

Protests grow as young people say: 'WE WANT A FUTURE!'



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International Socialist Resistance

"We are not commodities in the hands of politicians and bankers!" say Spanish protesters. Their "real democracy" movement expresses genuine aspirations for a society in which people have control over their lives. Young people are fighting against conditions that threaten to make them the "ni ni" generation - no job, no house.

The town square occupation and protest movement of the 'indignados', which spread like wildfire across Spain, has appealed to many young people and workers across Europe.

While frightening the ruling elite, this movement represents a rallying cry for all those who refuse to bear the brunt of a capitalist crisis for which they are not responsible. These protesters reject a hopeless future of mass unemployment, "trash contracts", low-paid jobs, squeezed services, reduced benefits, inaccessible education, soaring prices and police repression.

In Greece, hundreds of thousands of workers and young people have occupied the main cities' squares. This has helped bring forward the next general strike in Greece to 15 June, the same day as a major anti-cuts demonstration in Barcelona.

Across Europe, the impact of this new wave of resist-

ance has been felt by solidarity protests and occupations, with young people inspired by the revolutionary movements in Egypt, Tunisia and across the Middle East.

Almost half of Spanish youth are unemployed. Devastating cuts are planned and are already being implemented. Capitalist politicians are more concerned with bailing out their big business and banker mates than the lives of the majority of the population.

Young people in Britain are also experiencing unemployment, education cuts, low pay and cuts in much-needed services. But, as indicated by the student protests in 2010, we can also take the road of Spain, with a mass fightback that says no to all cuts, no to mass unemployment, and demands the right to determine our own future.

- **We don't want to be slaves of this system!**
- **Decent jobs and contracts for all!**
- **For free education and healthcare**
- **Nationalise the big companies and banks under democratic working-class control**
- **For Europe-wide and international solidarity action on 15 June**

For more on 15 June protests, see:
internationalsocialistresistance.wordpress.com

Sixth union backs Jarrow march

Employers will attempt to use mass unemployment to hold down wages and attack conditions in work. People desperate for a job could be used to undermine strike action and ultimately lead to worse conditions for all.

That is why Youth Fight for Jobs seeks to link all young people fighting against the cuts to the wider anti-cuts and trade union movement. Many of our members are helping to build support for public sector strike action on 30 June.

And that is also why we are organising the Jarrow to London 2011 march, 75 years since the first Jarrow unemployed workers' march, to say we won't be a lost generation, and to fight for jobs and education!

At its recent conference, the Uni-

versity and College Union agreed to support this march for jobs.

jarrow2london2011.wordpress.com
youthfightforjobs.com

UCU is now the sixth national trade union to back the march, joining the FBU firefighters' union, RMT and TSSA transport unions, PCS civil service union and Bectu media and entertainment trade union.

The march starts on 1 October. Contact youthfightforjobs@gmail.com or 020 8558 7947 to take part in or support the march.

Ben Robinson
Youth Fight for Jobs

What we stand for

The Socialist Party fights for socialist change – a democratic society run for the needs of all and not the profits of a few. We also fight, in our day-to-day campaigning, for every possible improvement for working-class people.

As capitalism dominates the globe, the struggle for genuine socialism must be international.

The Socialist Party is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), a democratic, socialist international that organises in over 40 countries.

Our demands include:

Work and income

- Trade union struggle to increase the minimum wage to £8 an hour without exemptions as an immediate step towards £10 an hour. For an annual increase in the minimum wage linked to average earnings.
- All workers, including part-timers, temps, casual and migrant workers to have trade union rates of pay, employment protection, and sickness and holiday rights from day one of employment.
- An immediate 50% increase in the state

retirement pension, as a step towards a living pension. Reinstate the link with average earnings now.

- Reject 'Welfare to Work'. For the right to decent benefits, education, training, or a job, without compulsion.
- Scrap the anti-trade union laws! For fighting trade unions, democratically controlled by their members. Full-time union officials to be regularly elected and receive no more than a worker's wage.
- A maximum 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

Public services

- No to privatisation and the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Renationalise all privatised utilities and services, with compensation paid only on the basis of proven need.
- Fully fund all services and run them under accountable, democratic committees that include representatives of service workers and users.
- Free, publicly run, good quality education, available to all at any age. Abolish university tuition fees now and introduce a living grant. No to academies!
- A socialist NHS to provide for everyone's health needs – free at the point of use and under

democratic control. Kick out private contractors!

- Keep council housing publicly owned. For a massive building programme of publicly owned housing, on an environmentally sustainable basis, to provide good quality homes with low rents.

Environment

- Major research and investment into replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy and into ending the problems of early obsolescence and unrecycled waste.
- Public ownership of the energy generating industries. No to nuclear power. No to Trident.
- A democratically planned, low fare, publicly-owned transport system, as part of an overall plan against environmental pollution.

Rights

- Oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, disability, sexuality, age, and all other forms of prejudice.
- Repeal all laws that trample over civil liberties. For the right to protest! End police harassment.
- Defend abortion rights. For a woman's right to choose when and whether to have children.
- For the right to asylum. No to racist immigration laws.

New workers' party

- For a new mass workers' party drawing together workers, young people and activists from workplace, community, environmental and anti-war campaigns, to provide a fighting, political alternative to the pro-big business parties.
- Trade unions to disaffiliate from the Labour Party now and aid the building of a new workers' party!

Socialism and internationalism

- No to imperialist wars and occupations. Withdraw the troops immediately from Iraq and Afghanistan!
- Tax the super-rich! For a socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies and banks that dominate the British economy, and run them under democratic working-class control and management. Compensation to be paid only on the basis of proven need.
- A democratic socialist plan of production based on the interests of the overwhelming majority of people, and in a way that safeguards the environment.
- No to the bosses' neo-liberal European Union! For a socialist Europe and a socialist world!