

# TRADE UNIONS 101

Handbook



A chairde,

As teachers, we encourage and foster a love of learning in our pupils. As teacher trade unionists, we share a debt of gratitude to the labour movement in Ireland for the gains achieved on behalf of workers over the years. This project, *Trade Unions 101*, combines both pedagogical and ideological concepts as we invite you to guide your pupils through the backstory of our communal past, highlighting the struggle for, and the legacy of, the hard-won workers' rights we enjoy today.

If we wish to kindle the flame of the spirit of trade unionism, it is vitally important to pass on our trade union values of equality, fairness, and justice to the younger generation in our schools. It's never too early to kick start this learning, to begin honing negotiation skills, and practising conflict resolution to reach a satisfactory outcome for all parties. These are essential skills that will benefit children as they journey through life and as their teacher, you can stoke the fire and awaken an interest in the history of trade unions in the classroom using these engaging resources we have tailored for 5th/6th class, and Primary 7/ 8 pupils in the north.

It is our hope that these lessons will make a strong and lasting impression on young minds and the ideals learned will instil in pupils a sense of justice that will serve them well throughout their own future working lives. Nurtured over time, this sense of right and wrong will blossom and grow to become an inherent desire to protect others and stand up against injustices we witness in society. It behoves us all to ensure we work together towards a more fair and equitable society for all.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.



John Boyle  
General Secretary



# Trade Unions 101: An introduction

To mark May Day, an international day to commemorate the historic struggles of workers and the gains made through the labour movement, the INTO has designed a series of engaging lesson plans called *Trade Unions 101*. These lesson plans are not time-sensitive, or confined to use around May Day, and they can be used at any stage of the school year.

It is our hope that these lessons will inform and inspire children's learning, so that they form a solid understanding of the values and benefits of trade union membership and the important work of trade unions in fighting for a more just and fairer world for everyone.

## Digital pack

We invite you to teach your class about the history of trade unions in Ireland using a digital pack, available in both English and Irish and tailored to 5th and 6th class pupils, and Primary 7/Year 8 pupils in the north.

The digital pack is divided up into five lesson pages which are available via a *Trade Unions 101* Hub on our website: <https://bit.ly/TradeUnions101>.



Every lesson page includes:

- A Lesson Plan PDF booklet, which contains all the information you need for each lesson, including: strand details, resource notes, introduction to the lesson, activities, assessments, further information and (where relevant) a copy of *PowerPoint* slide footnotes.
- A *PowerPoint* presentation, complete with teaching footnotes to help guide members through the various themes.
- Handouts and case studies to facilitate discussion, role play and group work.
- Various resources and videos, including a message from Patricia King, General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, where she explains in simple terms the vital work of trade unions.

Specific details for each lesson and direct links to each of the five lessons are detailed in the grid on page 3.



## General overview/checklist

| LESSON  | CONTENT  | ACTIVITIES   | RESOURCES  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Lesson 1</b></p> <p><i>An Introduction to Trade Unions</i></p>  <p>My name is Patricia King and I am the General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exploration of the term 'Trade Union'</li> <li>▪ Overview of the work and purpose of a Trade Union</li> <li>▪ Exploration of trade union-related terminology</li> <li>▪ INTO as an example of an Irish trade union</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Whole class discussion</li> <li>▪ Pair/group work</li> <li>▪ Individual written task</li> </ul>           | <p><b>All content available <a href="#">here</a>, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lesson Plan</li> <li>▪ PowerPoint: <i>Introduction to Trade Unions</i></li> <li>▪ Video clip – Patricia King, ICTU General Secretary.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other useful resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ InTouch magazine</li> <li>▪ INTO website: <a href="http://www.into.ie">www.into.ie</a></li> <li>▪ Whiteboard and marker/flipchart</li> <li>▪ Flashcards</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Lesson 2</b></p> <p><i>Benefits of Trade Union membership</i></p>  <p><b>LESSON 2</b><br/>Benefits of Trade Union Membership</p> <p>into</p>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Revision of Lesson 1</li> <li>▪ Exploration of the benefits of joining a Trade Union</li> <li>▪ Further discussion of the work of a Trade Union</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Whole class discussion</li> <li>▪ Group work (case studies)</li> <li>▪ Letter writing activity</li> </ul> | <p><b>All content available <a href="#">here</a>, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lesson Plan</li> <li>▪ PowerPoint: <i>Benefits of Trade Union membership</i></li> <li>▪ Case studies</li> </ul> <p><b>Other useful resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Whiteboard and marker/flipchart</li> <li>▪ Flashcards</li> </ul>  |



## Lesson 3

### *Irish Trade Unions – Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century*



- Revision of Lesson 2
- Exploring life in Ireland in the 1900s - living conditions, housing, jobs, working conditions
- Compare and contrast with life today
- Whole class discussion
- Group work
- Individual written task
- Begin a KWL chart (What we **Know**, what we **Would like to know**, what we have **Learned**), completing stages 1 and 2

**All content available [here](#), including:**

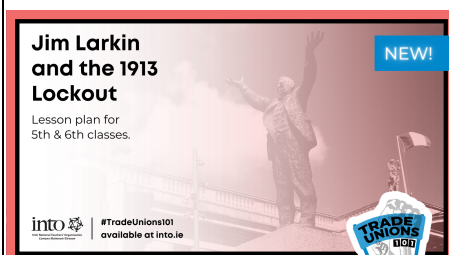
- Lesson Plan.
- PowerPoint: *Irish Trade Unions – Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century*
- Photographs of Dublin in late 1800s and early 1900 for group work

**Other useful resources:**

- Post-it notes, A2 paper, coloured or white card

## Lesson 4

### *Jim Larkin and the 1913 Lockout*



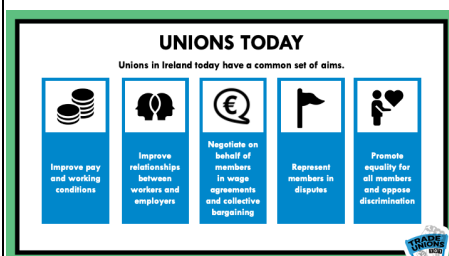
- Revision of Lesson 3 and KWL stages
- Case Study: *Jim Larkin and the 1913 Lockout*
- Newspaper Article -Reading & discussion
- Whole class discussion
- Video
- Reading / comprehension: group / individual

**All content available [here](#), including:**

- Lesson Plan
- PowerPoint: *Jim Larkin and the 1913 Lockout*
- Newspaper Article: *City Reporter*
- Video: [The Lockout Special, RTÉ Nationwide](#)

## Lesson 5

### *Trade Union Movement in Modern Ireland*



- Revision of relevant content from previous lessons
- Identify various unions from their names/logos
- Explore progress made by unions since 1913 Lockout
- Roleplay Activity – Children take part in negotiation as trade union officials/hospital management
- Whole class discussion
- Group work
- Role play
- Complete KWL chart (what we have **Learned**)

**All content available [here](#), including:**

- Lesson Plan
- PowerPoint: *Trade Union Movement in Modern Ireland*
- Prompts for 'negotiations'

**Other useful resources:**

- KWL Chart
- Whiteboard and marker/flipchart
- Flashcards

