



## Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition

# VOTE FOR A WORKING CLASS VOICE

**T**he Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) has announced that it will be fielding 561 candidates in the local elections on 22 May. This marks the biggest left-of-Labour challenge in 60 years.

Candidates are trade unionists, anti-cuts campaigners and young people. All pledge to oppose all cuts to council jobs, services, pay and conditions. TUSC was co-founded by the late Bob Crow (pictured, inset), when he was general secretary of the RMT transport union, along with socialist organisations.

As Bob said: "The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition does what it says on the tin – without any of the baggage and big-business agenda of the main political parties. Who else you gonna vote for?"

Sadly, Bob passed away this year, prompting many RMT members to stand as candidates in his memory. Over 50 RMT members are standing across the country.

Dave Nellist, former Labour MP (1983-92) and now the national chair of TUSC said: "We are standing because the Labour Party has not provided an opposition in parliament, and where it is in power at a local level, it has carried out cuts to jobs and services. It does not matter to those people who have lost their jobs and services which party was responsible. What matters is having a choice to vote against the cuts on 22 May and now people do."

Here, **CORRINA SMITH** (pictured, below), an 18 year old who is standing for TUSC in Gateshead, explains why she decided to take part in the challenge.

"I've chosen to represent TUSC because they are willing to tackle the greed and inefficiency caused by privatisation.

Initially I had seen Nigel Farage as an alternative to the hypocrisy of the political class. However, I then realised that Ukip is just as corrupt and hypocritical as the three main parties.

I truly believe TUSC is a real alternative to the shameful and deceitful career politicians who are driven solely by greed.

Labour's support for Iain Duncan Smith's workfare policies, which attack unemployed people by forcing them to work for profiteers, was another big shift towards the right, in my view.

Also, I have seen the unemployment figures being massaged by the use of slave labour apprenticeships. Apprenticeships were once used to train people for jobs, but now companies use these schemes, not to train people, but to pay young workers less than £3 an hour instead of the full wage.

Labour has betrayed the working class. Both of my parents have worked in the public sector and I have seen first-hand the damage of privatisation. The NHS is being slowly dismantled. I worry for the future of this country.

If I am elected for TUSC

it will give me the opportunity to voice the opinions of ordinary people and to help build a movement against austerity."



TUSC lobby of Ed Miliband over Care UK strike (see page 5) photo Alistair Tice

See [www.tusc.org.uk](http://www.tusc.org.uk)



# the **Socialist**

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what we think

## May Day 2014 - Step up the fight for a socialist world!

The first of May is traditionally a day of international workers' solidarity, celebrated by working class fighters around the world. Its origins lie in 19th century struggles, mainly among manual workers in the United States and Europe for the reduction of the working day to eight hours.

The socialist Second International called for an international day of protest to be held at the beginning of May 1890 on the same date as the American Federation of Labour was planning to hold a demonstration for an eight-hour day. The 1890 May Day protest in London on the nearest Sunday to 1 May saw around 300,000 assemble in Hyde Park.

Eight hours work, eight hours sleep and eight hours for leisure, family and cultural activities was inscribed on the banners of trade union, socialist and revolutionary organisations.

A limit of eight hours on the working day was one of the first measures introduced by the revolutionary government in Petrograd after the Russian Revolution of 1917. It was seen as a vital measure not only to reduce the hours of toil but to give workers time to be involved in the democratic decision-making of the councils or 'soviets'.

It is timely to remember this when capitalism in crisis has imposed in many countries working days without limit, and in some cases, the opposite - zero hours! In the context of mass unemployment, those searching for work today, including even university graduates, find themselves thrown into the 'precariat'.

The demands for a decent job for everyone in society and a 35-hour week, for wages that more than cover the cost of living, for free education and healthcare, for affordable housing and public transport, are all modest when compared with the vast, extravagant spending of the super-rich.

The gap between the 1% and the 99% is widening. In the campaign in Seattle in the US for a minimum wage of \$15 an hour, led by Socialist Alternative (part of the Committee for a Workers' International), councillor Kshama Sawant described the 1% as conducting an "aerial bombing raid against the 99%" (see pages 6&7). A fightback is vital.

May Day is an occasion to step up the struggle against all forms of oppression and discrimination. It is a time to remember those who have lost their lives, and those who risk them daily, in factories, fields and building sites worldwide. It is also a day to remember all those imprisoned for their beliefs and to demand their release.

As economists try to say that the worst of the world economic crisis is over, we see millions more people driven into poverty - across Europe and the Americas, as well as in Asia and Africa.

### Class struggles

While in some countries the number of strikes and protests may be temporarily lower, in others - such as Greece - there are repeated mass actions, and there can be no doubt that anger is accumulating everywhere.

More social explosions are inevitable in numerous countries, as the 99% in society - those who own and earn relatively little or nothing - make themselves heard through action and organisation.

The urgency of building new mass workers' parties to conduct the struggle for genuine socialism everywhere increases by the day. Socialist programmes are vital, because taking the major companies - which control whole economies - into public ownership, combined with democratic economic planning, is the only way to provide jobs, homes and decent living standards for all in society.



**Socialist link workers' daily struggles to the fight for a socialist world** photo Paul Mattsson

The Committee for a Workers' International (CWI) is presently celebrating 40 years of its existence.

On May Day 2014, as well as marking the CWI's anniversary, we are celebrating the best traditions of the pioneers of the workers' movement: international solidarity between working class people and the struggle against war, oppression and exploitation. The destruction of the environment, which gathers pace as long as capitalism survives, adds urgency to the struggle for a socialist world.

Members of the sections and groups of the CWI, which includes the Socialist Party in England and Wales, are celebrating May Day 2014 in practically every time zone of the world. From Seattle to Sao Paulo, Brussels to Bangalore, London to Lagos, Tel Aviv to Toronto, Moscow to Melbourne, and in many more cities across the globe.

The Socialist sends May Day greetings to all its readers, and to workers and socialist fighters everywhere. The most decisive struggles to transform the world on socialist lines lie ahead.

## Fight back at the ballot box Your financial support is vital

**Ken Douglas**

Socialist Party national treasurer

The Socialist Party is asking all those who support building an electoral alternative, a voice for the working class based on the 99% and not the super-rich 1%, to donate to our election appeal.

The message of May Day, of international workers' day through the centuries, is of the necessity for workers and poor people to organise themselves independently of the capitalists and their big business politicians, basing themselves and their struggle on socialist ideas, with the aim of changing society.

That is why the Socialist Party is helping to build the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) which stands on the threshold of an historic achievement - standing the greatest number of left-of-Labour candidates for 60 years.

In the council elections in England, 561 ordinary working class people - socialists, trade unionists,

community activists, students - are taking that historic step. People like Aidan O'Toole in Nuneaton, "proud to say that I will be standing as a TUSC candidate and doing my bit to bring in a fair society for all."

The three main capitalist parties - the Con-Dem millionaires, with Miliband's Labour as their poodle - are trying to turn back time.

They want to drag our conditions back to the 19th century with zero-hour 'take it or leave it' contracts, demonising the unemployed and turning working people into beggars and decent housing into a luxury.

Meanwhile, five super-rich families in Britain own as much wealth as 20% of the population; millionaire politicians lounge in their mansions while council house tenants are driven into debt for the 'crime' of having a 'spare bedroom'.

So it's time for the working class to rediscover the lessons of the past, the struggle for socialism and an independent political party; like Jason Fawley from Doncaster: "I was on my own with no one to turn to. But

on the picket line I met like-minded people with a conscience who are also disgusted by the political elite and their business interests. So I joined the Socialist Party and decided to fight back by putting myself forward as a TUSC candidate."

We urgently need to raise £15,000 to help finance our election campaigns and also to give international support to our co-thinkers in the new Workers And Socialist Party (WASP) in South Africa, contesting the general election there.

Every pound counts so please think about making a donation - you can do so via the Election Appeal button on our website [www.socialistparty.org.uk](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk) or by phoning 020 8988 8777.

**Socialist Party  
Election Appeal**

[Click here to donate](#)



**Readers' donations can assist workers' struggles worldwide**

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# Cost of living crisis

## Scrap zero-hour contracts!

Becci Heagney

Last month, 1,500 people queued for hours outside a West Midlands Aldi store in the hope of being one of 40 'lucky' applicants to get a job. They would have the 'opportunity' to work 20 hours for £7.95 an hour.

Far from it being the case that 'getting work pays', the majority of households in poverty have at least one person working. The current legal minimum wage is only £6.31 an hour. And one in five workers earn less than the 'living wage' (£8.80 in greater London and £7.75 elsewhere in the UK) and even that isn't enough to actually live on.

Wages on average, when you take out bonuses, have increased by 1.4% over the last year. Inflation, based on the more accurate RPI figure, is at 2.4%. With food prices rocketing by 30% over the last few years it's no surprise we're feeling this 'cost of living' crisis.

### Zero-hours

Low pay is a part of this. However, Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) research has found that the main cause of poverty is 'limits to the hours of work available'.

While the government boasts that unemployment has decreased, the murky world of underemployment grows. 1.42 million people working part-time actually want full-time hours.

Zero-hour contracts epitomise the increasing insecurity that many workers face. No guaranteed hours means no guaranteed income and no guarantee of being able to pay bills or put food on the table. Some contracts promise two or four hours a week, which offers no more security in reality.

