

Trade Union Rights and Freedoms Bill

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The Institute has long called for improved rights for trade unions. We believe it is a matter of shame that trade unions in the UK have fewer freedoms today than they did 100 years ago.

In December 2006 the Institute published a major report – The Right to Strike: From the Trade Disputes Act 1906 to a Trade Union Freedom Bill 2006. That report looked back at lessons to be learned from the 1906 Trade Disputes Act and forward in calling for a new Trade Union Freedom Bill.

The call for a Trade Union Freedom Bill caught the imagination of the labour movement. It engaged the expert minds of a network of IER lawyers and it won an impressive degree of political support. The Bill was placed before Parliament in March 2007 and again in October 2007 but on both occasions it was blocked by the use of parliamentary procedures.

Now parliament is discussing a new Employment Bill, due to come into force in 2009. But the proposed new legislation contains none of the fundamental principles outlined in the Trade Union Freedom Bill. We believe that is a missed opportunity and we urge MPs to amend the new Bill.

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For further information or to discuss how you can contribute contact Carolyn Jones, Director on 0151 727 8083 or email: cad@ier.org.uk



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