

#KEEP CORBYN

Socialist Party
formerly
Militant

**UNITE BEHIND
THE JUNIOR
DOCTORS**

DEFEND THE NHS

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Refusing to back down to the Tories' threats, the junior doctors have announced a bold series of five day strikes. The Socialist Party backs the junior doctors, who are fighting back against cuts to the NHS and a worsening of terms and conditions for health workers.

There were £15bn of NHS cuts in the last parliament, and there is a drive towards £22bn in additional cuts by 2020, in the name of "sustainability". These attacks are part of the Tories' attempts to privatise the health service piece by piece. When faced with a political onslaught by the government, fighting back is the only option.

The planned industrial action, coinciding with the TUC conference, and the Tory party conference will shake the government to its core.

Many junior doctors will be asking: How can these strikes win a safe and fair contract for our patients as well as for ourselves?

Previous strikes received massive support from the public and other workers – proving that junior doctors are not fighting alone. Junior doctors were seen to be fighting against cuts and privatisation and for better working conditions. Seeing the public support and militancy of the junior doctors gave hope to workers across all sectors that they could fight back. Many other health workers also wanted to take action alongside the junior doctors. This pressure forced the government to concede to negotiations.

Inspired by the previous strikes, teachers have begun a programme of national strike action, which will continue in the autumn. University lecturers have a programme of rolling industrial action, and there is likely to be further action from rail workers.

Unite the Union's July conference passed a resolution to support junior doctors. Its policy now is to "call on other health unions and the TUC to co-ordinate widespread joint industrial action of health and other workers alongside any group of health workers under attack, as the junior doctors have been, recognising an injury to one is an injury to all.

"The support seen for junior doctors during their dispute needs to be turned into action in future disputes. Groups of health workers must not be left to fight alone, bearing in mind the needs of patients' care."

Unite also agreed to call on the TUC to organise a national demonstration in defence of the NHS, to be followed by a 24-hour general strike. Members of health unions need to organise and fight to put pressure on the trade union leadership to follow through with these policies.

For the first time in its history, the BMA has also voted in favour of linking up with other trade unions which is essential.

The BMA should also organise a national demonstration in defence of the NHS and call on the TUC and other unions to help build this into a massive rejection of unending cuts and privatisation.

The government remains weak and divided. Appointing Theresa May has temporarily papered over the cracks of a deeply split Tory party. A massive demonstration and an escalating programme of co-ordinated strikes could force them to retreat.

Instead of attacking the Tories, the majority of Labour MPs are attacking Jeremy Corbyn

and the anti-austerity policies he represents. Owen Smith, the Labour right's candidate to unseat Jeremy Corbyn used to lobby for big pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer. In his past he favoured opening up the NHS to more private companies. It is clear that Smith's candidature is an attempt by big business to reclaim the Labour Party for their interests.

As part of the battle to win decent contracts junior doctors should link with trade unionists and socialists to build a party committed to stop cuts and privatisation destroying the NHS. We need to fight for a health service publically owned and democratically run, as part of a socialist society where resources can be used to fulfil people's needs, not for profit.

National Shop Stewards Network TUC Congress Rally **CAMERON GONE - GET THE REST OF THE TORIES OUT!**

1pm Sunday 11 September in Brighton
Ashdown Suite in the Holiday Hill, 137 King's
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Confirmed speakers to date:
PCS President **JANICE GODRICH**
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