



**Cónaidhm Éireannach na Múinteoirí Ollscoile  
Irish Federation of University Teachers**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Retired workers must get  
Labour Court rights, says IFUT**

5 February 2010

The Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT) has welcomed the government's decision to consider access for retired workers to employment rights bodies.

Responding to a proposal by Labour Senator Brendan Ryan, Minister for Labour Affairs, Dara Calleary, said that he was "sympathetic" to retired people having "a facility whereby grievances arising from their former employment relationship might be examined on their merits".

IFUT General Secretary, Mike Jennings, said the current situation "represents an unjust anomaly which has allowed unfair treatment of older employees to go uncorrected".

In a recent case of discrimination taken by IFUT against UCD, university management successfully argued that the Labour Court could not investigate the dispute because the claimant was not a worker within the meaning of the IR Acts 1946-2004, based on the fact that the claimant retired from his post with the College on 6 October 2007.

"It is reprehensible that UCD, a body in receipt of state funding, used those funds to deprive a lecturer of his entitlement to a fair hearing of his grievance. This was especially deplorable since UCD engaged the services of a particularly expensive Senior Counsel to argue the exclusion of the lecturer from the benefit of the Labour Court examining his case."

The anomaly arises because of a ruling 30 years ago by the then Attorney General that a retired person could not be regarded as a 'worker' and so could not bring a claim to the Labour Court.

"We welcome the Minister's commitment to removing this anomaly, but it is important that his expressed sympathy for retired workers be converted into effective amending legislation without delay", Mike Jennings said.

- ENDS -

**For further information on this media release, please contact:**

Mike Jennings,  
General Secretary,  
Irish Federation of University Teachers,  
11 Merrion Square,  
Dublin 2.

Tel: (01) 661 0910  
(087) 677 6747

E-mail: [IFUT@eircom.net](mailto:IFUT@eircom.net)

John Gallagher,  
John Gallagher Consulting.

Tel: (087) 936 9888