



Manchester
May Day 2015

The International Zone

Saturday 2nd May

Mechanics Institute,
Princess Street,
Manchester M1 6DD



Hosted by
UNISON North West
www.unisonnw.org

12:00 – Palestine

Palestine Solidarity Campaign Manchester & UNISON North West

13:00 – TTIP: Building the fightback in Unions

John Hilary, War on Want

14:00 – Global Union Organising

Union Solidarity International and the Global Labour Institute

15:00 – CUBA: Ending the Blockade

With very special guest, H.E. Teresita Vicente, Cuban Ambassador
& Cuba Solidarity Campaign

**ALL SESSIONS TAKE PLACE IN THE JOHN TOCHER ROOM,
3RD FLOOR**



Sessions in the International Zone, hosted by UNISON North West

Cuba: Ending the Blockade – H.E. Teresita Vicente, Cuban Ambassador and Cuba Solidarity Campaign

UNISON North West is delighted to announce that the speaker at our final session will be the Cuban Ambassador, Her Excellency Teresita Vicente, Charge d'Affaires interim. Following the return of the Cuban Five after years of tireless campaigning by trade unionists and solidarity activists, the Ambassador will emphasise the need to increase the campaign to end the blockade and return the territory of Guantanamo to the people of Cuba.

Palestine – Palestine Solidarity Campaign (Manchester Branch) and UNISON North West

PSC Manchester will present a short film, 'Jameela's Kitchen', through their partnership with women in Gaza. The women provide food for the community and training for young women as part of their resistance to Israeli occupation and domination. Preserving their culture through food is a very strong way of participating in the struggle. The session will also feature poetry in performance: 'WALA' by Susan Abulhawa which explores the daily humiliation of Palestinian men having to go through Israeli checkpoints at 4am to look for work; and 'WE TEACH LIFE, SIR' by Rafeef Ziadah, which is a response to journalists questions at a press conference during Operation Cast Lead 2008/9.

UNISON North West will discuss international solidarity between trade unionists in the North West and workers in Palestine. The session will highlight progress in the development of a Knowledge & Socialist Thought Institute in Ramallah and explore how trade unionists can provide practical support this new initiative.

TTIP: Building the Fightback! – John Hilary, War on Want

The Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a comprehensive trade and investment partnership currently being negotiated between the US and the EU. . This deal will result in over a million lost jobs, tear up the food safety regulations that keep us safe from toxic chemicals and genetically modified ingredients, weaker labour rights and increased privatisation of our public services and throw new banking regulations out of the window. TTIP offers a nightmare vision of the future, and we must resist it. 2015 is the pivotal year for TTIP. John Hilary will explore how trade unionists can help build the movement against this dangerous trade deal. This session will focus on the next steps to get TTIP off the table.

Global Union Organising – Union Solidarity International (USi) and the Global Labour Institute (GLI) UK

This session will explore the way in which trade unionists can organise at the global level. USi is an initiative of major UK and Irish trade unions, and is supported by unions in Brazil, Greece, Austria, North America, Europe, South Africa and Australia that aims to build grassroots international union solidarity using the latest technology. USi links trade union activists from around the world directly with each other so that they can create and lead campaigns for a fairer and more sustainable world. USi will explore how trade unionists can use social media, blogs, video conferencing, online education and more to build networks in the global fight against austerity.

For more information on Manchester May Day Festival visit
<https://mtuc.wordpress.com/may-day-2015/>