Labour's proposal of giving a part-time job to those who have been unemployed for more than two years does not even begin to scratch the surface. Any serious attempt to tackle the cost of living crisis needs to start with scrapping zero-hour contracts completely and the implementation of contracts which offer decent hours. Flexible working can be useful for many people but the



YFJ members campaigning against workplace exploitation

flexibility should be determined by the workers, not the bosses.

Youth Fight for Jobs (YFJ) has campaigned against zero-hour contracts and for a £10 an hour minimum wage. We've held protests outside the guilty businesses that profit from this kind of exploitation and suffering. Now we're linking up with the BFAWU bakers' union and others in the Fast Food Rights campaign, getting workers organised to

fight for an end to job insecurity.

The next day of action on 15 May is a particularly important step towards this as it involves a strike by US fast food workers and protests in 30 countries. Workers organising collectively for better pay and conditions is the real solution to the cost of living crisis.

See [www.youthfightforjobs.com](http://www.youthfightforjobs.com) for updates

- Between May 2010 and January 2014, food prices increased by 15%, social housing rent by 15%, energy costs by 35% and public transport by 17%.
- The Resolution Foundation calculated that the minimum wage is now worth £1,010 a year less than in 2008.
- 1.2 million workers are paid the minimum wage of £6.31 an hour or no more than 5p above it, and a further 1.4 million earn no more than 50p an hour more.



Join the fightback! Join the Socialists!

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### Workplace safety

## It's big business as usual

As trade unionists commemorated the workplace dead and injured on Workers' Memorial Day, 28 April, it emerged that safety on the multi-billion Crossrail project in London and the South East has been compromised by a 'culture of spying and fear'.

A leaked report, commissioned by construction bosses, found that the fear of being sacked prevented workers reporting injuries and raising other safety concerns on the job. Workplace safety was recently highlighted by the death of construction worker Rene Tkacik in a Crossrail tunnel at Holborn.

In 2013 there were a total of 39 re-

portable accidents on Crossrail with an accident frequency rate of 0.48 accidents for every 100,000 hours worked. By comparison, the rate on the Olympic Park was 0.11 accidents for every 100,000 hours worked.

According to the Guardian, a safety report compiled by consultant MindSafety, for the BBMV contracting joint venture, says: "The intention of the client [Crossrail] is to get the job done safely, on time and with a healthy financial position on completion."

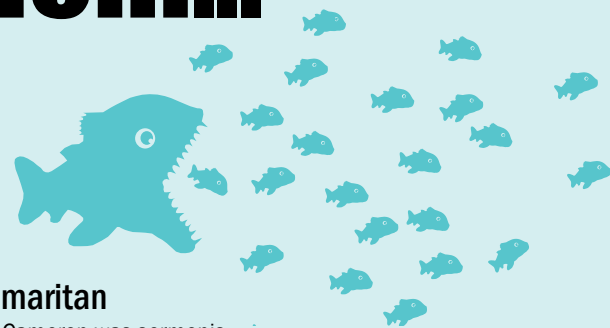
"The reality is that the methods used on-site are almost entirely counterproductive to this. The relationship between client and con-

tractor seems to be strained almost to breaking point.

"A common theme throughout the visit surrounded the idea that the client was 'policing' the contractor - trying to catch them out at every turn. Reports of spying and underhand tactics came flooding to us."

This admission confirms what trade union activists have long known, and was previously highlighted by the successful year-long campaign in 2013 to reinstate black-listed Unite union steward Frank Morris, who had been unfairly sacked on Crossrail after he had raised safety concerns.

## Them...



### Good Samaritan

While David Cameron was sermonising about his religious beliefs, two leading church officials were receiving less than a Christian welcome at his Tory party constituency office in Witney, Oxfordshire. The clergy had gone there to present a letter calling for action on food poverty in Britain. But instead of having their feet washed, Tory staff refused to open the office door and called the police. It seems that Big Dave's Christian charity does not extend as far as his austerity measures.

### Costly warmonger

War, what is it good for? According to liar Tony Blair, stopping terrorism and political extremism. However, for the hundreds of thousands of victims of the imperialist wars and interventions into Iraq and Afghanistan, then Blair's moral justification is completely hollow. And according to a study by the Royal United Services Institute, these imperialist adventures "far from reducing international terrorism... the 2003 invasion [of Iraq] had the effect of promoting it." Moreover, the study estimates that since 1990 the financial cost of the UK's military interventions is £34.7 billion and a further £30 billion possible expenditure on long-term veteran care.

### Bitter sweet

Cash strapped tenants in Bridgend, South Wales, struggling to pay rising rents, had insult added to injury when their housing association landlord - Valleys 2 Coast - offered them

a free 60p crème egg as a reward for their struggles. Some tenants have lost up to £80 a month in housing benefit cuts because of the government's 'bedroom tax'.

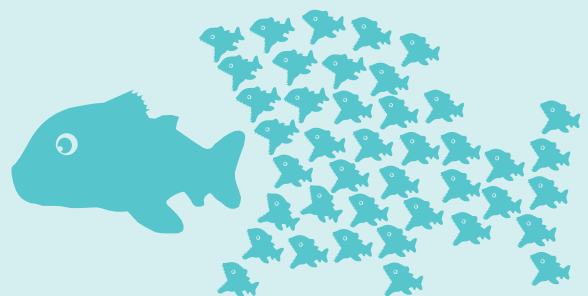
### Ferry tragedy

The terrible South Korean ferry disaster has revealed just how toxic capitalism is. The ruling class's ruthless agenda of growth and profit has resulted in the country having the second highest fatal industrial accident record in the world. In 2013, three nuclear power stations were shut down after using cables with falsified safety certificates. The capsized ferry was only operating because of a change in law extending the life of ships from 20 to 30 years. Even the ship's public address system wasn't working properly. And casualisation meant that many crew members were irregular workers who followed no clear evacuation procedure.

### Bubbly bubble

The housing price bubble in London is being severely inflated by hot money from oligarchs. This trend is set to increase as sanctions-avoiding, champagne-swilling capitalists relocate their assets from Russia. Many of these property investments are made through front companies often based offshore to avoid tax and, it seems, to conceal criminal money laundering. Many large houses on 'billionaires' rows' in central London boroughs are increasingly being left empty and allowed to decay at the same time as hundreds of thousands of people languish on the capital's council house waiting lists.

## ...& Us



Have you got news for the 'fishes'? Email: [editors@socialistparty.org.uk](mailto:editors@socialistparty.org.uk)

### What we saw



### Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) tweets

[www.tusc.org.uk](http://www.tusc.org.uk)

@Paul\_Phillips\_: Labour say they are against zero-hour contracts but their local councils employ workers on zero-hour contracts. Deeds not words. Vote #TUSC

@dazza6313: Fed up with a third of a £BN worth of cuts and no fight from Liverpool Labour, stand for #TUSC [www.tusc.org.uk](http://www.tusc.org.uk) #liverpool

@hhpoachair: I am a TUSC candidate because I am sick and tired of broken promises from a party that said it would stand up for me as a worker

@neilcaff: Labour will be 'ruthless' about cutting public spending, says Ed Balls <Vote Labour, get Tory> #TUSC

@robmacca: As a postal worker, I am glad there is one party out there which would re-nationalise Royal Mail. #TUSC

@NancyTaaffe: #bbcqt the people who sold off the council house stock betrayed the next generation . Rehabilitate Council Housing Vote #Tusc

@TSSALTEC: I'm standing for #TUSC because I'm sick of career politicians who've never done a stroke of work in their lives!



# Solid RMT pickets in London Underground battle

Tube workers in London were on strike from 28 to 30 April. And a further strike will run from 5 to 8 May. London Underground want to shut every ticket office by 2015 and cut nearly 1,800 frontline staff. A strike in February was called off when LU seemed prepared to negotiate but they have failed to enter into meaningful talks and have even tendered for driverless trains.

These are some of the picket line reports we have received as we go to press. More will be posted on our website: [www.socialistparty.org.uk](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk)



## London Bridge

About 15 pickets were out at London Bridge, a major commuter station for both 'City Gents' and workers. Pickets said the response has been good.

One Tory Toff sneered at the pickets saying: "I suppose you're getting a lot of support." "Yes thanks," said the pickets. "Well, they're obviously as \*\*\*\*ing stupid as you are," the Toff replied. This level of debate met with laughter. Pickets said people often didn't realise what management had in mind for passengers. The busy Embankment station, for example, is closed for escalator repairs until November but management want to reopen it without a ticket office. Workers are fighting to win.

**Roger Shrives**



He certainly got a few more votes this morning. We said who would you rather have in the council, a trade unionist like Len who stands up and fights the cuts, or a career politician? Simple, really.

Other RMT strikers volunteered to help Len with the campaign.

**Naomi Byron**

## Leytonstone

There were 12 RMT members on the picket line. Trains for much of the rush hour were only going out to Epping and Hainault as managers couldn't get staff to open stations towards central London.

There was disappointment that TSSA had not rejoined the strikes and bemusement that they seemed to be suggesting that progress was being made in the talks. In fact, with the ordering of driverless trains, the possibility of involving Aslef was posed, but many drivers "seemed to have their heads in the sand", as one picket put it. This threat by London Underground should be used to widen the strike to all underground unions, particularly as there is also a pensions battle looming.



