

# DON'T LET THE CON-DEMS STEAL OUR FUTURE!



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You're damned if you do and damned if you don't! Whether you go the long way round through university, piling up the debt, or are forced to take the fast track to the dole queue, a future of unemployment and lack of opportunity seems to await an entire generation.

According to figures released last week, there are now 972,000 people aged 16 to 24 looking for a job.

80,000 people were made unemployed in the three months leading up to July, the vast

majority of whom (77,000) were under 25. It is clear that many of this year's school and college leavers have been thrown straight on the scrapheap.

The government's schemes have made no inroad into mass unemployment. There are now over 2.5 million people out of work. With cuts in the public sector beginning to hit and the economy beginning to take a nosedive, many more are set to join them soon.

The Tories and Liberals are the friends of nobody except the bankers and super-rich, but they have especially failed young people. Fearing years of poverty and joblessness, many college leavers, who would

perhaps prefer to go into work, feel forced into higher education.

This has been especially apparent this year – the last year before tuition fees rise to a scandalous £9,000 a year. A record number applied to university, but a record 200,000 are set to miss out on a place.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Young people are beginning to fight back against the government. We say no to the slave-labour 'Work Programme' – you shouldn't have to work for your benefits.

Youth Fight for Jobs demands that the government reverses its attacks on education and launches a massive programme to create jobs and training opportunities.

The government bailed out the banks, so why can't they bail out our generation? If you agree with us, you should support and join our Jarrow March for Jobs in October.

Replicating an epic march of unemployed workers in 1936, Youth Fight for Jobs will be marching from Jarrow in the North East to London, taking our demands for jobs and free education into every town along the way.

It has never been more important to fight back – don't let the Con-Dems steal our future!

**See page 5 for more information on getting involved with the Jarrow march.**

## 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. Reinstatement 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 and free schools!
- 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!