

UNISON - NORTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

TO BE HELD ON: January 18th 2012

PLEASE COMPLETE IN TYPESCRIPT OR BLOCK CAPITALS

BRANCH/SELF-ORGANISED/SERVICE GROUP: South Tyneside Health Branch 04168

NOTICE OF MOTION

MOTION TITLE: Motion the Alternative to War

Unison Regional Council welcomes the TUC Congress decision to call for the rapid withdrawal of British forces from Afghanistan and to demand a political solution to the problems of that country. It notes that this conflict has cost the lives of tens of thousands of Afghanistan people and nearly 400 British soldiers, the occupation of Afghanistan, and has now spread to Pakistan, with all the additional dangers that entails.

Unison Regional Council recognises that before the invasion of Afghanistan, there was always an alternative to war and the "war on terror" which was launched by the US and Britain and other powers. Following 9-11 the British government should have responded to what was a criminal action by a small group of people to supporting a criminal investigation to find the perpetrators and not a war. There was no justification to launch a war against the sovereign country of Afghanistan and its people a war which has lasted more than 10 years and has led to the death of tens of thousands. The then British Government ignored millions of British people who also demanded an alternative to the US and British invasion of Iraq and instead they launched a war that has killed more than one million Iraqis in the invasion and occupation. This year the Cameron Government is carrying on this pro war policy and launched the bombing of Libya killing thousand of people with its NATO allies siding with one side in an internal conflict in a sovereign country when there was an alternative to promote negotiations between the two sides without military intervention. The Cameron government is now setting its warmongering agenda for military interference in Syria and Iran. The Regional Council is extremely concerned over the escalating moves to involve Britain in further wars of intervention and the implications for a new world war.

Unison Regional Council calls for co-operation with other Trade Unions and with the Stop the War Movement to promote and fight for the alternative to these wars. To oppose the huge loss in human and material resources wasted in this death and destruction to other countries and to our own. To uphold the sovereignty of workers in other countries to decide their own future without military intervention from Britain and other powers and to end Britain's involvement in alliances that do not promote the alternative to war.

Motion approved at a *quorate meeting* of South Tyneside Health Branch Committee held 4pm on :
December 15 2011

Should a continuation sheet be necessary, please use another form, identifying it as a continuation sheet, which should also be signed and dated.

Signed: _____

M. Curless
Chairperson

AND

Roger Mettler
Secretary

Date: _____

18/12/2011

This Motion, signed, dated and accompanied by details of the appropriate *quorate meeting* where the Motion was approved, should be submitted to the Regional Secretary, UNISON Regional Office, 140-150 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6TH by 5.00 p.m. at least fourteen days before the date of the meeting.