Raise the minimum wage

£10/hr NOW!

- **Trade union struggle to increase the minimum wage to £10 an hour without exemptions as a step towards a real living wage**

- **Support Youth Fight for Jobs and the Fast Food Rights initiative**

- **Scrap zero-hour contracts and all forced under-employment**

- **Full trade union rights for all workers**

- **Investment in a massive programme to create socially useful jobs.**

Reverse all cuts in benefits and services and fully fund them

- **Tax the super-rich! For a socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies and banks that dominate the economy and run them under democratic working class control and management. Compensation to be paid only on the basis of proven need**

- **For a socialist alternative to poverty and exploitation**

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Zero-hour contracts, forced 'self-employment', pay freezes especially in the public sector, agencies that pick-pocket our wages, a lack of jobs, and vicious austerity measures mean millions of us cannot earn enough to live on.

But Britain's 1,000 richest people are wealthier than ever before with a combined fortune of more than half a trillion pounds! The rich get richer while we see our living standards crashing down.

Fighting for a £10 an hour minimum wage would start to address the scandal of poverty pay and gross inequality.

It's not a problem of lack of money. Walmart supermarket workers in the US, like millions of workers in Britain, are forced to rely on in-work benefits to make ends come anywhere close to meeting.

But Walmart could pay everyone in its US workforce almost £6,000 more a year and still make an annual profit of £10 billion! What's true of Walmart is true of the big corporations in Britain that make millions out of our poverty pay.

Build a powerful fightback

Bakers working for Hovis in Wigan rose up against the company's attempts to impose zero-hour contracts. These members of the BFAWU bakers' union showed that strike action is a very powerful tool in the fight for decent working conditions.

Low-wage jobs are disproportionately held by young people, women, black and Asian workers and immigrants so the fight for £10 is also a question of fighting discrimination.

Linked to the need to build a powerful workers' movement is the need to establish a mass political voice for working class people. Seattle shows the importance of the workers' movement building its own 'political wing'.

$15/hr min wage WON!

100,000 workers lifted out of poverty

$3bn transfer from rich 1% to poorest workers

Seattle shows what's possible!

In the US city of Seattle the election of socialist Kshama Sawant to the city council was crucial to the victory of the campaign for a $15 an hour minimum wage. Kshama is a member of Socialist Alternative (SA) in America, co-thinkers of the Socialist Party. After her historic election with almost 100,000 votes, Kshama and SA launched the 15Now campaign and worked with others to realise the $15 demand of her election campaign.

Big business fought hard to water down the $15 minimum. It will be phased in over a number of years and there are other loopholes. But $15 an hour means 100,000 workers in Seattle will see a rise in their wages. $3 billion will be redistributed from the bosses to the lowest paid over the next ten years!

Kshama (below) and 15Now will continue to challenge the loopholes and to fight to ensure that $15 is fully implemented. But $15 was not granted - it was won. The struggle included taking on the Democratic party. In the Seattle council chamber where the vote on $15 was taken, the people arguing in the interests of big business were members of the Democrats.

Read more on socialistalternative.org

Like the Democrats, the Labour party in Britain claims to be a friend of the working class but acts in the interests of the bosses. In response to the mood for action on pay Obama talked about raising the minimum wage to $10.10, still a poverty rate. Here Labour has pledged to raise the minimum wage to £8 an hour - by 2020! A £1.50 an hour increase over six years is 25p each year.

As well as the Labour leadership's commitment to Tory spending plans in the event of a Labour government in 2015, Labour-led councils have been implementing Tory policies, cutting jobs, slashing services, spreading misery to millions everywhere.

1,000 RICHEST OWN £518bn - there's plenty of cash!

The Socialist Party is part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition. In May 2015 TUSC is planning to field 1,000 candidates in the local council elections and 100 candidates for Westminster - the biggest left-of-Labour stand since 1945.

FIND OUT ABOUT TUSC www.tusc.org.uk

TUSC was co-founded in 2010 by the late Bob Crow of the transport union, RMT, together with the Socialist Party and other socialists, to provide an electoral alternative for those opposing austerity.

Get involved today and help build the fightback!

JOIN THE SOCIALISTS!

Seattle is rich in lessons. It shows that when workers organise and fight back, we can win. It shows that the pro-big business parties cannot be relied on to defend workers. And it shows that, as Kshama explains: "you don't have to be a socialist to fight back - but it helps!"

The working class is the majority in society, with enormous potential power, capable not only of defending our pay and fighting austerity, but also of changing the world.

Socialists fight for a dignified life for all - and that means building a mass struggle for wages we can live on. Capitalism, a short-sighted and crisis-ridden system, only offers us crumbs off the plates of the super-rich 1%.

Socialism would be completely different - it would mean using the vast wealth in society to meet the needs of all. Democratic planning of production would allow humanity to build a world without exploitation, inequality and hunger – while also protecting the environment.

www.socialistparty.org.uk/join