



# socialism 2009

A weekend of socialist discussion & debate hosted by the Socialist Party

## I'M GOING TO SO9 THIS YEAR BECAUSE:

"Coming to socialism is a good experience for me to expand my knowledge and to meet activists."

Yurtsen Islak, Hackney

"Socialism 2009 will provide the other side of the coin from what is normally reported in the newspapers. We will discuss increasing unemployment, corrupt MPs, the illegal wars in Afghanistan and Gaza like the papers do - but we will go further than the newspapers dare. We will pose a radical alternative, discussing how we can change society for the better, and learning from successful struggles over the past year."

Gary Bunton  
Huddersfield Socialist Students

"The highlight for me is the rally - what a fantastic opportunity to hear Joe Higgins, recently elected an MEP, deliver what I know is going to be a rousing speech. Socialism 2009 is the time to discuss, debate and become freshly invigorated in our fight against the corrupt capitalist system that is failing us on every level."

NJ Cross,  
UCL Socialist Students

"An inspiring and educational weekend, whether experienced member or just curious."

Elenor Haven  
PCS

"There's no other place where you'll get so many people who are involved in the most important struggles all in one place and participating in serious discussion"

Sarah Sachs-Eldridge  
Socialist Women

"I'm going to Socialism because it's a brilliant opportunity to meet other activists and get a current picture of what is happening on the left. The debates are fantastic and there are sessions to suit everyone's interests."

Rae Lynch,  
Teacher

"Trade unionists know that we face huge cuts whoever wins the general election. In schools this is absolutely and painfully crystal clear. Socialism 2009 is the perfect opportunity to get the discussion going on the direction for the campaigns we must organise."

Martin Powell-Davies  
Candidate for national vice-president of the National Union of Teachers

Socialism 2009 offers an important opportunity for socialists, trade unionists, workers and young people to come together and share experiences of fighting back. It also gives us the chance to look back on the struggles of the past, draw lessons from them and arm ourselves politically for the battles we face today and in the future.

Registration opens at 12.30pm on Saturday 7 November at the University of London Union building (ULU), Malet Street, London WC1E 7HY. Day time sessions at Socialism 2009 will take place at the University of London Union.

The Rally for Socialism, one of the highlights of Socialism 2009, will take place from 6-8.30pm on Saturday 7 November at Euston Friends Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ.

The closing session of Socialism 2009 will take place from 3-4.30pm on Sunday 8 November at Euston Friends Meeting House.

## socialism2009.net

### SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2-4.30pm

Course	Session	Speakers include
Capitalism in crisis	Marx was right: the roots of the current economic crisis	Lynn Walsh, editor of <i>Socialism Today</i>
Britain after the general election	Is Cameron another Thatcher? How can we defeat a Tory government?	Alec Thraves, Socialist Party Wales and Tony Mulhearn, Liverpool City Councillor 1984-87 and president of Liverpool DLP 1979-85
How do we defeat the far right?	Why does racism exist?	Hugo Pierre, Socialist Party Black and Asian group
Iran in revolt	1979 revolution: why did it end in Islamic dictatorship?	Bob Labi, Committee for a Workers' International
For fighting democratic trade unions	Building a mass shop stewards' movement. The role of the NSSN	Rob Williams, Linamar Unite convenor and Linda Taaffe, secretary National Shop Stewards Network(both in personal capacity)
Marxism in the 21st century	Introducing Marxist economics	Hugh Caffrey, secretary Socialist Party North West region
Asia in turmoil	Afghanistan: when will the occupation end?	Nick Chaffey, secretary Socialist Party Southern region and a representative of Military Families Against the War
1989: consequences & lessons of the fall of the Berlin wall	Why did Stalinism collapse in the Soviet Union? What have the consequences been?	Peter Taaffe, general secretary of the Socialist Party
Young people: the fight for a future	Youth Fight for Jobs	Ben Robinson, Youth Fight for Jobs and Tracy Edwards, PCS youth organiser (pc)
Women and socialism	Are socialists feminists?	Jane James, Socialist Party executive committee
Other sessions	Socialist planning: could it save the planet?	Pete Dickinson, author of <i>Planning Green Growth</i> and Mark Smith, Vestas worker
50 years since the Cuban revolution	Che: symbol of struggle	Tom Baldwin, Socialism 2009 coordinator
Introducing socialism	What is socialism?	Jim Thomson, Socialist Party national committee

## RALLY FOR SOCIALISM

### SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER 6PM

Speakers to include:

