Teresa May’s ‘Brexishambles’ keeps rolling on. And we’re sick of it!

How many more extensions can she possibly request from Brussels? How many times can she present new versions of a dismal, anti-working-class, bosses’ Brexit deal for a parliamentary vote?

Could the Tories be more split, splintered, weak and wobbly? How on earth are they still in government, and is there a way out of this mess?

We’re not just sick of Brexit chaos. We’re sick of suffering years of austerity, increasing inequality and poverty.

Some in the Labour Party - particularly the Blairite right - are pointing to the idea of a ‘People’s Vote’, or second referendum, as the solution.

But we say a real people’s vote would be a general election. A Corbyn-led government, if elected with bold socialist policies, could point a way out of this mayhem on the basis of an end to austerity.

He should be loudly voicing this call, mobilising working-class people behind it, and linking up with the trade unions to build a mass movement to kick the Tories out.

If elected, a Corbyn-led government should seek to re-open the Brexit negotiations - with the central aim of defending and advancing the interests of workers, not the capitalists.

This would mean appealing to working-class people across the continent also engaged in the struggle against austerity. It would mean posing an alternative to the EU bosses’ club - a new collaboration of the peoples of Europe, on a socialist basis.

Because membership of the EU hasn’t stopped our living standards being brutally ground down in the past ten years. Who cares what colour your passport is when you can only dream of being able to afford to go on holiday?

Homelessness has risen dramatically. Public services have been cut to the bone. Young people are facing worse prospects than their parents.

Precarious jobs, zero-hour contracts, and poverty pay mean that many workers rely on food banks. Shockingly, one-third of children from working families are living in poverty.

Universal Credit has brought misery to benefit claimants, forcing people into debt, rent arrears and hunger.

We want a way out of the mess! We want secure jobs, an end to zero-hour contracts. We want wages and benefits that we can live on - a minimum wage of £10 an hour as a step towards a real living wage.

We want affordable housing - a mass council house building programme is urgently needed. We want an end to privatisation in the NHS, and for our health to be put before profits.

We want a fightback! We need socialist change. Kick out the Tories and end this shambles now!
Accepting a ‘no-deal’ chaotic Brexit would be the Tory right, but hourly the Remain wing of the party and, more importantly, the SPD’s, would agree to some form of union, but instead that is for long term May is demanding.

She is justifying her short extension by arguing that the negotiations with Labour are likely to be more successful than the current one, but reports from both sides of the talks seem to indicate that she is deliberately exaggerating the chances of a deal.

The party was once of the most successful capitalist parties on the planet, capable of imploding capital. Now, reflecting the crisis of British capitalism, May is reduced to scrambling from hour to hour, if not minute to minute, with the SPD’s, who will agree to the extension of Article 50.

Unfortunately, that enthusiasm has now dimmed consider-
ably. Corbyn and the left Labour leadership are not conven-
ing a clear message to working class voters about the parliamen-
tary hubris of the different sorts of capitalist politicians. A central reason for this is the continued embrace of attempts to compromise with the pro-capitalist Blairite wing of Labour. Corbyn is supposed to be the leader with May, for example, about the possibility of forming a new cross-party government, the repeal of all anti-union legislation and all remaining privatisation rules, for example, and calling to count-
ance any deal which did not include agreement on these and other working-class issues. Instead, Labour sources around the Blairite shadow Brexit secretaries Keir Starmer are reporting that they have been shown their willingness to compromise by remaining to their opposition to the EU’s privatisation and state aids rules.

A general election takes place. Corbyn will have an opportu-

nity to repeat the 2017 election on a higher level, mobilising the accumulated anger of the majority at the existing order and sweeping the Tories out of power. This is not guaranteed, however, because the Tories would be able to portray him as ‘betraying the Brexit vote’ and this could have an effect on working class votes, for example, of unions, for a general election and the coming to power of a Corbyn-led government with a socialist programme.

