

STAND UP FOR Journalism

The NUJ union-wide day of action, Stand Up for Journalism is fast approaching. NUJ president Michelle Stanistreet explains why and how to get involved.

Come November 5, thousands of journalists from all sectors of the media will be joining together to protest against the crisis taking place in our industry. Job cuts, long-hours and below-inflation pay deals are rife and pensions are increasingly under attack. The squeeze is being put on journalists and publishing workers on a daily basis and the inevitable result is that quality and standards are suffering. For everyone who cares about journalists and journalism the time has come to say – I'm not standing for this anymore. Which is where the NUJ's Stand Up for Journalism campaign comes in. By taking part in the day of action planned for

November 5 we can send a strong message to employers, the government and the wider public that we're simply not prepared to sit back and watch our industry be degraded and compromised by companies driven by profit and greed. The focal event of the day will be a rally in Manchester, taking our arguments to editors gathering at the annual conference of the Society of Editors. Many branches and chapels have already planned their own events on the day, as well as sending along delegates to the Manchester Rally. They range from recruitment events, mass stand-ups in newsrooms and public demos, to co-ordinated chapel meetings, lobbies of local councils and collective grievances.

Journalists across Europe will also be standing up with us on November 5 and colleagues in the US have pledged their support too.

So if you haven't already made plans for an event in your chapel or branch now's the time to decide what you'll be doing on November 5. Don't forget that there's a case of fine wine on offer for the chapel or branch that organises the most innovative event. If you need any help, please contact us on campaigns@nuj.org.uk. Most importantly – please do something. It's up to each and every one of us to make this day a resounding success. Let's leave people with no doubt – journalists and journalism matters to each and every one of us.

The NUJ delegation takes our message to the TUC conference in Brighton



We're Standing Up for Journalism

Branches and chapels across the union are already making plans for November 5. Here are a selection of some of the events planned for the day to give you some ideas. Whatever you do, **DO SOMETHING**. Don't forget to email campaigns@nuj.org.uk and let us know how you will be Standing Up for Journalism. See www.standupforjournalism.org.uk for a full list of events.

"In Northern Ireland, the day of action is being supported by the Belfast and District; Derry North West and Northern Ireland Broadcasting branches. We are organising an event at Stormont to brief local politicians on the difficulties faced by journalists in local media outlets.

"Staffing levels, pay, pensions, terms and conditions are all issues of concern for journalists in Northern Ireland. We need to state our commitment to high ethical standards in journalism and demonstrate our continued support for journalists under threat."

Kevin Cooper
Belfast and District branch

"In Oxford, members are preparing an exhibition entitled We're Standing Up For Journalism featuring stories that made a difference in the community. Where a journalist has spent hours thumbing through council agendas before finding a story; headlines which made people stop and read or photographs taken after carrying a camera over many fields to record a farm fire."

Anna Wagstaff
Oxford and District branch

"Nottingham branch is holding a special student branch meeting on November 5 where we will be explaining why it is so important to be an active member of the NUJ. At a time when ITV is planning drastic cuts to regional news, we wanted to raise awareness with student members - who face the prospect of not even having an ITV to go to when they graduate. "The meeting is at 7.30pm at the spiritual home of the branch, the Peacock Pub on Mansfield Road in the city and all NUJ student members in the area are invited to attend."

Di Peasey
Nottinghamshire branch



content on EU politics and one page of serious pieces of journalism, to highlight the need for quality journalism."

Arne König
EFJ Chairman

"The Norfolk branch have hired the NuMu café in Norwich's King Street for Monday November 5. From early until late members and prospective members are invited to drop in for a drink along with our local MPs.

Branch members will be there all day to answer questions, hand out information, discuss our (many) difficulties and recruit new members. The café has been chosen because it is a favourite hangout for Anglia producers and very handy for BBC, Eastern Daily Press and local radio stations."

David Beake
Norfolk branch

"The Freelance Office is focusing on the BBC for the day of action. Although it makes more use of freelance journalists than any other media organisation in the UK, the BBC refuses to allow the NUJ to represent them. As the Corporation becomes more and more reliant on freelances, it is vital that it is persuaded to negotiate with the NUJ on rates and rights.

"All freelances who work for the BBC are welcome to attend the event at Headland House, Gray's Inn Road London."

John Toner
Freelance Organiser

"The day of action is a world-wide event with the International Federation of Journalists and the Newspapers Guild in the US participating.

"The European Federation of Journalists, in collaboration with the Belgian union AGJPB/AVBB, is preparing special action in Brussels.

"We will hand over letters to members of the European Parliament accompanied by a "fake" newspaper consisting of a page of sensationalist-like





“At the Burton Mail we are holding a lunchtime protest to support Stand Up for Journalism, we hope to go out onto the streets with placards and hand out leaflets to the public. We are even taking out an advert in our paper to get maximum publicity for the protest.

“We have a pay claim in at the moment but we all really wanted to show that we, as journalist, are concerned about the lack of investment in the industry as a whole and care about what is going on outside our own offices.



It's a simple way to get involved in the campaign and everyone is taking part.”

Jason Davies
Burton Mail chapel

“Sister union Bectu will be joining the campaign in the broadcasting sector. A joint leaflet will be produced for the BBC and members will be leafleting offices to protest against proposed cuts. We are also producing special Stand Up for Journalism leaflets for ITV members as part of the Save ITV campaign.”

