A stark new report by the government’s own advisors on public sector pay has shown that there was a 6% drop in average wages from 2005 to 2015.

That’s reflected in a £3 an hour loss for teachers, £2 an hour for police officers and £8 an hour for doctors. More experienced teachers have lost as much as £5,000 a year because of pay restraint, and that doesn’t include the loss from increases in pension and National Insurance contributions.

There is a growing anger among public sector workers about low pay and funding cuts to the services they deliver. The Tories are wobbling on the public sector pay cap, with many cabinet members - fearing mass revolt - coming out for change.

But we cannot rely on their ‘good nature’! They’ll just cut somewhere else to pay for it.

We must come out fighting.

At the 1 July ‘Not One Day More’ demo Mark Serwotka, leader of the PCS civil servants’ union, absolutely nailed it when he posed the question: “Why don’t we have a public sector pay strike to break the pay cap?”

As each day goes by, the Tories are getting weaker. Even though mathematically they have a small majority, propped up by the billion-pound bribe for votes from the DUP, they have no authority.

As their poll ratings plummet, they are more divided. We need to push harder to put them out of their misery.

The recent demo was vibrant and young. Labour’s manifesto started to lift aspirations on so many fronts. The mantra of austerity, ‘we are all in it together’, is dead.

The mood is changing and there is a tangible feeling of victory in the air. That can become a reality, but only if the leadership of our trade unions starts to lead.

Now is the time to organise the millions of public sector workers in a serious coordinated campaign, including strike action, to win back dignity for public sector workers and the services we deliver.
1 JULY DEMO: ANGER AND ENTHUSIASM SHOWS POTENTIAL MASS MOVEMENT

The July edition of Socialism Today, the Socialist Party’s monthly magazine, includes a callout to Jeremy Corbyn to go over the heads of the Labour Party apparatus and present his own programme for change to the assembled crowds. Labour councillors were pursuing exactly the same party line of austerity, deciding to hold back some redundancies and reduced the pressure on the Tories before then. “But on the vital task to re-shape the labour movement, Labour councillors were pursuing exactly the same policy line of austerity, deciding to hold back some redundancies and reduced the pressure on the Tories before then. “But on the vital task to re-shape the labour movement, it was left to the grassroots activist to take the lead, and they did so.”

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The Tories must “change hard” on tuition fees. "Every day seems to bring a new insult to working class people", says Paul Kershaw. The Socialist Party disagrees with this attack on the same workers they represent. For free organising resources: socialistparty.org.uk/leaflet

"For free trade, the EU is a free-trade area with rules which threaten to pull investment away and are still organising to undermine the Single Market - to protect big business, not migrants", says the Socialist Party.

"The Irish establishment humiliated as Hillsborough deaths: six charged about the same workers they represent. For free trade, the EU is a free-trade area with rules which threaten to pull investment away and are still organising to undermine the Single Market - to protect big business, not migrants", says the Socialist Party.
**Support the Merseyrail strikers against driver-only operation**

The Labour-run ‘Liverpool city region’ public transport authority oversees the local Merseyrail train service, which operates off the trains and introduces ‘driver-only operation’. This is putting the profits of the train operator ahead of the safety of the travelling public.

We support the guards' trade union, RMT, taking a strike action against this on 10, 13 and 20 of June, with 24-hour pickets at the key stations across the region to declare a complete loss of confidence in the management and management’s policy of driver-only operation.

We urge all railway users to join the pickets and to show your support, and ask you to join the_rrt-strike_2017 folder on the Socialist online. The Socialist is the site to consult for further information on the pickets around the region.

The Socialist is the site to consult for further information on the pickets around the region.
London Pride this year has been beset by controversy. A number of posters it created were seen as infringing Pride’s main event for straight people, treating gay men asizzlies, and recycling common homophobic stereotypes of LGBT+ people in a way that ‘apologise for being gay’.

At the same time, London Pride organiser were ensuring recognition campaigns such as London Pride 2016 photo Paul Mattsson, several has been suspended and women, not just from straight but also from schools. We are more likely to understand mental illness in men and a disproportionate number of LGBT+ young people are homeless.

