

# JUNIOR DOCTORS MUST STAND FIRM

# THE LABOUR MOVEMENT MUST RALLY BEHIND THEM

United workers' action can  
stop Hunt and save the NHS

We suggest the next steps should include:

- Mass joint trade union meetings to discuss the next steps
- Jeremy Corbyn should call an emergency meeting of the Labour NEC and TUC to look at organising a mass demonstration in support of the Junior Doctors and to save the NHS
- Co-ordinated strike action across the NHS in defence of pay and terms and conditions as a step towards a 24-hour general strike



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Junior doctors are showing their determination to stop the government's attempt to turn the clock back. Jeremy Hunt wants to reverse gains made since the 1975 junior doctors' strike by removing payment for unsocial hours.

The historic 98% vote for strike action on a 76% turnout starkly contrasts with the Tories' general election vote of 36.7% of a 66% turnout. They have no mandate to wreck the NHS.

Hunt's contract, which he still threatens to impose on junior doctors, means doctors working longer hours for less pay. Under pressure of the huge autumn demonstrations he offered an 11% rise in basic pay. Junior doctors saw through that sham. Many would still have lost out because of loss of unsocial hours payments. Pay could then have been frozen for several years.

Still failing to shake junior doctors opposition to his plans, he conceded talks at ACAS, having previously refused them. But despite his claims of agreement on 15 of 16 points (which he won't explain!) the fundamental issue remains more work for less pay.

Hunt still falsely claims his contract is about improving weekend service. Junior doctors have always provided 7-day service. Longer hours mean doctors making critical decisions while exhausted.

Doctors are also entitled to time for families, to wind down after stressful shifts and to eat properly and exercise.

**"OUR AMBITION SHOULD BE TO  
BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS  
BETWEEN PRIVATE AND  
PUBLIC PROVISION, IN EFFECT  
DENATIONALISING THE PROVISION OF  
HEALTH CARE IN BRITAIN"**

Jeremy Hunt in 2005

### ALL HEALTH WORKERS THREATENED

If Hunt were to succeed in imposing this contract, consultants and GPs are his next target. He will then attack Agenda for Change workers' terms and conditions while student nurses will lose their bursaries, if the Tories get away with it.

Hunt's refusal to back down shows more action may be needed after three planned strikes. Junior doctors should vote on any new offer. All health trade unions should immediately ballot for united strike action, in solidarity with junior doctors, to defend all health workers and the NHS itself.

GPs hold a special conference on 30 January "to decide what actions are needed to ensure GPs can deliver a safe and sustainable service". Calls for industrial action will be discussed.

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National NHS strikes, with emergency cover decided by local health unions, would rock this weak divided government.

A BMA call for support from other unions would have a huge impact. In 1988 dockers, miners and bus workers went on strike supporting striking nurses. All trade unions should campaign among their members in defence of the NHS, including to defend the NHS bursaries also under attack. With a clear lead from the TUC and particularly the left-led unions, millions of workers would take co-ordinated strike action to defend the NHS.

### PATIENTS BEFORE PROFITS!

The Tories aim to undermine the NHS with cuts and crisis. They hope this will reduce opposition to privatisation and a two-tier health service - minimal free emergency care, paying profit-making companies for anything extra.

These corporations want health workers' pay and conditions cut.

The NHS crisis is a result of the internal market, massive PFI debt, years of under-funding and profiteering by privatised services, pharmaceutical and medical supplies industries. Both Labour and Tory governments pushed this big business agenda through.

A socialist programme would reverse all privatisation, end all cuts, PFI and nationalise pharmaceutical and medical supplies industries. Instead of being run by managers implementing a capitalist government agenda, it should be democratically planned and managed.

Jeremy Corbyn has rightly said, "It's our NHS. Let's not just protect it from being further destroyed but let's take it back and ensure it's completely publicly run and publicly accountable." But most Labour MPs and councillors oppose him.

To achieve Corbyn's aim and defend their future, junior doctors need to join together with other workers, helping to build a movement to challenge the rule of big business and its political representatives that is destroying our NHS.

