The Tory party chose Boris Johnson as its leader because he promised to deliver Brexit by 31 October 2019, even if it meant leaving without a deal.

When push came to shove, however, in a childish gesture of defiance he sent his request for a further extension to Article 50 unsigned - but he sent it, along with his own letter opposing an extension.

Johnson, of course, has never been motivated by the needs of the working-class majority. The Tories are a party of big business and the super rich. Risking a disorderly no-deal Brexit, with its likely disruption of their profits, was not in the interests of the capitalist elite. It is pressure from them that forced Boris to blink.

The Brexit deal Johnson is now trying to push through parliament is a bosses’ Brexit, designed to aid the further undermining of public services and workers’ pay and conditions. It is worse even than May’s deal. Legal commitments to keep as a baseline the minimal, and often uninforced, current level of workers’ and environmental protections that exist in the EU have been removed.

In their place - in a desperate bid to try and get Labour MPs to vote for the deal - Johnson promised that a government minister would be obliged to report on any lessening of employment rights as compared to the EU! As if having the vampires report how many pints of blood they were planning to drink would lessen the crime.

The latest round of parliamentary shenanigans will have deepened millions of people’s frustration at the pro-capitalist politicians who dominate the Palace of Westminster.

There is an overwhelming need for a general election, and the election of a government that stands in the interests of the working class. Such a government could negotiate a Brexit deal based not on a Tory bonfire of workers’ rights, but on a programme for decent jobs, wages and public services for all.
The incredible Communication Workers Union (CWU) ballot result in Royal Mail - 97% vote for a national strike action - must be a warning moment for the whole trade union movement. See Postal workers’ we’re out or ‘vote yes for Royal Mail strike action’ at socialistparty.org.uk. CWU members want about why CWU members would act. The battle could be proving fundamental for workers’ rights than today. Many of the PLC’s spokespeople - such as Jo Swinson who served in the vicious anti-working class Carr -60s - would argue that anti-working class policies are very different from the interests of the working class. Many of the working and middle-class politicians, however, were motivated by anger at Brexit and Johnson and Johnson. A mass workers’ movement campaign for a real ‘people’s vote’ - a general election - could win the support of millions of union-affiliated workers. CWU members are being targeted by a letter threatening, ‘strike ballots of bigger numbers of work- ers have now blown a major hole in the road. The threat of a no-deal crash is only removed by agreeing a deal. It is possible, however, that despite the opposition of the DUP, the conference could collapse due to the Northern Ireland (Belfast) border. Such a border would aggravate sectarianism and would pose a threat of capital to the national interest. A number of unionists have commented on breaking the unionist ‘wall of silence’....

The philosophy that people can only change their life when the power is changed. We are all free to change!
**“NEED TO GET TO WORK! I NEED TO FEED MY KIDS!”**

** Rebellion Action opens up divisions on how to stop climate change.**

**The incident showed how out of touch their leaders are. They are so far out of touch with the people that they think they are in a climate emergency and that this is a matter of their own on a zero-hour contract, shift work or in precarious industries. The failure of the company to act is a climate emergency.**

**Many Labour Party construction finally got the go-ahead to start the procurement campaign in September. One of them is Owen Smith, the NEC member. He lead a campaign in the NEC to start the procurement process in February following the departure of arch Blairite Joan Ryan.**

**Enfield North Labour Party: Defend local democracy**

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**Boot racism out of football – reclaim the game!**

**Football fans have shouted and sung when play was stopped over an incident during the Bulgarian England Euro 2020 qualifying match on 14 October. The incident led to the game being abandoned in Bulgaria.**

**The RAIB report doesn’t go far enough. It’s inexcusable that racist chanting from the stands is still able to happen in football in 2020. It’s a time for action, not for words.**

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**London Socialist Party**

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**ENFIELD NORTH LABOUR PARTY: DEFEND LOCAL DEMOCRACY**

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**In a world of crisis, confusion and chaos, of diseases of poverty, and avarice, of wrangling and factionalism, of leaders not leading, of frustration, we invite you to join us.**

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**Join the fightback**

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**Ref: 0808987 07761 818 206 or text your name and address to:**

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**socialistparty.org.uk/join or call**

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**5**
Interview with Jared Wood - candidate for RMT union executive

Uniting workers and public to fight the cuts

Jared Wood

The key issue we face in London is the £1 billion a year cut to Transport for London (TfL) funding as a result of the £1 billion a year cut to Transport for London. The key issue we face in London is the maintenance of a safe railway as well as threats widespread job cuts and closures. We routinely work seven days a week including shifts starting before 5am, finishing after 10pm, and everything in between. It cannot go on like this.