To escalate the climate strike movement, Socialist Students says student unions need for mass action to demand change that young people understand the massive mental safe materials. To escalate the climate strike movement, students on strike can link up with the environment’ at socialistparty.org.uk

Whether a chaotic ‘no-deal’ crash out or further delay: CORBYN MUST DEMAND GENERAL ELECTION, DEFEND WORKERS’ INTERESTS AND FIGHT FOR A SOCIALIST BREXIT

Only socialism can stop... Capitalism's plastic problem

UK Government

Marine plastic pollution costs the world up to £9.5 trillion a year, a report published by the Marine Pollution Bulletin suggests. There is a 1.3% decline in the benefit to cost ratio from plastic waste. The report shows the economic and social impact of marine pollution and its effect on the environment and human health. Marine pollution is often underestimated. The plastic waste is estimated to cost the economy £7 trillion, however, is the threat posed to marine life or hu-

man health by the eight million tonnes of plastic that reaches our oceans every year.

The report makes it clear that the situa-
tion cannot continue and something urgent must be done to protect our oceans and the en-
vironment. The report states that marine pollution is a threat to the environment, the economy, public health and safety, and the biodiversity that makes our oceans so unique. The report shows that the plastic waste is a threat to the environment, the economy, public health and safety, and the biodiversity that makes our oceans so unique. The report shows that the plastic waste is a threat to the environment, the economy, public health and safety, and the biodiversity that makes our oceans so unique. The report shows that the plastic waste is a threat to the environment, the economy, public health and safety, and the biodiversity that makes our oceans so unique.

Following public outrage on this issue, the government has announced that it will introduce new measures to reduce plastic waste. The government will introduce a new plastic tax, which will be charged on all single-use plastic products. The government has also launched a new campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags and will introduce a new law to ban the use of plastic straws.

The government has also launched a new campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags and will introduce a new law to ban the use of plastic straws. The government has also launched a new campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags and will introduce a new law to ban the use of plastic straws. The government has also launched a new campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags and will introduce a new law to ban the use of plastic straws. The government has also launched a new campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags and will introduce a new law to ban the use of plastic straws. The government has also launched a new campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags and will introduce a new law to ban the use of plastic straws. The government has also launched a new campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags and will introduce a new law to ban the use of plastic straws. The government has also launched a new campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags and will introduce a new law to ban the use of plastic straws.
The NHS is suffering an unprecedented crisis, under the pressure of government cutbacks.

The Tory policy, until recently, of cutting the NHS is now arming its budget lines at less levels than 2010 – while private PFI debts have rocketed, and despite an increasing elderly population requiring care – has resulted in more hospitals into it.

King’s College hospital trust in London has reported an annual deficit between £180 million and £201 million. The biggest contributor to this deficit according to the Guardian. The NHS in England is now a whole £160 million in deficit in 2018. It is any coincidence that among the backing of a balking NHS, the empire has stopped expanding.

Now almost 70% of hospital beds are filled with private patients, the NHS – the whole NHS – is suffering from a financial meltdown.

The Socialist Party fights for a restoration of the nurses’ bursary. It is clear that, in the event of a Jeremy Corbyn government, there will be a 10,000-strong petition has put a restoration of the nurses’ bursary.

Every sector pays men more on average, from construction to manufacturing. It can’t just happen because they are doing anything better about gender. The Guardian reports that in some civil service departments, the problem is getting worse.

Paying women less than men for the same work has been against the law since the 1970 Equal Pay Act. Of course, the biggest pay gap in the UK is between black and white women. In 2018, the gap for 18-24 year old women is 47.2%.

The Socialist Party fights for a restoration of the nurses’ bursary. It is clear that, in the event of a Jeremy Corbyn government, there will be a 10,000-strong petition has put a restoration of the nurses’ bursary.

The biggest overspend in NHS history has been the £180 to £191 million. London has reported an annual deficit in 2018.

“The biggest overspend in NHS history has been the £180 to £191 million. London has reported an annual deficit in 2018.

But there were no illusions among bosses of the underlying crisis that there is no definitive list of what these companies can really afford.

The government tried to save public health unions, but by the trade unions take a lead in reverse public sector cuts.

She needs a trade union struggle for public sector jobs and for unsociable hours, overtime and even their rates.

We need to replace failed capitalism. There needs to be a socialist plan to provide for all. Only then can we be free of the cost-of-living hikes.

The cost-of-living hikes should be immediately frozen. And we need to trade union struggle for decent wages and benefits that genuinely reflect the cost of living – starting with a £10 an hour minimum wage and a 50% rise in the state pension.

Food and housing privatisation.

The Socialist Party fights for a restoration of the nurses’ bursary. It is clear that, in the event of a Jeremy Corbyn government, there will be a 10,000-strong petition has put a restoration of the nurses’ bursary.