## Morden

A confident picket at Morden Depot was buoyed by the news that 14 Northern line stations were closed. Even with RMT striking alone the strike was just as successful as before.

**David Maples, SW London**



queuing up, unable to get in. At Acton four of the five TUSC RMT candidates standing in Hillingdon were on the picket line. They reported how one of the scabs who crossed the picket line was obviously ashamed at what he was doing. He tried to hide himself by ducking down in the back of the car he was in when it drove through. The pickets also reported that at Northfields picket line three drivers were persuaded not to cross the picket line.

**Chris Newby and Neil Caffery**

## Whitechapel

Even the cafe next door to the tube was showing its support with a "strike special" offer on tea and coffee! It has supported the campaign to keep Whitechapel ticket office open including taking petitions and surveys for customers to sign. One of the striking RMT members who normally works at Whitechapel, Len Rowlands, is standing for TUSC in St Peter's ward, right next to the



## West London

We visited picket lines at Edgware Road, Queens Park, Neasden and Acton Bollo Lane depot

The picket lines were solid and the pickets were pleased to see support from the Socialist Party. At Edgware Road the picket line was visited by two late night/early morning partygoers. When they realised it was a tube workers' picket line they were very supportive even though it meant they had difficulty getting home. At this and the other picket lines workers were angry about Mark Harding's bail conditions [the victimised RMT rep who was arrested on picket duty during the last strike] and his court case, seeing this as a big attack on trade union rights.

At the Queens Park and Neasden picket lines the news of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) standing candidates was met with a positive response. Some of the workers said that they would probably vote TUSC in the forthcoming council elections. We had a very warm response with a brazier keeping out the early morning chill and sausage rolls being offered round. At Neasden station probably over 100 potential passengers were

## Usdaw conference - we need a fighting democratic union

### An ADM delegate

From 4 to 7 May, around 1,000 reps and activists in shop and distribution workers' union Usdaw will meet for our Annual Delegate Meeting (ADM) in Blackpool.

Retail and distribution workers have been hammered in this recession. Tesco has continued its programme of closing distribution centres and opening new ones with workers on worse terms and conditions.

In stores, companies are using the slightly lower sales to squeeze workers even harder. They are increasingly failing to replace staff who leave - Morrisons' former finance director slammed it for this

in a recent interview. Tesco has also unveiled a trial of axing team leader roles.

For many people this race to the bottom is summed up in the prevalence of zero-hour contracts. A number of branches submitted resolutions opposing this and a document has been prepared by the EC. Even Usdaw's general secretary, John Hannett, who usually toes the Labour line has been forced to criticise Miliband's plans to force workers to wait a year before having regular working hours translated into a contract guaranteeing them.

But even if such legislation is brought in, it will need the union to flex its industrial muscle as BFAWU did at the Hovis bakery in Wigan. Since then they have launched a

public campaign, Fast Food Rights, against zero-hour contracts and to unionise fast food workers.

Delegates may notice that proposals on the living wage, which were carried last year haven't been enacted by Usdaw's leadership. If the bakers' union can do this, why can't we?

One issue that won't be on the agenda paper, but will be in the minds of delegates is that of the serious expenses allegations made against John Hannett by the usdaw. wordpress.com blog.

A previous Activist statement, on [usdawactivist.wordpress.com](http://usdawactivist.wordpress.com), argues that, while these should be investigated by the EC, the blog makes no criticism of Hannett and the leadership's policies that

have offered no fight back to retail workers.

The Activist will be hosting a meeting, not just to address issues of union democracy and accountability but all of the issues facing retail and distribution and how we can build a fighting union - particularly given the upcoming EC and presidential elections where we believe a broad challenge to most of the incumbents is necessary.

**Activist fringe meeting - "We need a fighting, democratic union"**  
**4 May, 6pm, Britannia Room, Ruskin Hotel, 55-61 Albert Rd, FY1 4PW. Speakers include: Amy Murphy, Usdaw EC, personal capacity, and Rob Williams, Socialist Party trade union organiser**

## In brief

### Strike ballot

A strike ballot among workers covered by the National Joint Council for local government will run from 23 May to 23 June. This is after the rejection of a 1% pay offer. Action is likely to start in July but Socialist Party members within the union are arguing for the coordination of any strikes with action in other sectors with disputes, such as NHS and higher education. Linking action with other unions like NUT would obviously make any action more effective.

### Post Office



An agreement giving up to a 7.3% pay increase for Crown Post Office workers has been struck. After several days of strike action the three-year deal starts with 3.9% from 1 April 2014. Communication Workers Union members will be voting on the deal shortly.

### EDF strike

EDF Energy have just spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on rebranding their vans with the image of their mascot "Zingy". But this is fast turning into a public relations disaster. Drivers have pointed out that the new colour resembles baby poo. Some drivers have been instructed not to park under direct sunlight for fear of damaging this glorious piece of artwork!

This company, which has increased energy bills for customers by 10%, has been refusing to pay out on an agreement it made with the unions in 2012, because it says it got its sums wrong and cannot afford to honour the deal. For 2013, the company offered a below inflation proposal of 2% plus £200 as a one-off payment, which Unite members in London, South East, South Western and Eastern regions have rejected. These members, following a 77% majority yes vote in a strike ballot will be taking strike action on 6 and 8 May.

Messages of support please via [onay.kasab@unitetheunion.org](mailto:onay.kasab@unitetheunion.org). Please also look out for details of picket lines to be announced in the next few days.

**Onay Kasab**

### Strike ballot

Eleven occupational therapists, all employed at Greenwich Council, are currently being balloted for strike action in protest at a prolonged campaign of management bullying.

Grievance complaints have their place in the armoury of a trade union. But ultimately, taking collective action will allow for real change in workplaces, especially on issues such as bullying. Too often workers, even with the full support of good local reps, can feel that they are fighting alone. The ballot for strike action runs until 7 May.

Messages of support via [onay.kasab@unitetheunion.org](mailto:onay.kasab@unitetheunion.org)

**For more industrial and trade union news see our website: [www.socialistparty.org.uk](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk)**



# Care UK strike: Miliband shows workers can't rely on Labour

**Alistair Tice**

About 50 protesters attended the lobby of Ed Miliband's Doncaster North surgery on 25 April called by TUSC in support of the Care UK strike.

The strike is against cuts being made by this private company which was awarded a contract to run a service of care for people with learning disabilities, which had previously been provided by the NHS.

Around 30 Care UK workers were there and about a dozen of them went in to discuss with Ed Miliband. They said he was supportive, didn't think Care UK should have been given the contract and was going to speak to Labour Mayor Ros Jones about it. But he still won't publicly come out in support of the strike.

We finished off with an impromptu march up and down Bentley high street, which stopped the traffic. On the same day, TUSC supporters held protests at Care UK offices in

London, Southampton, Leeds and Cardiff.

Having already taken 20 days of strike action, the Doncaster Care UK workers will start a two week strike on 5 May. Doncaster TUSC is going to the council cabinet meeting on 30 May. We want to know what Miliband said to Ros Jones and what she will do about it.

## Pariahs and cronies

This is an extract of a speech at the lobby made by one of the strikers, Roger Hutt:

"It is with great sadness that a predominantly Labour voting workforce, once employed by the NHS, now feels that you have allowed these pariahs and the cronies that feed off them to buy and sell our careers.

A hard-working, professional, caring group of people will have to leave their chosen professions due to the crumbs Care UK are willing to pay us.



On the lobby photo Alistair Tice

The people that we have cared for could have been our brothers or sisters, aunts or uncles. How we care for the most vulnerable people in

society is how we define ourselves as human beings.

By acting now, by standing side by side with the Care UK strikers both

verbally and physically, you'd be making a stand against the return to Victorian values of the have and have nots that the Tories represent."

## Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition: 561 no-cuts candidates

### Getting under Labour's skin in Southwark

**Bill Mullins**

TUSC candidate for Bermondsey South

A local community organisation recently invited Southwark TUSC to debate with the leaders of the Labour Party and Liberal Democrats on the council.

Speaking to an audience of 100 local people, April Ashley, the Southwark TUSC agent and the Southwark Union assistant branch secretary (personal capacity), exposed the cuts policies of the Labour council since it came to power four years ago.

She accused the council of wielding the Tory axe. Councillors have voted to cut hundreds of jobs and attempted to cut the wages of some workers by 40%.

The council leader almost jumped out of his seat to deny this last point. But April pointed out that the union had resisted this attack on the wages and in the end the figure was 15%.

She also accused the council of social cleansing when she pointed out that Southwark Labour operated a policy of 'payment in lieu' regarding the building of social housing.

## No social housing

This meant that major developers, particularly along the south bank of the Thames, were allowed to opt out of building 35% of new homes as social housing.

For example a development building 500 luxury flats near Blackfriars Bridge does not contain a single unit of social housing. Instead the developers paid the council £65 million.

The excuse of the council was that they would use the money to build council houses in other parts of Southwark. But as the Liberal Democrat leader pointed out this has resulted in only 33 council houses being built in the last four years.

