alan Lubbock (Unite Tyneside EES)

The CATUC was able to hold 3 face-to-face meetings before the first lockdown. Since then, with a bit of hiatus, meetings have been held by Zoom almost weekly, making use when available of Newcastle TUC's paid Zoom account. The same account also allowed a Northern Regional Trades Councils Forum on 14 November. However, because of the ongoing uncertainty about the situation, the CATUC's AGM was not held in 2020.

Among issues dealt with before the first lock-down were motions for the TUC Northern Regional Conference and the Trades Councils Annual Conference. For the former, the CATUC agreed a motion, 'Lucas Plan and Climate Action', which noted the successful conference 'Engineering for Peace, Jobs and Climate Justice', held in Newcastle on 9 November 2019, and pledged support for:

- (1) the screening of the film *The Plan* across the region, "followed up by a series of regional public meetings on the topic of [eg] 'Rebuilding the Economy in the Era of Climate Change', using the ideas in *The Plan* and 'A just transition to a greener, fairer economy' as the basis for discussion"; and
- (2) "a mass regional public march and rally to highlight the need for urgent action to combat climate change."

Of course, the pandemic meant that this was all put on hold.

For the Trades Councils Conference the CATUC received, and agreed, two motions from Newcastle TUC: 'No to European Historical Revisionism' and 'Nuclear Annihilation and Environmental Catastrophe' (see Appendix). The latter, subsequently amended to take account of the Covid pandemic, arose out of the comments in the 2020 Newcastle TUC AGM Report, of the need to find good ways of addressing the issue of arms conversion. Britain's Trident system and NATO membership are not about defending this country but rather about defending the interests of Britain-based transnational corporations, particularly those with oil interest in the Middle East.

In the online meetings, a major focus of CATUC discussions was around the development of a 'Tyne & Wear Needs a Pay Rise' campaign, to emulate Sheffield Needs a Pay Rise. Zoom meetings have been held with BFAWU organiser Gareth Lane, and Rohan Koh of the Sheffield campaign, but apart from work on a Facebook page, it has not been possible to go further, due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic. Currently, the CATUC is looking to organise a webinar around this issue in Heart Unions week.

CATUC meetings have also been opportunities for in-depth discussion of issues around the pandemic, following up with actions, eg:

- Solidarity greetings sent to PCS members, particularly those at HMRC and the Passport Office, facing difficult conditions at work (April).
- Letter to Tyne & Wear MPs, raising a number of questions – including calling for a public enquiry into the government’s handling of the pandemic, and for tougher laws on abuse of shop workers (May).
- A press statement saying schools should not reopen until the ‘5 tests’ are met (May).
- A discussion with Cllr Martin Gannon, leader of Gateshead MBC, about the government’s refusal to institute a proper, locally based, test and trace system, and then an emergency motion on the issue sent to the Regional TUC Executive (September).
- A motion to the Regional TUC Executive, ‘Support for Palestinian Rights is not Antisemitism’ (November)
- Raising with the Regional TUC the issue of femicide in Turkey (November).

From the 2020-2021 Work Programme of the Trades Union Councils’ Joint Consultative Committee, the CATUC has identified as essential for its own work the following motions listed in the above Trades Councils Conference Report: P1, P6, P8, P9, P10, P14, E1, E4.

The CATUC is also looking to co-host a webinar, ‘Don’t extradite Julian Assange’, on 23 February, and then a further webinar in March on the North West TUC Executive’s *Aims for a Post-Pandemic Workers’ Consensus* (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yelmRPKzUAfQM1eYehG_8pOg9MMxx7Y_/view) and the Scottish TUC’s ‘The People’s Recovery: A Different Track for Scotland’s Economy’ (<http://www.stuc.org.uk/files/Policy/Research-papers/peoples-recovery-full.pdf>).

NORTHERN REGIONAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS: Martin Levy

The Northern Region TUC Annual Conference, due to take place on March 28, was postponed due to the Covid crisis. All motions in line with TUC policy, including Newcastle TUC’s ‘No to European Historical Revisionism’ (see Appendix), were adopted into the Work Programme to be progressed where possible.

