

Campaign!

The NPC's monthly bulletin for activists in the pensioners' movement

NPC backs National Dignity Day

The NPC plans to mark next year's National Dignity Day on 1 February 2014 as a way of promoting the Convention's Dignity Code and to raise the organisation's profile.

Plans are being drawn up for activities to take place in every region of the country, all on the same day.

Groups will be asked to involve local community choirs, hold public meetings, leaflet the public, lobby councils and MPs and demonstrate outside hospitals and care homes where dignity is a

concern.

At a national level, the NPC will be seeking support for the activity from a national newspaper, launching parliamentary activity and trying to secure celebrity backing for the campaign.

Already the new TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady has asked all regions of the TUC to give the NPC their support.

Regrettably, the Care Bill which is currently making its way through parliament contains very little by way of improving the quality of care



that people receive, and does nothing to tackle the poor training and pay offered to many care workers.

Dot Gibson, NPC general secretary said: "The fact that too often we do

not treat older people in care with the dignity and respect they deserve proves that the system is simply not fit for purpose."

"The quality of care is sometimes shocking, the staff

often don't have the time to look after people properly and the funding is unfair."

The NPC continues to call for a national health and care service for all to be funded through taxation.

The NPC Dignity Code has already been adopted by over 40 local authorities and taken up by many health professionals
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NPC calls lobby over new state pension

The new Pensions Bill, which proposes introducing a single-tier state pension from April 2016 will do nothing to help existing or future pensioners, the NPC has warned.

The latest analysis

from the TUC shows that median earners who are contracted into the state second pensions will lose out and the scale of the loss will increase to over £1500 a year less by 2030.

Existing pensioners will also be excluded

from the new scheme, even though their income may be less than the £146 a week that is being proposed.

Those with a modest company pension will also be worse off under the new scheme.

Ron Douglas, NPC

president said: "Young and old are being conned by this new state pension scheme and we need to tell MPs that this is a step backwards."

The NPC has called a lobby of Parliament on 27 November.



National Pensioners Convention

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Campaign Dates

NPC Dignity Code Exhibition
14-17 October,
House of Commons.

NPC Lobby of Parliament - A Decent State Pension For All Generations

27 November, 1-3pm, Committee Room 14, House of Commons. Representatives from across the age groups will speak about how the Pensions Bill won't help existing and future pensioners. More details to follow.

National Dignity Day

1 February 2014, organised by the Social Care Institute of Excellence. The NPC intends to mount nationwide activities to coincide with this day. Details to follow

NPC Pensioners' Parliament

17-19 June 2014,
Winter Gardens,
Blackpool

Bill tries to "gag" campaigners

The new Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill has recently hit the headlines, and has caused concern amongst a whole host of charities and campaign groups.

Part of the Bill seeks to alter the rules surrounding political campaigning in the year before a general election.

Under the proposal, if the NPC

spent more than £5000 in a year on campaigning (including staff costs, travel, printing etc) it would be required to register with the Electoral Commission and every three months it would need to send in details of all the donations it had received.

During an election, this information would have to be sent every week.

Groups ranging from the TUC to the Salvation Army

are all concerned that this is a way of trying to gag campaigners from criticising different policies.

The NPC has produced a briefing paper on the issue which explains the Bill in detail and is available from the NPC website.

The Bill has its Report Stage on 8 October before going to the House of Lords and some commentators expect amendments to be made.

Young people back pensioner benefits

A new poll from Demos/IPSOS MORI reveals that people born after 1980 are three times as likely to support benefits for the over 65s as for the unemployed.

Qualitative research found that, across generations, people supported welfare spending on those in need through no fault of their own, as well as those who have contributed to the system, and be-

cause pensioners match both of these, spending on their welfare was strongly supported.

What is interesting is that the findings challenge the idea of the 'grey vote' only applying to over-65s.

The high levels of support for spending on pensioners across generations suggests that attitudes towards the welfare state are not just based on self-interest, but personal values.

Similarly, those in older generations (Pre War and Baby Boomers) thought that young people deserve more help from the government in order to get jobs.

The findings challenge those who are trying to argue that older people have escaped the austerity measures at the expense of younger generations.

The NPC believes that young and old have more in common than is often thought.

NPC needs support

For years the NPC's finances have been stretched; relying heavily on support from pensioners, trade unions and Age UK to run a small London office with three part-time and one full-time member of staff.

Unfortunately, next year it is possible that some of these funds will be reduced or withdrawn completely, placing the NPC in a very difficult position.

Local groups are therefore being asked to hold at least one event next year, such as a coffee morning, raffle etc to raise money for the NPC.

Barry Todman, NPC treasurer said: "Ultimately we need older people themselves to help fund the NPC and give us a guaranteed source of income."

"It is important that people recognise the work that the NPC does and how vital it is that this continues for decades to come."

You can now keep up to date with all the NPC's activities by following us on Twitter @NPCUK.