

Trade Unions

What is the Irish Congress of Trade unions (ICTU)?

Congress is the largest civil society organisation on the island, representing and campaigning on behalf of some 770,000 working people. There are currently 56 unions affiliated to Congress, north and south of the border.

Congress seeks to achieve a just society - one which recognises the rights of all workers and citizens to enjoy the prosperity and fulfilment which leads to a good quality of life. Quality of life embraces not just material well-being, but freedom of choice to engage in the arts, culture and all aspects of civic life.

This vision applies in the context of Ireland, Europe and the wider world and challenges the existing economic order.

Source: www.ictu.ie

Task 1

Vocabulary Study

Look up the words in the box:

civil	campaigning	behalf	affiliated
prosperity	fulfilment	embraces	material
well-being	civic	vision	challenges

Write synonyms (words of the same meaning) for each word.

civil _____

prosperity _____

well-being _____

campaigning _____

fulfilment _____

civic _____

behalf _____

embraces _____

vision _____

affiliated _____

material _____

challenges _____

Task 2

Comprehension

How many workers are represented by ICTU?

How many trade unions are affiliated to Congress?

What is the aim of the Irish Trade Union Congress?

How do you think trade unions protect workers?

Task 3

Look up the following words and phrases:

- industrial action _____
- strike _____
- comprehensive agreement _____
- negotiation _____
- dispute _____
- shop steward _____
- union official _____
- representative (rep) _____
- Labour Relations Commission _____
- Labour Court _____

Task 4

Class discussion

Find out the views of other students.

- Are trade unions necessary?
- Why do you think some companies do not want employees to hold trade union membership?

Trade Unions affiliated to Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)

See examples below:

Services Industrial Professional Technical Union (SIPTU)

IMPACT (Public Services Union)

MANDATE (Union of Retail, Bar and Administrative Workers)

Union of Motor Trade Employees

National Taxi Drivers Union

Construction Industry Federation

Irish National Painters and Decorators Trades Union

Irish Nurses Organisation (INO)

Technical Engineering & Electrical Union

Irish Medical Organisation

Look at the golden pages to see the full list of trade unions in Ireland.