Throughout the crisis the Regional TUC office has circulated frequent bulletins from Congress House, including messages from the general secretary Frances O’Grady, and advice on such issues as home working, protecting jobs and livelihoods, mental health advice for older and retired workers, and rights on school closures. It is fair to say that it was largely due to TUC pressure that the government conceded the furlough, or Job Retention, scheme, albeit this is now under threat. But the TUC nationally has also looked to the future, issuing a report, *A Better Recovery*, and organising a number of webinars around that, including one on 3 July entitled ‘A People-Centred New Economy’.

TUC campaigns promoted regionally have included ‘Reverse the Cuts to Unionlearn’ and, in 2021, ‘Give Key Workers a Pay Rise’.

Regional Executive Committee meetings have taken place online throughout the crisis. These have proved extremely useful in terms of reports from different unions about how the crisis has affected their members and how they have been responding.

Executive meetings have also provided an opportunity for Newcastle TUC and Tyne & Wear CATUC to raise important issues, and win support. The 29 January Executive meeting agreed Newcastle TUC’s ‘Bolivia’ motion; the 23 September meeting approved our motion, ‘Defend the Cultural and Creative Industries’, originating from the Cultural Subcommittee, and Tyne & Wear CATUC’s motion, ‘Put Public Health Before Private Business Interests’; then the 25 November Regional Executive agreed Tyne & Wear CATUC’s motion, ‘Support for Palestinian Rights is not Antisemitism’, building on the Congress composite, ‘Solidarity with Palestine and Resisting Annexation’ (again see Appendix for text of all these motions).

CULTURAL SUBCOMMITTEE: Mike Quille (Unison Newcastle City Council)

The Culture Committee of Newcastle TUC was set up about two years ago. Its purpose is to help take forward one of the constitutional aims of the TUC, which is to “to help promote suitable cultural, educational, social and sports facilities for all working people”.

Trades unions’ interest in the cultural landscape is twofold. Some of our affiliated unions represent members who work in the creative and cultural industries; and all of our affiliates represent members who in one way or another are ‘users’ – cultural consumers, participants and audiences.

There are severe problems for workers both as producers and consumers of culture, which the labour movement has been slow to recognise and address. Research clearly shows long-standing, structural and intersectional inequalities stemming from class background, ethnic background and sex, in cultural production, cultural consumption and cultural representation.

These problems have been exacerbated by the pandemic. To help tackle them, the Cultural Subcommittee has sought to develop and promote radically different policies and practices by relevant agencies.

We produced a May Day brochure, *Come In and See a Thousand Things*, with the support of a number of artists and writers based at Commercial Union House. The brochure outlined recommendations for change, including:

- A more inclusive definition of culture
- Evidence-based planning of culture
- Locally-based cultural production
- Equal access and engagement of working people in culture
- Equal opportunities for working-class, black people, women and young people to enter and progress in the cultural industries.

The brochure also contained creative material – poems, stories, artwork – to illustrate the messages. It was widely distributed as a pdf to trade unions, the City Council, cultural venues, and relevant funders and decision-makers.

The Subcommittee also applied to join the Newcastle Culture Compact, which is a partnership of agencies set up by the City Council to develop a vision and to guide the future development of culture in Newcastle. The Compact has agreed to the inclusion of a commitment to cultural workers in the Culture Vision, and a commitment to equality and social justice.

The Subcommittee also organised a meeting at Baltic 39, inviting voluntary sector and arts organisations in Newcastle and Gateshead, along with representatives from Baltic and BxNU (Baltic at Northumbria University) to consider the Subcommittee’s proposals for a series of community interventions on the theme of the Cultural Commons, as part of the May Day 2020 celebrations.

Support was expressed for the plans, but the pandemic made it impossible to proceed with them. However, when lockdown restrictions were eased, we revisited the May Day proposals and reconnected with project partners. We have since begun working with Orbis at Commercial Union House on an Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant application. The project represents our attempt to realise our policy aims in practice, through some fairly small-scale interventions in a few local communities in Newcastle.

As a specific response to the actual and threatened job losses and cuts to income caused by the pandemic, we helped draft a regional TUC motion and subsequent press release based on our ‘Protect and Share’ policy – protecting employment and promoting equality in the cultural industries.

We helped organise a second meeting of a regional TUC culture group, to share information and discuss progress.

Finally, the Subcommittee has been working throughout the year with some writers to produce a poetry anthology to help promote our mission, which has been kindly sponsored by Unison Newcastle City Council branch.

