

TULO: LABOUR'S UNIONS TOGETHER



Building the union link
where you live

The unique link between the Labour Party and almost four million members of affiliated trade unions is one of the British labour movement's greatest strengths and achievements.



For more than a century, there has been a direct line from the workplace to the Party at a local, regional and national level. It is this unique link with the trade unions that ensures that the Labour Party is the only Party that truly stands up for working people and their families. We hope this guide helps you to strengthen and build on those links at a local level.

The Labour Party was formed out of the trade unions over a hundred years ago. By working politically, with the Labour Party, trade unions have achieved concrete gains for working people; from founding the NHS in 1948, legislating for equal pay for women in 1970, the introduction of the minimum wage and guaranteed 4 weeks paid holiday in 1998 to the Equality Act in 2010.

The link is now more important and relevant than ever, as the labour movement faces a hostile Tory government determined to make life as difficult as possible for trade unions and working people. Your role is vital in ensuring we can fight back and win – unions and Labour together.

We hope that this guide is useful in giving you some ideas for how you can strengthen the link between the Labour Party and trade unions in order to create real lasting change in your community and beyond. Ultimately, this role is what you make of it; your creativity, experience and passion will be what grows our movement and makes us stronger. On behalf of Labour's affiliated unions, we welcome you.

Mick Whelan,
Chair of National TULO
unionstogether

WHAT IS TULO?

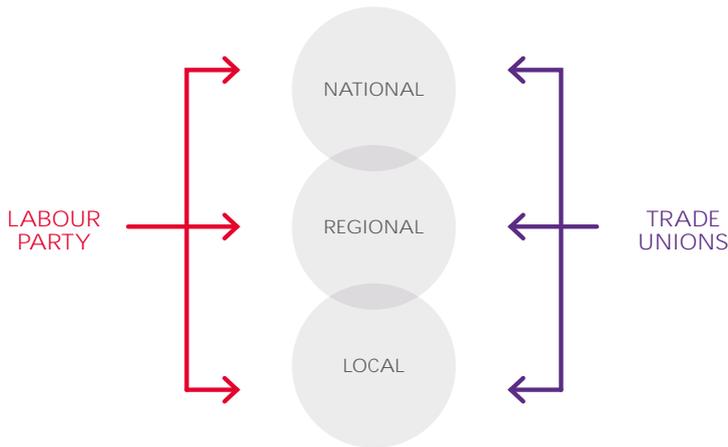
National TULO is the National Trade Union & Labour Party Liaison Organisation. We are the campaigning voice of the trade unions that are affiliated to the Labour Party. We campaign within the Party to make sure that Labour speaks up for working people and their families, and we campaign within the union movement for Labour – because we believe that only Labour will govern in the interests of working people.

By building relationships where you are, you can be a voice for trade unionists within the Party and be part of that strong campaigning force. The relationships that you build locally are the lifeblood of the movement.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Structurally, the relationship between the Labour Party and affiliated unions looks like this...



National

- The National TULO office has a small team of staff and are here to support you in your role.
- Trade unions affiliate to the Labour Party nationally. Their General Secretaries sit on the National TULO Committee, and affiliated unions can take part in the Party's democratic structures. Unions are represented at Annual Conference, on the NEC and on the National Policy Forum.

Regional

- Unions that affiliate nationally can do so regionally too and take part in the Party's regional structures.
- Regional TULO Committees are made up of representatives of the affiliated unions and the Party in the English regions, and in Scotland and Wales. You can find contact details for your Regional TULO Committee on the back page of this guide.

Local

- Branches of affiliated unions can affiliate to Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs) where they have members living in the constituency. They can get involved in the CLP's decision-making.
- CLP TULO Officers, along with other CLP Officers, are responsible for involving local trade unions and union members in the Party's structures and campaigns.

CLP TULO OFFICER ROLE PROFILE

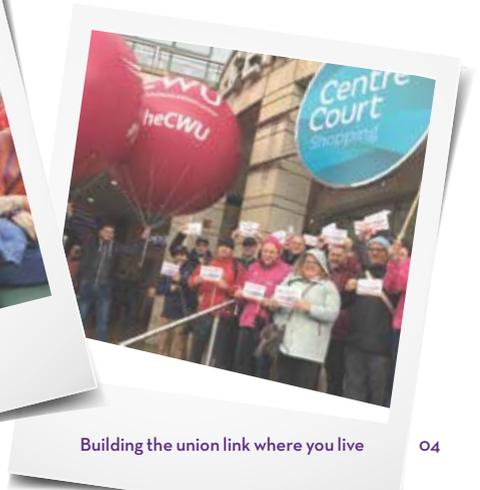
The role really is what you make of it. This is a chance to build a strong local campaigning presence and to develop vibrant relationships between local unions and the Party.