The meeting organisers also invited the parties on the platform to



The Southwark TUSC leaflet

have a youth speaker. Laurence Maples accused the council of abandoning their responsibility to young people - particularly with their refusal to pay the London living wage of £8.80 an hour. Laurence called for

a £10 an hour minimum wage.

By the end of the meeting the Labour leader was so angry that he adopted a rictus type grin on his face. All in all the TUSC campaign in Southwark has made a magnificent start.



The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) is an electoral alliance that stands candidates against all cuts and privatisation. It involves the RMT transport union, leading members of other unions and socialists including the Socialist Party. This May TUSC is standing hundreds of no-cuts candidates in the council elections against all the austerity parties voting through the destruction of jobs and services.

Can you get involved?

See [tusc.org.uk](http://tusc.org.uk)

## Leeds

On 24 April, Leeds TUSC held the first of a series of public meetings planned across the city during the local election campaign.

Hands Off Our Homes activist Carole spoke very emotionally about how the bedroom tax has hit residents of Armley, where the meeting was held. She discussed how this Tory policy has damaged residents' physical and mental health, and driven too many to food banks.

Socialist Party member Iain contrasted this with the luxuries such as tax breaks and bonuses the wealthy have received. He raised the urgent need for a mass programme of council house building and renovation of empty properties. This is particularly important given the 27,000 people on the council house waiting list in Leeds.

Everyone took plenty of leaflets and posters to distribute around their local area.

**Amy Cousens**  
**Leeds Socialist Party**

## Kirklees and Calderdale

Nine TUSC candidates will be contesting seats in Kirklees and Calderdale. Most of our candidates are under 30 years old, reflecting the growing anger and frustration younger people feel with all establishment politicians.

All candidates have been heavily involved in both the Huddersfield and Calderdale campaigns to save A&E Services. We are fighting for a united campaign to save all emergency health services in Calderdale and Huddersfield.

**Kirklees and Calderdale TUSC**

## Lincoln

TUSC has challenged for local election seats in Lincoln over the last four years.

This time round we're putting forward candidates in nine out of eleven wards.

TUSC candidate for Abbey ward Nick Parker, said: "By standing in these elections we want to provide a socialist alternative to the mainstream politicians - including Ukip - who all put profits before people in their support for the failed policy of privatisation."

Mike Hancock, TUSC candidate for Minster ward, said: "Politics is frustrating when politicians try to confuse us about what they are really doing. There is a lot of mistrust when it comes to politicians so I thought I would just do it myself instead."

**Lincoln TUSC**

## TUSC's mayoral candidates

To add to its council candidates, TUSC is standing three mayoral candidates on 22 May:

### Lois Austin in Newham

Lois has been a campaigner for workers' rights since she was a teenager. She was the chair of Youth Against Racism in Europe and played a leading role in the campaign against racism following Stephen Lawrence's murder. She is now part of the campaign opposing police surveillance.

### Chris Flood in Lewisham

Chris was a Socialist Party councillor in Lewisham's Telegraph Hill ward from 2003 - 2010 and campaigned to stop council house privatisation and attacks on Lewisham's NHS



### Hugo Pierre in Tower Hamlets

Hugo (pictured) is a union organiser at work, who, in a long history of campaigning, was one of the organisers of the youth campaign across the borough in the early 1990s which stopped the BNP, and opposed the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.



# USA: REVIVING WORKING CLASS TRADITIONS

Like in Britain, working people in the US are fed up. Told recovery is on the way, the reality is that over 90% of new wealth since the economic crisis has gone to America's richest 1%. The almost 100,000 votes that elected Socialist Alternative member Kshama Sawant onto the Seattle city council last November signified the mood for struggle that is developing. **PETER TAAFFE**, Socialist Party general secretary, visited the US and attended a 15Now campaign conference on 26 April. The event gathered working class fighters and young people together and set out the steps to win \$15 an hour minimum wage in Seattle. Peter also sets out the context for this historic event.

## Fighting for \$15 an hour and for socialism

### CWI reporters

**15** Now hosted what can only be described as a marathon of a conference which ran from 11am to nine at night. Exhausting yes, but the event was absolutely fantastic. There were over 500 there, mostly from Seattle but also from all around the country - Boston, New York, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, Mobile, Alabama, Florida, Oakland, Chicago, and other areas, including Vancouver in Canada.

There was also a big and impressive mixture of serious trade union cadres, energetic youth, Latino and Afro-American workers. The overwhelming impression was one of huge enthusiasm and huge optimism, made audible in the whooping and hollering, traditions of the American workers. This was combined with very serious discussions of a strategic and tactical nature on how to continue the struggle against vicious manoeuvring Seattle capitalists, who are working to water down the claim for \$15 an hour.

### Into the detail

It got quite detailed. Kshama Sawant explained the latest developments. Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, whose election campaign was concurrent to Kshama's successful race, came out for \$15 an hour before the election. His first act as mayor was to establish an Income Inequality Advisory Committee. Kshama sits on the committee, along with trade union reps - but so too do representatives of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce.

In the week before the conference the committee secretly discussed a proposal which watered down the demand for a \$15 an hour minimum wage, including that employers could take so-called 'tip penalties' into account. That is, if a waiter gets tips, these can be counted towards the \$15! One woman in the commission on this issue in the afternoon reported that as a waitress she got a zero pay check. In theory the boss should make up the money if the pay falls short!

Also the bosses want healthcare plans that employers sometimes offer to be traded off for \$15. Outrageously they propose that \$15 is 'phased in' over three to four years for big business and over five to seven years for what they term 'small' business. Even worse they 'offer' no cost-of-living increase until the \$15 level was reached.

The 15Now campaign is fighting for \$15 an hour for all in 2014. It argues that increased taxes on big business be used to subsidise any smaller

employers who genuinely cannot afford to pay. But 15Now has debated and democratically agreed to offer some small temporary concessions. The campaign demands that big business pays \$15 this year to all and those businesses with fewer than 250 workers and some non-profit service providers have a phase in over three years. But all workers, irrespective of workplace size, will get an immediate increase. They oppose any postponement of cost-of-living increases and all exemptions, such as teenage rates and tip credits.

The debate became quite involved - some in the conference did not want to make any concessions at all to small businesses, and also some hotel workers who had an acceptable healthcare plan, did not want to lose this in the trade off. There were some small abstract groups who opposed any concessions at all, and moved picky amendments. However these were answered, in particular by Kshama and a leading member of Socialist Alternative, Phillip Locker. In the vote the strategy was passed overwhelmingly, at least two to one.

Kshama also explained that 15Now has a multi-pronged approach to the struggle, pushing for the City Council committee to adopt a strong \$15 position, but given the participation in the committee of those who funded the campaign against the successful ballot in nearby town SeaTac, they understand that they cannot put all their eggs in that basket. The key to success is building grass roots support and the campaign is expanding its local support groups in the city.

Now, in order to start to achieve the \$15 minimum, the campaign has begun collecting thousands of signatures to be able to have a vote in next November's elections on a city \$15 law it has drafted. Kshama asked everyone to ensure that each day they aim to speak to new people about the campaign, getting them to sign in support of the campaign's \$15 law and ask others to do the same.

In the evening rally she also made a stark announcement. Winning \$15 an hour is not the end. The job is not done. The movement must go further. She explained that winning \$15 would only be the start of the necessary task of rebuilding the mass movements of the American working class. The cheering she received showed that these words are welcome among the exploited masses in the 'belly of the beast'.

In the course of the discussion Linda Taaffe was able to bring greetings from the National Shop Stewards Network in Britain (NSSN). She pointed out how we had managed to help get the unions to start to move on the issue of a general strike, and drew parallels with the possibility of 15Now doing the same in the American unions - despite the conservative offalldom that exists. This was enthusiastically received.

In the evening rally, which drew all the threads together, a number of prominent speakers enthusiastically welcomed the 15Now campaign and pledged support. Seattle journalist and blogger David Goldstein, sacked partly for his firm support for 15Now, advised the campaign to tell its story boldly.

On behalf of Occupy Wall Street Mary Clinton said she was "super-honoured" to be there. She explained that Occupy had been a "rupture", no one had expected it to achieve what it had achieved. The enthusiasm of young workers had pushed the leadership of the AFL-CIO to back Occupy.

Paula Lukaszek, a leading member of the Washington Federation of State Employees, spoke about the scandal of government workers on food stamps and earning less than "eleven bucks". Her small Local had donated \$20,000 to the campaign. Carlos Hernandez, the leader of the Seattle fast food workers strike and movement, also brought greetings and the energy of the fightback.

"You are truly seizing the time and we salute you", said Glen Ford from Black Agenda Report. He had travelled from New York, where he said the reverberations of the movement could be felt. He quoted from the Socialist Alternative paper, saying that the starting point for socialists is the living conditions of working people and the power they possess in society.

### Electrifying

This was the theme that Socialist Party general secretary Peter Taaffe, visiting from Britain, developed. "We are all about empowering working people - giving them confidence in their own strength." When he announced 561 candidates for the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) there was an enormous response, as also when he mentioned the Workers And Socialist Party (WASP) in South Africa. Defeating Thatcher twice, in Liverpool city council and in the poll tax battle also showed the might of the working class.