Members working for the railroad's sole contractors are also fighting for their rights. Our cleaners are now balloting for strike action demanding decent contracts on the Cube and sick pay. Winning these demands and increasing our membership among cleaning grades is imperative to bring them into the RMT.

What role does the RMT assume in the political arena?

The National Executive Committee (NEC) is the only body of the union that can instruct members to take industrial action in the workplace, and so it is absolutely crucial that its members can be trusted to deliver a Corbyn government at the next general election.

Jared spoke to the Socialist about why he is standing.

Socialist about why he is standing.

Marion Lloyd for PCS union general secretary

That Marion Lloyd is the candidate across the union’s groups, it is clear in terms of the number and spread of nominations have now been published. Marion is the candidate and demand a general election.

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70 years since the declaration of the People’s Republic of China

China at the Crossroads

The Tiananmen Square uprising of 1989 left China at the crossroads. It was a turning point in the development of the mighty Chinese state. The 70th anniversary of the 1949 revolution China marks today.

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Readers' opinion

Do you have something to say?

Send your news, views and criticism in no more than 150 words to editors@socialistparty.org.uk

The Socialist Inox

It’s OK to talk, but what if the service I need to talk to has been cut?

Send your news, views and criticism in no more than 150 words to editors@socialistparty.org.uk

Readers’ opinion

What if the service I need to talk to has been cut?

The concept of ‘It’s OK to talk’ and allied initiatives can be valuable in opening up the mental health and I disposed of it very quickly.

The recieved view of the mental health sector is a very limited one, but that is far from the case. I believe that there is a need for a more supportive approach to mental health, not just in terms of the services that are available, but also in terms of the way in which they are delivered.

It is important to remember that mental health issues are not just limited to the elderly or those with longstanding mental health problems.

I’m not sure this is correct in that it is unclear what it is that it is, or how much of a profit it made overall, but certainly not the amount that the article puts it. That said, we should be cautious.

If you’re not able to work?

What if you’re not able to work?

In the last issue of the Socialist, we initiated a debate about how we can end low pay and what level of minimum wage we should be fighting for. See ‘Minimum wage debate: how can we end the scandal of low pay?’ at socialistparty.org.uk. Three readers have sent us their thoughts and we print them below. If you feel moved, you can email socialists@socialistparty.org.uk.
Socialist Party Nigeria speaking tour

WHICH WAY FORWARD FOR THE WORKING PEOPLE AND NIGERIA OF YESTERDAY?

Came hear about the struggle for a new country. In 1920, the Nigerian Trade Union Congress is formed. In 1945, the government promised to increase the minimum wage. This was implemented, despite the government striking a deal with the trade union.

In recent years there has been a decline in workers' struggles, partly because of the internal situation. In Nigeria, a powerful working class, which many times has shown its potential to do all the impossible things and make its struggle stick. Between 1911 and 1914, there were at least ten major strikes. The Socialist Party of Nigeria is like an avalanche, a strike is to be seriously built by the working class. We demand the celebration of the minimum wage and ending of exploitation of workers.

For all dates and meetings see, visit socialistparty.org.uk or contact the Socialist Party office. These meetings are open to all who support the Socialist Party's fightback in Nigeria and clenches the socialist party's victory in Nigeria.

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The attempt to crush the aspirations of the majority of Catalans for self-determination by the Spanish state - now headed by the Pсоe-led government of prime minister Pedro Sánchez - has not succeeded but instead has ignited widespread anger.

Mass protests condemning the brutal jail sentences meted out to elected representatives of pro-Catalonia independence parties culminated in a general strike on 18 October.

In order to try and dampen-down the movement the establishment media has focussed on outbreaks of disorder after the peaceful mass protests have ended, while downplaying violence perpetrated by the police and some small right-wing groups.

The following article, written by Tony Sanois before the general strike, analyses the current struggle, the role of the working class, and what demands and movement are needed for Catalan independence to happen.

Following a month-long trial, the Supreme Court of the Spanish state pronounced brutal prison sentences on nine leaders of the Catalan independence movement.

In total, prison sentences of over 100 years have been imposed on these former Catalan government ministers. At the same time, a renewed European arrest warrant has been issued for the former Catalan President, Carles Puigdemont, who is in self-imposed exile, in Belgium.

These draconian sentences handed down by the Supreme Court, coupled with the recent arrest of members of the Committees for the Defence of the Republic (CDRs), are a statement from the Spanish ruling class that they will not tolerate the idea of an independent Catalonia or secession from any part of the Spanish state.

In the light of this latest attack, it is urgent to draw the lessons from the experiences of the revolutionary upheavals which took place in Catalonia in 2017 (see: socialistworld.net - 'Catalonia two years on from the independence referendum').