In 2021 we plan to continue with all this work, including:

- joining the Compact's working groups to develop detailed ways of implementing the commitments in the Culture Vision to workers, as producers and consumers, especially following the pandemic;
- contributing to the May Day celebrations;
- supporting applications for projects which take forward our aims in practice.

Thanks are due to all the members of the Subcommittee, who have worked hard researching issues and regularly attended not only several meetings of the Subcommittee but also numerous other meetings and events to promote our position and help develop practical projects.

TYNE & WEAR MAY DAY COMMITTEE: Martin Levy, Jim Simpkin and Ron Brown (MU)

The 2020 Tyne & Wear May Day celebration was regrettably cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Plans have now been put in place for an open-air event on Saturday 1 May 2021, with confirmed speakers Dave Ward (CWU general secretary), Fran Heathcote (PCS president) and Jamie Driscoll (North of Tyne Mayor). In the likely event that Covid restrictions will still be in place, a live webinar will be held instead.

ARMS CONVERSION/DEFENCE DIVERSIFICATION: Martin Levy and Alan Lubbock

The working group set up under the New Lucas Plan has continued to meet throughout the year. Initial considerations included the likely negative impact of the 2019 general election outcome; but very soon it was realised that the pandemic provided a clear example – albeit not followed through effectively – of the potential for military production to be switched rapidly to manufacture of essential health equipment. Tyne & Wear CATUC's motion P14, with amendments, to the Trades Councils Conference, was therefore of some interest; and likewise was the New Lucas Plan webinar on 13 May, 'A New Lucas Plan for Post-Pandemic Socially Useful Jobs'.

The working group spent some time discussing ways of overcoming the difficulty of getting arms conversion onto the green recovery agenda. One step forward was CND's arms conversion webinar in connection with TUC Congress in September, which had generated a lot of enthusiasm from those who had attended. A follow-up to this was that Hilary Wainwright was invited to speak to the GMB convenors of three Rolls Royce factories in Coventry. They had been inspired by the government's Ventilator Challenge, and a further meeting with Lucas Plan veterans John Routley and Phil Asquith was planned.

One of the participant organisations in the working group is the Nuclear Education Trust. On 29 January 2021, after long preparation, it organised a webinar, 'Scotland and Defence Diversification Today'. Among the speakers was Andy Brown, convenor of Unite at Faslane submarine base; and the discussion was an important first step in engaging with workers there on how to make defence diversification practical while valuing the skills and jobs of 'defence' workers.

Unfortunately the showing the whole (3.5 hours) Lucas Plan film, *The Plan that came from the bottom up*, at the Tyneside Cinema on Sunday 29 March, was cancelled due to the pandemic. However, the surviving Lucas shop stewards now have their own web site: thelucasaerocombineshopstewardscommittee.org/

LABOUR HISTORY: Martin Levy

The Unite TGWU Centenary History Project continues to be developed, with much interesting material already archived at <https://theunitehistoryproject.org/>. Martin Levy and Gordon Morris's article, *Two Tramway Strikes in North-East England in 1922*, can be found there at <https://theunitehistoryproject.org/index.php/1880-1931/ney-h>. Plans to develop a local shipbuilding study to coincide with Townsend Theatre Productions forthcoming play, *Yes! Yes! UCS!*, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders work-in, were put on hold due to the Covid pandemic .

PEOPLE'S PRESS PRINTING SOCIETY (PPPS): Martin Levy

The *Morning Star*, published by the PPPS, has continued to appear despite a significant loss of income from print sales, due to Covid lockdowns. In part the shortfall has been made up by advertising and increased subscriptions for the digital version, which now offers almost-live updates. The paper's exposure of the government's criminal neglect of working people in the Covid crisis has been invaluable.

Although events like the Durham Miners' Gala, Tolpuddle, and the TUC and Labour Party conferences went online, the paper continued to produce bumper editions with special features for those events. On the weekend of 31 July/1 August 2020, there was a paid supplement on the centenary of the founding of the Communist Party in Britain.

The *Morning Star* also sponsored an online fringe 'meeting' at the Labour Party conference; and put its Christmas social online, with speakers including Jeremy Corbyn and journalists at the paper. On 24 January 2021 it sponsored the online launch of the 'Zero Covid' united campaign

Locally, fund-raising events by the North East *Morning Star* Readers' and Supporters' Group, were curtailed, but not before a very successful Burns Supper, held at the Tyneside Irish Centre on 6 February 2020, with Tim Dalling performing and giving the *Address to the Haggis*, while Fighting Fund coordinator Keith Stoddart came down from Glasgow to deliver *The Immortal Memory*.