He spoke on the electrifying effects of Kshama's victory in the US and throughout the world. In the "citadel of world capitalism and world imperialism" a socialist had won with almost 100,000 votes. But, Peter said, the conference is also "historic". The momentum behind 15Now is a challenge to the whole capitalist system. A "blizzard of facts" prove that it isn't that the super-rich 1% can't afford to pay a living wage - they will relentlessly resist any challenge to their system. But we will also be relentless. As Peter said: "this is a system that is sick until death and needs to be replaced. That's why we're socialists." His contribution was met with a standing ovation.

This was a great day for all those who participated, and could represent a turning point in the struggles of the US working class with the 15Now campaign spreading like a prairie fire to other parts of the US and beyond.

## May Day from USA

### Peter Taaffe

"The day will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you are throting today".

These were the last words cried out by August Spies, a labour activist, as he went to the gallows. His words, which had a dramatic effect on us, are inscribed on the monument of the 1886 Haymarket Martyrs in Forest Cemetery in Chicago. In 1867 the eight-hour day had become law, but employers everywhere ignored it.

Conditions, however, were so bad and pay was so low that the fight to get hours reduced without loss in pay caught the imagination, and the Organized Trades and Labor Unions organised a march on 1 May and a few days later a rally in Haymarket Square. A bomb was thrown - it was never discovered by whom - but the rally was attacked by police. Several police and workers died.

Afterwards a massive crack-down was ordered. Martial law was decreed all over the country, and eleven local activists were rounded up, regardless of whether they had been at the rally. They were framed up and four were hanged. The US capitalists could not have imagined the worldwide movement they would ignite in protest against their brutal actions which took up the cause which the martyrs had fought for - the eight-hour day. May Day, 1 May, became international workers' day.

### Second International

The world working class took up this demand through the Second International in mass demonstrations for the eight-hour day, in which Friedrich Engels, the co-founder with Karl Marx of scientific socialism, participated. We have still not achieved the demand more than 100 years later. The same struggle is now being undertaken by Kshama Sawant and the comrades of Socialist Alternative in the campaign for 15Now. We participated in a tremendous conference over the weekend of 25-27 April.

We have observed at first-hand the indescribable conditions of the poor and the working class in what is still overall the richest country in the world. 46 million people are officially poor and their position is worsening. The New York Times reports that the poverty rate declined from 1960 to 1980, but it soared to nearly 38% in 1990 and is now near to 41%.

The picture of the position of the poor in the rural areas in particular is like a description of the third world. For instance in Tennessee the death rate from

drug overdoses - a product of mass unemployment and searing poverty - is more than eight times the national average.

In one area of Tennessee, a former coal-mining area, "Of the 115 babies born in 2011 ... over 40 had been exposed to drugs ... whole families have been wiped out in this county: mother, father, children," said the local sheriff. Another woman added: "When coal was king, there were two movie theatres and a high school and everybody worked."

### Economic crisis

But it is not just the poor who have been affected by the crisis. Again the New York Times reports: "US middle class no longer world's richest"

You have to remember by whom - but the rally was attacked by police. Several police and workers died. Here are unable to even concede that a working class exists and therefore puts working people into the category of "middle class".

However, the dire economic situation forces them to admit that "the idea that the median American has so much more income than the middle class in all other parts of the world, is

not true these days... surveys by government agencies suggest that since 2010 pay in Canada has risen faster than pay in the United States and is most likely higher. Pay in several European countries has also risen faster since 2010 than it has in the United States."

### Bitter anger

Conversely the incomes of the rich are skyrocketing. "Companies in the United States' economy distribute a smaller share of their bounty to the middle class and poor than similar companies elsewhere. Top executives make substantially more money in the United States than in other wealthy countries. The minimum wage is lower. Labour unions are weaker." Union membership in the private sector shamefully stands at 6-7%.

This is a searing condemnation of the ultra-conservative bureaucrats who dominate the trade unions in the US. But a revolt is coming against the scandalous conditions of American workers. There is bitter anger without which Kshama would not have won her spectacular victory in Seattle.

More Seattles are on the way, both in the US and worldwide.



Kshama Sawant photo Alex Garland



# Why I joined the Socialist Party



**Brian Blackburn**

I grew up in the 1980s under the Thatcher government. I lived on an estate in Rochdale. My parents were unemployed and we were living on benefits so I know first hand what effect the cuts that the present government is making will have. I saw all the unemployment, the factories closing and what it does to families. I moved to London over 20 years ago but now it's happening again. Families are on the breadline. I met some Socialist Party members about four years ago in Uxbridge. I bought a Socialist paper and I signed up to get emails.

For a long time I didn't do anything. My daughter was born and I was busy. But I've always been to the left in my way of thinking. I've always been angry about injustice. I voted for Labour when I was younger. So I voted for the Blair government. And I feel that government sold us down the river. I was reading Tony Benn's diaries and I thought that was exactly the way I'm thinking and feeling and I should do something about it. I get buses to work and you can see in people's faces that everyone is struggling. People on benefits are getting hit the hardest, as they always do, and you think about the big companies that get away with

not paying their fair share. When I used to go on about the injustices and things, not just here but all over the world, my wife would say: "Why don't you do something about it then?" So when I got another email about a meeting I thought I'd go along. I didn't know what to expect and I was a bit nervous. I didn't know what I'd be able to do or contribute. But I found that the Socialist Party speaks to me on many levels because of my experiences growing up. The Socialist Party's policies show the way forward. **Thinking of 'doing something about it'? See the join box below**

## United against the far right in Brighton

**A Brighton trade unionist**



On Sunday 27 April, a collection of far-right groups descended on Brighton for the annual 'March for England'. The English Defence League is an organisation in decline and it showed with the racists mustering barely 75 supporters. Anti-fascists outnumbered the march significantly. Socialist Party members were among the first on the scene as police escorted the fascists into a pub for a pre march drink. Within moments the nationalists were surrounded and their racist chants drowned out with: "the workers united will never be defeated". Police had issued draconian special powers, giving them the right to stop and search anyone and to arrest anyone who had a face covering. Unsurprisingly we only saw these being used against the counter protesters as the po-

lice helped the march shuffle slowly along the seafront. 1,000+ lined the streets to drown out their racist chants. The English Disco Lovers were dancing and banners and placards were hung from windows and balconies. Once the march returned to its starting point the speeches to the small gathering were drowned out by a protester on a balcony with a loud trombone. As police tried to escort the march back to the station, the so-called family march then divided and headed into the North Lanes where they threw tables, benches and bottles at anti-fascists. Protesters ensured the route back to the station wasn't easy, using anything they could find including fences to make barricades causing the march to stop in its tracks. Only the police using horses, baton charges and kettling meant the march got to its final destination. United action by hundreds of Brighton residents and a heavy downpour of rain ensured the marchers had a thoroughly miserable day. Half an hour after they left the rain stopped and the sun came out!

## Save Leicester Race Equality Centre



photo Leicester SP

Around 100 people protested outside the Labour group meeting in Leicester on 29 April against the threatened withdrawal of funding for the Leicester Race Equality Centre (TREC). Speakers at the rally made the point that over the years TREC had played an important role in assisting people who had been victims of racial attacks, and had united different communities across Leicester.

Our council must take a stand and oppose the government's slashing of funding for public services. It has reserves of over £150 million - even if just some of it was used alongside the receipts from the sales of council buildings and properties, which is £23 million, the city would be able to keep services running, giving them time to build a mass campaign to oppose the cuts. **Mike Barker**

## Fighting Library cuts in south Wales

**Becky Davis**  
Cardiff West Socialist Party

Around 100 people, including Unison members, library users and anti-cuts campaigners gathered outside the Civic Offices in Barry on 28 April to protest against the Vale of Glamorgan council's plans to inflict brutal cuts on the library service. The council wanted to hand four libraries, half the libraries in the county, over to 'community management', with the staff of trained librarians cut and replaced by volunteers. As well as this, it planned to drastically reduce the opening hours of all the remaining libraries, slash the hours of all full-time staff, sack all staff on temporary

contracts, and introduce charges for some services. The Unison branch quickly organised a protest lobby, drawing together tremendous support. Mark Evans, branch secretary of Carmarthenshire Unison and Local Government Service Group Executive, offered his solidarity, reminding those present that the cuts were being proposed by a Labour council. The Labour cabinet voted for the cuts, but Unison branch secretary Phil Carter vowed to the lobby that the fight would continue. **The Socialist Party will be holding a public meeting on the fight to defend the libraries at the Windsor Hotel, Holton Road, Barry at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7 May.**



photo Becky Davis

## Election appeal 2014

### £2,148 raised so far

The Socialist Party is appealing for £15,000 to help finance our election campaigns for the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) in the council and mayoral elections and No2EU in the European elections (see page 2). A proportion of the appeal will also go to support the campaign of the Workers And Socialist Party (WASP) in the general election in South Africa. Thanks to our readers who have donated in the past week: Charlie Taylor £20; Carol Richardson £20; Anne Kahn £20; Steve Bush £20; Joe Fathallah £50; members in Cardiff east branch £85; Ronnie and Claire Job £50; Linda Thraves £30; members in Caerphilly branch £50; Alec Thraves £45; members in Leeds £35; Michael Bishop £20; members in Sheffield £135, Huddersfield £160, Hull £300 and Rotherham £10; members in Exeter £58, Dorset £25; Lewis Sullivan £20.