Paul McLaughlin
Broadcasting Organiser

“The Paris branch is discussing linking up with six French unions to demonstrate in front of the National Assembly as part of the day of action. French media unions members face much the same problems as NUJ members so the combined force of our membership should make a big impact. The government is currently re-writing the code that governs trade unions and this is a major concern, especially the chapter that relates specifically to journalism.

It is important for us to Stand Up for Journalism in France and we all need to stand together.”

Jeff Apter
Paris branch

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Many high profile journalists are beginning to talk publicly about the erosion of the media and its impact.

Former BBC newsreader Anna Ford said: "Management consultants don't know about programming. They are to do with streamlining, and so the bureaucracy grew and grew and became unkind. I think the BBC is now a very unkind and badly-managed place. There is an atmosphere of fear, based on the fact that people have very short contracts, and the youngsters are pushed and pushed and pushed. You no longer see people smiling when they work on news programmes."

Jeremy Paxman said: "We have a dynamic in news now that is less about uncovering things than it is about covering them. Young people entering television now are more technically able, more visually creative than at any time in the short history of the medium so I plead for them to be given the time and the space to do a better job.

"I cannot see how Newsnight can survive in anything like its current form if the cuts are implemented - it's unsustainable. To get a single - important - film transmitted last week involved surviving a sustained barrage of astonishingly threatening lawyers' letters and ear-bending from one of the country's most expensive PR firms. You can't do that if you're replacing grizzled output editors with people on work experience, no matter how enthusiastic they may be."

John Humphreys said: "Our overarching, overwhelming responsibility, above and beyond anything else, is to inform. If we fail to do that then we don't deserve the licence fee - it's that simple. Everything else, even the education bit, is secondary, because if in a democracy the public is not informed then you cannot make informed decisions by definition."

Stand Up in Manchester

One of the key events on November 5 will be a lobby of the Society of Editors' Conference being held in Manchester.

We are calling on the conference to stand up with us and defend quality journalism. It is in all our interests to persuade editors to join our call on owners to stop cutting jobs, pay, and resources and start investing more in quality media.

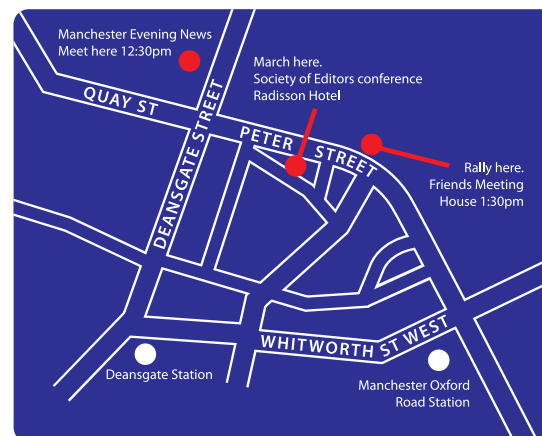
We hope every chapel and branch will send a representative to Stand Up for Journalism on behalf of their newspaper, magazine, website or broadcaster. Marchers who want to will have placards stating where they are from to show the breadth of support for the campaign.

We are asking people to meet at 12.30pm outside the Manchester Evening News building, Hardman Street, off Deansgate, Central Manchester. We

will then march up the road to the nearby Society of Editors conference in the Radisson Edwardian Hotel.

The NUJ will offer financial support to any chapel or branch unable to fund a representative at the march. If you, or a member of your branch or chapel, wishes to attend please email campaigns@nuj.org.uk. T-shirts and badges will be available on the day. Please advise us of your attendance so we can ensure stocks.

The march will be followed by a fringe meeting at 1.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS. Places for the fringe meeting are limited so please email campaigns@nuj.org.uk to reserve a place.



Speakers for the fringe meeting are still being confirmed but we hope to bring together all the issues from around the country and discuss the future of journalism and how to continue standing up for our industry.



Paul Mason, a correspondent for BBC's Newsnight, explains why it is more important than ever for journalists to be rigorous and stand up for their professional integrity

The NUJ has for 100 years put itself at the centre of defending the values of good journalism: quality, truth, creativity and originality.

The challenge for us now is to keep doing that, even as our craft is being segmented by technology that has made it easier for ordinary people to circumvent the whole process of news reporting by writing blogs, taking digital photographs and editing video on their laptops.

This technology is being used, in some parts of the media, to erode all the professional values that separate journalists from the audience: so we have to hang on to what is different - not fear or oppose the technology. Where we're different is the audited nature of our work,

the professional commitment to objectivity and the peer review aspect of working in a newsroom. That may be all that separates me from a demonstrator taking pictures on their mobile phone but it is enough!

Technology is making it easier to bombard the audience with multiple versions of events, so we have become umpires rather than gatekeepers: journalism is no longer just about what is observed but what is understood.

If you look on a military simulator used by any professional army in the world, there is a little symbol they can put on the map for a news crew, the same as they can for an enemy tank. Why? Because they want to be in control of what goes down the camera lens: it can still change history, like it did in the Crimea and Vietnam. That's why I support the NUJ's campaign to maintain standards, investment and, most importantly, integrity.

Stop Press:

Stand up for Journalism pens have recently been delivered.

Why not also sell the NUJ book *Journalists: 100 years of the NUJ* at your event.

To request either for your event email campaigns@nuj.org.uk.

T-shirt, badges, stickers and other materials will be delivered soon...