

# FIGHT FOR YOUR FUTURE

## IT'S TIME TO FIGHT-BACK!

Each day we hear of more job cuts and ward and theatre closures. There is an acute crisis in primary care. Thousands of NHS staff have lost their jobs and this will have a devastating effect on patient care and services. About 20,000 nurses will graduate this year – and, because of cutbacks in the NHS, as many as half may struggle to get employment. There have already been cases of graduates being forced to look at trying to get work in Tescos just to get by.

Everyone – apart from the government and the fat cats who are set to make a fortune from privatising the services – is against the cuts. In fact the situation is, in large part, caused by government policy. PFI contracts are bleeding the NHS dry. A number of people are getting very rich but a far greater number of people will be deprived of essential healthcare.

Everyone, apart from Blair and his fat cat mates, can see that health care should be a right – not a privilege.

Everyone else can see that a secure job with decent pay and conditions should be a right – not a privilege.

The government has said that the jobs they are cutting were not "real jobs" but agency positions. To take away these posts will mean that hospitals are short-staffed. In essence what we have is a government-sponsored destruction of not only acute health care services but primary health care services as well. And we have to fight back – for our jobs, for patients now and for our future!

STUDENT  
NURSES  
AGAINST  
NHS  
CUTS

### local details



## FOR A NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION & STRIKE ACTION TO SAVE THE NHS



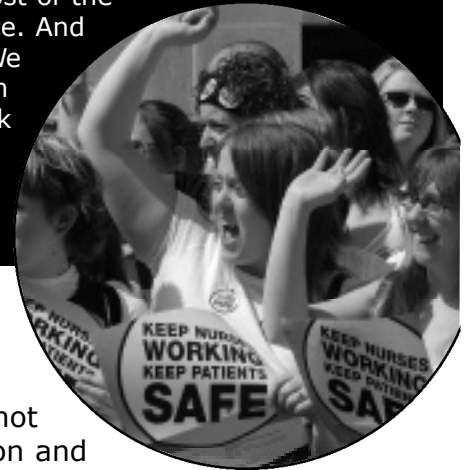
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**socialist**  
**STUDENTS**

The experience of one nurse showed the effect of the cuts already. "I'm a newly qualified nurse. I worked really hard during my three-year course, making sacrifices, my children having to go to nursery. I thought that when I finished I would get a job straight away. But since September I haven't been able to get a job. All that money spent on training me has been wasted. Most of the hospitals are asking for people with six months or 12 months experience. And because of the cuts, ward managers say they can't employ new staff. We need change. Otherwise patients will be suffering, there'll be no staff on the wards. On some wards one member of staff can be expected to look after 15 to 20 patients. Some of those are critical wards where patients can go into cardiac arrest and staff aren't able to look after them properly because of the workload. We need change because of patient safety and for nurses as well."



**S**tudent nurses face difficulties getting agency work to top-up their bursary. They are forced to look at the retail sector which can make it difficult to meet the demands of their placements.

Without agency shifts nurses in London cannot meet the high costs of living in London and other areas of the country.

**I**f you would like to get involved with the Save our NHS campaigns and the Student Nurses Against NHS Cuts call 020 8558 7947 or email anticapitalism@hotmail.co.uk We want to link up with those who work in the health service, those who use it and those who want to work in it when they graduate to fight to defend our service.

Cuts in wards mean cuts in nurses' education as there are less staff nurses to act as mentors.

When people go in to nursing they are not planning to live a life of leisure and luxury. It is a trade off between long hours and low pay on the one hand and job security and job satisfaction on the other. As these attacks on the NHS mount up nurses are left with the exhausting shifts and the poverty pay but no decent health service to work in.

What we need more than ever is to unite the many campaigns across Britain to defend the NHS. Thousands have already taken to the streets in many areas e.g. Stoke where 5000 marched.

## ISR demands

- ✦ No to NHS job losses, cuts and closures. Keep patients safe and keep nurses working.
- ✦ Raise the bursary to a level you can live on.
- ✦ Increase the budget so nurses can top-up diplomas on the wards.
- ✦ No to health privatisation and the 'market'.
- ✦ Rebuild the NHS as a publicly funded service, free at the point of use, with immediate cash to end this underfunding crisis.
- ✦ Unite the many campaigns already in existence to defend the NHS.
- ✦ The unions should name the day for a national weekday demonstration against the attacks on NHS jobs and services.
- ✦ Prepare for a one-day strike of NHS workers, with NHS staff deciding levels of emergency cover.



**T**he government says that they must continue with their reforms. They say there is no other way to fund the service. The money is out there! Since New Labour came to power the top 1% of the UK wealth league have doubled their wealth from £355bn to £797bn. Terry Leahy, Tesco's boss, took home almost £4million this year while we are told that there is not enough money in Britain to pay for health care for all. But the government won't change their policy without a fight!

If Blair, Brown & co can't balance the books to provide public services, and jobs for those who wish to serve the public, then they are no good to us. And neither are the two other main parties. We need to fight back to defend our right to a decent future.

**I would like to join ISR  (£2 unwaged / £4 waged)**

**Socialist Students**

**name**.....

**tel**.....

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make cheques payable to isr