## SOCIALIST PARTY FIGHTING FUND

	£ target	£ received	April-June 2014	Deadline 29 June 2014
West Midlands	2,100	280		
Northern	600	0		
North West	1,200	548		
Wales	2,300	477		
South West	1,400	139		
London	6,100	1,549		
Southern	1,200	315		
East Midlands	1,600	487		
South East	750	79		
Eastern	1,200	45		
Yorkshire	2,900	250		
England & Wales	3,650	812		
TOTAL	25,000	4,982		

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# Ukraine: skirmishes threaten wider conflict

## United workers' action needed to prevent war

Niall Mulholland

**T**he crisis in Ukraine deepened following clashes between pro-Russian separatists and armed forces despatched to the east of the country by the new Kiev regime.

In response, Russia ordered new military exercises on its border with Ukraine. At the same time, US troops were deployed in Poland for military exercises. This is in accord with the US announcement that it will send paratrooper units to Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. American warships are in the Black Sea.

Following two recent visits to Kiev by CIA director John Brennan and US Vice-President Joe Biden, the Kiev regime made aggressive military threats against the east.

Given the highly combustible situation in Ukraine, the military build-up by the western powers and Russia is very dangerous. Putin has amassed armed forces on Russia's border with Ukraine and said he will act to defend ethnic Russians. Events could spiral towards a full scale conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The biggest losers in this horrific scenario would be the working class of Ukraine and across the region, whatever their ethnic background.

### Months of protests

Following the breakthrough referendum in Crimea, on 16 April, pro-Russian supporters seized police and security buildings in Donetsk, Kharkiv and Luhansk, the three capitals of Ukraine's eastern provinces. The same pattern was seen on 12 April when police and security buildings in ten or more towns and cities across eastern Ukraine fell to pro-Russian rebels.

The Kiev regime and its western backers allege that Russia whipped up fears in the east and staged the seizures. Unidentified, well-equipped special forces did appear to take a lead in occupying the buildings, and demonstrations in support were relatively small. But reports of many police officers switching sides and the formation of local separatist militias indicate the widespread antipathy of Russian-speakers towards the Kiev regime.

This is hardly surprising given the thoroughly reactionary character of the Kiev regime and the way in which it came to power. Months of mass protests in Kiev ignited last year when the Victor Yanukovich regime ditched a deal with the EU in favour of making one with Rus-

sia. Yanukovich backed off when he realised the scale of the austerity cuts that the EU and IMF demanded would be introduced as part of its financial aid package and correctly feared a revolt of Ukraine workers.

Although many on Independence Square in Kiev had illusions in the EU, the protests were mainly fuelled by years of economic stagnation and poverty under the authoritarian, corrupt Yanukovich regime and its oligarch backers.

### Fascist threat

This revolt, which had some characteristics of a revolution, quickly laid bare the very narrow base of support for Yanukovich and the hostility to the oligarchs. When Yanukovich's riot police brutally attacked protesters it only created more revulsion and isolated his regime.

Powerful workers' organisations and parties could have led mass struggles against Yanukovich by making a class appeal to all workers in Ukraine to oppose the reactionary politicians and oligarchs and to fight for a socialist alternative. But in the absence of such class forces, reactionary opposition politicians, including Ukrainian ultra-nationalists and the far right, dominated the protest movement. The anti-Semitic Svoboda party and fascist Right Sector acted as muscle on the streets of central Kiev and elsewhere, aiding the coming to power of the Arseniy Yatsenyuk-led regime on 22 February.

The opposition were backed by the US and European powers, which have long had designs on gaining more influence and control in Ukraine. They want a pliant, pro-western regime in Kiev that will facilitate the further penetration of western big capital into Ukraine and the region. These powers want an acquiescent Ukraine, along with the continuing eastwards expansion of Nato to counter their Russian rival.

### Referendum

But the western powers stoked-up more than they bargained for. The incorporation of sections of the anti-Russian far right in the regime only poured oil on the flames of ethnic tensions, deepening fears of discrimination among the Russian-speaking minority, particularly in the east and south. The referendum in Crimea, held on 16 March, saw a huge vote for union with Russia despite the oppressive conditions under which it was held.



Russian troops near the Ukraine border

The heavily industrialised east would lose out the most from any new trade deals the Kiev regime makes with the EU and IMF, ruining their local economy, as well as bringing austerity misery onto the heads of working people across the whole country.

### Miners strike

Around 2,000 coal miners in the Luhansk area reportedly went on strike in protest at the Kiev government's 10% salary levy to fund restoring central Kiev following the street fighting earlier this year.

The country's 'acting president', Oleksandr Turchinov, set deadlines to take back the buildings but with little effect, so far.

A 'breakthrough' deal between the US and EU and Russia to supposedly de-escalate the crisis by ending all occupations and 'illegal' militias quickly fell apart in mutual recriminations. There is a staggering degree of hypocrisy involved here, given the decades of US and western imperialist invasions and occupations of other countries, not least Iraq and Afghanistan, and Russia's brutal military incursions into Chechnya.

Turchinov soon ordered an 'anti-terrorist operation' involving Ukrainian troops and aircraft and, provocatively, armed thugs from the Right Sector.

It is possible that the pro-Russian forces will continue to grab power in the east, creating 'parallel governmental structures' with Moscow's support. This would, in



effect, mark the cantonisation of Ukraine, with the ominous danger of ethnic population expulsions taking place on both sides.

But the recent clashes show the situation could get even worse, spiralling into a civil war and direct bloody conflict between Ukraine and Russian armed forces.

Events may lead to Putin deciding to take military action in Ukraine. Russian government spokespeople warn that the Western powers' bellicose actions are a direct threat to Russia's vital interests that might trigger military invasion. By comparison with the Russian army, the Ukrainian armed forces are weak and poorly equipped and its personnel in the east and south could defect.

But such Russian action would come with great risks and at a considerable cost, both militarily and economically. Russian forces could get bogged down and face attacks from Ukrainian nationalist militias. To bring wages and pensions up to Russian levels for Donetsk alone, for example, would cost twice as much as for Crimea, leaving aside the cost of subsidising the region's coal mines. This is something that Putin can ill afford given Russia's stagnant economy.

### Role of the working class

The vast majority of the working class of Ukraine do not want to be dragged into a wider conflict and ethnic division. Their class interests are completely opposite to those of the local reactionary politicians, oligarchs and outside powers, who are bringing Ukraine towards catastrophe. But fear and passive opposition alone will not stop wider conflict. Only the or-

ganised working class can stop more bloodshed, deepening ethnic divisions and falling living standards.

With around half a million miners alone, the working class is potentially the greatest power in Ukraine. To realise their potential, workers require independent organisations, such as cross-ethnic defence committees, trade unions and a mass party that opposes all pro-capitalist parties and imperialism, guarantees full minority rights and presents a socialist alternative.

Building these forces in the current circumstances is very difficult but this task remains the only way out of the nightmare wrought by capitalism and imperialism.

### The Committee for a Workers' International

The Committee for a Workers' International (CWI) is the socialist international organisation to which the Socialist Party is affiliated.

The CWI is organised in 45 countries and works to unite the working class and oppressed peoples against global capitalism and to fight for a socialist world.

For more details including CWI publications write to: CWI, PO Box 3688, London E11 1YE. email [cwi@worldsoc.co.uk](mailto:cwi@worldsoc.co.uk)



[www.socialistworld.net](http://www.socialistworld.net)

Ukraine miners strike over pay





## the Socialist postbag

**Do you have something to say?**

Send your news, views and criticism in not more than 150 words to Socialist Postbag, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD, or phone 020 8988 8771, email: [editors@socialistparty.org.uk](mailto:editors@socialistparty.org.uk).

We reserve the right to shorten letters. Don't forget to give your name, address and phone number.

Confidentiality will be respected if requested.

**Bleach of wrath**

I was surprised to get a call from a neighbour this afternoon - could I use cooking apples, peppers, potatoes, salad? Turns out she had been shopping at a supermarket in a nearby town, and noticed a member of staff tipping bleach all over a stack of goods they were throwing out.

As well as salvaging several bags of perfectly good fruit and veg, she also managed to retrieve a number of bags of clothes, some of it for children, which was again being drenched in bleach. She's washing the clothes and retrieving usable items to go to a local charity shop... but why couldn't the store have given the items to charity themselves? There are branches of Oxfam and Red Cross within sight of the supermarket! There's also an active food bank in the town who might well have been able to pass the fruit and veg on to some of the many needy families on its books.

I'd heard of this kind of thing happening, but didn't realise it was so widespread. Legal maybe, but so very wrong. The supermarket in question was Aldi... but do they all do it?

**Kate Jones**

**Llanwrtyd Wells, Mid-Wales**

**Another bosses' party**

We have just had a leaflet from UKIP telling us who their West Midlands candidates are for the European elections, there are seven.

Only one is a woman and she is a company secretary. Four of the men are described as "Business owner", so they do not just 'have a stake' in a business they own it, or perhaps they own more than one. One is a full-time carer, the other is a European Account Director. I do not know what that entails but it sounds like a boss to me.

My employer decides what I do when I am at work, why would I vote for some more employers to decide what I can do the rest of the time?