The cost-of-living hikes should be immediately frozen. And we need to trade union struggle for decent wages and benefits that genuinely reflect the cost of living – starting with a £10 an hour minimum wage and a 50% rise in the state pension.

Food and housing privatisation.

The Socialist Party fights for a restoration of the nurses’ bursary. It is clear that, in the event of a Jeremy Corbyn government, there will be a 10,000-strong petition has put a restoration of the nurses’ bursary.

The cost-of-living hikes should be immediately frozen. And we need to trade union struggle for decent wages and benefits that genuinely reflect the cost of living – starting with a £10 an hour minimum wage and a 50% rise in the state pension.

Food and housing privatisation.

The Socialist Party fights for a restoration of the nurses’ bursary. It is clear that, in the event of a Jeremy Corbyn government, there will be a 10,000-strong petition has put a restoration of the nurses’ bursary.

The cost-of-living hikes should be immediately frozen. And we need to trade union struggle for decent wages and benefits that genuinely reflect the cost of living – starting with a £10 an hour minimum wage and a 50% rise in the state pension.
**Southampton Hospital security workers strike against unsafe work**

Tom Baldwin

Southern Socialist Party secretary

Southampton General Hospital security staff, employed by outsourcer Mitie and organised by general security staff, employed by outsourcer Southampton General Hospital, were on strike from 11 to 17 April. The strike was called by the Southern Socialist Party to expose the reality of privatisation and contract out. The workers lack sufficient protection and support, and the company is unwilling to put in adequate resources to ensure the workers' safety.

The outsourcing of public services to private monopolies is leading to a crisis after the collapse of Carillion and similar problems at Interserve. The workers are demanding an end to austerity, and they are prepared to go on strike to achieve their demands.

The company is unwilling to put in the necessary resources to ensure the workers' safety. The strike was called by the Southern Socialist Party to expose the reality of privatisation and contract out. The workers lack sufficient protection and support, and the company is unwilling to put in adequate resources to ensure the workers' safety.

**Swindon workers discuss action to save Honda jobs**

Hondas workers unionised by Novus and represented by a new local shop steward described the knock-on effect of how parent company Ford is unwilling to put in the resources to save Honda jobs in low-pay and profitable Swindon factory in 2021, with the loss of 3,500 Honda union reps.

Honda's workers’ Union and Ford are described as the company's hurdles on the way to remove excess pay and working conditions. It's not the first picket line at Southampton General Hospital. In November, the company had won tens of millions of pounds for workers from the previous occupation by Visteon workers ten years ago, which had won in the past. This included the company’s assessment of how parent company Ford is unwilling to put in the resources to save Honda jobs in low-pay and profitable Swindon factory in 2021, with the loss of 3,500 Honda union reps.

The company is unwilling to put in the necessary resources to ensure the workers' safety. The strike was called by the Southern Socialist Party to expose the reality of privatisation and contract out. The workers lack sufficient protection and support, and the company is unwilling to put in adequate resources to ensure the workers' safety.

Support the Gloucester Airport pay and pensions strike

**PCS union: vote Yes for action, back socialists in the union elections!**

The national delegates conference of the National Education Union (NEU) will take place in London on 13-14 August. We are calling for a vote for Socialist Party candidates for national executive committee and NEC - Chris Baugh for AGS and for the Democracy Alliance slate. Branches should prepare plans for selecting their own members and adjourning branches which refuse to do so.

The NEC should be prepared to fight for a fresh vote in order to satisfy disgruntled members. Chris received 85 nominations (personal capacity) PCS leader - for leafleting their own members, and to agree recommendations to members. Chris Baugh is the only one of the candidates who is prepared to fight for democracy.

**EU: organise for the key battles to come**

The Tory government hangs by a thread and needs to fight the Tories and the attacks on teachers and other socialist work. The National Union of Teachers (NUT) and the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) have merged to form the new National Education Union (NEU). The combined union becomes the fourth biggest in the Trade Unions Congress, and the largest education union in Europe. It has huge potential to command an authoritative position in the education sector. But only if that latent power is harnessed and introduced with a clear political strategy, which has been lacking from our leadership in the past period.

The Socialist Party conference will discuss opportunities for action on pay. There will be discussions to begin to develop policy around school closures, against private-eye testing, on our political strategy.