Democentralisation

Only a handful of countries worldwide had democentralised homosexuality until the 19th century. France in 1871, in the wake of the French revolution, was the first country to decriminalise homosexuality, and the new laws were met with heavy repression. This perhaps explains accounts such as that of a woman who was shot and killed in 1922 for being homosexual. Her death was not, as some historians argue, an accident, but a staged killing in order to stop the spread of homosexuality in France in the 20th century.

Social attitudes

Social attitudes towards homosexuality have changed around the world. In the 18th century the government had received praise for their contribution to the soviet military and political successes towards the elimination of sodomy every year under the Stalinist era. These steps undoubtedly energised the fight for LGBT+ rights and freedoms.

The subsequent reversal of the 1980s, with the rise of AIDS and the onset of the HIV epidemic, marked the beginning of the so-called ‘gay liberation’ movement. This perhaps explains accounts such as that of a woman who was shot and killed in 1922 for being homosexual. Her death was not, as some historians argue, an accident, but a staged killing in order to stop the spread of homosexuality in France in the 20th century.

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The Socialist Inbox

Do you have something to say? Send your news, views and criticism in not more than 150 words. Do you have something to say? Send your news, views and criticism in not more than 150 words.

Debate desirable

As a parliamentary member of the Socialist Party, I was recently invited to the order of branch meetings. I was immensely pleased to find that the majority of the members had no objection to the idea that there was no magic money tree. I was not even sure of what went into its pockets, but I knew that the money was not a magic money tree.

What I want to know is where does the magic money tree get its money from? If it is not going to be used for the benefit of the masses, then it is not a magic money tree.

The Tories and the DUP are in a situation where they cannot get the money they need to keep their policies alive. They are in a situation where they cannot get the money they need to keep their policies alive.

An interesting piece of news is that the Tories have done a deal with to keep their policies alive. This is because the lies originated in the leader of the Labour Party.

This is because the lies originated in the leader of the Labour Party. Neil Kinnock's infamous speech at Labour Party conference in 1985 was a complete lie. Labour Party delegates were asked to vote for a policy that was not even discussed at the conference. The only reason for voting for it was because the leader of the Labour Party had said it was the right thing to do.

The Socialists were not prepared to accept this. We went into the hall and asked the delegates to vote against the policy. We won the vote by a majority of 100 to 1.

The Tories have more faces than Big Brother. The right to freedom of speech at branch meetings, also public meetings, is how well the right to freedom of speech is working. Every participant is allowed to express their views in every meeting.

The platform welcomed all views. I found this very important at branch meetings, also public meetings. In my opinion, this is what the Socialist Party stands for against other political parties and mainstream organisations.

Wallopchopper

Conway

Magic money tree

During the election, the Tories kept on attacking the Labour party with the claim that there is no magic money tree. However, the DFL announced that they would use the money from the magic money tree to buy the houses of the Labour Party.

Then the Tories were in a position where they were not prepared to use the money from the magic money tree to buy the houses of the Labour Party.

The magic money tree has two big legs that are holding up the Labour Party. The other legs are the money from the magic money tree.

Chris Fernandez

Corbyn confidence

The Labour Party has a big confidence issue. The Labour Party has a big confidence issue.

For many, Corbyn is the anti-hero. The Labour Party has a big confidence issue. The Labour Party has a big confidence issue.

The pictures of the missing on walls make you cry, especially those of the children.

Young comrades with a dead ahead of them - of work, study, love, work and children - try to keep the peace and just paint with this pain they have lost the ability to love the Labour Party.

The Tories must change. For the bosses, there are no changes.

Walter Allsop

Justice for Grenfell - safety for all

Nothing can prepare you for the cousin picture shown on the front page of the local newspaper. Grenfell Tower. It is burnt through and has the same practical experience, and are as ready to step up to ideas with passion, and action.

This applies everywhere from student unions to trade unions and beyond. We are facing a crisis of confidence that is not being addressed. We are facing a crisis of confidence that is not being addressed.

