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UNISON WEEK

News and views from the biggest union in Scotland's public services

UNISON Scotland

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Social Security Committee Debate: Social Security and In-work Poverty

One in four Scottish children live in relative poverty. Families lack basic income to make ends meet, and the gap between the poor and rich is getting bigger. Two working parents with 2 children, on the 'national living wage' are 11% short of what you need to meet the costs of a no-frills lifestyle. It is almost double that for lone parents. We have more families in work than at any time in our history, yet 7 in 10 children who live in poverty have at least one parent in work. The roll out of the Scottish Living Wage in public services has been a welcome if insufficent help to struggling families.

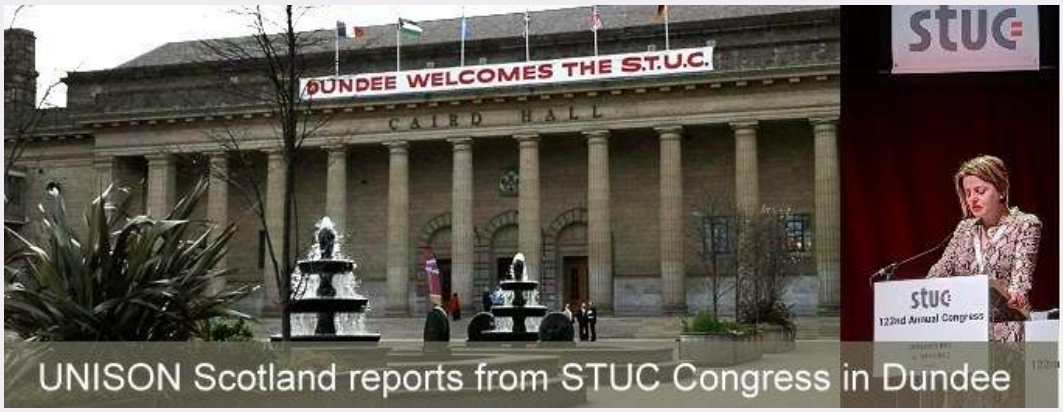
UNISON Scotland hasn't been short of suggestions on how aspects of in work poverty should be tackled for the benefit of children as well as workers

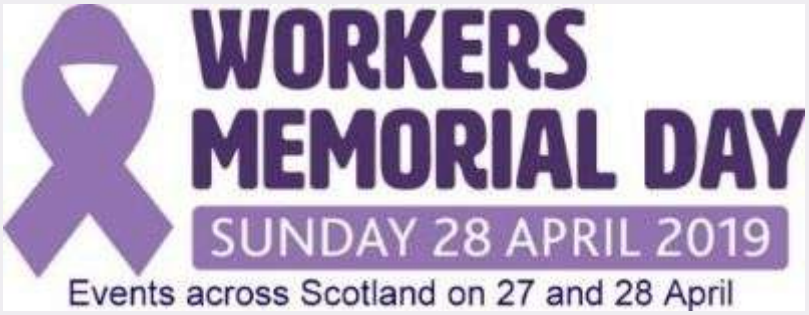
Responsibility for Social Security is of course split between The Scottish & UK Governments. If the approach from the Tories in Westminster has been one of aggravated cruelty then the necessity of the Scottish Government to do everything it can to mitigate that increases.

The Scottish government has tax-raising powers at its disposal that can make people's lives better. Unison calls on it to use them.

STUC Congress 2019

The 122nd STUC Congress took place in Dundee on 15-17 April. Reports from UNISON speakers can be found here and for an overview of the whole Congress go to the STUC website.





Jimmy Reid Foundation Report into Funding Local Government

UNISON Scotland sponsored The Jimmy Reid foundation to examine ways of increasing funding for Local Government. The Report states that expansion of local public services is possible and explores a number of possible ways of doing this. UNISON policy is for the replacement of the Council Tax

Commenting on the publication of the report Mike Kirby, Scottish Secretary of UNISON said: "Over the years, the balance of funding for public services through local government has shifted from approximately 50% coming from national government to 50% being raised directly by local authorities, to 85% of funding coming from central government and 15% being raised directly by local authorities. Read online here.

Capability Scotland Pay News

Higher Education Pay News

Pick of the Media

16/04/19 heraldscotland.com unison-scotland.org
Shockingly, the number of full-time staff working at colleges in Scotland has fallen by 13.5% in just over a decade. Our damage report 'Learning the Hard Way' shows how staff are under enormous pressure as they attempt to deliver a high quality service.

18/04/19 bbc.co.uk
Anger over Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh parking changes

15/04/19 *unison-scotland.org*
Social work staff in West Dunbartonshire vote overwhelmingly to strike.

09/04/19 unison.org.uk
Our position on privatisation? Total opposition says UNISON General Secretary Dave Prentis.

15/04/19 *publicfinance.co.uk*
Changes to the UK state pension age "exacerbate inequality" with women suffering most.

Read the latest from UNISON's General Secretary Dave Prentis on his blog here.

PUBLIC WORKS:

TOOLKIT

Public Works is the UNISON Scotland campaign for jobs, services, fair taxation and a Living Wage… and against austerity. This toolkit provides branches with campaign resources to save our public services from the cuts driven by an austerity that is a political choice not an economic necessity.

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