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**SAW**  
The Staff and Workers Association



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# NEWSLETTER

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## A Message From Our President...

A joyful Christmas to all of our members, officials, officers and their families.

We look forward to facing huge challenges in 2018 as diligently as we did in this outgoing year.

We stay resolute in our core principles of representing and defending the few employment rights our members have at work.

We also continue to defend our members via the Industrial & Fair Employment Tribunals with 17 cases currently lodged covering almost every aspect of the jurisdiction of this admirable body.

As we go into 2018 I fear the few remaining worker rights will be further eroded: Brexit likely means little to most people, if it happens or not. The poor will stay poor, the rich will certainly stay rich and the squeezed middle sector will further expand and witness growing numbers of working poor.

The backdrop is being set by a Government committed to continuing the supply of cheap labour to multinational and indigenous companies. These workers will continue to have few employment rights and zero hour contracts.

It's a shameful fact in our 21st century supposedly 1st world country, and one of the richest places on Earth, that workers here had more rights in 1906 than in 2018.

The intentional, detrimental changes to employment contracts, workplace & State pensions are all component parts to maintain a low wage economy, where growing millions of people must have two and three jobs to live day by day and who will never be able to afford to retire.

The intentional, spiteful changes to ESA, the introduction of PIP and the new Universal Credit evidence that a considerable source of cheap labour will come from disabled and sick people and from single mothers with very young children forced to seek work and face eye watering childcare costs.

The sick, disabled and single parent households are being forced to work for wages merely equivalent to their meagre benefits or just starve.

The government is throwing huge sums of money to achieve and maintain its aims utilising a private sector business that in turn fills its party funds once its own bank accounts are bulging.

Make no mistake it's a political ideology at play here.

The madness is that we have a government that actively subsidises low pay with meagre in - work benefits to workers paid by taxpayers; expanding the already growing numbers of working poor, yet it steadfastly refuses to properly tax these same multinationals as well as the many rogue employers we see who systematically invent redundancies to cut wages and other employment terms.

It is truly bizarre when those who govern us actively work to erode the very fabric & strength of our economy and society and effectively help multinationals and big business to asset strip our country when our society and economy could benefit hugely just by the act of requiring them to pay a fair share of tax.

We certainly live in interesting times.

Francis