

MPs lend their weight to 23kg campaign

MPs **John McDonnell**, Hayes and Harlington, **Ann Keen**, Brentford and Isleworth, **Virendra Sharma**, Ealing and Southall, **Fiona MacTaggart**, Slough will be

attending our campaign day. Even though **Alan Keen**, Feltham and Heston cannot attend due to other parliamentary duties, he writes in support of the campaign.

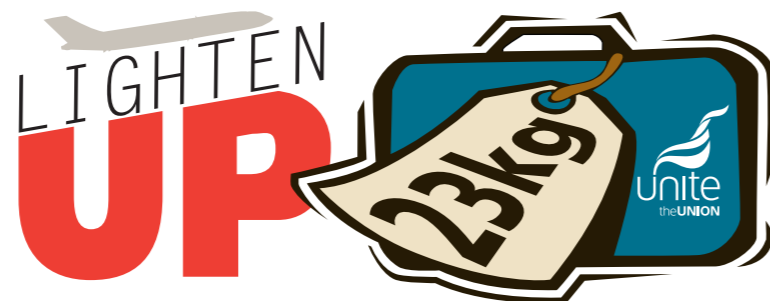
These MPs will be at Heathrow on the 10th supporting Unite members in our campaign to reduce manual handling injuries.

23 reasons why you should support 23kg bag weight limit.

1. As a baggage handler you are 5 times more likely to suffer an injury than other workers.
2. Latest statistics manual handling injuries up 17% in aviation.
3. Even without an accident, the wear and tear from heavy lifting destroys health.
4. Other dangerous industries have weight limits in place: building and agriculture.
5. Passenger numbers are up, aircraft movements are up but the labour force is being reduced.
6. Narrow bodied aircraft turn around times are decreasing.
7. Most narrow bodied aircraft are loaded on knees due to lack of space and there is no safe way to do this.
8. HSE agrees with a new limit but fails to act.
9. Employers agree but renege on agreement 2006.
10. Manchester Airport Group do support the campaign, sadly other airports don't.
11. Manual handling training can never be adequate for working on your knees.
12. And training budgets are being cut back.
13. Poor risk assessments on manual handling.
14. Employers do not allow 2-person lifting for heavy bags.
15. No investment by employers or airport authorities in mechanising baggage services, even when in hold equipment is available.
16. Employers cutting back on company sick schemes and pressing staff to return early.
17. Industrial injury payments often challenged or denied.
18. Employers rarely pay for physiotherapy or after care and the NHS service is limited.
19. Pension provisions if retired due to ill health being reduced.
20. Light duties are restricted to a minimum.
21. More price competition in ground handling generates short cuts and unsafe working.
22. Cost not service driving factor for tendered contracts.
23. Airlines not sharing H&S responsibility with third party contractors.

Unite has also agreed to a Lobby of parliament, giving you the opportunity to take the campaign to Westminster, date to be published in next edition. Transport will be supplied.

www.unitetheunion.com/lightenup



Heathrow Liaison Committee **newsletter**



Unite - the union

November 2008

10TH NOVEMBER - NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

The employers won't act, SO WE WILL!



Heathrow Shop stewards will be joining their colleagues from airports up and down the country campaigning on the 23kg bag weight limit. Unite is stepping up its campaign, starting with the flying public. Aviation reps along with cab drivers, coach drivers and MPs will be raising the public profile. The 10th November is aimed at educating passengers not

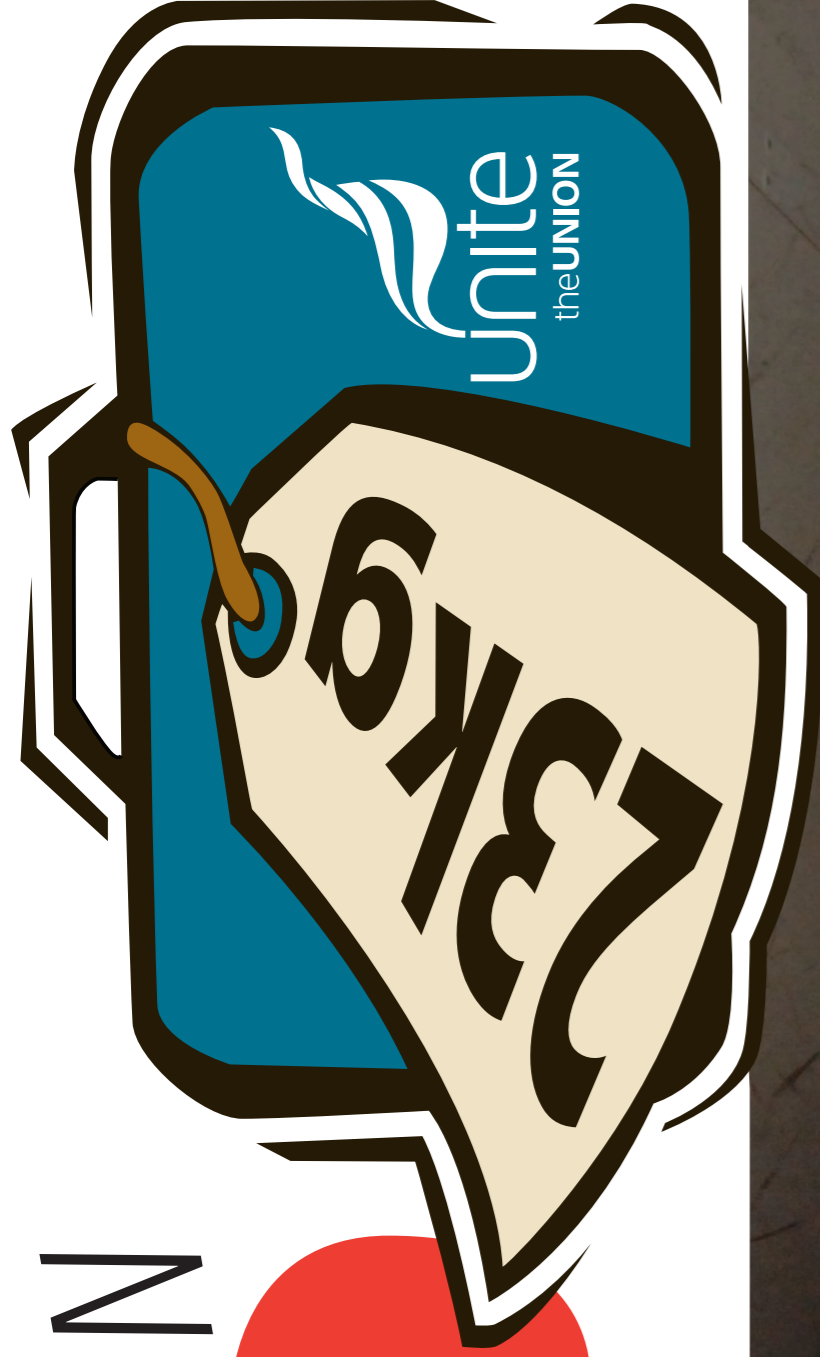
to fly with suitcases weighing over 23kg. Reps will be in the terminals distributing leaflets and explaining why we need a reduction. Inside this edition is your 23kg poster. Display it where you can – your locker room, crew room, rest room, canteen, car window and anywhere else you think it will have an impact. Remember you are five times more likely to suffer a

manual handling injury in Aviation than in any other industry.

This is your campaign. Display your poster with pride!

SPECIAL EDITION!

LIGHTEN UP



**Unite – campaigning for a
23KG BAG LIMIT**



Unite aviation
Fighting for baggage and
ground handling workers

Picture by Mark Thomas