NORTH EAST PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AGAINST AUSTERITY: Martin Levy

The outcome of the 2019 general election meant that the People's Assembly nationally needed to up its game, and that has certainly happened with the appointment of Laura Pidcock as national secretary, and the holding of weekly national webinars, attracting large numbers of viewers, throughout the pandemic. A set of these webinars was devoted to different aspects of 'Making sense of the crisis', but also included 'The virus doesn't discriminate – the system does', an activist school, sessions focusing on the NHS, 'Join the Fightback', a couple of online rallies – 'Fight for our lives' and 'We won't pay for the crisis' – and sessions on 'Make our schools safe' and 'Dying to work?!'

The North East People's Assembly has also held a number of webinars of its own, including 'Fighting for survival – fighting for the future' (12 May), 'There's power in a union' (12 June), 'Fighting to save our NHS – Covid, privatisation and underfunding' (17 October) and 'Is another education possible? – reimagining education for a post-Covid world' (26 January 2021).

The number of people attending these events, and the trade union involvement, shows the basis for building a broad movement for real social change once the restrictions of the pandemic are safely lifted. Reports from the North East People's Assembly should become a regular agenda item at Newcastle TUC meetings.

NEWCASTLE UNITES: Martin Levy

The past year has been particularly busy for Newcastle Unites (NU), despite the pandemic.

Back in January 2020 it became known that homophobic US preacher Franklin Graham had booked the Utilita Arena for a rally on 3 June. So an open letter, with 81 signatories, was sent to the City Council calling for cancellation of the event. A very prompt reply was received from Council leader Nick Forbes, expressing support and detailing the call he had made to the Arena. He subsequently emailed to confirm that the event had been cancelled.

Planned NU rallies at Grey's Monument on Saturday 21 March (UN International Anti-Racism Day) and Saturday 4 July (Unity Carnival 2020) were cancelled due to the pandemic. But on 26 May NU, together with Stand Up to Racism – North East (SUTR-NE), held an online public meeting on the disproportionate number of BAME deaths from Covid-19. That was just after the brutal police killing of George Floyd in the USA, which set off massive Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests, not only in America but around the world. NU supported, and provided speakers for a local online rally on 6 June; and also posted a statement in support of open-air BLM protests, encouraging supporters to participate if they could safely do so, wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

On 22 July NU hosted a webinar, 'Black Lives Matter: Challenging Racism and Islamophobia'; then on 25 August, it held a socially-distanced Refugees Welcome rally at Grey's monument in conjunction with SUTR-NE. A further rally was moved online on 26 September. NU also supported an SUTR-NE live broadcast on 26 November, in conjunction with Islamophobia Awareness Month.

Now, in early 2021, NU is hosting a webinar on 2 February on 'Trades Unions and Challenging Racism: a discussion around the recent TUC report, 'The Rise of the Far Right: Building a trade union response'; and is supporting SUTR's plans to mark the UN International Anti-Racism Day, on Saturday 20 March.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA: Martin Levy

Much remains still to be done with the Trades Council's web site, which is now very outdated. It is good that we now have a volunteer to take on responsibility for this.

Mass email circulations using @newcastle-tuc.org.uk addresses have become problematic due to recipients' spam mail filters, so our web hoster, Green Forest Design, has provided us with a free Mailchimp account, which is now being used for passing on important information about events, in the form of an e-bulletin.

The Trades Council's Facebook page also needs attention, as very little was posted in 2020. The Wikipedia entry still needs some work of correction and amplification.

TREASURER'S REPORT ON 2019

A report will be presented to the meeting

AUDITORS' REPORT

A report will be presented to the meeting.

NEWCASTLE & GATESHEAD TUC CENTRE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

A report will be presented to the meeting.

WALLSEND MEMORIAL HALL & PEOPLE'S CENTRE BOARD

A report will be presented to the meeting.

In Memoriam: Peter Burnett (1942-2020)

Peter was born and brought up in Western Australia. When his father qualified as a mining engineer, the family moved to Wittenoom Gorge for work. The town existed solely for the mining of blue asbestos, and more than half the people living there later died from asbestos-related illnesses. Peter himself was diagnosed with pleural plaques as a result of exposure to asbestos. He described how children, himself included, used to have fun playing in the asbestos waste dumps. Today, an area of 200 square miles is contaminated.

