London's Bus Workers have had STRIKE FOR.

Attacks on our pay

Since 1994/95 when London Buses were privatised we have seen attacks on our pay and terms and conditions by operating companies eager to increase profits at any cost. The last seven years have been the most ruthless with bus workers having to endure miniscule pay 'rises' which in real terms have led to pay cuts due to inflation. We arrive at our place of work with the constant fear of abuse from the management or supervisors and the fear of getting written warnings for just about anything. The tremendous anger that many bus workers feel is reflected in the recent London demo and the marvellous 96% yes vote in favour of industrial action in the recent consultative ballot.

There is a huge disparity in pay, terms and conditions across the 17 different bus operating companies who each have up to 5 different pay scales for drivers all doing exactly the same job. Hourly rates can vary

by as much as £6.00 per hour with the lowest being £9.75ph to the highest at £15.26ph. When drivers first start their job they may have to stay at the low rate for up to 5 years before moving up the ladder to the higher rates. This of course is unacceptable and we support the current campaign of Sector Wide Negotiation (SWN) for one Pay Scale and one set of terms and conditions for all London bus workers.

Build the branches

This campaign could also be used to help build the branches. Members work long hours and unsocial shifts so they find it extremely difficult to get active. There are particular difficulties in organising across so many separate bus firms in London but the strike over the Olympic bonus showed what can be achieved. The important thing now is to build strong active union branches in all the garages. We need branches that meet regularly and keep members informed.

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Strike together

London bus workers are, like many other workers, facing big attacks on their jobs, pay and conditions. Our public services are being slashed by this Con Dem government whilst millions are facing cuts to their benefits. The effect of all London bus workers coming out on strike would be massive but just imagine the effect that a 24 hour general strike would have. Already this year the magnificent July 10 strike saw over a million public sector workers take strike action and

over the last few weeks, firefighters and NHS workers have been on strike.

Discuss with the socialist party

Every Friday evening Socialist Party bus workers meet up for a chat. If you want more info call 07906 591794

Build a real alternative – Build TUSC

This Con Dem government has wreaked havoc on workers, slashing public services, attacking workers' jobs, wages and conditions and cutting benefits. Would Labour be much different? Labour has promised, that, if elected, they would continue a similar programme of austerity. Yes, in 1994 it was a Tory government that privatised London's buses letting firms come and buy up a public service cheaply. Since then hundreds of millions of pounds have gone to these profiteers in public subsidy annually. Yet in their 13 years in government Labour did nothing to bring London buses back into the public sector.

The Socialist Party is part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) along with the RMT transport union and key leading union activists, other socialists and community campaigners. TUSC was initiated to provide an anticuts alternative to all the three main parties. A coalition that says no to all cuts, defends public services and stands up for trade unionists and the poor. Unite members were part of a 561- strong anti-cuts TUSC stand in last May's council elections; the biggest left-of-Labour challenge in sixty years.

Join the Socialists

We live in a capitalist society - where the profits of the few always come before the needs of the many. The Socialist Party argues for a democratic socialist society where the major corporations and banks that dominate the British economy are taken into democratic public ownership. That would allow production to be planned to meet the needs of the population and the environment, rather than to line the pockets of a few billionaires.

The Trade **Unionist** and **Socialist** Coalition (TUSC) was set-up in 2010

to enable trade unionists, community campaigners and socialist to stand candidates against the pro-austerity establishments parties.

TUSC has a clear position of opposing all cuts, and candidates endorse a clear 10-point programme (see the website).

TUSC was co-founded by the late **Bob Crow** and includes

Socialist

Fight for

other leading trade union fighters and socialists, including the Socialist Party.

For more



Text JOIN with your name & postcode to 07761 818206

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