

TUC South West Retired Members (24/11/23)

“No Right to strike” said Ines Lage, TUC regional secretary. Why? Because unions have to seek permission by jumping through various hoops. She outlined new anti union laws, and how Trade Union membership is on the decline, at a time when there is most need.

There was a presentation on state pensions. Pension value declined from 1980-2000, and still hasn't recovered. The UK state pension is around half the average EU and OECD, accounting for 4.7% of GDP. The OECD average is 6.5%. Young people will, because of compound interest, benefit most from the retention of triple lock.

The National Pensioners' Convention (NPC) outlined their “charter”. Main objective being that a basic state set above the official poverty level and linked to average male earnings.

Discussion followed from delegates. Contributions including how many Trade Union districts, would not function without retired members, yet only lip service is paid to them in decision making. Ageism of growing concern among members.