Peter's interest in politics started in his mid-teens when he was helping the local Liberal candidate hand out 'how to vote' cards on election day. He met someone from the Communist Party and soon became involved with them, despite the fury of his parents. From then on Peter was a committed socialist.

The family later moved to Perth where Peter completed his education. He studied economics at university but did not complete the course. Instead, he worked at the Bureau of Census and Statistics in Perth and Canberra until 1968.

Shortly after, he moved to Sydney where he worked for the state housing department. There, he was a member of the Young Socialist League, the youth wing of the Communist Party, and was particularly involved in the campaign against the war in Vietnam. He was also highly active in Jack

Munday's election campaign and his union's famous campaign for 'Green Bans' to protect the environment from over-development.

Away from his political activity, Peter had met Val in 1968 at a party in Perth, on the first day she arrived in the city. She returned to the UK two years later and Peter followed her in 1971. They were married later that year.

After arriving in the UK Peter had a number of jobs, as a porter in the NHS, as a clerical worker at Lemington Glass Works and at Burgess Microswitch in the Team Valley, before studying for a degree in Politics at Newcastle University which he completed in 1980. Then for a few years he was house parent to children Kate, Simon and Tim while Val continued her career as a radiographer. He still found time to help build the Miners' Support Group in Cramlington and it was around this time that he joined the Newcastle Engineering Branch of TASS (later Unite).

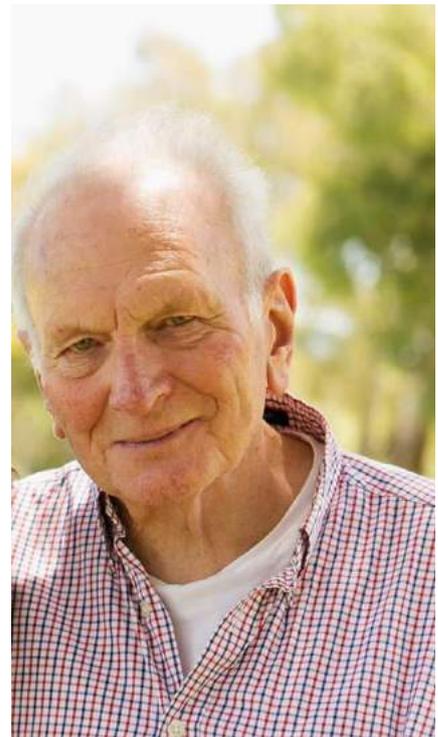
Although Peter had initially joined the WRP when he arrived in Britain, he became actively involved with the Labour Party, working in the Blyth office and standing as a candidate in local elections. He also worked as a lecturer on trade union studies for Newcastle College and the WEA at Carlisle and Preston.

Unfortunately Peter had to withdraw from most activity when he was diagnosed with leukaemia in 1989. He was ill for many months but after chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant he did get back on his feet again. He was sure that his illness was not unrelated to his upbringing in an 'asbestos town'.

In the 1990s, unemployment started to increase rapidly, from 2 to 3 million in two years, and there were a number of initiatives in protest. Peter was involved in many of them – The People's March for Jobs, the TUC Unemployed March to Sheffield, and in 1997 he joined the European March for Jobs. Throughout this time, Peter was active locally in the Unemployed Workers' Group based at the Newcastle Trades Council Centre Against Unemployment.

Peter was also involved in the wider political issues and stood as the Socialist Alliance candidate for Tyneside North in 2001. He had been elected as secretary of Newcastle Trades Council the previous year and continued in that role for a further three years, covering the massive opposition to the war in Iraq. Then and later, Peter supported all of the anti-racist initiatives, leading with the Trades Council banner.

In the years that followed, Peter was mainly involved in the Palestine Solidarity



Campaign. In 2004, he played a major part in re-establishing the Newcastle Branch, building the membership and forging links with the trade unions. He was treasurer for the Branch and organised transport for national demonstrations, including that in 2008 following the Israeli attack on Gaza. In 2015 he visited Palestine with Labour to Palestine and witnessed first-hand the unjust conditions in the West Bank, which reinforced his support for the struggle of the Palestinians. This trip was a major achievement for Peter as he was already feeling unwell.

Peter was later diagnosed with a rare form of cancer which, despite several operations, he never recovered from. He still managed to help with the PSC campaign stall from time to time but eventually had to be cared for at home with Val. He died on 7 July 2020.