**National Education Union conference 2019**

The national delegates conference of the National Education Union (NEU) will take place in London on 13-14 August. We are calling for a vote for Socialist Party candidates for national executive committee and NEC - Chris Baugh for AGS and for the Democracy Alliance slate. Branches should prepare plans for selecting their own members and adjourning branches which refuse to do so.

The NEC should be prepared to fight for a fresh vote in order to satisfy disgruntled members. Chris received 85 nominations (personal capacity) PCS leader - for leafleting their own members, and to agree recommendations to members. Chris Baugh is the only one of the candidates who is prepared to fight for democracy.

The NEC should be prepared to fight for a fresh vote in order to satisfy disgruntled members. Chris received 85 nominations (personal capacity) PCS leader - for leafleting their own members, and to agree recommendations to members. Chris Baugh is the only one of the candidates who is prepared to fight for democracy.

The Socialist Party conference will discuss opportunities for action on pay. There will be discussions to begin to develop policy around school closures, against private-eye testing, on our political strategy.

The Socialist Party conference will discuss opportunities for action on pay. There will be discussions to begin to develop policy around school closures, against private-eye testing, on our political strategy.

The Socialist Party conference will discuss opportunities for action on pay. There will be discussions to begin to develop policy around school closures, against private-eye testing, on our political strategy.

The Socialist Party conference will discuss opportunities for action on pay. There will be discussions to begin to develop policy around school closures, against private-eye testing, on our political strategy.

The Socialist Party conference will discuss opportunities for action on pay. There will be discussions to begin to develop policy around school closures, against private-eye testing, on our political strategy.

The Socialist Party conference will discuss opportunities for action on pay. There will be discussions to begin to develop policy around school closures, against private-eye testing, on our political strategy.

The Socialist Party conference will discuss opportunities for action on pay. There will be discussions to begin to develop policy around school closures, against private-eye testing, on our political strategy.

The Socialist Party conference will discuss opportunities for action on pay. There will be discussions to begin to develop policy around school closures, against private-eye testing, on our political strategy.

The Socialist Party conference will discuss opportunities for action on pay. There will be discussions to begin to develop policy around school closures, against private-eye testing, on our political strategy.

The Socialist Party conference will discuss opportunities for action on pay. There will be discussions to begin to develop policy around school closures, against private-eye testing, on our political strategy.

The Socialist Party conference will discuss opportunities for action on pay. There will be discussions to begin to develop policy around school closures, against private-eye testing, on our political strategy.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CRISIS: COUNCILS CAN FIGHT Cuts!

**We stand in the tradition of the Liverpool Labour council of the 1980s. They rejected the Thatcher government’s plans for ‘managed decline’ of the city, refused to implement budgets which did not meet the needs of Liverpudlians and instead mobilised demonstrations and strikes involving tens of thousands.**

However, his administration had already announced it was to continue cutting, undermining people’s faith that he was serious about opposing austerity. Protests should not be an empty gesture but should be linked to a serious strategy to protect jobs and services.

The Socialist Party has consistently put forward such a strategy. It begins with a clear refusal to implement the cuts.

We stand in the tradition of the Liverpool Labour council of the 1980s. They rejected the Thatcher government’s plans for ‘managed decline’ of the city, refused to implement budgets which did not meet the needs of Liverpudlians and instead mobilised demonstrations and strikes involving tens of thousands.

They were able to win back millions in stolen funding and use it to tear down crumbling tenement blocks.
and replace them with thousands of
good quality council homes. Jobs and
proper apprenticeships were created
and council services like nurseries
were improved, this is in stark con-
trast to the record of current Labour
councils. The political lead for that
struggle was given by Militant, the
forerunner of the Socialist Party.

Today councils have a legal re-
quirement to pass balanced budgets,
where all spending is covered. Coun-
cillors repeatedly cite this as justifica-
tion for carrying out cuts. They falsely
claim that any no-cuts budget would
be illegal and would result in elected
councils being removed, with the
government appointing officers to
run local authorities instead.

Even if this were true, council lead-
ers should explain why they think
their jobs are more important than
those of the thousands of people they
have made redundant. If vicious cuts
continue either way then it makes lit-
tle difference who is in charge.

By cutting, councils are delivering a
double whammy for the Tory govern-
ment, who get what they want and get
Labour to share the blame too. This
undermines Corbyn’s popular anti-
austerity message and his chances of
becoming the next prime minister.