The Tories must change. For the bosses, there are no changes.

Ian Slater

Tory interests

The Tory government is right to be concerned about the safety of those who rent their homes from the Tories.

Nick Allen

Newcastle tenants demand answers from Labour council

Newcastle tenants demand answers from Labour council.

The Socialist Party has been campaigning for housing rights for all for many years. The socialist party has been campaigning for housing rights for all for many years.

The Labour group of Newcastle City Council plans to discuss its plans to return in-house, and fully equipped by Sunday lunchtime. The Socialist Party will be there to discuss the safety of those who rent their homes from the Tories.

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WEAKENED TORIES FORCED INTO NORTHERN IRELAND ABORTION U-TURN

Sarah Sachs-Eldridge
Socialist Party national organiser

Thursday 29 June 2017 saw a significant step forward for women in Northern Ireland (NI). Funding to cover the financial costs for them to access abortions in England was pledged by the Tory minority government.

The Tories’ ‘supply and confidence’ deal with the ten DUP MPs turned a spotlight on Northern Irish politics.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act that introduced free, legal abortion for women in England, Wales and Scotland within certain limitations.

It was understood by those who fought for this legislation that women should have the right to choose when and whether to have children and that the right to an abortion is a life or death issue. But no major party in NI supports extending it there.

Women in NI are denied access to abortions in almost all circumstances. When they come to England to access NHS services they are forced to pay for the service. Including travel, time off work, accommodation, etc., it can cost the two women who travel every week up to £2,000.

Anyone who performs an illegal abortion in NI could be jailed for life. Cases of rape, incest and fatal foetal abnormalities are not circumstances where abortions can be performed legally.

Health workers face criminal charges if they do not report women who present with complications caused by an abortion. These conditions remain, so the fight for abortion rights in Northern Ireland is not over.

Yet nearly 80% of people in NI believe abortion should be legal when a woman has become pregnant as a result of rape or incest, according to the 2016 Life and Times Survey. When the same survey asked if abortion should be a matter for medical regulation and not criminal law, over two-thirds of both Catholics and Protestants agreed or strongly agreed.

It was initially predicted that the DUP MPs could influence the Tories towards cutting women’s rights.

Anyone who performs an illegal abortion could be jailed for life… the fight for abortion rights in Northern Ireland is not over.

This government is incredibly weak and that fragility is the key to understanding what happened - and to drawing lessons for the fight for women’s rights. Theresa May won the vote on the Queen’s Speech with a majority of just 14 votes.

When an amendment to the Speech calling on the government to fund NHS abortions for NI women from Labour backbencher Stella Creasy looked to be gaining support among some Tory MPs, there was enormous pressure to make a concession just to keep the show on the road.

Creasy withdrew the amendment when Tory chancellor Philip Hammond announced that Justine Greening, the women and equalities minister, would write to MPs “explaining that she intends to intervene to fund abortions in England for women arriving here from NI”. This is estimated to cost around £1 million.

Blairites

While it was Creasy who moved the amendment, it is the weakened state of the Tories that forced them to concede. That weakness was created by the surge behind Jeremy Corbyn’s anti-austerity manifesto - which was absent from the material and campaigns of the anti-Corbyn wing of Labour to which Creasy subscribes.

Creasy has since been touring media studios. In less than five minutes on the BBC’s Andrew Marr show she made eight references to MPs working together ‘across the house’.

This appears to be part of the moves towards a new alignment of the pro-capitalist wing of the Labour Party and the pro-EU Tories. But there is no future for women’s rights in this. In fact in 2008 an attempt to extend abortion law to NI was scuppered by the then Blair government.

Undertaking Corbyn is undermining the potential for an anti-austerity government that could start to transform the lives of women.

Blairites like Umunna and Creasy have been part of the campaign to remove Jeremy Corbyn and keep Labour as a party that can be relied on to defend capitalist interests.

That includes cuts and privatisations of public services that deny women access to health, childcare and housing; enormously undermine women’s choice about when and whether to have children and condemn women, children and men to poverty.

