

Brexit and Labour Rights: Challenges and Perspectives

Workshop Report

The process of withdrawing from the EU poses a number of formidable challenges for UK employment legislation. A large number of UK workers' rights hinge on the substantial body of EU primary and secondary instruments, and have been bolstered by the interpretative activity of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). Severing our ties with the EU could therefore potentially cause serious disruption to British workers' rights.

On 28 February 2017, a panel of distinguished speakers convened at University College London, under the aegis of the **UCL Labour Rights Lecture**¹, and explored what Brexit could mean for labour rights, including:

- How are the rights of workers in the UK likely to be affected by the UK's withdrawal from the EU?
- How are the labour rights of British citizens working, on a temporary or permanent basis, in other EU countries likely to be shaped by Brexit?
- Finally how are EU labour rights likely to develop once the UK is no longer a Member State of the Union?

standards”, with no enforcement mechanism for this obligation. Trade regulations (and compliance with them) will also affect the UK’s ability to trade with the EU.

Overview of the Panel Discussions

Professor Nicola Countouris

and whether the CJEU will be eliminated as a long-stop protection for these rights. In the long term, there is the phenomenon that equality and anti-discrimination rights enjoy a sort of 'third rail' status in the UK. However, Brexit will cut the UK off from any further developments in the EU (such as rules on access to goods and services for

UCL
P
P

UCL INSIGHTS: RESEARCH BRIEFINGS

UCL Public Policy connects researchers with policy professionals, to inform policy with evidence.

The UCL Insights: Research Briefings series presents summaries of UCL research and briefings on topical public policy issues.

See more at www.ucl.ac.uk/public-policy