

# British Airways strike –

# THE FACTS

The cabin crew at British Airways do not want to strike but feel they have no alternative in order to protect their jobs and the future of the airline.

The strike is the last resort.

[www.unitetheunion.org/ba](http://www.unitetheunion.org/ba)



# WHY ARE UNITE UNION MEMBERS GOING ON STRIKE?

Unite regrets any inconvenience that this strike will cause members of the public and is prepared to resume talks at any time.

- In November 2009, management imposed cuts in staffing levels that crew believe are damaging the airline's standing as a premier carrier.
- Staffing levels have been cut from four to three on the Euro-fleet, while long-haul crews have seen reductions of between one to three.
- Unite members say that service is suffering because of these cuts.
- This dispute can only be avoided if BA is prepared to make a serious attempt to find a negotiated settlement.
- The airline should start by putting the offer made during negotiations back on the table so that Unite can give members the right to accept or reject BA's proposal. Unite is prepared to halt the strike while members are consulted and will stand by the crew's decision. The ball is clearly in BA's court.
- BA has been applying bullying tactics. British Airways' management, under its boss Willie Walsh, has bullied and intimidated staff for months now. Over the last two months 38 workers who are union members have been suspended and now risk losing their jobs.

## WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

- Cabin crew are prepared to make sacrifices. Unite members offered the airline savings worth £62million, the amount BA has said it would save by cutting 1,000 crew from flights.
- Crew were prepared to take a pay cut and to compromise on the crew compliments and accept fewer crew on some routes. But instead of meaningful negotiations, BA's macho management has maintained its imposed changes and refused to seriously consider the crew's offer.
- Unite has done everything it could to avoid this strike. BA cabin crew are highly trained to the best standard. The crew are hugely proud of the jobs they do and want to work with management to ensure the long-term future of BA.

**Unite is ready to resume talks at any time to find a negotiated settlement.**

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## THE FACTS

- BA crew are not overpaid. 70% earn less than £20,000 per year.
- BA cabin crew are not mindless militants, they are highly trained professionals who are proud of the BA brand. They do not believe that you can run a premier airline with too few crew.
- Despite a year of talks BA has refused to listen to its crew and has imposed cuts in crew numbers that seriously undermines the high service BA customers' expect.