

# ICTU National Demonstration Saturday 21 February 2009

## *Executive Committee meeting*

The Executive Committee met today to consider the outcome of the most recent Irish Congress of Trade Unions Public Services Committee meeting (Friday 13 February) and the planned ICTU National Demonstration on Saturday 21 February 2009. The Public Services Committee did not decide to recommend the taking of industrial action at this time.

## *National Demonstration*

Saturday's National Demonstration and ICTU's "*Better, Fairer Way*" campaign is an opportunity for members to articulate their anger and to urge the Government to re-enter talks with ICTU. Members have also expressed concern that this may not be the last time that the Government attempts to lessen our terms and conditions of employment. A significant number of members have contacted the Association directly and have made their views known at Annual General Meetings and the Consultative Council regarding their anger about the unfairness and unjustness of the pension levy. **This is your opportunity to display your anger and put down a marker to Government not to single out public servants in order to get them out of a mess which is not of their making. The Executive Committee is, therefore, urging each and every member (and their families) to attend Saturday's demonstration. This will send out a clear message to Government that such attacks on our terms and conditions of employment are not acceptable and that they must re-engage in discussions with ICTU on a *Better, Fairer Way* and on outstanding issues.**

The Executive Committee is asking members to assemble outside the offices of the Department of Education and Science, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 (across from the Pro-Cathedral) at **12.30pm** for departure to Parnell Square. Members will march behind an AHCPs banner and flags will also be available.

The march is scheduled to depart from Parnell Square at 2pm but may leave before then as large numbers are expected.

The march will travel along O'Connell Street, D'Olier Street, College Green, Nassau Street, Clare Street and on to Merrion Square where it will disperse.

## *Industrial Action*

A number of members have urged the Association to ballot its members for industrial action. The Executive considered the issue of industrial action, particularly in light of decision by the PSEU and the CPSU to ballot their members, but decided not take industrial action at this time and to continue support for the joint approach and consensus stance advocated by Congress. This approach was also endorsed by the most recent Consultative Council meeting. Further advice will issue to members in relation to the CPSU/PSEU action once their ballot results are known.

**It is essential that as large a number as possible attend the National Demonstration on Saturday 21 February and the Executive Committee urges all members to grasp this opportunity to protest and send out a clear message illustrating the anger of members of this Association.**

Please circulate to all members.

Yours sincerely

Dave Thomas  
General Secretary  
17 February 2009