Objectives

- Build strong links between the CLP and local trade unions, in order to give trade unionists an effective voice within the local Party.
- Create a network of trade unionists and be the first line of communication between the CLP and union contacts.
- Work to increase union affiliations to the local CLP, and to maximise attendance and involvement of those affiliated unions.
- Grow the joint campaigning capacity of the local Party and trade unions.
- Ensure dialogue between local trade union members, officials and Labour's elected representatives.
- Organise events and campaigning in order to increase and deepen the involvement of trade unionists.

At election time especially, TULO Officers should play a leading role in facilitating campaign activity by:

- Communicating with local union branches to mobilise activists to join the campaign.
- Asking union activists, full time officers and shop stewards to put up posters as well as distribute postal vote application forms and leaflets in local workplaces.



MAPPING CONNECTIONS

In order to involve more trade unionists and increase the level of activity, a good place to start is to map the formal and informal trade union links that exist at a local level.

- 1 Start by finding out what existing formal relationships there are - talk to your CLP Secretary and Chair. What trade union branches are affiliated? Are they active? Notify your Regional TULO secretary of your appointment and ask to be kept updated about regional events and campaigning.
- 2 What informal links exist? Talk to CLP members and any elected reps about any relationships they might have.
- 3 Local unions - Are there any that you could build new links with? Have a think about big workplaces that are probably unionised (hospitals, sorting offices, factories, local government...). Use our directory to find the relevant contact for each union.

The best way to build links is through meeting and talking with trade unionists and through campaigning together. Visit unionstogether.org.uk/about#unions to find the relevant contact for each union.



10 IDEAS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF THE TRADE UNION CONNECTION



- ① **Build on existing relationships** Map your local Party's connections with the union movement so you know where to develop existing connections and where to form new ones. Notify your Regional TULO secretary of your appointment to be kept updated about regional events and campaigning.
- ② **Be the union link for your CLP** Build relationships with union delegates to the Party, and support them in getting more involved and making their voice heard. Ensure that your local Party is an open and welcoming space for trade unionists.
- ③ **Keep union issues on the agenda** Work with your union connections to find out what their top campaigns and priorities are, and get those issues on the agenda at CLP meetings.
- ④ **Get talking** Meet as many trade unionists as you can from regional reps to shop stewards. Share your stories, your values and what issues you are passionate about and invite them to do the same. Finish the meeting by trying to agree a follow up action. It's through shared action that you'll begin to forge relationships and build your contacts.
- ⑤ **Listen** Engage in listening exercises – work with your Labour MP/AM/MSP or Cllrs to visit workplaces or union branches to hear the issues that trade unionists in your area care about.
- ⑥ **Organise an event** Why not organise an event for local trade union members to meet Party members informally? It could be joining a rally, a march or a festival. Invite them to CLP socials or fundraisers you have to break down any barriers.
- ⑦ **Labour Party campaigns** Look out for Labour Party campaigns that might resonate with local trade union branches – offer to tell their stories in your campaign materials and invite them along to your days of action.
- ⑧ **Trade union speaker** Invite a trade union speaker along to your local Labour Party to speak about an issue that will appeal to trade unionists. Your regional TULO Committee can help with this.
- ⑨ **Get together** Get union members together with your MP, AM, MSP or Councillors. If you have elected Labour reps you could host an event where you bring them together with trade unionists for an informal Q & A session.
- ⑩ **Plan a campaign** From local cuts, to the NHS to the living wage – pick an issue that unions and Labour can get behind, and work with CLP and union colleagues on a joint campaign plan. Ask the unions to mobilise their members to join the campaign. If you've campaigned together on a joint issue, they'll be more likely to join you at election time.

CONTACTS

To contact the National TULO team

info@unionstogether.org.uk

twitter.com/unionstogether

facebook.com/unionstogether

For a list of national union contacts see

unionstogether.org.uk/about#unions

To email your regional TULO committee

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For more regional TULO contact details see

unionstogether.org.uk/about#regional