Radical policies for work


Two years ago I reviewed the Institute of Employment Right’s  A Manifesto for Labour Law: towards a comprehensive revision of workers’ rights for Socialist Lawyer and welcomed a significant advance in the battle of ideas. I questioned whether such an ambitious manifesto for the reform of labour law in the UK would achieve the political will necessary to be implemented. It was with some satisfaction then that the Labour Party adopted key aspects of the IER’s Manifesto in its 2017 general election party manifesto. It would be no exaggeration to conclude that the political will necessary to be implemented. It was with some satisfaction then that the Labour Party adopted key aspects of the IER’s Manifesto in its 2017 general election party manifesto. It would be no exaggeration to conclude that the political will necessary to be implemented. It was with some satisfaction then that the Labour Party adopted key aspects of the IER’s Manifesto in its 2017 general election party manifesto. It would be no exaggeration to conclude that the political will necessary to be implemented. It was with some satisfaction then that the Labour Party adopted key aspects of the IER’s Manifesto in its 2017 general election party manifesto. It would be no exaggeration to conclude that the political will necessary to be implemented. It was with some satisfaction then that the Labour Party adopted key aspects of the IER’s Manifesto in its 2017 general election party manifesto. It would be no exaggeration to conclude that the political will necessary to be implemented.

The policy issues addressed include the creation of a new government department to represent the interests of workers in government; a new system of economic governance that puts trade unions at the heart of decision-making at work; a new framework for sectoral collective bargaining to enhance the regulatory role of trade unions; better enterprise democracy and workplace recognition laws to boost the representative role of trade unions; and the radical reform of workers’ rights, relating specifically to the employment relationship, zero-hours contracts, equality at work, health and safety regulation, and enforcement of workers’ rights (including a proposal for a much-needed comprehensive and powerful Labour Inspectorate).

‘Detailed proposals explain precisely what is needed to create fair, just, secure, democratic and productive conditions of work.

26 of the UK’s leading labour law experts, explaining precisely what is needed to adapt the law to create fair, just, secure, democratic and productive conditions of work.

This is again a timely intervention that, ‘It is time for the law to change. As a government in waiting, Labour is committed to transforming the world of work’.

In the foreword John McDonnell says, ‘It is time for the law to change. As a government in waiting, Labour is committed to transforming the world of work’.

There is no doubt that the authors’ proposals are an important contribution to policy formation on labour law and will, as they suggest, involve ‘a radical reconstruction of the architecture governing the workplace.’ That is surely a prospect to be welcomed by all readers of Socialist Lawyer.

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