



FÓRSA



FÓRSA IS

CAMPAIGNING

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Why campaign?



Fórsa is a campaigning union, which campaigns on issues which directly affect our members in their work or their daily lives, as well as on issues in wider society which are important to our members. This includes campaigns which go beyond the workplace and into the public and political sphere.

In determining the union's areas of campaigning focus, we are directed by the priorities set out at the union's biennial conference, and also by our divisional executive committees.

We are seeking through this work to deliver clear benefits and positive outcomes for our members, as well as building the profile of the union both internally within our membership, and externally with like-minded organisations, decision-makers and the wider public.

As a membership organisation with 80,000 people rooted in counties, constituencies and communities right across the country, this is our greatest strength, and one we should leverage and maximise through our campaigning work.



BRANCH CAMPAIGNS OFFICERS

Since this officer position was launched less than one year ago, over 60 BCOs have been nominated by over 50 Branches, covering every county in the country. Their role is to provide local support to Fórsa's national campaigns, promote campaigns activity at branch and workplace level, and liaise with local media and public representatives.

TAX RELIEF ON UNION SUBS



Fórsa is leading a national campaign for fair play and equity for trade union members in Ireland, seeking the restoration of tax relief on trade union subscriptions in line with the treatment of members of professional bodies and other membership organisations.

HIDDEN HEROES



A social media campaign to champion the 'hidden heroes' of our health services was launched in autumn 2017, to highlight and celebrate the incredible work done 'behind the scenes' by the many healthcare grades and professions represented by Fórsa. A second phase of this is planned before the end of the year.

HOUSING


Through our active involvement in the National Homeless and Housing Coalition, and through the Irish Congress of Trade Union lobbying campaign on the Congress 'Charter for Housing Rights', Fórsa have been to the fore in calling for action to resolve Ireland's catastrophic housing crisis. A rally has been called for October 3rd to promote a Dáil motion on housing supported by our union.









MY RENT COULD BE HOW MUCH?!?

WE NEED CHANGE IN THE IRISH RENTAL SECTOR. WE NEED

SECURE RENTS



UPLIFT  **IMACT**  **MANDATE** 
SIPTU  **unite**  **CONGRESS** 

SECURERENTS.COM - #SECURERENTS

SECURE RENTS

Our union coordinated the Secure Rents campaign in the autumn of 2016, which had 3 clear legislative demands for the Government's upcoming rental strategy. This campaign involved an online rent calculator, a petition signed by almost 8,000 people, a public consultation submission with almost 400 personal stories, regional public meetings in 4 locations, a letter-writing campaign, and a cross-party Bill being tabled on the floor of the Dail.

PUBLICLY FUNDED HIGHER EDUCATION



Fórsa chair the coalition for publicly funded higher education, which also involves second and third level students' unions, and other staff unions operating in the higher education sector. Various demonstrations, press events and actions have taken place to advocate for public funding of higher education.

JUSTICE FOR CE SUPERVISORS



Over the past year, we have been actively pursuing the implementation of an outstanding Labour Court recommendation from 2008 to provide a pension scheme for community employment supervisors. This political lobbying work is ongoing.

JUST TRANSITION

Fórsa want to ensure that our transition to a low carbon economy is a fair one for workers, with the costs and benefits shared equally across the economy. We commissioned a report by the Irish Institute for European Affairs on this issue in 2017, and have since set up a Just Transition standing committee. We are planning to develop a sustainability strategy for the union and a climate information campaign for members in the coming months.



FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SERVICES

In the run up to the 2019 local elections, Fórsa will be setting out its stall for the future of local government, services and democracy. This includes the public ownership of water, the role of local authorities in delivering housing, and the remunicipalisation of waste services.



FAIR PAY FOR SCHOOL SECRETARIES



As the first collective bargaining agreement for school secretaries comes to an end in 2019, Fórsa will be launching a campaign for school secretaries to be linked to public sector pay grades and to receive fair reimbursement.

WORKING HOURS



As technology continues to be enhanced, productivity continues to increase, and more and more processes and services are automated, Fórsa believe we need to start a national conversation on the future of working hours, starting with a major Fórsa conference this Autumn.

CAMPAIGNING SUMMER SCHOOL

In June of this year, Fórsa ran a very successful Campaigning Summer School for senior union activists and branch campaigns officers, to provide them with the tools, ideas and motivation to effectively contribute to union campaigns both locally and nationally.



FÓRSA YOUTH



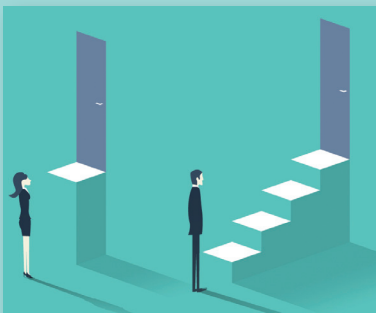
Fórsa's new youth committee is actively involved in campaigns on a wide range of issues, with their current focus being on the issue of pay equality for new entrants. They will be ramping up the pressure as pay negotiations continue with Government on this issue.

FAIR PENSIONS



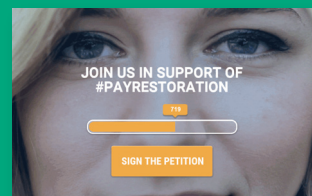
With many of our members set to be affected by the 2012 changes in State pension entitlements, Fórsa teamed up with other groups representing older people and retired people to call for these changes to be reversed, leading to the introduction of the Carer's Grant will benefit many of these members.

GENDER PAY GAP



Our union has been a strong advocate for the introduction of gender pay gap reporting, leading to the Government accepting the Gender Pay Gap Information Bill 2017. Our #ClockedOut social media campaign on this issue attracted widespread support, attention and coverage.

COMMUNITY SECTOR



Fórsa continue to press for pay restoration for our members working in the community & voluntary sector,

following the publication of our "Caring - At What Cost?" report on funding for the sector in 2015.

GET INVOLVED

If you'd like to get involved in any of Fórsa's campaigns, or you are interested in becoming a campaigns officer for your Branch, please contact Lead Organiser Joe O'Connor on joconnor@forsa.ie for more information.