

# Global rights in global companies: going for Gold at the UK Olympics

K D Ewing

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In the globalised market of the 21st century, the issue of global rights is increasingly important. Over the past 50 years, most countries have voluntarily signed up to core international labour standards, which guarantee fundamental rights at work. But as transnational companies become ever more powerful and national borders become increasingly meaningless, are those rights being compromised? And if so, what can trade unions do to ensure that fundamental rights operate throughout the company profile, wherever the company operates?

In 2012 London will host the next Olympic Games. The event will stimulate thousands of jobs, with the State spending at least £3.3 billion on the event. But what kind of jobs will be created? Will the London Olympics be remembered for poorly paid, over worked and under trained staff? Or are we going for gold in Olympic employment standards?

This new report from the Institute focuses on the financial and legal privileges offered to contractors and sponsors and asks who – if anyone – is monitoring the global employment practices of the companies involved in this global event

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