

## The huge CEO-worker pay gap is the most popular fairness argument for strikes

**What is the relationship between people’s views about the rights and wrongs of strikes and their views about the key principles of fairness, and the extent to which those are met in today’s Britain? How do those views vary across different groups in society and in relation to different groups of workers?**

This report, based on polling carried out by Opinium for the Fairness Foundation in January 2023, finds that a large majority (80%) of the British public are concerned about the state of the nation, with even higher levels of concern about people meeting their basic needs (86%) and about the state of public services (83%).

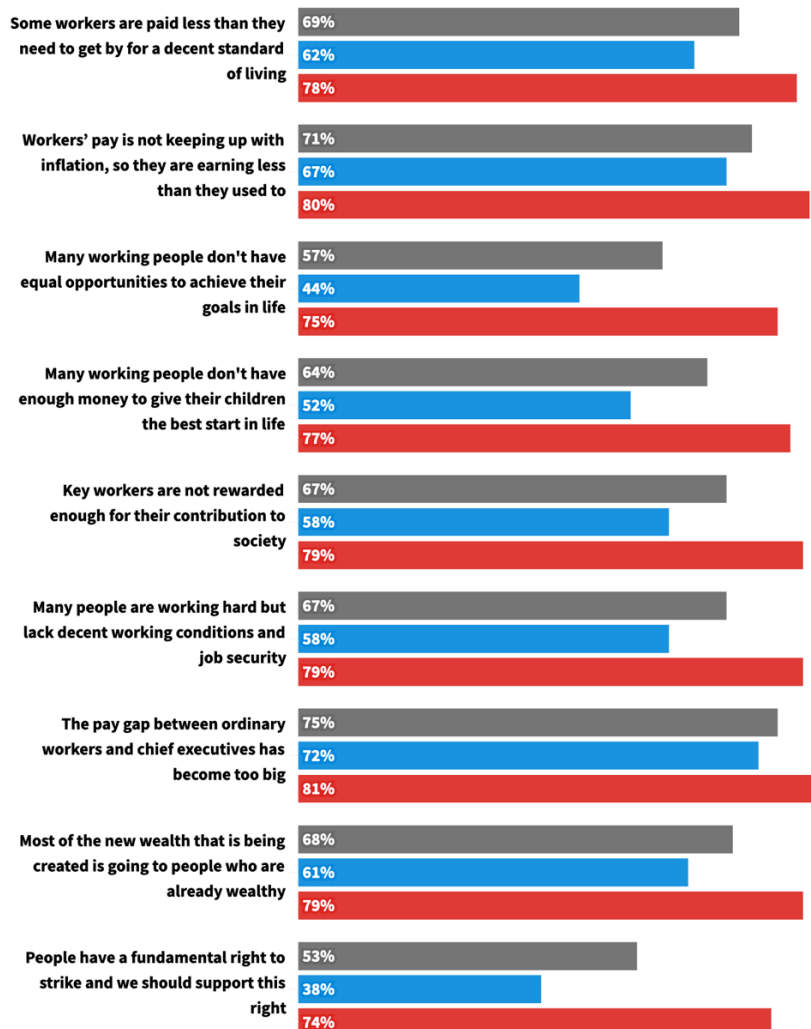
This explains why two in three people in Britain agree with the key fairness arguments in favour of the strikes (with still higher levels of agreement about falling real-terms pay and pay gap between ordinary workers and chief executives).

Almost three quarters of 2019 Conservative voters (and eight in ten Labour voters) agree that pay gaps are too large as an argument in favour of strikes, while large majorities also agree that some workers are paid less than they need to get by. Concern about public services is also the most agreed-with fairness argument *against* the strikes.

### Thinking about the UK in 2023, how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following arguments IN FAVOUR of strikes?

Proportion of respondents who agree or strongly agree

■ All respondents ■ Conservative voters in 2019 ■ Labour voters in 2019



*Support for different groups of striking workers varies, and it is beyond the scope of this research to disentangle all of the reasons for this. But the results provide additional evidence that the strikes themselves, and public attitudes to them, demonstrate the severity of the underlying problems caused by an absence of fairness in our society and economy. They also show that, while public support for strikes is quite divided (in line with the results of previous polling), the public is much more united when it comes to basic principles of fairness.*