Across the world women’s rights are threatened by unpopular or unstable regimes who use social issues to try to maintain power. However, women are fighting back. Last October women in Poland won a crucial victory as proposed legislation to impose a near-total ban on already restricted access to abortion was overwhelmingly defeated by a women’s strike.

A movement is rising. In January 2017, an estimated five million women, children and men participated in 673 Women’s Marches around the world against Trump’s inauguration, with an unprecedented 550 of them in the US.

We can win

The huge demo in London is a warning against any attempt to curtail women’s rights. The latest social attitudes survey confirms that mood with a record 70% saying an abortion should be allowed if a woman decides on her own she does not want a child.

Opposing the Creasy amendment could have provoked an enormous movement, which if it was properly built for and linked to the other struggles in society could bring the weak Tory government down.

The BMA doctors’ union, following the tremendous strike by junior doctors, recently voted by two-thirds to support decriminalisation of abortion, in effect an extension of the 1967 Act.

This points to how the trade unions can be central to a new mass movement that uses the collective strength of workers to fight for women’s rights and against austerity.

See full version of this article at socialistparty.org.uk
Transport strategy

London’s mayor is no visionary

Andy Beadle
Bus driver, Lewisham Socialist Party

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan recently released his Mayor’s Transport Strategy for public consultation.

His foreword opens: “Transport is a cornerstone of my vision for a fairer, greener, healthier and more prosperous city.” He wants “a city where transport is affordable, reliable and accessible for Londoners.” But can we trust billionaire-loving, Corbyn-undermining, Mayor Khan to achieve this?

The strategy document is filled with pictures of people strolling and cycling down wide, well-kept leafy streets, with lots of sunshine.

There aren’t many cars in most of the pictures, but 36% of trips in London are currently by car. By 2041 he wants this to be 20%. This is long-term vision. One aim is for 2050. In fact, step free access to all tube and rail stations isn’t scheduled even by then!

Khan hopes to replace car journeys with bus, cycle and walking trips. This extra exercise, together with a cleaner environment and lower road speeds will improve everybody’s health. The aim is to stop all road deaths and serious injuries by 2041.

Socialists are very much in favour of a vision for the future of the capital, including a clear transport strategy. But Khan’s “vision” is not based in reality and has no prospect of becoming a practical plan.

Over the last decade British governments (including Gordon Brown’s, when Khan was briefly transport minister), have imposed savage austerity cuts on our public services because they decided to bail out the failing banks and capitalist financial system. Even London is now being hit, with big cuts in government subsidies to public transport and transport price hikes.

Working people find it increasingly difficult to remain in London largely because of high house prices and rents.

Jeremy Corbyn’s manifesto pledged to renationalise rail (as the franchises expire). Khan doesn’t even have this limited plan.

Although a Labour mayor, Khan pledges to be “the most business-friendly” mayor yet and condemned tube workers’ strike action against ticket office closures and cuts in station staff levels as “completely unnecessary”.

It is impossible to balance the idea of long-term planning for the benefit of all with the narrow interests of big business, where decisions are made by companies to maximise private profit.

Khan should refuse to carry out the Tories’ cuts to public transport and campaign in support of union demands for massively increased public investment in transport infrastructure.

Take private profit out of public transport - bring the bus and train operating firms and tube network into a publicly owned, democratic, integrated transport plan.

End May’s austerity government at this time were in their infancy, set up in response to growing civil unrest. How and why did the police make such a remarkably quick arrest?

Marshall shows contradictions in witness reports, throwing doubt on Rotherham’s conviction, and questions why he apparently confessed to the crime immediately after arrest.

Marshall makes a good case for Rotherham’s defence. But if it wasn’t him, who else might have killed her?

Newspaper reports of the time say Bessie’s mother thanked the “nobility and gentry of the town of Mansfield and its vicinity for the many favours and kind assistance she has received since the murder of her daughter.”

He speculates that Bessie had been working as a prostitute to support her family and that Rotherham’s rapid arrest, conviction and execution, conveniently prevented further investigation of the ‘nobility and gentry’, who raised the finance for the memorial stone and had Rotherham’s name inscribed on it.

