

GLATUC

TWO DISPUTES TO SUPPORT

CLWTC has supplied us with updates on the Bus Dispute and the National Gallery

Dispute

CITIES OF LONDON
& WESTMINSTER
TRADES COUNCIL

UNITE BUS DISPUTE

Successful strike day today will be followed on Friday 13 and Monday 16 February with further strike action over the claim for common pay & conditions across London. Mayor Johnson is pressurising bus companies not to even discuss matters with Unite. TUCs are urged to visit local picket lines.



Bow garage picket line



The latest stoppages running from 00:01 to 23:59 hours on Thursday 5 February, Friday 13 February and Monday 16 February follow a continued refusal by London's bus operators to enter into collective talks over ending unfair pay disparities. A 24 hour London-wide bus strike earlier in January saw bus services across the capital brought to a standstill as over 20,000 bus workers walked out as part of a campaign to secure one collective forum to discuss agreement for pay and conditions for London's bus workers.

Commenting Unite regional officer Wayne King said: "We have been working tirelessly in our efforts to bring the employers to the table to discuss a solution to this dispute.

"We firmly believe that there is a simple solution to be had but sadly the refusal by the operators to engage in collective talks is risking the inevitable disruption that strike action will bring to passengers.

The travelling public understand that further strike action is the last resort and can be avoided if the operators agree to talk collectively about the pay chaos on London's buses.

Bus passengers pay one fare, so why don't bus drivers get paid the same rate for doing the same job? We urge London's bus operators to see sense and collectively engage in talks to give London's bus workers a fair deal."

In contrast to tube drivers, there isn't one collective pay deal for bus drivers in the capital, whose pay is negotiated on a company by company basis leading to pay inequality and disparities. There are over 80 different pay rates covering London's bus drivers, doing the same job, even driving the same route but for different rates of pay. Drivers' pay can differ by £3 per hour, from £9.30 to £12.34.

NATIONAL GALLERY – UNION REP SUSPENDED

Gallery strike starts as rep is suspended



Pickets braved the cold London weather on the first three days of strike action strike over privatisation at the National Gallery.

The well-supported action followed news that one of PCS senior reps there, and a member of our team in the talks at Acas, had been suspended by senior managers.

In a "disproportionate act of unfathomable bad faith" the gallery suspended Candy Udwin, alleging a breach of commercial confidentiality.

We maintain our reps have a legitimate right to ask officials to raise these questions on what is a matter of strong public interest.

We are asking supporters to sign up to a statement calling for Candy's suspension to be lifted and for the gallery to re-enter talks in good faith.

Gallery bosses announced plans last year to privatise almost all staff, including those who look after the paintings and help the gallery's 6 million annual visitors.

They have also reneged on a promise to introduce the London living wage, meaning the institution is the only major museum or gallery in the capital that does not pay it.

Gallery reputation at risk

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka said today: "This dispute and the sell-off plan are putting the global reputation of the National Gallery at risk.

"Suspending one of our senior reps on the eve of our strike is a disproportionate act of unfathomable bad faith and not only should she be reinstated immediately, the gallery must commit itself to full and proper negotiations."

Private security firm CIS has taken over the whole of the Sainsbury wing for the rest of this year without any competitive tender or consultation.

Guardian columnist Polly Toynbee has reported that the company had been given the work "to give the gallery staff a fright".

CIS, which advertises its services as guarding empty buildings and door security, was previously used to cover the Rembrandt exhibition last autumn.