



# tubeworker

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## ALL OUT TO SAVE JOBS!

• **Management attack jobs, pensions, conditions, equalities, quality of service: unions fight back!**

• **TSSA members have voted to strike. TSSA has called identical, united action with the RMT.**

• **LU and TfL staff to strike together. Unity is strength! Together we win!**

• **Unions must get round every workplace.**

• **Build large and lively picket lines on strike days. Build the revenue action.**

• **ASLEF members: don't cross picket lines! Demand your union ballots too!**

• **Londoners mobilise public campaign to defend their Tube — [handsofflondontransport.wordpress.com](http://handsofflondontransport.wordpress.com)**



### **RMT/TSSA London Underground industrial action**

- Ongoing: stations grades overtime ban.
- Do not book on for duties starting from 21:00 hours on Tuesday 4 February until 20:59 on Thursday 6 February.
- Do not book on for duties starting from 21:00 hours on Tuesday 11 February until 20:59 on Thursday 13 February.
- All station staff, RCIs, and DSMs: do not carry out revenue duties between 09:30 and 11:30, and 18:30 and 20:30, on 7, 10, and 14 February.

### **What is *Tubeworker*?**

*Tubeworker* is a rank-and-file socialist bulletin, published at least monthly, written by Tube workers, for Tube workers. It is published by the socialist group Workers' Liberty, but is produced in editorial meetings open to all workers. Supporters from outside London Underground can help with public distribution. Email us at [tubeworker@btopenworld.com](mailto:tubeworker@btopenworld.com) to get in touch.

***Tubeworker's* blog — daily updates — [workersliberty.org/twblog](http://workersliberty.org/twblog)**

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## SOLIDARITY WITH LGBT PEOPLE WORLDWIDE!

**In many countries across the world, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people (LGBT) are recurrently subjected to targeted killings, violent assaults, torture, and sexual violence.**

Shockingly, in 2014, homosexuality is illegal in 76 countries around the world, and in 10 of these punishable by death or life imprisonment. This news is rarely reported in the UK's mainstream, Tory-owned, media, and many workers may be unaware of the extent of state and religious-sponsored homophobia, anti-gay hate, ignorance, and discrimination faced by millions of LGBT people around the world every day.

In February, Russia will host the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, and welcome visitors from around the world — so long as they are not LGBT! In recent years, Russian President Vladimir Putin, has overseen and promoted a vicious onslaught of state-sponsored homophobic legislation in Russia.

And in other parts of the world, human rights groups are also reporting a trend of worsening human rights violations against LGBT people. In Nigeria, Uganda, and elsewhere, parliaments are advocating laws that would further penalise and even execute homosexuals.

Across the world, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are routinely used by corrupt political forces as scapegoats for the social instability of the capitalist system. The capitalist class purposely target LGBT people and make use of popular prejudices and ignorance as a means to foster division in the working class and divert attention from class-based issues.

*Tubeworker* was pleased to note that RMT activists joined a large demonstration against homophobia outside the Uganda High Commission in London on 8 January.

*Tubeworker* also joins LGBT activists across the world to remember the life of David Kato, the courageous Ugandan LGBT rights activist who was bludgeoned to death on January 26 2011, shortly after winning a lawsuit against a Ugandan newspaper which had published his name and photograph identifying him as gay man and calling for him to be executed.

- This article is abridged. To read the full version, visit [bit.ly/tw-lgbt](http://bit.ly/tw-lgbt)

## ARRIVING SOON...

LUL has been caught out. Last week, at a secret meeting, TOMs were told about a new "Fit for the Future — Trains" policy. Predictably, and despite their denials, LUL is not stopping at stations.

**Expect cross-line working, more watering down of safety rules and working conditions, and perhaps packaging up the SSR for franchising out.**

## TUBE LINES: WHAT'S OCCURRING?

For a few years now, Tube Lines workers have been fighting for equal pensions and passes. Readers will no doubt recall strike action over the issue.

While they did win staff passes, staff who joined Tube Lines since it formed under the notorious PPP still do not have the right to join the TfL Pension Fund on the same terms as everyone else.

Management have conceded the "principle" of equal pensions. But they want to fund it by getting rid of nearly 500 jobs (in both LU and Tube Lines)!

**The unions should be calling new strikes on Tube Lines. RMT has done well getting LU, TfL and DLR workers all out on strike together, but has not yet brought Tube Lines into the fray. It should do.**

[workersliberty.org/tubelines](http://workersliberty.org/tubelines)

## CEMENTING OVER THE CRACKS

London Underground will doubtless face public ridicule over the "flooding" at Victoria apparently caused by fast-setting cement pouring into the signalling equipment room.

We look forward to LUL's excuses, and perhaps a Ukip councillor blaming it on same-sex marriage.

But perhaps the most pertinent question is why LUL continues to use private contractors when they do stuff like this?

**The managers and privateers should face the music!**

## A TOUCH OF GLAMOUR?

The new uniform designs seem keen to give women workers a touch of "glamour".

Most of us don't look like the narrow-waisted woman in the pics. LU shouldn't be promoting one "ideal" hourglass female body shape. We get enough of that from glossy magazines, an industry that thrives on making us feeling inadequate.

And then there's the cravat. Women struggle hard enough on LU to be taken seriously as equals. The last thing we need is for our company to dress us in frills and bows.

**We're here to work on a railway, not to sit around as pretty ornamentation!**

## LIES, DAMNED LIES, AND STATISTICS

Here is management's report of the result of RMT's ballot:

"Out of the 8,336 RMT members balloted, only 3,356 voted, with 2,567 in support of strike action. This means that approximately 30% of RMT members balloted voted in favour of strike action and almost 70% (5,769) voted 'no' or didn't vote."

Here is a different way of presenting exactly the same result:

"Out of the 8,336 RMT members balloted, 3,356 voted, with 329 or fewer voting against all industrial action. That means that less than 4% of those balloted voted No to industrial action, and over 96% voted in favour or didn't vote."

**Funny how management select the statistics in a way that suits their agenda. Propaganda? Misrepresentation? You decide.**

## BS ON VS

*Tubeworker's* heard it reported that activists arguing against people taking voluntary severance (VS) are trying to "stop people leaving" when they want to.

We're not against people leaving — people should be able to leave whenever they like!

**But taking VS now isn't just "leaving" on your own terms, it's leaving on management's terms and selling your job on the way out!**

## CLEANERS CUT TOO?

Cleaners have heard that if ticket office cuts go ahead, many might lose their jobs.

A big part of station accommodation cleaners' work is cleaning ticket offices, so it makes sense that cleaning companies and London Underground have spied this opportunity for cuts.

**Yet another reason for fighting the appalling prospect of closing ticket offices altogether!**

[workersliberty.org/tubecleaners](http://workersliberty.org/tubecleaners)

### More on *Tubeworker's* blog:

- Do we owe "loyalty" to the company? — [bit.ly/tw-loyalty](http://bit.ly/tw-loyalty)
- Gimmicky branding or safe staffing levels? — [bit.ly/tw-branding](http://bit.ly/tw-branding)

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