# Over 60 Climate Organizations and Trade Unions Urge UK Government for Just Transition Plan for Offshore Oil and Gas Workers



More than 60 climate organizations and trade unions have called on the next UK government to provide a “clear and funded” transition plan for offshore oil and gas workers, including those in the North Sea. An open letter, sent to all party leaders on Thursday, emphasizes the need for a just transition that includes substantial investment in domestic manufacturing, expansion of publicly owned energy, and tax restructuring for public benefit.

Signatories, including Greenpeace, Oxfam, and Friends of the Earth, advocate for a UK-wide industrial strategy that ensures every oil and gas worker can secure equivalent alternative employment or funded retraining. They also call for the expansion of sectoral collective bargaining across the energy sector.

Mick Lynch, General Secretary of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT), stressed the moral and practical necessity of a just transition, highlighting the need to preserve the skills and expertise of oil and gas workers as the sector shifts towards greener energy.

The organizations argue that job losses in the oil and gas sector have been significant, with around 227,000 jobs lost since 2013. They assert that despite the issuance of hundreds of new drilling licenses, this has not halted the decline in employment. The letter critiques the prioritization of shareholder profits over green investment and job creation, citing this trend as detrimental to community well-being.

The letter also calls for a phase-out of North Sea oil and gas to meet the UK’s climate commitments, addressing its historic role as a significant emitter. Analysis by the Trade Unions Congress suggests that adhering to climate commitments could create over a million new jobs, with a majority of oil and gas workforce skills being transferable to renewable energy sectors.

The report, “Our Power,” which informed the letter, was created with input from offshore oil and gas workers and backed by trade unions including Unite the Union Scotland and Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS).

Offshore Energies UK responded by advocating for substantial private investment in energy projects to support jobs and cut emissions, highlighting the need for collaborative, community-focused approaches to the energy transition. The Conservative Party emphasized its commitment to balancing energy security and net-zero targets, while the Green Party supported the call for phasing out fossil fuels and ensuring a just transition.