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connect

TRADE UNION

Paddy Kavanagh *General Secretary/Treasurer*



THIS IS AN OFFICIAL CONNECT TRADE UNION STATEMENT TO CONSTRUCTION/MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL CRAFT & SKILLED WORKERS

At present there is a lot of confusion regarding the viability of construction sites to remain open as the crisis continues.

The Construction Industry Federation (the Trade Union of Employers) has been heard on the radio and seen on the T.V. calling for the sites to remain open. Others have called for Construction activity to cease and a blanket closure of all sites without regard for the opinion of Connect Trade Union members. In reality construction & contracting are industries that reach across many sectors with highly qualified Craft & Skilled Workers providing support and skills to vital infrastructure, services and utilities.

Construction is a lot more than house building and development.

Connect Trade Union are calling for a calm and measured approach to dealing with the sectors in question at this time.

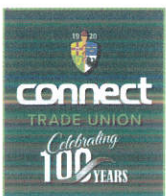
The fact is that sites with poor facilities and a lack of respect for worker wellbeing should be shut down, not just because of Covid-19 but because they are not fit for purpose.

We are listening to what our members have to say and the feedback from our members is a mixed response with many concerned about the prospect of being “out of work” and others concerned about the standard on sites.

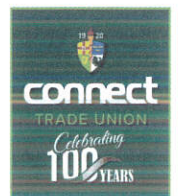
So far, we have told employers that we will discuss supportive measures that ensures the safety of our members at work but there are always smaller sites where non-union labour will most likely be pressured into doing as they are told. Those workers have a choice, they can join the union, but they must do what is right for all of us and they should be reminded of that.

When asked “*what is the union stance*” Connect Trade Union have consistently said the following to our members who contact us;

1. IF YOU HAVE AN UNDERLYING HEALTH ISSUE PLEASE SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE TO ENSURE WORKING ON A SITE IS **SAFE** AT THIS POINT IN TIME.
2. ONLY WORK ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE IF IT IS SAFE TO.
3. **REFUSE** TO PUT YOURSELF OR ANYONE ELSE AT RISK. DON'T BE AFRAID TO SPEAK UP.



THE UNION FOR CRAFT AND SKILLED TECHNICAL, ENGINEERING,
ELECTRICAL AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN IRELAND



4. RESPECT THE CALL FOR SOCIAL/PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND **DEMAND** YOUR SPACE.
5. DEMAND THAT ADEQUATE FACILITIES ARE IN PLACE TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY AND USE THEM.
6. ANSWER THE CALL TO CLOSE ALL SITES IF/WHEN AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT IS MADE TO DO SO.
7. NOMINATE SHOP STEWARDS AND AN ON-SITE SAFETY COMMITTEE TO LIAISE WITH SITE MANAGEMENT AND TO REPORT ANY SITE THAT CLEARLY FAILS TO PROVIDE A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT TO THE CONFIDENTIAL EMAIL;
construction@connectunion.ie or CALL THE HOTLINE ON 01 8719 903.
8. MAKE SURE YOUR EMPLOYER HAS ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS PENSION SCHEME UP TO DATE (see www.cwps.ie or call 01-4977663), **THIS WILL BECOME VITAL TO ENSURING THAT SICK PAY AND DEATH-IN-SERVICE BENEFIT IS AVAILABLE TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IF REQUIRED.**

These are difficult times and the Union is here to support all our members and their families.

Please take care at all times and keep in touch with us.

Our offices (whilst closed to the public) are fully functional through-out the Country and can be contacted by email or phone. All contact details can be found on <https://www.connectunion.ie/about-our-trade-union/staff-officials-offices/>

We will continue to share advice and information with our members through our website www.connectunion.ie and our various social media outlets;

Connect Trade Union (Facebook page)
Connect – Plumbers & Pipefitters Union
Connect – Electricians Union
Connect – Apprentices Union

Remember, Work Safe, Work Union, Work Connect.

25th March, 2020.