

75 years ago 200 unemployed men from Jarrow marched from their home in the North East to London to demand jobs and an end to their poverty conditions.

This October Youth Fight for Jobs is marching their route again to demand:

- A massive government scheme to create jobs which are socially useful and apprenticeships which offer guaranteed jobs at the end - both paying at least the minimum wage, with no youth exemptions.
- The immediate reinstatement of EMA payments, expanding them to be available to all 16-19 year olds.
- The immediate re-opening of all youth services that have been closed, including reinstating sacked staff.
- The scrapping of 'workfare' schemes - benefits should be based on need not forced slave labour.
- A massive building programme of environmentally sound, cheap social housing.

To get involved with the march see the website (opposite), email youthfightforjobs@gmail.com or call 020 8558 7947

This page was planned and written by young Socialist Party members in the South West.



Save Devon youth service: “time for young people to stand up”

An interview with Christi Kelly, organiser of ‘Help Save Devon Youth Service’

How did you get involved in Devon youth service and what did you do?

I started going down to The Real McCaf [a drop-in cafe run by Devon Youth Service] as a young person with friends and gradually took part in helping with different activities such as being an outdoor education instructor for some young people out on Exmoor.

As well as helping run the planning sessions - healthy eating, sexual health and more - I also help with running a dance project.

How was Devon youth service threatened by the cuts?

There have been a lot of issues and difficulties because of the cuts. For example, my area youth worker's job was at risk. Fortunately she still has her job but has taken over Braunton as well which means that she will now be spending less time in Ilfracombe

which could affect the way our service is run.

How did you go about organising opposition to these cuts?

I set up a committee of young people to decide what we could do. They were all amazing and enthusiastic about getting involved.

After coming back from a Birmingham rally organised by ‘Choose Youth’, an alliance of trade unions and youth organisations, we decided on doing a peaceful march through Ilfracombe.

Everyone worked extremely hard to advertise our march by going into youth clubs across North Devon and telling them about our ideas. We also made leaflets that we put through letter boxes in Ilfracombe and made posters.

Each young person had a role and I really think that helped them

to believe that they were making a difference.

How important do you think it is to link up with other campaigns against cuts?

I think the only way forward is for everyone to work together because the more people, the bigger the voice. Throughout Devon the loss of highly skilled and qualified workers has had a huge impact on the running of the service.

We are still fighting alongside North Devon Anti-Cuts Alliance - there is still time for young people to stand up and let the government know that they have needs and the youth service can deliver but without investment this is getting harder and harder.

We travelled down to London for the March for the Alternative TUC demonstration on 26 March and we're going to the Choose Youth Rally in London on 25 October.



Youth workers on the 26 March demo photo Paul Mattsson

Jobs, homes and services, not racism

Matt Gordon
Bristol

On Saturday 3 September, Youth Fight For Jobs participated in the counter-demonstration against the English Defence League's (EDL) plan to intimidate the community of Tower Hamlets. United action prevented them from marching in the borough.

Undoubtedly the racist EDL have felt emboldened by the recent scapegoating of 'black culture'. In response to the August rioting, the UK government has even appointed American 'supercop' Bill Bratton as an adviser citing his 'zero tolerance' response to the Los Angeles riots of 1992.

The riots in Los Angeles were sparked in response to the acquittal of policemen involved in the brutal beating of black construction worker Rodney King.

The early 1990s was a time of economic recession and increased racist attacks with the growth of far-right political parties such as the British National Party (BNP).

It was against this background that Youth against Racism in Europe (YRE) was founded in October 1992, marked by an international demonstration against racism and fascism in Brussels. YRE was a democratic campaign founded and led by young people and supported by the Socialist Party (at that time called Militant Labour).

The campaign explained the real causes of racism in a capitalist society and posed a socialist alternative, summed up by slogans such as 'jobs and homes, not racism'.

Following the racist murder of



Welling, 1993 photo the Socialist

Stephen Lawrence in April 1993, YRE co-organised an 8,000-strong demonstration of black and white youth which marched on the BNP's head quarters in Welling, south east London.

This movement grew and in 1994 there was another demo of 50,000 co-organised by YRE which proved to be the turning point in the successful campaign to shut down the BNP HQ.

The BNP were also successfully driven out of their regular paper sale spot in Tower Hamlets that year thanks to a dedicated campaign spearheaded by YRE.

We need a mass campaign today to defeat racism and prevent the 'divide and conquer' tactics of the ruling class.

See www.yre.org.uk

University - pay more, receive less

Alex Wortley
Bristol

I was pained to learn that I would be saddled with £20,000 worth of debt when I leave university, when previous generations had been able to study effectively for free. But now it's even worse with young people facing a crushing £50,000 debt for merely trying to educate themselves in the hope of finding work in this bleak economic climate.

Many people of working class backgrounds wishing to further themselves through higher education will be deterred from doing so

as a result of the increase in tuition fees - now at £9,000 a year in most institutions.

Cameron, it seems, would much rather young people from poorer backgrounds 'stay in their place'. This is reflected, in part, by the way the cuts have hit the ex-polytechnic universities, with the vast majority of students traditionally from state-educated, working class backgrounds, a lot harder than the Russell-group universities or Oxbridge.

So not only will new students be paying ridiculous fees, but they will receive a much lower quality of teaching - paying more for less. And the same can be said of current students,

who will also be bludgeoned with the same axe, which will result in fewer contact hours and up to one third of lecturers fired in some cases.

And so for students such as me, a university education no longer becomes something desirable, or something considered a right for all.

It is becoming blindingly obvious that this government does not represent the majority and does not have a mandate for these decisions. It also becomes clear that only by removing these career politicians from power and creating a socialist system where education is a right available to all, can we hold any hope for our future.

Youth protest movement grows in Israel

William Andrews

On Saturday 3 September 430,000 Israeli youth and workers marched through the major cities of Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa, as part of an ongoing youth-led protest and 'tent city' movement.

This comes after a wave of mass demonstrations in July and August against the rising cost of living in Israel, and its capitalist government's policies. In particular, there is huge anger about the high cost of housing.

This will strike a chord with young people here in Britain where a record number are having to move back in with their parents because they can't afford rocketing rents.

Clearly, while a step in the right di-

rection, there is more to do to unite Israelis and Palestinians in a common struggle that fully incorporates the argument for rights for Palestinians.

Just recently I heard news of the proposed demolition of 12 homes and one school in the Bedouin settlement of Khan al Ahmar to make way for the West Bank Barrier, destroying the community, and forcing its citizens further into poverty as a result.

This is another example of the ongoing struggle of Palestinian communities against the occupying Israeli forces.

But these mass demonstrations could be the start of a wider movement and the mood is certainly growing among young people and workers for major political overhaul.

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