

Protect the right to strike

1 February

Nurses' strike, Conquest hospital, Hastings, 18 January.
PHOTO: ANTONIA BERELSON

TUC general secretary Paul Nowak:

'The right to strike is a fundamental British liberty – but the government is attacking it in broad daylight.'

'These draconian new curbs will tilt the balance of power even more in favour of bad bosses and make it harder for people to win better pay and conditions.'

'Nobody should lose their job if they take lawful action to win a better deal. But ministers have gone from clapping our key workers to threatening them with the sack.'

'Unions will fight these plans every step of the way – including through parliament and through the courts.'

'On 1 February we will hold events across the country against this spiteful new bill – which is unworkable and almost certainly illegal.'

'We will call on the general public to show support for workers taking action to defend their pay and conditions, to defend our public services and to protect the fundamental right to strike.'



TUC analysis shows:

Nurses have lost £42,000 in real earnings since 2008 – the equivalent of £3,000 a year

Midwives have lost £56,000 in real earnings since 2008 – the equivalent of £4,000 a year

Paramedics have lost £56,000 in real earnings since 2008 – the equivalent of £4,000 a year

According to the National Education Union:

Teachers have lost 23 percent in real-terms since 2010

Support staff 27 percent over the same period.

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RMT general secretary Mick Lynch:

'It has to be re-stated that the source of these disputes [on the railways] is the decision by the Tory government to cut £4bn of funding from our transport systems – £2bn from national rail and £2 bn from Transport for London.'