**BOB CROW**  
GENERAL SECRETARY RMT

**BRIAN CATON**  
GENERAL SECRETARY POA

**MATT WRACK**  
GENERAL SECRETARY FBV

**TRACY EDWARDS**  
YOUTH FIGHT FOR JOBS

**KEITH GIBSON**  
MEMBER OF THE LINDSEY STRIKE COMMITTEE

**PETER TAAFFE**  
SOCIALIST PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY

**JOE HIGGINS**  
SOCIALIST PARTY MEP



### SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 10am-12noon

Course	Session	Speakers include
Capitalism in crisis	Forum: After the meltdown - what will the recovery look like?	Lynn Walsh, editor of <i>Socialism Today</i> and capitalist economists.
Britain after the general election	The battle to defend public services	Roger Bannister, Unison NEC and Onay Kasab, Defend the Four (both in personal capacity)
How do we defeat the far right?	How to defeat the BNP?	Dave Reid, secretary Socialist Party Wales
Iran in revolt	Will the regime be overthrown?	Judy Beishon, editor of <i>The Socialist</i>
For fighting democratic trade unions	Fighting witch-hunts. Can right-wing led unions change? Experiences of the PCS and Unison.	Chris Baugh, PCS assistant general secretary and Glen Kelly, Defend the Four (both in personal capacity)
Marxism in the 21st century	A Marxist approach to history	Sean Figg, secretary Socialist Party South East
Asia in turmoil	Sri Lanka: the nightmare continues	Senan, Tamil Solidarity international coordinator
1989: consequences & lessons of the fall of the Berlin wall	Germany: could the working class have taken power?	Bob Labi, Committee for a Workers' International
Young people: the fight for a future	The crisis in education	Matt Dobson, convenor of Socialist Students
Women and socialism	What are the origins of women's oppression?	Eleanor Donne, Socialist Women
Other sessions	In defence of Leon Trotsky	Peter Taaffe, general secretary of the Socialist Party
50 years since the Cuban revolution	Forum: where now for Cuba?	Bernard Regan, Cuban Solidarity Campaign and Tony Saunols, secretary of the Committee for a Workers' International
Introducing socialism	Does the working class still exist? Does it have the power to change the world?	Alistair Tice, secretary of Socialist Party Yorkshire
Other sessions	What would a socialist budget look like?	Jared Wood, Socialist Party national committee

### SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 1-3pm

Course	Session	Speakers include
Capitalism in crisis	The case for socialism: how a democratic planned economy could work	Hannah Sell, deputy general secretary of the Socialist Party
Britain after the general election	Forum: How can the crisis in working class political representation be solved?	Dave Nellist, Socialist Party councillor, Alex Gordon, RMT, Romayne Phoenix, Green Party councillor, and Respect, LRC, SWP
How do we defeat the far right?	Lessons of the battle to defeat the NF in the 1970s	Steve Score, secretary Socialist Party East Midlands
Other sessions	Workers' struggle in South Africa	April Ashley, Black Members rep on Unison NEC (personal capacity)
For fighting democratic trade unions	Lessons of Lindsey: what the construction workers' struggle is really about	Bill Mullins, Socialist Party industrial organiser and Keith Gibson, member of Lindsey strike committee
Marxism in the 21st century	Introducing Marxist philosophy	Robin Clapp, secretary Socialist Party South West region
1989: consequences & lessons of the fall of the Berlin wall	What happened to the USSR?	Clare Doyle, Committee for a Workers' International
Other sessions	Darwinism in the modern era	Roy Farrar, Socialist Party national committee
Other sessions	40 years since Stonewall: has LGBT liberation been achieved?	Greg Randall, Socialist Party LGBT group convenor
Women and socialism	What will a Tory government mean for women?	Sarah Sachs-Eldridge, Socialist Party women
50 years since the Cuban revolution	Prospects for left governments in Latin America - lessons of Venezuela, Bolivia, Honduras	Tony Saunols, secretary Committee for a Workers' International and representative, Bolivian Solidarity campaign
Other sessions	Why do socialists say No2EU?	Clive Heemskerck, <i>Socialism Today</i>
Introducing socialism	Why the Soviet Union wasn't socialist and how democracy would work under socialism	Paula Mitchell, secretary Socialist Party London
Other sessions	Ireland & the national question: 40 years since the troubles began; is there lasting peace?	Niall Mulholland, Committee for a Workers' International

## CLOSING RALLY 2009 - THE FIGHTBACK BEGINS

### SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 3PM

Speakers to include:

**ROB WILLIAMS**  
RE-INSTATED CONVENOR, LINAMAR CAR COMPONENTS PLANT (PC)

**VITEON OCCUPATION**  
REPRESENTATIVE

**MARK SMITH**  
VESTAS STRUGGLES

**JOHN DENTON**  
CWU LONDON REGIONAL SECRETARY

**JANICE GODRICH**  
PCS PRESIDENT (PC)

**SEAN FIGG**  
YOUTH FIGHT FOR JOBS

**HANNAH SELL**  
SOCIALIST PARTY DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY

"I've bought my ticket, I've booked my childcare, I'm asking everyone I meet to come with me. I'm definitely going to Socialism 2009. Why? Every day can be the same, eg working, children, shopping, cooking, cleaning etc. This weekend is an intense weekend of discussion and debate with an opportunity to hear speakers from around the country and around the world. This is Socialist Party members along with, sympathisers, friends and family and those that are just plain curious, coming together to clarify our history, debate our present position on world events and most importantly, to outline the crucial role we will play in shaping future events. Well worth the effort."

Nancy Taaffe  
Trade union activist

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

### Crèche

There will be full crèche facilities but places must be booked in advance. Please email us details of children (i.e. age and other important information such as foods they cannot eat etc.) at socialism@socialistparty.org.uk

Please let us know this by 1 November.

### Food

There will be food on sale in the ULU snack bar.

### Accommodation

You can book bed and breakfast hostel places through us for Saturday night. This will cost £21 per place. You will share with others from your region. The accommodation is close to the venue, clean, secure and has had good reviews.

You can request to stop with a London Socialist Party member, but remember you will need money for travelling across London and may have to sleep on a sofa or floor. You will need to find out who you are staying with and arrange to meet them. Please bring a sleeping bag. Please let us know as soon as you can if you need accommodation for Saturday night.

Please let us know this by 1 November.

### Accessibility

All the venues are fully wheelchair accessible. The Friends Meeting House is fitted with a hearing aid loop. ULU has portable loops, please let us know if you require the use of these. Please contact us if you think there is something we may have overlooked.

### Transport

Transport to London will be arranged from your area. Please email socialism@socialistparty.org.uk to find out local details. ULU is near Goodge Street and Euston Square underground stations.

### Contact

In case of problems contact our head office by email or phone (+44) (0)20 8988 8777, or write to the address below.

### Other payment methods

Within the UK only you can pay by cheque or postal order by post to: Socialism 2009 PO Box 24697 London E11 1YD