The annual PSC 'Walk the Tyne' event on 30 August was dedicated to Peter's memory. In attendance were his wife, Val, and their adult children, Kate, Simon and Tim.

Peter above all was a socialist and an activist. He involved himself in every issue of social justice, oppression and exploitation. Along with his activism, he was an avid reader and had a profound understanding of socialist ideas. He was respected, even by those who disagreed with him, for his friendliness, kindness and tolerance. He will be remembered with much affection by his many friends in the trade union movement and in the many campaigns for social justice that he so enthusiastically supported.



**Bob Murdoch
(Unite TEEES Branch)**

APPENDIX: Motions to outside bodies

Motion submitted by Newcastle TUC to Northern Regional TUC Executive, 29 January 2020

BOLIVIA

This Northern TUC regional executive condemns the Bolivian army's intervention against President Evo Morales as a grave blow against democracy in Latin America and across the world. We further condemn the recognition by the United States, Britain and Germany as Interim President of Bolivia of Jeanine Anes, a extreme right-wing politician who has urged policies of racist exclusion against Bolivia's majority indigenous population.

We deplore the violence exercised by Bolivia's police and armed forces against elected representatives of the Movement Towards Socialism, the MAS and against those demonstrating in support of President Morales.

We note that:

- Evo Morales was re-elected President of Bolivia by 48 per cent of the vote to 37 per cent for his nearest rival, and that no substantiated instances of electoral malpractice have been identified;
- the IMF recently reported on that, since Evo Morales was first elected in 2006, Bolivia's economy had grown at 4.9 per cent per year, one of the highest rates in Latin America, with extreme poverty being reduced by half, and social and health provision being extended to all Bolivians on the basis of need;
- Bolivia possesses the world's second biggest deposits in the world of lithium, essential for the production of batteries for electric cars, and that the Morales government recently signed an agreement for a partnership between a Bolivian state company and a private German company for its extraction.

We urge all affiliates to support, including financially, the work of the fledgling campaigning group Friends of Bolivia, under the auspices of Labour Friends of Latin America, and to put pressure on local MPs to demand that the British government places sanctions on all those usurping power in Bolivia and bans British companies from any new investment in Bolivia until free and fair elections are held. The legitimate President, Evo Morales, should be permitted to stand without any restrictions or interference should he and his party so wish.

Motion submitted by Newcastle TUC to Northern Regional TUC Annual Conference. A similar motion was submitted to, and adopted by Tyne & Wear CATUC for submission to the Trades Union Councils Annual Conference (P6):

NO TO EUROPEAN HISTORICAL REVISIONISM

In this year of the 75th anniversaries of the liberation of Auschwitz, and of VE-Day, conference agrees with the International Brigade Memorial Trust, in deploring the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 19 September 2019 on "the importance of European remembrance for the future of Europe".

The European Parliament's resolution makes highly contentious statements about the causes of the Second World War, for example that it was caused by the Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact. Specifically it ignores the defeat of the Spanish Republic as an important factor in hastening the advent of the war. The non-intervention treaty adopted by Britain and other countries in relation to the Spanish Civil War and the wider policy of appeasement towards the fascist powers emboldened the expansionist ambitions of Hitler and Mussolini. We find it alarming that the resolution makes no reference to the war in Spain, nor to the Munich Pact that sacrificed another European democracy, Czechoslovakia, to Nazi aggression.

We also reject in the strongest terms the equivalence given to communism and fascism in the European Parliament's resolution. We note that tens of thousands of communists and other anti-fascists from around the world, motivated by international solidarity and opposition to fascist ideology, volunteered to fight Franco, Hitler and Mussolini in the Spanish Civil War. Thousands of them gave their lives. Many more continued the fight against fascism in the

Second World War, whether in Allied forces or in underground resistance and partisan movements, including communist and other patriotic forces. We salute their bravery, sacrifice and memory.

In addition, we note with deep concern that the European Parliament's resolution fails to acknowledge the decisive role played by the Red Army in defeating Nazism and the enormous sacrifice of the Russian and Soviet peoples in doing so. This is an unforgivable insult to their memory and, by equating communism and Nazism, seeks to place the liberators of Auschwitz on the same moral footing as the perpetrators of the Holocaust.

