

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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- Climate Change
- Forced Marriage



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British Liberty to have the right to strike

The right to go on strike is a “fundamental British liberty” and should not be restricted by the Government, the general secretary of the Trades Union Congress has said.

Frances O’Grady told BBC Radio 4’s Today programme that the Government had “another agenda” in its opposition to the Southern railway strike and that it wanted to undermine trade union rights further. Her warning comes as Downing Street distances itself from calls to strengthen anti-trade union laws. Transport Secretary Chris Grayling previously said he would “not rule anything out” when it came to anti-strike laws.

In 2016 Government passed the Trade Union Act, which introduced further red tape to make it harder for workers to down tools.

But some Conservative MPs have seized upon the latest strike on ailing suburban railway networks in the south of the capital.

“Many people worry that there’s another agenda here. Some MPs seem to be calling for even more draconian laws against trade unions when we’ve just had the Trade Union Act”, Ms O’Grady told the Today programme.

“Most people agree striking is a last resort, we don’t want to do that, we want a fair agreement. The right to strike is a fundamental British liberty that the vast majority of the public support, including voters across all parties.”

Conservative MP Chris Philp said during an appearance on the same programme that other countries had tighter restrictions on the extent to which railway workers could strike.

“I completely accept the right of people to strike but it has to be reasonable and proportionate and it can’t inflict pain on the public that goes beyond the complaint”, the Croydon South MP said.

A Downing Street source said last night: “Any changes to union laws would not be able to solve the current disputes. They will be solved by mediation and we would urge the unions to get round the table”.

Speaking this morning Ms O’Grady added: “Let’s just remember that this dispute is about safety – on a 12-car train carrying over 1,000 passengers in the rush hour, the driver gets just two seconds to check 24 sets of doors.

We know that passengers, like staff, want guards on trains and they want them to have that safety-critical role”.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/right-to-strike-fundamental-british-liberty-tuc-general-secretary-a7483966.html>



The UN has warned that the goal of limiting global warming to “well below 2C above pre-industrial levels” is in danger because major economies, including the US and the EU, are falling short of their pledges.

But scientists at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - the leading international body on global warming - argue the 2C pledge in the 2015 Paris accord didn't go far enough. The global average temperature rise actually needs to be kept below 1.5C, they say.

So how warm has the world got and what can we do about it?

1. The world has been getting hotter

The world is now nearly one degree warmer than it was before widespread industrialisation, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The global average temperature for the first 10 months of 2018 was 0.98C above the levels of 1850-1900, according to five independently maintained global data sets.

2. The year 2018 set all sorts of records

Last year saw record high temperatures in many places across the world amid an unusually prolonged period of hot weather.

Large parts of the northern hemisphere saw a succession of heatwaves take hold in Europe, Asia, North America and northern Africa - a result of strong high pressure systems that created a “heat dome”.

3. We are not on track to meet climate change targets

If we add up all the promises to cut emissions made by countries that have signed the Paris climate agreement, the world would still warm by more than 3C by the end of this century.

4. Urban areas are particularly under threat

Almost all (95%) of cities facing extreme climate risks are in Africa or Asia, a report by risk analysts Verisk Maplecroft has found.

And it's the faster-growing cities that are most at risk, including megacities like Lagos in Nigeria and Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Some 84 of the world's 100 fastest-growing cities face “extreme” risks from rising temperatures and extreme weather brought on by climate change.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20181102-what-can-i-do-about-climate-change>

What Can I Do About Climate Change?

The clothing sector represents around 3% of the world's global production emissions of CO₂, mostly because of the use of energy to produce attire. The hectic pace of fast fashion contributes to this figure as clothes are discarded or fall apart after short periods.

Change your diet—the meat and dairy sector is one of the most important contributors to climate change. If cattle were their own nation, they would be the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases, after China and the US.

Going car-free is the number one most effective action an individual could take. Cars are more polluting compared to other means of transportation like walking, biking or using public transport.



Challenge

Write Three Things You Can Change	What Impact Will This Have On The Environment?

Forced Marriage

Every individual has the right to choose who they marry, when they marry and if they marry at all. Despite this, the issue of forced marriage still continues to exist.

A forced marriage can be defined as a marriage which an individual is forced to consent to after physical or sexual violence, threats, or through emotional and psychological pressure such as being made to feel like shame is being brought on a family.



Some families force their children to marry because of the following reasons:

- They think it's an important part of their religion or culture
- They are worried about the family's reputation and honour
- They want all of the family's money to stay together
- They want to marry their children off in exchange for money
- They feel pressured by the community or other family members to follow tradition
- They don't approve of their child being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender
- They don't want their children to have relationships or sex outside of marriage

Forced marriage is illegal in the UK and every individual has a right to say no if they are being forced to marry someone. The minimum age for marriage in the UK is 16. It is also breaking the law if someone is taken to another country and forced to marry there.

The government are consulting on a mandatory reporting duty for Forced Marriage with results due to be published in Spring 2019. The duty is expected to mirror that already in place for Female Genital Mutilation and will require all professionals in health, education and social care to report known cases of abuse.

Raising awareness of honour-based abuse and forced marriage in education, particularly secondary schools, is essential to prevention.

If somebody at your work was being forced into marriage, who would you report this to?

<https://www.fenews.co.uk/featured-article/24408-safeguarding-five-key-themes-for-2019>