The local gentry might also have been keen to see a poor stranger found guilty of the crime as four weeks earlier, barely ten miles away, 200 to 300 armed workers marched from Pentrich towards Nottingham, thinking they were taking part in a national uprising against the government (see socialistparty.org.uk/issue/953/25680). The leaders were awaiting trial in Derby gaol, later to be hanged or transported to Australia.

Justice, far from being a traditional right enjoyed by all, served the rich and well-connected. Working class people have had to fight for justice – and continue to do so, as the Hillsborough and Orgreave campaigns show.
From Militant to the Socialist Party - what you thought

Like many people who eagerly pre- ordered the book, I was eager to read the book. I found the book to be informative and well written. The book is a great read and I would recommend it to anyone interested in the history of the Socialist Party.

Pensioners oppose DUP deal

The Montrose Pensioners Association have vowed to take action against the DUP deal. The pensioners have said that the deal will have a negative impact on their standard of living. They have also said that the deal will not benefit the local community. The Montrose Pensioners Association have called for a demonstration to be held in Montrose on Saturday, 12th August. The demonstration will be held at 2pm in the town centre. The pensioners have said that they will not be bullied into accepting the deal. They have said that they will fight for a better deal for all pensioners.

Socialist Party fund raiser

The Socialist Party fund raiser was held last night in the Socialism Centre in Edinburgh. The event was well attended and the party raised a significant amount of money. The party has said that the money raised will go towards the party's fight for a socialist society. The party has said that they will not be swayed by the DUP deal and they will continue to fight for a better deal for all pensioners.

Leeds: Nurses’ union RCN says ‘scar the cap’

It’s time for all of us to take a stand. If you don’t have a union that can stand up for your rights, then please join one. This will empower you and your colleagues to speak up for what you need. RCN members have already started to scar the cap, by refusing work and working together to make the changes necessary for a fairer system. Join a union today and help to change the system for the better.

Leeds Socialist Party
The news has just come through from the Central Criminal Court and I am the first to report it to the house.


Mick Barry, Socialist Party member and Solidarity TD (MP), announced the verdict on the six Jobs-town protest defendants on 29 June in the Dáil, the Irish parliament.

TDs from the parties of the capitalist establishment, most notably Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) Frances Fitzgerald and Labour leader Brendan Howlin, were visibly crestfallen.

It is a stunning blow to them, the garda (police), and the whole state machine. Loyally egged on by the capitalist media, they orchestrated trumped-up charges of ‘false imprisonment’ of then-tánaiste Joan Burton and her assistant Karen O’Connell on 15 November 2014.

On this day, a peaceful protest took place in the deprived working class community of Jobstown, near Dublin, against the imposition of charges for water. Burton, who backed the charges, was on a visit to the area. Protesters impeded the progress of her car over the course of two hours by sitting around it.

The protest was not an isolated one. The anti-water charges movement had exploded from below in the Autumn of 2014, reflecting the seething discontent against six years of austerity for working class people.

Added to this was disgust with Burton’s Labour Party. Having shamelessly lied to win the trappings of power in February 2011, it was dutifully implementing cuts, austerity taxes and bank bailouts. Mass non-payment succeeded only months ago in abolishing water charges for normal usage. Nowhere is this double blow more apparent than in Ireland’s supposed paper of record, the Irish Times.

The day after the verdict its front page story dealt with two tweets by Socialist Party member and Solidarity TD Paul Murphy towards the end of the trial. As opposed to the fact that Paul and five others were acquitted unanimously by a jury of their peers.

The Times argues that social media influenced the outcome of the trial. They are ignoring how two and a half years of vicious lies and propaganda against the people of Jobstown helped shape bias against the protesters, particularly among sections of the middle class.

They would like us to forget about the real outrage of the Jobstown trial: a succession of gardaí lied in their statements, and under oath on the witness stand. Clearly there was an attempt by the state to pervert the course of justice.

> Continued on page 4