

TRADE UNION FREEDOMS AND WORKERS RIGHTS

**LUNCHTIME
FRINGE MEETING**

Tuesday 21st
April 2009

Perth Studio
Theatre

Refreshments
provided thanks to
UNITE the Union

Recent disputes including those at East Lindsey Oil Refinery and Prisme Packaging in Dundee reflect the frustration and anger felt by workers. Unofficial action to protect jobs and conditions at work are increasing. And it's no surprise.

Workers are suffering under the toxic mix of weak labour laws and economic recession. They've been denied the improved collective rights proposed by the Trade Union Freedom Bill just at a time when those freedoms are needed to resist cuts in living standards.

They face threats from a European Commission determined to open up markets and from a European Court determined to close down unions. Recent cases in the European Court of Justice threaten to reduce the pay and conditions of workers to a minimum whilst threatening unions with unlimited damages if they fight back.

So what can be done to protect workers? The legal and political routes have delivered little. The industrial route - through organisation and action - is the only alternative. This year will see the 60th anniversary of ILO Convention 98 on the right to organise and to collective bargaining - an ideal opportunity to put the collective power of trade unions and workers back where it belongs - centre stage.

SPEAKERS

Katy Clark MP

Bob Crow — General Secretary of RMT and Chair of the United Campaign

Jackson Cullinane — Deputy Regional Secretary at T&G Section of UNITE

John Haylett — Political Editor of the Morning Star

John Hendy QC — Chair of the IER and National Secretary of the United Campaign

CHAIR

Carolyn Jones — Director of the IER

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★ Morning Star

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