Liverpool city council
The Militant-led Liverpool council
used the slogan “It’s better to break
the law than to break the poor”, echo-
ing the struggle of Poplar Council in
East London in 1921.

However, it is not necessary to
break the law today. No-cuts budgets
can be entirely legal.

Councils hold large reserves of
money which can be used to fill the
gap left by lost government funding.
This means budgets can be legally
balanced without the need for cuts.
They also have the powers to sup-
plement this by borrowing money
cheaply if required.

This would be a short-term meas-
ure but would protect jobs and ser-
VICES while buying time for a powerful
anti-cuts campaign to be built up.

Opponents accuse us of wanting to
fritter away the money councils have
saved for a rainy day. But the devas-
tation of vital services unleashed by
austerity constitutes a crisis and re-
quires a response.

In fact, most councils have been
forced to dip into reserves anyway as
they struggle to find the level of cuts
being asked of them. That approach
cannot last forever, reserves will be
depleted without any means of re-
placing them, simply storing up more
cuts for the future.

It is far better that reserves be used as
part of a coherent anti-cuts plan of ac-
tion. Mass struggles can win back the
necessary funding for councils. There
is no accounting trickery alone that
can avoid the need to mobilise people
and take the fight to the government.

Reserves
Research from the Trade Unionist
and Socialist Coalition shows the
enormous wherewithal that councils
have to protect services, if they had
the political will to fight. Between
them, the 125 Labour-led councils
in England, Scotland and Wales hold
around £9.3 billion in general fund
reserves and £4.9 billion in other
useable reserves.

Their combined spending power
of nearly £80 billion is greater than
the GDP of nine EU countries! They
should be using this clout to become
bastions of opposition to Tory rule,
not merely carry out austerity
measures.

Every single Labour council had
sufficient reserves to fund a no-cuts
budget this year. There is nothing to
stop them pooling reserves in a soli-
darity fund and linking up their strug-
gles to be as effective as possible.

Simply put, councils do have a
choice. We need councillors who will
choose to fight, not choose to cut.

This is why the Socialist Party will
be putting up candidates in the lo-
cal elections on 2 May - on the bal-
lot paper as Socialist Alternative. Our
members campaign all year round
to defend local services and we will
be looking to take that approach into
council chambers.

If elected, our candidates will take
only an average workers’ wage to
ensure they stay in touch with their
working-class constituents. This is
direct contrast to mayoral wages
which can go as high as £80k a year,
protecting politicians from the impact
of their own decisions and leaving
them out of touch.

By raising a clear, anti-cuts strategy
we can help give confidence to left La-
bour candidates to stand against the
tide and to oppose cuts in deeds as
well as words.

Our stand can also give strength
to local campaigners, fighting tooth
and nail to protect their services.
The Socialist Party has actively
supported such campaigns and will
carry on fighting during and after the
elections.

We don’t just want your votes. If
you want councillors who are willing
to put their money where their mouth
is and fight the cuts, then get in touch
and help us campaign.
Socialist Party mayoral candidate in Leicester, Steve Scoot, has written to candidates in the council and mayoral election on 2 May to ask if they would be prepared to support a ‘no-cuts’ budget. The letter states that this is the only way the Socialist Party candidate succeeds 18. We believe there are also some left Labour candidates who agree with us, we hope they will publicly support us.

Around 40 Socialist Party candidates are contesting this year’s council elections in England under the electoral name of Socialist Alternative (see pages 9).

Socialist Party mayoral candidate in Leicester, Steve Scoot, has written to candidates in the council and mayoral election on 2 May to ask if they would be prepared to support a ‘no-cuts’ budget. The letter states that this is the only way the Socialist Party candidate succeeds 18. We believe there are also some left Labour candidates who agree with us, we hope they will publicly support us.

Around 40 Socialist Party candidates are contesting this year’s council elections in England under the electoral name of Socialist Alternative (see pages 9).
Save our Heed!

Peter Robson
North Tyneside Socialist Party

At the home match of Gateshead Football Club on 6 April, fans - including away supporters from visiting Ebbsfleet United - protested outside Gateshead FC stadium over the existential crisis facing the club. The club faces mounting debts and has seen its squad reduced to just 16 players.

Ebbsfleet supporters know only too well about the financial problems of clubs playing in the National League, having suffered a similar crisis this season. ‘Gateshead Soul’ had been set up by supporters to ensure that in future the club retains its roots.

