

Case study: The Justice for LSE Cleaners campaign

The cleaners at the LSE (part of the University of London), are mainly migrant workers and people of colour.

The Justice for LSE Cleaners campaign was set up to improve working conditions for LSE cleaners. A private company called Noonan runs the the university's cleaning services, which means the cleaners don't have the same rights as other workers at the university.



According to the campaign, **'Noonan does the "dirty work" for the LSE**, using intimidation to overwork the staff and victimising those who question injustice. In the words of some of the cleaners themselves, they are treated like "third or no class citizens", or "like the dirt we clean"".



Some of their demands to the management of LSE included:

1. Having the same basic terms and conditions of employment as other workers at the LSE community 'such as annual leave entitlement, sick pay, maternity/paternity/adoption leave pay and pensions'.
2. A review of their workloads with the aim of reducing them.

Over a period of eight months, the cleaners and their supporters used letter writing, strikes, pickets, occupations, demonstrations and public meetings as well as linking with unions and high-profile journalists to try and achieve their demands.

In the spring of 2018 they became employees of LSE, no longer the outsourced company Noonan and achieved the same terms and conditions of employment as other LSE staff. The campaign continues to work to improve working conditions for LSE cleaners.

