

2025 CAMDEN TRADES COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

The following is a summary of our 2025 activity to support, promote and build trade unionism in our borough.

Trades Council Meetings

Meeting time and place

We have continued to meet monthly (except in August), on third Monday of each month at the Crowndale Centre at 5.15pm - and continue to offer the possibility to delegates of attending remotely.

At the turn of the year, we conducted a survey of all TC delegates to find out their preferred meeting date, time and location for 2026 and will plan meetings around the survey findings.

Reports

As well as workplace reports from delegates, we received regular reports from:

- Camden United Against Racism (CUAR), via Paul Renny, Haringey Unison
- Caribbean Labour Solidarity, from Luke Daniels

Speakers

We continued with a programme of speakers at trades council meetings, including:

- Dan Kuper, the deputy Father of the Chapel (NUJ) and John Stuttle (Unite FoC) who spoke about the dispute at the Guardian/Observer newspaper. Following this we wrote an article on the dispute for the local newspaper:
<https://www.islingtontribune.co.uk/article/battle-at-liberal-journalisms-beacon>
- Luke Daniels from Caribbean Labour Solidarity who spoke on reparations for the slave trade/chattel slavery
- Alex Gordon, former RMT President, spoke on the Alternative Defence Review
<https://cnduk.org/ADR>
- Bob Jeffery, sociologist at Sheffield University and Sheffield Trades Council activist
- Beverley Wallace, Unite rep from pathology labs spoke about their successful dispute.

Alex Gordon speaking on the Alternative Defence Review



Camden Trades Council street stall

We returned to Kentish Town for a couple of street stalls/leafleting sessions

In February we held a street stall for TUC♥Unions



In June we leafleted for People's Assembly, "March Against Austerity 2.0".



Trades Council Conference

Una Doyle (Camden NEU) was our trades council delegate to the annual Trades Council Conference held at Congress House (this will be the last one to be held there as unfortunately the TUC have sold the building and now no longer have a base in Central London). We sent a resolution to the conference opposing cuts to disability benefits. The motion was passed and composed with a number of others on the same subject and was sent to TUC conference.

Comms

Camden Trades Council entered the 21st century this year by setting up a WhatsApp group, which has helped with communications between delegates in organising to attend demos and picket lines.

We had several letters and articles published in the Camden New Journal about trade union and Labour movement issues in Camden.

May Day

We joined the London May Day march and rally.



Camden Trades Council history appeal

This appeal is to establish memorials to two key events in local Labour movement history: Camden's participation in the General Strike in May 1926, and the "Red Flag May Day" in Camden in May 1958.

We launched the appeal in October and at the time of writing it has raised over £3000. We would like to raise at least double this amount in order to achieve everything connected with the project. As part of the appeal we made a successful application to the TUC Development Fund.

International

Palestine

We encouraged affiliated branches to take part in Palestine Solidarity Days of Action and made donations to Medical Aid for Palestinians.

George Binette, TC Co-chair, represented the Trades Council at the Palestine Trade Union Conference.

Luke Howard, TC Treasurer, attended the demo outside Downing Street for Palestine Action hunger strikers in December, and Council members were at many other demos in support of Palestine.

We supported the Palestine Solidarity boycott launch outside Sainsbury on Camden Road.



Venezuela

We affiliate to the Venezuela Solidarity Campaign.

Publicising the Trades Council

Having received a delayed donation for the new banner appeal we will look to see if we can get the embroidery/artwork currently on the old banner taken off and replaced on new fabric.

We had leaflets designed and printed to hand out to the public, one encouraging people to join a trade union and the other explaining the work of Trades Councils and explaining how to affiliate to the Trades Council.

We placed an advert in the Morning Star for New Year's Day 2026.

We purchased backpack flags (as modelled below by George Binette, Co-Chair, and Luke Howard, Treasurer) and also had designed a Camden Trades Council solidarity banner (which you can see featured in the picket line/rallies section).



Outreach work

We attended the Camden NEU public meeting which highlighted the impact of the Government's funding formula on the schools in Camden.



On a baking hot Sunday in July the Trades Council held a stall at Camden Mela. The Mela is a particularly good event to attend as many members of the borough's Bangladeshi community attend.



Affiliations

We had several branches affiliate to the Trades Council for the first time this year, including Unison UCL and RMT Finsbury Park.

Picket Lines and rallies

We attended the following picket lines:

Sarah Friday, TC Secretary, spoke at UCU Working Men's College rally.



Unite pathologists picket line on Mabledon Place, WC1.



We attended Camden UNISON picket lines at Richard Cobden School.



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