

NATIONAL LIBRARIES MUSEUMS & GALLERIES DEMONSTRATION Saturday 5th November

Assemble 12 noon: British Library 96 Euston Rd, London NW1 2DB

British Museum Great Russell St, London WC1B 3DG

National Gallery Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN





THERE IS A NATIONAL crisis threatening the future of public libraries, museums and galleries.

The current austerity policies of the government and local authorities, if not reversed, will kill cultural and educational services essential to a civilised society. The country must be alerted to this crisis.

It may appear to be of relatively minor importance compared to housing, health and care services, but is nonetheless vital to the health of the community.

The education of our children and grandchildren is threatened by the closure of libraries or the emasculation of once-admired library services, designed to set them up for closure.

Discrimination against school children by refusing access unless accompanied by an adult is arguably illegal. The wholesale redundancy of qualified library staff throughout the UK threatens the continued existence of library training.



Museum and gallery workers play a vital role in maintaining our institutions yet are the second lowest paid in the arts and creative leisure industry.

Cuts to funding, increasing privatisations, attacks on job contracts and pensions and threats on union rights are rife in this sector.

Sector-wide action is needed to eradicate these bad practices but we also need to link up with workers in the library and education sector facing similar issues.

“Banning school children from Barnet libraries would be a breach of children’s rights – is that what you want?”

Ralph (*Kids4Libraries campaigner to Barnet Tory Councillors*)

Strike action and campaigning at the National Gallery, Tate, National Museums Scotland and National Museum Wales shows the potential to fight and win.

