



As Chair of Tyne and Wear Citizens, I'm delighted to be in touch with you with a newsletter aimed at keeping you right up-to-date with the latest news from our Citizens Chapter and national alliance.

We're planning to send you quarterly newsletters, but we're new to this and want to get it right. Please take a minute to fill out a [short survey](#) about the kind of communications you would like to receive.

**What does fair work look like? The start of a new local campaign.**

As a Chapter we've been active on our priority campaigns, from mental health to hate crime. But we know that the issues facing our communities are many and that there is always more avenues to organise for the common good. [Read this blog](#) by leaders in Newcastle who are launching a new listening campaign next Tuesday, 25 September, around poor conditions at work. Gayle and Ibrahim would love to hear from you and identify the issues that impact us most – whether that's bullying at work, zero-hour contracts, modern-day slavery, lack of sick pay or anything else.

**Welcome to Claire, new Sunderland Organiser**

Our alliance has been growing and this means we can now benefit from the expertise and support of another Organiser. Claire Rodgerson has started as the Organiser for Sunderland earlier this month. Please join me in welcoming her and be sure to book a 121 with her. In the meantime, you can learn more about her in this [short blog](#).

**Upcoming actions – save the date!**

With so much going on, be sure not to miss out on our next couple of big actions and events. We've listed them [here](#) so you can find out more and take action alongside other leaders, even if it is around a campaign that you are new to. As a Citizens chapter, it's vital that we stand in solidarity with one another and continue to build strong relationships across different action groups.



### **Citizens UK Council: speaking truth to power**

Democracy comes from the grassroots. That's why some of our 400 diverse member institutions that make up Citizens UK got together at our annual Summit to decide on the issues affecting us that we want to prioritise.

Find out [here](#) how the Citizens UK Council plans to organise even bigger and better on mental health, hate crime, housing, poverty and refugees and migration to power holders. A big thank you to all the leaders and members who contributed.

### **Making misogyny a hate crime**

Leaders from Nottingham to Manchester helped persuade the Government to review current hate crime laws in order to consider classifying misogynistic acts such as stalking and street harassment as hate crimes. You can learn more about the review [here](#) and read about our media coverage [here](#).

This is big step forward and has the potential of strengthening other hate crime laws too. But we still have work to do to make sure we make our voices hear during the review. Click here to find out more about the campaign.

### **Refugees are still welcome here**

Hundreds of supporters of refugee resettlement gathered in Kings College London to launch our Extend The Welcome campaign, asking the UK Home

Office to extend the resettlement of vulnerable refugee families fleeing conflict beyond 2020. [Watch our video](#).

The Home Office are yet to confirm if the scheme will remain fully funded, so pressure from civil society in the coming months is vital. You can help today by writing to your MP and registering to help with local events: [Download our Info Pack](#).

Thanks for all you do,

Val Barron, Communities Together Durham  
Chairs of Tyne and Wear Citizens

PS: if you're looking for some inspiration about how local organising can lead to a wider movement, we recommend [this article](#) about the cleaners at Queen Mary University who won fair wages and were at the forefront of the Living Wage movement.