**Laws inherited from Franco**

Following the announcement of these sentences by the court, imposed by the regime of 1978 inherited from Franco era, mass protests and strikes have erupted throughout Catalonia.

Hundreds of thousands took to the streets in Barcelona and other towns and cities. Tens of thousands occupied the 'El Prat' airport at Barcelona. At least 100 flights were cancelled. The metro workers in Barcelona and other workers in the public sector took unofficial strike action in protest at the draconian sentences.

Spain's Foreign Minister, Josep Borrell, also the EU's foreign policy chief-elect, was whistling in the wind when he declared that the verdict could "serve as a means to bring Catalonia's deeply divided society back together".

Catalan working police, Mossos, and others carried out brutal repression and attacks on the demonstrators especially at El Prat airport. This repression has further enraged the people of Catalonia. It is likely to reignite the mass movements which had declined following the defeat of the 2017 movement.

Rather than bring charges of 'violent rebellion', the state prosecuted the independence leaders variously with 'sedition', the 'misuse of public funds' and 'disobedience'.

However, the viciousness of the sentences passed, against pro-capitalist nationalists, who when in government had introduced austerity measures against the working class and people of Catalonia, illustrates the ruthlessness of the Spanish state and capitalist class.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has bowed before this pressure and treacherously declared that his government "respected the court's decision".

Sánchez and Psoe are determined to demonstrate their reliability to the Spanish state.

In a further act of betrayal of the movement, Pablo Iglesias, radical leader of the left populist Podemos declared that "everyone must respect and accept the sentences". In other words, accept the dictates of the Supreme Court bequeathed from the Francoist constitution of 1978.

This was a continuation of Iglesias's previous position of maintaining 'equidistance' between the pro-independence movement and the Spanish state during the movement which erupted in 2017, simply urging negotiations and agreement to be reached by both sides.

What these leaders of the 'left' fear more than anything is the independent revolutionary movement of the masses and the threat that this potentially could pose for capitalism.

The brutal sentences handed out by the Supreme Court are not because they fear the pro-capitalist Catalan nationalist leaders.

What they fear is the potential revolutionary movements of the working class, and all those oppressed by capitalism, striving for Catalan independence, which could endanger the ruling class and their system.

If the struggle for an independent Catalonia were linked together with a struggle to break with capitalism and establish an independent socialist Catalonia, it would set a precedent for the working class movement throughout the Spanish state.

Workers could be roused to come together with the Catalan workers in a united struggle against capitalism throughout the Spanish state for a socialist alternative.

The false idea of a 'progressive' capitalist European Union was clearly exposed during the revolutionary events which developed in 2017. The EU refused to condemn the Spanish government and its use of brutal repression.

This same EU has remained silent on the issue of human rights abuses by the Spanish state and has not condemned the vicious sentences announced by the Supreme Court.

The mass movement which has erupted in protest against the sentences and the struggle of the Catalan masses will undoubtedly arouse the sympathy and support of workers and socialists across Europe.

This has been graphically shown at recent rallies for Scottish independence. The struggles in Catalonia will possibly give a certain boost for those supporting independence for Scotland.

**They fear mass movements**

Yet, like their counterparts in Catalonia, the Scottish National Party (SNP) leadership of Nicola Sturgeon fears the mass movement of workers and youth. In 2017, and still today, it urged "negotiation" and an attempt to secure an agreement between the Catalonia and Spanish government.

What was needed, however, was the mass mobilisation by the working class and youth, on an independent class programme, and for full democratic rights. Not placing confidence in the pro-capitalist Catalan nationalists - which unfortunately the leadership of the ERC (Republican Catalan Left) did in 2017 and subsequently.

It is necessary to draw the lessons of the movement in Catalonia and the struggles of the working class and youth throughout the Spanish State, and to take up a struggle for:

- A general strike and the building of democratically elected committees of action, in all communities and workplaces
- A party of the working class in Catalonia, and also in the Spanish state, that will fight to break with capitalism
- Release of all political prisoners and the dropping of all charges against them
- The right of self-determination for Catalan, Basque and all peoples
- An end to austerity and cuts programmes; repeal of all anti-labour laws
- An independent socialist Catalonia; a united struggle of the working class against capitalism and for a socialist alternative, throughout the Spanish state
Chile: An outpouring of rage against the capitalist system

Thousands took to the streets of Chile on Monday 21 October to protest against government repression in the face of the social explosion and outpouring of rage which has rocked the country. Earlier protests against the metro fares hike in the capital Santiago (now rescinded) ignited years of accumulated anger over poverty wages, expensive services and the widening inequalities between rich and poor.

