

A winter of labor actions in UK



image / RTVE.es

By Roberto Morejón

When the British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has passed his first one hundred days in office, the United Kingdom is facing a winter with high temperatures on the social plane, in contrast with the icy temperatures that characterize the European nation at this time.

As a result of the events of the last eight months, more sectors of public workers are joining the strikes and others are planning theirs for February and March.

Nurses, railway workers, teachers, physiotherapists and ambulance drivers, among others, went on strike or are planning to do so.

The TUC trade union confederation assesses the current unrest as the biggest day of strikes since 2011, to which the conservative government reacted harshly.

In the face of the agitation of the state workers, the dialogue with the unions remains blocked.

The unions cite the decreasing purchasing power of salaries and pensions in the midst of a 10.5 percent rise in prices, hence the demand for an increase in pay and a halt to the labor reform promoted by the tenants of No. 10 Downing Street.

In a country where on the third anniversary of the Brexit only 20 percent of the British consider this process well underway, the government presented a reform to the labor law to impose reduced levels of service to limit the possibility of future strikes.

Union members say they do not understand the attitude of the government when a growing number of British people have to resort to soup kitchens to cover their food needs.

One in three children in the North of England lives close to the poverty line.

In the midst of the crisis, more than a few analysts are warning about what they describe as the exhaustion of the Conservative Party in government after five terms and 12 years of austerity.

This impact is not being felt by the rich, as the public debate denounces the alarming cases of tax evasion by wealthy individuals and multinationals.

In addition, the International Monetary Fund predicted that the United Kingdom will be the only country of the Group of seven most industrialized countries whose economy will shrink by 2023.

If official intransigence continues and the cease-fire announced by other trade unions comes to pass, the United Kingdom is approaching a stage in which voters may wonder whether they should not pass the bill to the Conservatives at the next elections.

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