

Beyond organising

There has been for some time a “new orthodoxy” in the union movement; organising. The organising agenda, the organising approach, the organising challenge. Organising is the answer, or is it?

While it makes a welcome change from the previous orthodoxy of partnership, shouldn't “organising” be just the starting point for Marxists in the unions? Or, on the other hand, if carried out systematically, are its implications truly revolutionary?

We need to recognise and incorporate into our practice what is best and most useful about organising but also think critically to identify its limitations and pitfalls.

- In small groups discuss and agree what to you are the key features of organising. Be brief and as much as possible base yourselves on your own experience of your union and workplace.
- Put these on a flipchart and be prepared to talk about them
- Next, we will pool our responses and agree a collective response, drawing on the reality of organising across our different workplaces and industries.
- Now each group will re-examine one particular feature of organising, looking at it critically, identifying: strengths, weaknesses and your overall assessment
- Each sub-group will feedback to the whole group taking questions briefly
- Whole group discussion
- Individually identify some action points for your own practice in the workplace
- Brief sharing of action points

End of session