We note with dismay that the resolution was carried by MEPs with 535 votes in favour, 66 against and 52 abstentions and that among those voting in favour were members of the S&D socialist and social democrat group in the European Parliament, including the Labour Party. Consequently, even though Britain is now in transition from the EU, there is a risk that the politics of "European remembrance" will – unless challenged – become entrenched by default in the main political parties in Britain. If this approach becomes mainstream, then the labour movement is under threat.

Conference therefore resolves:

- to bring this matter to the attention of the TUC general secretary, and to trades unions and trades union councils in the Region;
- to raise the matter with the Labour Party nationally;
- to write to all MPs within our region, whatever their party, to ask them to dissociate themselves from the European Parliament's resolution.

Motion submitted by Newcastle TUC to Tyne & Wear CATUC, and adopted there for submission to the Trades Union Councils Annual Conference, including amendments later duly submitted by the CATUC in light of the Coronavirus pandemic (P14):

NUCLEAR ANNIHILATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE

Conference notes that:

- i) The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists' Doomsday Clock has been moved forward to 100 seconds to midnight, reflecting the twin dangers of nuclear annihilation and environmental catastrophe.
- ii) Conservative governments have protected and expanded 'defence' expenditure, while other areas of government spending, of greater social benefit, have been cut back.
- iii) The COVID-19 crisis has shown that:
 - nuclear weapons are no defence against the new third great danger to humanity, namely the threat of global pandemics;
 - co-operation between states, rather than domination, is essential to tackle environmental and health emergencies;
 - Britain's civilian manufacturing base is far too weak and the 'just in time' system is unable to respond to urgent demands; but that
 - the potential exists for rapidly reconfiguring 'defence' manufacturing for socially useful production."
- iv) Britain's possession of nuclear weapons and the Trident submarine system is closely linked to the 'special relationship' with the United States. This in turn includes a determination to control Middle East oil and gas resources, strategically as well as on behalf of the big oil companies.
- v) There is an urgent need for Britain to cut back drastically on combustion of fossil fuels, in order to contribute to international efforts to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius.
- vi) Britain's relationship with the Middle East kingdoms like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar has a parasitic influence on the British economy, with much investment into Britain from those countries going into service centres, property and investment banking. On the other hand, apart from arms sales, direct British exports to the Middle East comprise a relatively small and declining proportion of industrial exports.
- vii) While trades unions have an internationalist duty to oppose imperialism, tyranny and genocide, the jobs of workers in the energy and military manufacturing industries would

be at risk from moves away from fossil fuels and the military posture to secure control over oilfields in the Middle East.

Conference therefore calls on trades councils, and the TUC general council, to support campaigns for:

- 1) scrapping the 'special relationship' with the USA, and withdrawing from intervention in the Middle East;
- 2) ending Britain's possession of nuclear weapons and drastically cutting the military budget in favour of public services and civilian manufacturing investment; and
- 3) a 'Just Transition' for workers in both the energy industries and military manufacturing, so that jobs, skills and pay levels are preserved, and priorities reoriented towards production for social use.

Motion submitted by Newcastle TUC to Northern Regional TUC Executive, 23 September 2020:

DEFEND THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Northern Region TUC is alarmed at news that:

- there are likely to be over 400,000 redundancies nationally in the creative and cultural industries by the end of the year;
- local cultural institutions have already made plans for large-scale redundancies, with hundreds if not thousands of employment and self-employment opportunities being lost over the next two years.

People from working-class and BAME communities, women particularly, do not have fair and equal access to jobs and careers in the cultural and creative industries, and are now at most risk from the threatened redundancies. But these cutbacks also threaten to reduce the already unequal access to cultural provision by working class and BAME people.

Northern TUC therefore resolves to develop a campaign, through its Creative and Leisure Industries Committee, for protection of existing jobs in the cultural and creative industries, and for inequalities in cultural provision to be tackled. Specifically, this should involve demands that:

- cultural organisations and their workers are protected from economic turbulence, but with provision of those organisations being expanded beyond the thin slice of the population currently catered for;
- the furlough scheme is extended; and
- the Self-Employed Income Support scheme is expanded.

A radical sharing of funding, and support for working-class communities, and for more local cultural production, is required. This would create pathways to employment and participation in institutions, increase opportunities and jobs within the cultural sector, help level up the provision of culture to the majority of the population, and create a more representative and diverse workforce in the cultural and creative industries.