

WORKERS'



LIBERTY

postalworker

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LONDON WALKS OUT OVER VICTIMISATIONS AND IMPOSED CONDITIONS

DEFEND OUR UNION!

BY A LONDON POSTAL WORKER

OFFICES across London have walked out in support of our victimised colleagues and in defence of our hard-won agreements. As this bulletin goes to press, most of the major offices in London are affected and the action is spreading outside the capital, including Southend and Essex Mail Centre. Offices outside of London know that it is a duty of solidarity not to touch scab mail from London and they should and will refuse to handle it.

After the official 24 hour stoppages over London Weighting, managers have deliberately tried to push through the changes they want: they have victimised reps and instructed postalworkers to do work outside

their duty description. They have torn up national agreements and insisted that overtime goes only to scabs.

This is the shape of things to come *if* management get their way. But they can be stopped — just as they were in the Oxford dispute a few weeks ago and in the Wolverhampton walk-out where workers won backpay for the four days they spent on strike.

Management harp on about our unofficial action being “unlawful”, but look what happens when we try to use the official means — they try to impose completely unacceptable return to work regimes that they know will provoke unofficial action.

Postalworkers can see that 24 hour stoppages here and there have little effect on management. They voted

with their feet when they recognised what management were up to: attempting to do away with any collective control we have over the job — seniority, overtime, duties and revisions.

What started out as a dispute over money has turned into a battle over whether we have a trade union worthy of the name in the Post Office. Over the years, Royal Mail have tried every trick in the book in their mission to tame postal workers into submission: from “teamworking” to “partnership” and none of it’s worked. That’s the reason why they’ve never managed to privatise us.

We need to support every victimised worker and every one of our colleagues on strike. And we must insist that any deal at the end of this dispute is worth the sacrifices we have to make while on strike. At a minimum this must include:

- No victimisation of any strikers
- A national agreement on Major Change not based on management’s random savings targets, but genuine union and worker involvement
- Permanent contracts for all staff
- A clear mechanism for raising London Weighting to £4,000.

WHO WE ARE

THIS bulletin is written by postal workers who are members of the Alliance for Workers’ Liberty, an organisation fighting in the unions and the workplaces for a socialist alternative to both capitalism and Stalinism, based on common ownership and democracy.

Postalworker stands for a decent pay rise for all postal workers and an immediate 35-hour, five-day week for all with no drop in pay. We are for a major increase in full-time and permanent jobs in the post office, against any sort of privatisation, and for public ownership with democratic workers’ and users’ control.

Want to get every issue of *Postalworker* sent to you? Send us a fiver (cheques payable to AWL). We welcome and will publish reports from all postal workers. So get in touch!

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