**Pete McNally**

**Worcester Socialist Party**

**Tat**

Proof if proof were needed that we really are "all in it together". The Tatler magazine (quoted in the i newspaper, I don't read it myself) revealed that parents at seriously posh private schools (the kind to which cabinet members and Tatler readers send their offspring) are showering the teachers with lavish gifts.

These include diamond necklaces, a Hermes handbag and the keys to the parents' foreign villa. A head teacher was also singled out by a chauffeur who delivered a case of burgundy in exchange for a tour of the school and an expected place for his child. The Tatler does not make clear whether they are outraged by the blatant bribery or the thought of a mere servant trying to get in to an exclusive school. The Tatler complains that the gifting culture is becoming increasingly aggressive and manipulative. Personally, I blame Thatcher.

**Derek McMillan**



# A South Wales miner remembers

Tyrone O'Sullivan, currently chair of Tower Colliery and Secretary of Tower NUM during the great miners' strike spoke to Mariam Kamish about the 30th anniversary of the strike.

"There are people making television programmes and giving interviews saying the miners were architects of their own downfall - or blaming Arthur Scargill. Those are lies. We had to fight. We were forced into the strike by the Tory Party, who were supported by the likes of then Labour leader Neil Kinnock, because he feared the strength of working people as much as the Tories did.

We scared the hell out of them, because we didn't just fight for ourselves, we supported others as well, in this country and internationally.

**Thatcherism**

"In the 1970s working people were strong. We were moving society in the right direction. Because of the miners' defeat, Thatcher - with Reagan - was able to set the world back 40 years. All the work the miners had done supporting struggles in this country - and in countries like Nicaragua and South Africa - was set back. The Tories won and changed the world.

"Of course when Thatcher beat Scargill, she didn't beat the miners. What she didn't realise was that in Wales - to take our case - there were 22 Scargills, 44 Scargills in the pits. When the strike ended, we didn't go away.

"We were the lucky ones in Tower. We carried on after the strike just as before. We kept fighting. We kept travelling all over the country - we



photo Militant

kept supporting others - and when other pits closed, the best people came to Tower, the men who wouldn't take redundancy. By closing all those pits, the Tories accidentally gave Tower the best army in the world and that's why we were the last pit in South Wales.

"In Tower, we always used May Day to invite people from the other pit areas - Durham, Yorkshire, Kent - down to a dinner and march in Aberdare. We always used that op-

portunity to talk politics and bring all the areas of the NUM together. In 1984, the very year the strike started, Nottingham was meant to be coming down. If we'd only had them down the year before, history might have been different.

"I'm looking forward to speaking at the May Day meeting. We need to explain the lessons of the miners' strike to this generation, so they are prepared for the battles of today. Others may change, but I don't. I



photo Socialist Party

**'I'M BRYAN' HOUSING PROTEST**

Housing workers Unison LE 1111 branch of Unite the union organised a big turnout of trade unionists when Bryan Kennedy faced a disciplinary hearing from his employers One Housing group on 23 April.

Noisy Unite members aimed to show this wage-cutting, anti-union boss that they will fight back against all attacks, barracking one of the bosses as he went to get a lunch at Sainsbury's, and preparing to build united action if and when it becomes necessary.

The bosses could not go ahead with disciplinary action on the day but trade unionists were determined to keep supporting the I'm Bryan campaign.

[www.housingworkers.org.uk](http://www.housingworkers.org.uk)

## Dear Newsnight - socialist teacher demands right of reply

After BBC TV's Newsnight programme carried an attack on the National Union of Teachers, Martin Powell-Davies, a member of the NUT National Executive national executive member and Socialist Party activist, wrote a letter warning Newsnight that "your feature on the 'Left in the NUT' angered NUT members from right across its broad spectrum of political views.

"The feature chose to give most air-time to NUT's ex-general secretary Fred Jarvis and John Blake. John's comment that the NUT was 'extreme' for extending our campaign

to include workload was just one indication of how far removed he must be from the everyday pressures facing classroom teachers struggling to cope with working 60 hours and more every week.

"While you gave Kevin Courtney a limited time to try and defend the union as a whole, I had no opportunity to respond to attacks made on my character.

"An edited interview from questions thrown at me as I walked into the conference hardly provides a real opportunity to answer Fred and John, nor to speak up for all those teachers who support their union's campaign to defend teachers and education against this government's divisive and damaging attacks.

"Far from being 'elected unopposed' as Fred Jarvis implied, I have just been democratically elected

to the NUT's National Executive in elections contested in March. If the programme's aim was to persuade teachers not to vote for me in the NUT general secretary election in June, its crude attacks may have had an opposite effect.

**Real comment**

"The unacceptable attacks on children's education, cuts to pay and pensions, and rising levels of workload, mean that teachers rightly back their union's call for action - and why many are also supporting my proposal that we need to put in place a more decisive action strategy. I ask for an opportunity for a right of reply on Newsnight"

Martin's blog also said: "I stand by the points that Newsnight broadcast in its feature. Firstly, to defeat the

attacks on teachers and education, 'you can't just have occasional one-day protest strikes, you need to step up to a calendar of action.'

I told Newsnight there would be public backing for such action, that 'everybody [who] knows that their pay is being cut, that their jobs are under threat [will] respect those who are actually going to stand up for themselves'.

For real evidence, instead of sensationalist journalism, see the quotes in Newcastle's Evening Chronicle. Top comment is "Good for those teachers, now all public service workers should do the same."

Others include: "They're striking because the government is trying to destroy the education system" Clearly some hard-left plot has taken over the North-east!

## A civil war without guns

by Ken Smith

£8 (postage included)

The Socialist Party's history of the 1984-85 miners' strike, A Civil War Without Guns, by Ken Smith, has been reprinted with a new introduction for the 30th anniversary of this colossal struggle.



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still have the beliefs I always had - and always will have."

**Tyrone O'Sullivan is speaking on Thursday, 1 May, 7.00pm at the Maldron Hotel, St Mary's Street, Cardiff, CF10 1GD at a public meeting organised by the Socialist Party.**



# UKIP - a pro-cuts party for the 1%

Farage addresses the press at the tiny 2011 pro-cuts protest  
photo Paul Mattsson



Ukip leader Nigel Farage has his eyes on the prize. On 22 May, he hopes to see his party romp home to victory in the European elections and finish up with a healthy smattering of brand new councillors. Should he be successful, this will be the first time a party other than Labour or Conservative has won a countrywide election since World War One.

But does a vote cast Ukip's way bring with it a better chance of improved lives for the 'British workers' whose side they claim to be on?

As Farage plans to exploit the gaping vacuum that exists in British politics in May, **CLAIRE LAKER-MANSFIELD** looks behind the bluster at what Ukip really stands for.

Ukip is attempting to win over working class voters in what are traditionally Labour areas. It was clearly a very conscious decision to launch Ukip's millionaire-bankrolled billboards and election campaign in Yorkshire. One billboard features a gigantic pointing finger beside the words: "26 million people in Europe are looking for work. And whose jobs are they after?"

The campaign is designed to cynically exploit the understandable anxieties of many workers - concern about the lack of jobs, cut-to-the-bone public services, anger at corrupt politicians and the super-rich elite, and betrayal by Labour.

Farage has said he is going after Labour voters and non-voters, claiming one in five Ukip votes come from those who wouldn't otherwise bother. Ukip beer mats attempt to appeal to disillusioned voters in pubs across the north of England. And with hours and hours of TV and media coverage, Ukip is widely presented as the best stick to beat the Con-Dems and Labour.

But while Ukip's politics place it to the right of the Conservative party, when asked, its voters often stand to the left of the three main capitalist parties. The majority of Ukip's supporters are in favour of higher public spending; almost 80% express support for nationalising the energy companies; 57% want a ban on zero-hour contracts and 73% would like to see the railways back under public ownership.

## Posing left

When asked what issues motivated people to vote Ukip, the European Union came fifth. More prominent concerns include healthcare, the economy and immigration. It is with these voters in mind that Ukip is combining its inflammatory and xenophobic rhetoric on immigration with posing to the left on some economic issues.

Farage has made recent headlines calling for 'curbs' on zero-hour contracts - although he was keen to caution he had no truck with 'militant trade unionism' which might actually improve the lot of these workers. Meanwhile Ukip's enormously

regressive and utterly out of touch flat-rate tax policy has been quietly dropped for the time-being.

During the Wythenshawe byelection in February, Ukip even went as far as producing leaflets with the headline 'Vote Ukip, protect your benefits'. Ukip's semi-left posturing is beyond cynical, but they are allowed to get away with it by a Labour party which is fully signed up to the agenda of austerity.

How can Labour attack Ukip for not seriously wanting to defend benefits when its leaders have pledged to be 'tougher than the Tories on welfare'?

The truth is that Ukip will not be any defence against cuts for working people. Its leaders and key donors are rabidly right-wing free market fundamentalists, who would implement even more brutal cut-backs and anti-working class policies than the Tories if they could.

## £77 billion cuts

Ukip may have been forced to disown its 2010 general election manifesto (which Farage now refers to as 'drive!'), but it gives you a taste of the carnage that it would unleash if given half a chance.

Not content with the slash and burn approach of the Tories, it pledged to go even further, reducing public spending to 1997's levels and slashing two million public sector jobs. Ukip may want to win voters struggling under the cruelty of benefit cuts in Wythenshawe now, but in 2010, it pledged to abolish incapacity benefit completely.

