



# NUJ Local News Matters

Journalists know how important it is to cover what's going on, to hold local politicians and authorities to account, to cover sport, music and local culture in some detail and with local knowledge.

**CONTINUING CUTS  
ARE STOPPING THIS.**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP  
TO STOP THE CUTS.**

**local  
news  
matters**  
[www.nuj.org.uk](http://www.nuj.org.uk)



# Local News is being cut – help us to campaign to save local, quality journalism!

*The Yorkshire Post*, *Yorkshire Evening Post* and weekly papers owned by the same group used to employ more than 300 journalists in Leeds and West Yorkshire. Now only about 100 run websites and social media feeds as well as producing the papers. ITV Yorkshire used to run two editions of *Calendar* – each covering separate parts of the region. Now it's only one. Commercial radio stations used to have newsrooms run by about half a dozen journalists. Now, it's two or three. *The Courier* in Halifax used to be a daily paper, now it's a weekly. Titles such as the *Hebden Bridge Times* and *Todmorden Times* have been merged.

The BBC faces more cuts to programmes and news output – because the government transferred the bill for the World Service and free access for over-75s from taxpayers to licence fee payers. NUJ (and BECTU) members working in your local BBC TV and radio services are preparing to fight these cuts, which could see redundancies forced on to already stretched newsrooms. ITV now prefers to run channels of repeats rather than produce local programmes.

**The National Union of Journalists stands up for journalism as well as journalists. We have a code of conduct that requires us to report accurately and fairly and to differentiate between fact and opinion. Most importantly now, we also defend the right of the public to be informed.**

Even if people want news online, journalists are vital if what's important has to be discovered and then reported. However, research released this year shows 79 per cent of us still read printed newspapers while only 7 per cent use mobile devices and 4 per cent use computers. The same research found we spend 40 minutes a day reading printed papers and just 30 seconds looking at the news on screens. Yet, the publishers are still rushing headlong to cut costs, close presses and put more online.

We have already received support from local politicians:

*"Local news is really important to the communities in which we live and to our sense of place. Whether it's the local paper or local broadcasters, we rely on them to tell us what's going on."*

**Hilary Benn, MP for Leeds Central**

*"Local papers like the Yorkshire Evening Post are part of the fabric of our great city of Leeds. Local news really does matter. Long may the local media keep supplying it."*

**Judith Blake, leader of Leeds City Council**

*"Now more than ever people are turning to the local media they know and trust. Local news does matter."*

**Jason McCartney, MP for the Colne Valley**

## Four things you can take part in our campaign:

- 1 Contact your local MP and councillors - ask them to pledge support for local news provision. Search for their contact details online - [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com) - and ask them to contact the NUJ about this campaign. MPs can sign the NUJ local news early day motion and support our call for a parliamentary inquiry into the news industry and to help us make media companies accountable and find out where the money is going.
- 2 Send us a 140-character message (the size of a Tweet) to say why you care about local news
- 3 Send us examples that show how news coverage in your area has been able to make a real difference
- 4 Send information to our campaigns and communications department via email: [campaigns@nuj.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@nuj.org.uk)

For more information visit our website:  
[www.nuj.org.uk/campaigns/local-nuj-org-uk-matters-week](http://www.nuj.org.uk/campaigns/local-nuj-org-uk-matters-week)

