Unit 12 Translations

Easy

Most workers today cannot imagine a time when they would not have been allowed to join a trade union that would fight for their rights. Over the past century, trade unions have fought hard to ensure that workers can carry out their jobs in decent conditions, that their pay reflects their qualifications and the quality of their labour, and that they will be able to take part in strike action should the need arise without fearing the consequences.

Medium

Many people think that a strike should only be called when all other avenues of dialogue and compromise have been exhausted, and it should very much be a last resort. This is even truer of general strikes which, if successful, will affect every single aspect of life. Some people have voiced a strong opinion against this sort of action, arguing that nothing could justify paralysing the country to such an extent, not to mention the loss of income. However, others claim that when the state is abusing their power, the need for protest needs to be asserted.

Hard

After the effects of the economic crisis started to be felt in Spain, a popular movement arose in the country. It started in Madrid, and then it spread to almost every major city, thus becoming one of the biggest protests even seen in Spain. Social networks played an essential role in communication and organisation of activities, as different hash tags were followed by thousands, and the more people attended the demonstrations, the more it became clear that fundamental things were changing. One of the ideas the movement wanted to fight against was the bipartisanship of Spanish politics: they argued that just because things have always happened in one way, that doesn’t mean they can’t be changed. It remains to be seen whether their ideas will ever be put into practice.