

# PRECARIOUS NOTES

## What is Precarious Notes?

Precarious Notes is a monthly bulletin put together by workers and trade unionists to connect workers across London who are struggling for dignity and respect!

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## STRIKE in the City!

THIS IS A STRIKE THAT NEEDS YOUR SOLIDARITY AT LEE HECHT HARRISON.

Latin American workers have voted 100% to strike for the £10.20 per hour London Living Wage. They clean the plush offices of this City of London firm which advises bosses how to 'transform' (downsize) their workforce.

The cleaning contractor responded by **illegally** threatening the minimum wage cleaners with dismissal for standing up for themselves and unionising.

The United Voices union members have shown the confidence to fight - demonstrating and picketing at the front doors of the skyscraper - before going in to work.

As Rosa, one of the workers said, '**At first I was scared, but we are grateful to see other workers and supporters stand with us and this gives us the confidence to fight.**'

The campaign's first strike is set for Friday 26 January. The picket line is between 4pm and 7pm. 55 Gracechurch Street, EC3V 0AA

## *LSE cleaners in-house from 5th of March!*

**After 10 months of struggle, 7 days of striking and two occupations, the LSE cleaners are going to be employed directly by LSE!**

Noonan, the outsourcing company, is leaving in disgrace. Cleaners have got two of the bosses sacked, and five cleaners reinstated.

## *SOAS: A Promise is no Guarantee*

"Everybody, no matter their job, needs to be treated as a human being, with fair sick pay, holiday pay and pensions, dignity and respect. Working through these outsourcing companies we are never going to get that, because they are out there on the market only for one specific thing: to make profit, money. And they can only make profit through us.

"After 11 years of putting pressure through direct action, SOAS has agreed to directly hire all its outsourced workers - cleaners, catering, porters, security, maintenance - and end its contract with Bouygues and Elior. But we are still campaigning for the university to maintain its promises, since it has lied to us before. There are many issues we have to defend over terms and conditions, hours and overtime, and special tasks for cleaners. When we raise these issues, management say they will be resolved next September when we are brought in-house. Then what is the point of having a project board, a working group now?

"These are our challenges. That's why the campaign still needs to put up the pressure." - Lenin Escudero, Justice for Workers activist and Unison cleaners representative

## *Outsourced workers at University of London inching towards a historic victory*

Outsourced workers at the University of London are a step closer to victory after the university announced this week that it was considering bringing some or all contracts for essential services back in house.

The announcement comes four months after the Independent Workers Union of Great Britain (IWGB) launched the "Back in House" campaign, which demands;

- *that the university end outsourcing*
- *abolish zero-hours contracts*
- *implement pay rises it had promised but failed to deliver.*

Last November, 300 people loudly protested outside Senate House with drums and dancing. The union and the workers - among them security officers, receptionists, cleaners and porters - will be back with an even **bigger** strike and protest planned for 25 January.

We never trust an employer on their word. So the striking will not stop until all workers are brought in-house!

## *Ministry of (In)Justice*

Portuguese and Spanish speaking migrant workers at the Ministry of Justice's St James building in the heart of Westminster are demanding the living wage and equality of conditions with the civil servants whose offices they clean.

The United Voices union members are prepared to **strike**, and as Eduardo says, 'we demand solidarity from the other workers and unions organised at the Ministry, to **fight back** against abusive supervisors and for an end to overwork and poverty pay.' **We need a living wage now!**