

# #KEEP CORBYN

**Socialist Party** formerly **Militant**

# FIGHT ACADEMIES TORIES OUT! STRIKE TOGETHER

- Call an immediate labour movement conference of all those who want to defend Jeremy Corbyn from the right!
- Prepare for a general election with a clear anti-austerity, anti-racist programme – opposition to all cuts, £10 an hour minimum wage, mass council housing building and renationalisation.
- Drive out the Blairite Red Tories from Labour

**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH:** that was the message from NUT members in the recent strike ballot, with an emphatic 91.7% YES vote. Today's strike represents a backlash against continued attacks on teachers and education as a whole; workload, micro management and performance related pay are forcing record numbers out of the profession and fuelling a teacher shortage crisis. The bruising testing regime in all key stages has led to extreme stress and anxiety amongst students but the tide can be turned.

## WE CAN WIN!

The Tories are in complete disarray after the EU referendum but were a weak Government already; Nicky Morgan has u-turned on baseline testing, zig-zagged on forcing all schools to become academies and now, post referendum, Policy Exchange, the Tories' favourite think-tank predicts the White Paper is 'a goner'. We need to make that happen and get back onto the front foot.

## ESCALATION

We know that if we are to beat the Tories, one day will not be enough. It is imperative that members and the Government know that we're fighting to win this time. That means we must go into the summer holidays with more dates for strike action announced for the autumn term, as agreed by NUT conference. This will give confidence to Unison and GMB members to turn their conferences' decisions to take industrial action into a reality.

The NUT should convene a meeting between the leaderships of all the education unions, to discuss how to link up the disputes in the autumn term. This should be organised as a matter of urgency. A joint negotiating strategy could be developed to ensure that all education workers can get behind a programme of action. The call should go out for members' meetings at local and workplace level between the unions to prepare for coordinated action.

## COMMUNITIES AND STUDENTS

The scale of cuts to education proposed by this government is unprecedented. Schools across the country, especially in the cities, face massive cuts. Some London secondary schools are reporting cuts of up to £2-3m in the next few years and that will damage students' education. That means we must build campaigns in the communities to fight these cuts.

These campaigns would also be able to take up the issue of testing, particularly SATs, and lay the ground for a boycott next year. Parents, students and education workers have the potential to create a mighty social movement in defence of education with industrial action at its core.

Read this leaflet in conjunction with the Local Associations for National Action Campaign (LANAC) bulletin.

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**T**HE TORIES ARE IN DISARRAY and a general election is on the cards. A Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government could be in power in months. And what does the Labour right do? It ignores Jeremy Corbyn's democratic mandate and acts – at the behest of the 1% - to remove him from office. As the Socialist Party warned there is no compromise possible with these Labour Party representatives of big business.

Not for nothing did Maggie Thatcher describe Blair and New Labour as her 'greatest achievement'. Capitalism had succeeded in making Labour into a party that could be relied on to act in their interests; Jeremy Corbyn's election put that in danger and therefore the Blairites, with the full backing of the 1%, have been determined to undo his democratic election as leader, regardless of the electoral consequences for Labour.

Unfortunately over the last nine months this brutal reality has not been recognised by the leadership of Momentum, the organisation founded to support Jeremy Corbyn. Instead there have been endless attempts to compromise with the right – excluding non-Labour Party members from Momentum decision making, refusing to oppose Labour councils implementing cuts, not supporting mandatory deselection of right wing MPs and more.

It should now be clear to everyone that the strategy of pacifying the right has failed and we need to step up the fightback.

Jeremy Corbyn was thrust into office by a popular movement against

austerity, mostly from outside of the Labour Party. Since then Jeremy has been trapped behind enemy lines, with an overwhelmingly hostile Parliamentary Labour Party. Now they are going for the kill.

The only way to defeat them is to harness and build on the anti-austerity movement that got him elected. To win requires going beyond the constraints of the right-wing dominated Labour Party machine or the niceties of Labour's constitution, recast by Blair.

There should immediately be a conference called of all anti-austerity forces – inside and outside of the Labour Party – that want to support Jeremy Corbyn. This should include affiliated and unaffiliated trade unions, anti-cuts organisations, the organisations involved in the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition such as the Socialist Party, anti-austerity Greens and others.

This would be a real step to building a movement capable of defeating the right, and would also be a step towards creating a genuinely anti-austerity Labour Party, organised on a democratic federal basis, in which all socialists can be involved, including those like the Socialist Party expelled by the Blairites in the past.

The conference should declare it will not accept any attempts by the Parliamentary Labour Party to remove Jeremy Corbyn by whatever means. It should demand immediate mandatory reselection for all MPs. It should also go further and call for the Labour Party leadership to remove the whip from all Labour MPs who refuse

to sign up to a clear anti-austerity programme.

If the Labour movement responds in this way it will not win over the Blairites, but it could force them to split away and in doing so open the road to the creation of a Labour Party that stands in the interests of the working class.

We do not accept the arguments of some that such a party would be electorally unpopular. Jeremy Corbyn should be preparing for a general election now by launching a fight against austerity with the programme from his Labour leadership contest as its starting point. This should include making clear that he opposes austerity whoever it is implemented by: Brussels, Westminster or local councils.

Such a stand – including a £10 an hour minimum wage and mass council housebuilding - would be able to enthuse not just those who elected him as leader, but growing numbers of workers, including many who expressed their anger at austerity by voting for leave in the referendum. This is the best way to cut across attempts by the little Englanders of UKIP and their ilk to whip up racism.

Following the referendum the capitalist class and the Tories are in chaos. It is urgent that the working class takes the opportunity to find its own political voice. The referendum result shows the enormous potential for a mass fightback against austerity in Britain. The task is to create a mass political party capable of leading such a fightback, politically armed with socialist policies.