In Santiago, a massive march was prevented by state forces from heading towards La Moneda Presidential Palace. Instead, the protesters headed towards the wealthy area of Las Condes and the Escuela Militar (Military School). Here they were confronted with the army and deployment of tanks and military personnel.

At the time of writing there has been eleven confirmed dead and 1,500 arrested. In the local communities, fear of attacks has resulted in local neighbourhoods coming together to protect themselves.

The government of president Sebastián Piñera has now lost all authority and credibility. One minute Piñera speaks of being at “war with a powerful internal enemy,” the next he calls for dialogue.

He and his government of billionaires has been rocked to its core by the massive social explosion which has taken place. Many are now comparing these events to the ‘Caracazo’ 30 years ago in Venezuela. The outpouring of anger then gave way to a citywide and national basis to build for an alternative to Piñera’s discredited regime. A programme as outlined in the declaration by Socialismo Revolucionario (CWI, Chile), see right, is essential in order to secure a transformation of Chile in the interests of the working class and the poor.

While the Piñera government has lost all credibility, no organised alternative yet exists. A welcome step is that the ‘Mesa Social’ - an umbrella grouping comprising the Colegio de Profesores, the health workers union, the CUT union federation and the No-AFP pensions movement, has called for a 48-hour strike and protest on 23-24 October. This must now be built on. Local committees of action need to be elected in all communities, workplaces and schools and universities. These need to link together on a citywide and national basis to build for an alternative to Piñera’s discredited regime. A programme as outlined in the declaration by Socialismo Revolucionario (CWI, Chile), see right, is essential in order to secure a transformation of Chile in the interests of the working class and the poor.

Solidarity with the Kurdish people

Paula Mitchell
London Socialist Party secretary

As the Turkish onslaught in the Kurdish area of Syria continued last week, the campaign Solidarity with the Kurds, and protest on 23-24 October.

A SPOT statement calls for the resignation of Piñera and his government; they are inept and incapable of resolving the concrete problems of the people. We also demand the end of the constitution of the dictatorship and demand a revolutionary constituent assembly where the demands of the workers and the poor are really taken into account.

Solidarity protests were also organised in a number of cities in Britain. In Hull the Trade Union Council organised a solidarity rally. Around 150-200 people including people of Kurdish descent and trade unionists marched from Spring Bank into the city centre Victoria Square. 26 copies of the Socialist were bought by protesters.

Massive protests against Lebanon’s corrupt elite

Mass protests have engulfed Beirut and other cities across Lebanon demanding the ousting of the government.

What has driven hundreds of thousands of people into the streets in recent weeks is anger at a political ruling class which has grown rich while the vast majority in the country have seen a collapse in services. This has been accompanied by a worsening economic situation that has squeezed wages and wrecked the employment prospects of young people in particular.

Shaken by the scale of the protests prime minister Saad al-Hariri has promised some measures to eliminate “waste and corruption” – like some taxes and cut MPs salaries. He has blamed his colleagues for stalling reforms.

This is unlikely to pacify protesters demands for the government to resign and for fresh elections. But this poses the question of what party would replace the current regime. The significance of the protests is that they have cut across the sectarian divides in Lebanese society. In order to build upon that, the protesters must call assemblies to build a movement based on the working class and rural poor to fight for a democratic workers’ government.

Such a movement must also develop a programme of ending unemployment, raising wages and investing in public services. That can only be guaranteed by demanding the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy.

See full statement and video footage on socialistworld.net
Socialism 2019 is taking place at a time when the suffering inflicted by capitalism is at horrendous levels. Millions fear for the future. That’s why so many have taken to the streets in the lightning flashes that warn of storms ahead.

We’ll be getting together two days after ‘Brexit Day’ on 31 October, and as the Westminster crisis spirals deeper.

Socialism 2019 is ambitious. We set out to provide the ideas to fight back and win for the working class, young people and all suffering under capitalism in Britain and internationally. That means the fight for a socialist alternative to the chaos of capitalism. Trump, the Tories, Erdogan in Turkey, Bolsonaro in Brazil, the Blairites opposing Corbyn, and the rest of the defenders of the capitalist system have no solutions to the problems we face. Impending environmental catastrophe, crippling poverty, inequality, and austerity compete to inflict even more suffering.

Growing support
No wonder the polls show growing support for action – but also for socialism, especially among young people. What is not clear is how this is going to be turned into mass action to fight the right and fight for socialist change.

Unfortunately, that is largely because the most prominent proponents of an anti-austerity position have not linked it with a programme for building mass action and organisations of the working class. So the theme of Socialism 2019 is that central task: how to fight the right and win.

Socialism 2019 is a call to action – to fight for united struggle against the right-wing defenders of capitalism, their attacks, their attempts to divide and weaken us.

That’s why you need to be there.