What's more, only months ago Farage was decrying the Tories' failure to 'deal with the deficit' and claiming only Ukip would be bold enough to 'properly' cut the NHS and pensions, pledging an additional £77 billion of cuts. Now, when he's asked about policies on welfare, education and public spending, Farage refuses to talk about domestic policies until after 22 May.

However, in the few places Ukip has councillors they have often voted for cuts - even while in opposition. In Suffolk one Ukip councillor even went to the lengths of using the voting card of his absent colleague to 'vote twice' for a Conservative

cuts budget (now the subject of an investigation).

Farage's popular image is itself a carefully constructed lie: A straight-talking 'everyman', complete with a beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other, he apparently relishes the chance to stick it to the political and social elites. Commenting on Ukip's mission, Farage recently claimed: "My priority is a new political party and movement in this country that wants to stand up for the interests of ordinary people."

## Ordinarily posh

But 'ordinary' would be an inappropriate adjective to apply to Nigel. This privately educated (Dulwich College) millionaire is a former stockbroker, and is himself very much a member of the privileged elite. He was a Tory throughout Margaret Thatcher's war on the working class, only leaving in protest at the John Major government's signing of the Treaty on European Union at Maastricht.

While Farage is keen to decry 'Eurocrats' he neglects to mention that he has been stuffing his pockets with over £60,000 worth of expenses. Unabashed by Leveson and revelations about phone hacking, Nigel Farage recently accepted an invitation to a fancy dinner with Rupert Murdoch.

Perhaps that partly explains the mountains of favourable coverage Ukip has been receiving in the Sun!

The Ukip National Executive also includes disgraced ex-Tory MP Neil Hamilton, of 'cash for questions' fame. So any profession by Ukip to represent a clean break from corrupt politicians is laughable.

Moreover, despite the party's deputy leader Paul Nuttall harking back to the days when "Labour MPs came from the mills and the mines", his party has no interest in giving the working class any say in the policies of his party. It is one thing to claim working class support, but quite another to allow organised workers to have 'ownership' of a political organisation.

The reason Labour once had MPs from the mills and the mines, was that it had the democratic participation of millions of working class people through the trade unions.

The only political organisation today that allows trade unions and workers a genuine say, and direct democratic control, is the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC).

What Ukip really stands for is the politics of despair. Millions of those who vote for Ukip will do so out of a desire to 'stick two fingers up' to the main parties in protest. This instinct is more than justified. But Ukip has no solutions. Far from genuinely threatening the establishment, Ukip is playing an important role in protecting them.

Instead of encouraging workers to organise to fight the austerity which enriches the 1% at the expense of the 99%, Ukip aims to foster division between ordinary workers and sow the seeds of hatred. Rather than pledging to vote against cuts, Ukip duplicitously 'talks the talk' on the doorstep while voting for cuts carnage in the town halls.

With further revelations of outright racism among Ukip's council candidates, any claim to simply be 'saying what ordinary people really think' is shown to be false. The best way to protest in May is to vote for an organisation that supports a united struggle of workers of all backgrounds against cuts - an organisation that won't betray us in the town hall and won't abandon us in the workplaces and on the streets.

If you want to register your discontent on 22 May vote TUSC against cuts, and fight to build a party of and for working people.

While TUSC is standing in the local elections, for the European elec-

**no<sup>2</sup>eu**  
yes to workers' rights

tions the Socialist Party is supporting No2EU - Yes To Workers' Rights, which is led by the RMT union.

As Bob Crow, No2EU and TUSC co-founder said:

**"Ukip is neither in favour of workers' rights, public services or welfare. If people are looking for an alternative, Ukip isn't it."**

## Who's bankrolling Ukip?

Between 2001 and 2013 Ukip received over £7 million in donations, according to accounts filed with the Electoral Commission. Its donors include:

- Julian Blackwell, owner of Blackwell's, the publishing group: £175k
- Sir John Craven, former chairman of mining group Lonmin (Lonmin workers were massacred in Marikana, South Africa in 2012): £12,500
- James Donald Charteris, or Lord Neidpath, a former close friend of the Queen Mother: £54k
- Viscount Michael Cowdray, member of the Pearson publishing family and Britain's tenth largest landowner: £35,000
- Lady Yvonne Vinson, wife of Nigel Vinson, or Baron Vinson, a former deputy chairman of the Confederation of British Industry bosses' union, and a regular attendee at the House of Lords: £10k

**Not so much a party of the downtrodden as one of press barons and actual knights!**



In the wake of the 26 March 2011 TUC march against austerity, the biggest trade union and working class-led demonstration in British history, Ukip supporters attempted to organise a counter 'rally against debt' in May 2011.

The organiser, Annabelle Fuller, a Ukip spin-doctor recently rumoured to be having an affair with Farage, initiated the pro-cuts protest after being "completely appalled" by the TUC demonstration (The Guardian, 14 May 2011).

Amid excited talk about a US Tea Party-style 'mass movement' beginning in Britain, a bare handful turned up, bearing 'Stop spending my money', and 'What cuts? When will they start?' placards.

Farage spoke alongside 'Euro-sceptic' Tory MPs, Priti Patel and Bill Cash, and other right-wing luminaries. This was the real measure of where the balance of forces lay.

**From Socialism Today, June 2013 by Clive Heemskerk: [socialismtoday.org/169/tusc](http://socialismtoday.org/169/tusc)**



## DEFENDING PENSIONS, JOBS, PAY, SERVICES...

# BACK THE STRIKES!

Neil Cafferky

Following the solid national strikes in November and February, firefighters are once again demonstrating their refusal to accept the pension robbery on offer from the employers.

Their union FBU has offered the employers every opportunity to settle this dispute through negotiations. However the bosses' continuing refusal to offer any meaningful concessions shows that firefighters have been left with no option but to strike. The employers have ignored evidence provided by the union proving the need for a pension scheme that takes into account the stresses and strains faced by firefighters.

The job of a firefighter is unique but the attacks upon their pensions, conditions and jobs are not. The employers and the government have no interest in the vital work that firefighters carry out every day. Instead their pensions and everything else that makes working life bearable is under attack, just like the attacks on millions of workers around the country.

Osborne's Autumn statement last year, not only brought forward by ten years the new retirement age of first 68 and then



photo Paul Mattsson

69 - it will be open-ended with it being regularly reviewed in line with life expectancy.

This means workers only qualifying for their state pensions into their 70s. Because many occupational pensions use this age as a yardstick, workers will fear being forced to work until they drop for the full retirement benefits that they have worked and paid for.

In one fell swoop, Osborne has

kicked away one of the main planks of the pensions deal that unfortunately some of the union leaders signed, to halt the mass public sector strikes of 2011.

Millions of workers are under the cosh. Any group of workers standing up for themselves will be cheered on. For this reason the FBU's strike action will undoubtedly be popular, just like the strikes on the London Underground.

The employers' hard line on pensions is backed to the hilt by the government. Forcing a climb down requires sustained action. However the government are not as secure as they would like everyone to think. After years of austerity many workers across the public sector have had enough and are beginning to move into action.

The teachers in the NUT have named a date for strike action over pay. Workers in local government and the NHS will be balloted next month.

Doncaster Care UK workers are planning a week-long strike.

A united stand by public sector unions taking strike action together would press home their claims. What's more, this all shows that the mood is there and the need is definitely there for a 24-hour general strike that could shake this government to the core.

## Tube workers on strike



One of the many large picket lines photo Paula Mitchell

Striking RMT members got a very good response from the public at Whitechapel tube. Lots of people said they don't want the ticket offices closed and they are worried about safety on the stations with less staff.

Many people signed a petition in support of the strike, including mem-

bers of the NUT and Unison who said they wished their unions were on strike too. The idea of united union action went down really well.

Most of the tube lines were showing "no service" when the electronic board in the station went on strike too.

**More on page 4**

## Come to the NSSN conference

National Shop Stewards Network conference

Saturday 5 July 11am-5pm in Conway Hall - 25 Red Lion Square, Holborn, London WC1R 4RL

What recovery? We want our share! Fight together for a pay rise!

[www.shopstewards.net](http://www.shopstewards.net), [twitter: NSSN\\_antcuts](https://twitter.com/NSSN_antcuts), [e: info@shopstewards.net](mailto:info@shopstewards.net)

## What we stand for

**The Socialist Party fights for socialism – a democratic society run for the needs of all and not the profits of a few. We also oppose every cut, fighting in our day-to-day campaigning for every possible improvement for working class people. The organised working class has the potential power to stop the cuts and transform society.**

**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 socialist international that organises in over 40 countries.**

**Our demands include:**

### PUBLIC SERVICES

- No to ALL cuts in jobs, pay, public services and benefits. Defend our pensions.
- 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.

### 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.
- Reject 'Workfare'. 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. Support the National Shop Stewards Network.

- A maximum 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

### ENVIRONMENT

- Major research and investment into replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy and into ending the problems of early obsolescence and un-recycled 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! Support the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition as an important step towards this.

### SOCIALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM

- No to imperialist wars and occupations. Withdraw the troops immediately from Afghanistan!
- Tax the super-rich! For a socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies and the banking system 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' neoliberal European Union! For a socialist Europe and a socialist world!