Gateshead fans are determined to keep their club alive and are calling for a fans’ ownership of the club, as currently the club’s financial adviser Joe Cala, who is believed to be pulling the strings.

South Yorkshire Freedom Riders - still battling on

Sharron Milsom
Sheffield Central Socialist Party

South Yorkshire Freedom Riders held rallies on 1 April marking five years of our struggle for the full restoration of travel pass rights.

Pensioners and disabled people started with a rally at Barnsley Interchange before setting off on a 50-minute bus ride to Sheffield. Over 70 rallied at Sheffield station including local trade unionists and members of the public, both old and young.

In 2014, our free local train travel in South Yorkshire was removed entirely and our rights to free bus travel restricted. After holding several ‘freedom rides’ - catching trains en masse and refusing to pay - South Yorkshire’s councils backed down.

Disabilty pass holders won all rights back but pensioners only gained partial concessions.

Pensioners can catch a train for half-fare within South Yorkshire but a train to West Yorkshire is charged full fare. So, Sheffield to Leeds return, once free, is now £12. We have continued the fight to have all rights restored. The concessionary fares budget has been hugely underspent every year since 2014 - meaning that the lost concessions could have been paid for several times over!

Yet with the Labour council continuing to carry out Tory cuts, this unchanged money has gone to shore up reserves. London, Manchester, Merseyside and the West Midlands all have free local train travel for the elderly. Under the Tories this should be extended across the country.

We’re also fighting for a bus network that means people’s needs. Cuts in the network have left some Barnsley villages without any service at all. The Sheffield bus network was cut by 10% in 2015, with further cuts to many routes since. Buses that ran once every ten minutes are now hourly.

Workers often can’t get a bus to work. People with mobility difficulties are having to pay for taxis to get to the doctors and local shops. Travel pass rights are no use if there is no bus!

We need a big expansion of public transport, with more routes and higher frequency, together with low fares. And for public transport, including trains, to be taken back into public ownership.

Newcastle anti-fascist demo

On 6 April, Muslim women bravely staged a sit-down protest against the police who wanted them to vacate the Monument in Newcastle so that a motley band of a few fascists could hold their hate protest in the city centre. Socialist Party members, alongside others, stood four-square with them.

Newcastle’s Muslim community has been under attack from the far right. One of the women told us she is often spat at, and has had her hijab pulled off. In the north east local mosques and education centres have also been ransacked and graffitied.

Shamefully, the police harangued these women and those supporting them. Eventually, using a megaphone, the police read out section 14 of the 1986 Public Order Act in order to forcibly move us.

Unfortunately, amidst all this the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), under the banner of Stand Up To Racism, took the decision to immediately occupy the space. This was done without any consultation with other forces there, including the Muslim women, and meant the counter-demo was divided.

Also, the area where the police eventually corralled everyone was vulnerable to attacks from the far right as it was next to one of the many entrances to the Metro station.

How to deal with aggressive policing in such situations, with open threats of arrest, is an issue that needs to be discussed. But when the SWP was approached by one of our female members who disagreed with their stance, she was met with a tirade of abuse.

The women from the Muslim community were courageous. We need to ensure that in future the iconic landmark of the Monument is not allowed to be taken over by the far right.

This will require the wider labour and trade union movement to start to take the threat of the far right seriously and organise accordingly.

LOW PAY, LONG HOURS, ISOLATION - A TAXI DRIVER SPEAKS OUT

A Bristol taxi driver

I’m writing this because I’m angry. We are constantly told that things are pretty good, or not so bad at least. Everyone from Theresa May and right-wing Labour representatives to the media keep on telling us this.

Anyway, the reality of my life is very different. I don’t believe I’m special. I believe that millions of people are in the same boat as me, one way or another.

For the last 28 years, I’ve worked as a taxi driver. Back when I started it was a bit rough. You’d have to have a “punch up” now and then, because a taxi driver was a target for aggro and muggers.

I have been stabbed twice and had a colleague who was killed.

Even so, you could earn a decent living, though it was never true that we were having it “hung off.”

Now I’m self-employed, but not part of the middle class. There used to be a vague idea that if you bought your own car you were some kind of step up.

However, especially these days, you soon realise you have to pay for everything yourself - insurance, public liability, service and repairs, and so on. Then before you’ve even paid it off, the car’s likely to be nearing the end of its life, because of all the mileage we do.

