

3 Motions have been submitted for consideration at the meeting on 30th June

1) Solidarity with Tom Barker and UNISON members at Ash Field Academy

This branch believes:

- a. That the suspension of Tom Barker, a UNISON Steward at Ash Field Academy, is a clear act of "union-busting" intended to intimidate activists and suppress industrial organisation.
- b. That the victimisation of an elected representative during an active industrial dispute is an attack on the fundamental rights of all trade unionists.
- c. That the principle "an injury to one is an injury to all" is the cornerstone of effective trade unionism.

The branch notes:

1. That UNISON members at Ash Field Academy have returned overwhelming mandates for industrial action to defend their representative.
2. That these members have escalated their strike action in support of Tom including a full week on the picket line. [This part is conditional on the outcome of discussions].

The branch resolves to:

1. Issue a formal statement of solidarity in support of Tom Barker and UNISON members at Ash Field Academy.

unison.leicestercity@gmail.com

2. Encourage members to attend any upcoming picket to demonstrate practical support and solidarity.
3. Sign and circulate the TUC petition: <https://www.megaphone.org.uk/petitions/stop-union-busting-protect-union-reps-reinstate-tom-barker>
4. Write formally to DSAT Trustees demanding Tom Barker's immediate reinstatement and an end to anti-union practices.

2) Disarm Education

Kirklees District NEU Notes:

1. Disarm Education is a campaign by educators, parents and students to stop the collaboration of places of education with arms companies and weapons manufacturers.
2. Annual Conference 2025 voted to formally affiliate to Disarm Education.
3. The UK arms industry directly contributes to global imperialist violence and humanitarian disaster. For example: 15% of each F35 fighter jet used by Israel is built in the UK by firms such as BAE systems, Leonardo, and Martin-Baker; the UK has licensed arms exports worth £560 million to Israel since 2008. UK arms companies have provided Typhoon/Tornado aircraft,

Paveway bombs, and Brimstone/Stormshadow missiles worth billions to the Saudi-led coalition that has killed an estimated 377,000 people in Yemen (2015-2025).

4. There is large-scale collaboration between arms companies and education. Companies including BAE, Rolls Royce and Lockheed Martin spend millions every year to sponsor school events, fund competitions, run careers roadshows, provide work experience, and fund apprenticeship opportunities. In 2018, BAE invested £100m in education, skills, and early careers. In 2022, they delivered workshops to a million students on their education roadshow, and on average they visit 435 schools a year. Lockheed Martin has produced a STEM activity pack for British Science Week and beyond the curriculum, these companies sponsor at least 39% of University Technical Colleges in England. Partnerships in schools and colleges orientated around STEM gives these companies legitimacy, a way of cleaning up their image.

5. Student action across the UK has led to islands of resistance against the militarisation of schools. As a direct result of student walk-outs, in December 2023, Luton Sixth form suspended ties with Leonardo due to the company's involvement in the Gaza genocide.

Kirklees District NEU Believes

1. Children should not be exposed to the production of war and violence, and these should not be normalised through education. It is crucial to sever education's ties with arms companies, to denormalise the production of war in society and to disavow our complicity in imperialist violence and genocide. 2. Educators must respond to the call of Palestinian trade unions, including educators' unions, for trade unions 'to take action against complicit companies involved in implementing Israel's brutal and illegal siege, especially if they have contracts with your institution.'¹

3. STEM education should be fully-funded, and industry-linked STEM education should focus on technologies that serve people and planet.

Kirklees NEU Resolves

1. For the executive committee to send out FOI requests to all schools and colleges in the District enquiring into links to arms companies and sharing this data with Disarm Education.

2. To distribute Disarm Education organising resources to all workplace reps.

3. To support members in their workplaces who wish to campaign against the presence of arms companies in their schools.

4. To include training on the links between arms companies and schools/colleges in Reps Training events with representatives from Disarm Education.

5. To host at least one dedicated session per year on Disarming Education in District meetings.

6. Affiliate to the Disarm Education campaign.

7. Donate £50 to the Disarm Education campaign.

3) Troublemakers At Work Affiliation

Kirklees District NEU notes that:

1. The Troublemakers At Work Conferences 2023, 2024 and 2025 enabled rank-and-file workers to discuss, share experiences and learn from each other;
2. The conferences attracted support from a broad range of labour movement organisations;
3. Following the 2023 conference, Troublemakers At Work was founded as an organisation with members and affiliates;
4. Troublemakers At Work is not affiliated with any political organisation or individual union;
5. Troublemakers At Work holds decision-making General Meetings of individual members and delegates from affiliated organisations.
6. This year, Troublemakers At Work has hosted panels, meetings, discussions and workshops on workplace organising, countering the far right in workplaces, and the shortcomings and opportunities of the Employment Rights Act 2025.

Kirklees District NEU believes that:

1. The 2022-3 strike wave raised the profile of unions to millions of people
2. Recent years have seen inspiring examples of workers' collective action from both long-unionised groups and those striking for the first time
3. Workers would win more with stronger and more assertive workplace organisation
4. We need more people to get active to reverse the decline in unionisation since 1980 and build effective, inclusive and democratic unions in every workplace
5. Troublemakers At Work offers opportunities for workers to learn from each other and to build networks of solidarity and collaboration

Kirklees District NEU resolves to:

1. Affiliate to Troublemakers At Work with an annual contribution of £50
2. Publicise Troublemakers At Work events to members, through our networks and our social media, encouraging individual memberships and further affiliations
3. Order Troublemaker leaflets for distribution
4. Circulate this motion to other relevant bodies