

**LET'S MARCH TOGETHER ON 20 OCTOBER
... AND THEN STRIKE TOGETHER - TO BEAT AUSTERITY**



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Dear trade union branch secretary,

Let's campaign together for a 24-hour general strike as the next step in the battle to defeat austerity.

We are in the fight of our lives. The IPPR think-tank now estimates the government will need to make £14 billion of further brutal cuts to meet its deficit target.

But we already, with only an estimated 15% of the planned cuts, have suffered too much for a crisis caused by the bankers and the super-rich. Pay freezes, pension cuts, increasing numbers of workers relying on food-banks and unemployment stand testament to this.

Now the coalition is looking to implement a 'Beecroft-lite' bonfire of workplace rights. The need for a serious and determined resistance is clear – which is why the historic vote by the TUC to pass the POA prison officer union's motion is so important. It called for "coordinated action where possible with far reaching campaigns including the consideration and practicalities of a general strike".

This offers us a way to take on the Con-Dem cuts.

The Socialist, a weekly paper of the Socialist Party, is 100% committed to backing and building the campaign for a 24-hour general strike. We back the likes of Bob Crow, Mark Serwotka and others who have called on the TUC to now name the date for as soon as possible after the 20 October demo.

The Socialist has a record of reporting on workers' struggles across England and Wales and internationally. We now see it as vital that we reflect the mood that exists for this motion to be urgently acted upon – contrary to what some may say.

We have published many articles by leading trade unionists from the RMT, FBU, PCS, POA, Unison, NUT and other unions – Socialist Party members and not. We welcome debate and discussion about this crucial step - can your branch contribute?

We attach the model motion, letter and petition from the National Shop Stewards Network which can be used to build this campaign.

We intend to increase our page count in the run-up to the 20 October TUC demo to accommodate this important material.

We appeal for your reports – but also for your support.

Can your branch take out a subscription for five or more copies? Can you pay for a greeting/ ad from your branch or a group of your members?

This will help us with the additional costs of expanding the paper and make sure that these reports and articles reach the widest possible trade union readership. A subscription form with a special '24-hour general strike' offer is also attached.

Please send reports, updates, comment pieces and letters to: editors@socialistparty.org.uk

I very much look forward to hearing from you and your members,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah Sachs-Eldridge'.

Sarah Sachs-Eldridge
Editor, the Socialist

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CAN YOU MAKE A DONATION OR DO A COLLECTION TO HELP US BUILD THE CAMPAIGN? CALL BOB ON: 020 8988 8774