We are workers, but with no employment rights - and we pay our company for the right to work!

Anyway, over the last 20 years, our situation has dramatically worsened. We are in a race to the bottom.

Our company does a majority of account or contract work rather than cash rides these days. The trouble is, the cut they pay us drivers is the same as 25 years ago!

They keep a bigger and bigger share of what you’re earning. So what can I do? Just work longer and longer hours.

At one time, the Trade Union Congress had a campaign for the 35-hour week. Well, today the figures show that, on average, an Uber driver has to work 35 hours a week just to break even, and this is getting worse by the day.

That’s 35 hours just to cover your expenses. Then to make any money you just keep racking up the hours. I’ve known two drivers who fell asleep at the wheel and drove off the motorway.

I have been stabbed twice and had a colleague who was killed. We are workers but with no employment rights - and we pay our company to work!

So now all I do is work, every day, as many hours as I can, to support myself and my partner who isn’t able to work. Yet still I’m falling further and further in debt. If I get ill, I honestly don’t know what will be of us.

This is the precarious reality for millions. This is my reality. So we desperately need a proper union, and more than that, a real Labour Party that will stand up and fight to change society - all the way.

Don’t let them tell us there’s ‘no money’ for anything positive. I heard on the cab radio that one bloke who was a big Tory Brexiteer has bargged off to reside in Monaco to avoid a seven-figure tax bill, and don’t tell me he wasn’t fiddling his tax beforehand like all the rich and powerful do.

There’s plenty of wealth, it’s just that we can’t get our hands on it for useful purposes, and to end poverty wages and conditions. I’m sure that in a socialist society most taxi drivers could do so much more with our lives. Let’s get rid of capitalism.
Algeria: Bouteflika is finished but the Algerian revolution is not.

By Anjali Singh

Bouteflika, the hated president of Algeria is gone! But the Algerian people are no more fit to breathe.

This is despite the very regime that is currently running the country, trying to frighten them and spread suspicion to tarnish the image of the movement, but it is the people rather than the regime that is against the regime.

The regime is everywhere in the elections. The elections committee has made sure that the elections are not free and fair. This is not just a case of Bouteflika and his cronies, but also of the whole system. The elections have been rigged from the beginning and are a fraud.

The regime has clearly and openly stated its view that it will not allow any elections to happen. The elections have been cancelled and the people are not allowed to express their views. The regime has used force and violence to suppress any attempts at elections.

The regime has also imposed a media blackout, restricting any coverage of the elections and the people's views. The people have been denied the right to express their views.

The regime has also imposed a curfew, restricting any movement of people and the press. The people have been denied the right to express their views.

The regime has also imposed a state of emergency, restricting any gatherings and demonstrations. The people have been denied the right to express their views.

This is despite the fact that the people are tired of the corruption, poverty, and lack of rights. The people have been denied the right to express their views.

The regime has also imposed a ban on social media, restricting any access to the internet. The people have been denied the right to express their views.

The regime has also imposed a ban on international aid, restricting any support from abroad. The people have been denied the right to express their views.

The regime has also imposed a ban on the press, restricting any coverage of the regime. The people have been denied the right to express their views.

The regime has also imposed a ban on the opposition, restricting any political activities. The people have been denied the right to express their views.

The regime has also imposed a ban on the International Socialist Organisation, restricting any support from abroad. The people have been denied the right to express their views.

This is despite the fact that the people are tired of the corruption, poverty, and lack of rights. The people have been denied the right to express their views.
ORGANISE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE, AUSTERITY AND CAPITALISM

Join the Socialists!
Contact us via our website: socialistparty.org.uk
Text your name and postcode to 07749379010
Find us on facebook: facebook.co.uk/socialistpartycwi
Instagram: @socialistpartycwi
Call us on 020 8988 8777

- Build student unions in schools and colleges to democratically organise our movement. Defend the right to protest
- For urgent, massive investment into safe forms of renewable energy. Massively step up research on green energy, waste reduction and energy saving technologies
- Organise to spread the movement to all the young people effected by climate catastrophe, low pay and austerity. Link up with workers and trade unions
- May and the Tories are incapable of offering us a future. Our movement must organise mass action for a general election now!
- Take our world out of the hands of the 1%. Nationalise energy provision, privatised utilities and public transport under democratic workers’ control
- Fight for a democratic and socialist plan of production based on the needs of the people and the environment!

Plastic pollution - see page 3