

Introduction:

With over 70 countries signing up to net-zero commitments and a need for international cooperation we are seeing the shifting of government policy and markets across the globe, however the response has often been insufficient, presenting major challenges for the implementation of a just transition.

Government:

A cooperative government is essential in facilitating a democratic restructuring of the UK economy and services in line with climate justice. The GJA's experience lobbying uncooperative MPs that are unsympathetic to climate issues reflects this challenge. As demonstrated by the policies of consecutive cabinets who have chosen not to provide TfL with an operational grant, TfL is the only major transport system in the world without one, which ITF identifies as a challenge in making public transport accessible and necessary to encourage mass public travel.

Although such cooperation from the UK government has been solely lacking, the Welsh TUC working with the Welsh government provides some insight into the possibilities of such cooperation, while exposing the limitations imposed by the powers of devolved administrations. The Welsh TUC has been engaged in building a 'Greener Workplaces Network' for trade unionists which focuses on skills training as a key issue, with some coordination with the Welsh government working on zero-carbon green skills plans to define and categorise these skills to signal needs to trainers and industries. However, even with some collaboration on this issue, the relatively disempowered state of the Welsh government presents a significant challenge as Westminster authorities have restructured funding streams to remove opportunities for input both from workers and the Welsh government.

Examining dynamics at a mayoral level reveals similar possibilities and limitations. The ITF has partnered with C40, an alliance of progressive mayors uniquely situated to intensify pressure on national governments to invest in public transport, but as described by Platform in the pursuit of implementing just transitions within government structures, there can be limits to mayoral powers as seen in North Tyne with Mayor Driscoll whose authoritative powers are relatively less than offices in other regions.

In the 'Better Buses for West Yorkshire' campaign, the Yorkshire and Humber TUC played a supporting role by helping to bring together a coalition of trade unionists and climate activists to fight around public transport. Pressure was successfully leveraged through strategic media pressure focusing on generating public pressure at key points in the mayoral election, ensuring that all candidates clearly backed public control of the bus services, with the winning Labour mayor committing to safeguard bus workers through these changes.

Global:

These challenges vary across countries, presenting complications for workers to organise internationally. As a global federation attempting to overcome climate issues as well as interlinked issues such as labour and racial injustice, the ITF have found that there is a need for sensitivity as national contexts differ. Climate breakdown is known to already have more significantly adverse effects on the global south and equatorial regions, additionally carbon-heavy and informal jobs are more dominant amongst people of colour, therefore a lacklustre response to just transitions is intrinsically linked to racial injustice. The

ITF educates and campaigns around this, especially with regards to formalising workers as government policies in many of these countries do not provide a basis for the formal recognition of these workers, therefore they are being excluded from discussions and policies around worker rights and provisions for just transitions. Challenges in infrastructure are not exclusive to these countries, with many like the UK lacking centralised databases of

all negotiated agreements as is present in Canada, something which PCS says frustrates trade unionists and academics when it comes to cross-union organising and awareness.

While Global Labour Institute (GLI) is part of Unite's Environmental Task Force, its main work consists of providing residential courses for trade unions and grassroots members in Unite's Chemical, Pharmaceuticals, Process, and Textiles (CPPT) sector, which includes oil and gas workers, and those immediately downstream from those workers. Their last course was on the challenges that the energy crisis, precipitated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, presents to this sector. Does bargaining or negotiating with employers and public authorities on securing energy supply in the UK, especially given the granting of new North Sea oil and gas licences, mean that they are going to be locking in high-carbon jobs for the foreseeable future? These workshops are highlighting how these challenges have been overlooked, generating more questions than answers. However, union officials and members are keen to address these challenges by conducting in-depth research into securing energy supply in this context, especially how it will impact their sector and their bargaining strategy around a just transition.

CHALLENGES II GOVERNMENT AND GLOBAL

