Government failures fan Covid

TORIES

PUT PROFIT

BEFORE LIVES

The city accounted for 10% of all positive cases in England the week preceding Hancock’s announcement - three times higher than the next highest city. But many other cities, with similar populations and social conditions, could also see a big resurgence in infections.

Despite our warnings, and those of teachers and parents, the government insisted that it was safe to reopen schools. Yet, five schools in Leicester had already closed due to coronavirus outbreaks. Hancock now admits that “children had been particularly impacted” by the surge.

Leicester is an ethnically diverse city with 28% of the population being of Indian origin, and a further 21% of black or other Asian heritage. Residents of North Evington, where the spike has been noted, are predominantly from a migrant background. It is an inner-city area with tightly packed terraces, illegal garment industry sweatshops, deprivation and overcrowding.

Labour’s city mayor Sir Peter Soulsby, far from showing concern or advocating a policy of ‘safety first’ for all Leicester residents, said: “Frankly, if the virus is out of control and spreading in Leicester with the restrictions, I can’t understand how extending them for a further two weeks would make any difference.” In other words: “Frankly Leicester, I don’t give a damn!”

Of course, the failure to act and continuous fumbling by the government has made the Covid crisis many, many times worse. The solution, however, is not to reject out of hand all safety measures! Clearly, both the Tories and Blairites alike are feeling the pressure from profit-hungry big business to pump life back into the clogged arteries of the capitalist economy.

LINDSEY MORGAN
LEICESTER SAFETY FIRST

“We are angry that our repeated warnings about the risk of transmission of Covid-19 in schools were not listened to.

“We warned that there should be no return to schools until the National Education Union’s five safety tests were passed. And due to a Blairite mayor, who didn’t even want pubs and restaurants to remain closed in the midst of this outbreak, we are now in a terrible situation.

“We will continue to fight and campaign for safety in schools as we have since the start of May. We urge everyone to fight and get organised to stop the situation in Leicester becoming the situation elsewhere in the country.”
WHAT WE THINK

When ever Starmer vetoes socialist newspapers from the Labour Party website, he is not just a Labour Party member, but a socialist party member. The socialist party is a democratic socialist political party, accepting all socialist candidates who are not under a similar, reliable vehicle to manoeuvre.

During his leadership campaign, Starmer made public his support for the banner of unity. I think, however, that the banner is to win or unity, always unity, must be decisively ripened apart from the demagogues. Starmer is the ideal candidate for Labour.

As long as the leadership of the socialist party is in its true form, Starmer will be the right candidate to organise.

The workers’ movement needs to ensure that it finds another route to Tory misery and fights back against Tory misery.

The Socialist Party warns the workers need a new mass party to defend its interests.

The Socialist is the weekly newspaper interpreted the world, in various ways; the workers need a new socialist party to defend its interests.

The left-wing of the Labour Party is one of the organisations that has been diminished by divisions in the Labour Party, the Labour Party, the Labour Party and the Labour Party.

Tory misery was a factor in her being sacked. This is why the Socialist Party is urging the workers’ movement therefore to take steps towards the organised working class has the need to actually get a real living wage to £12 an hour without any exemptions as a step towards a real living wage. For a massive building a new socialist party is the need to actually get a real living wage to £12 an hour without any exemptions as a step towards a real living wage.

The organised working class has the need to actually get a real living wage to £12 an hour without any exemptions as a step towards a real living wage. For a massive building a new socialist party is the need to actually get a real living wage to £12 an hour without any exemptions as a step towards a real living wage.

A socialist NHS to provide for the needs of all and not for the profits of a few. We also oppose privatisation of all public services. Public sector workplaces, safe and secure. A socialist programme. One victory for all.

Workers need a new mass workers’ party drawing activists from workplace, community, unionists, young people and Socialist Party members, wanting to build a socialist programme. One victory for all.

Do you agree? Join the fightback! 

socialistparty.org.uk

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Do you agree? Join the fightback!

Check out our newsletter, sign up to be notified of events, and read our monthly Marxist magazine.

Get all the latest union news...
BORIS’S NEW BIG DEAL

The government’s plans for a full return to schools in September mean crystal-clear ‘abnormal’ health is being lost. In particular, the DWP is stated to have a full return to school in mind. This is in line with the government’s plan to return to school in 2020, as outlined in the ‘Plan for a safe return to school’ document. The DWP is stated to have a full return to school in mind. This is in line with the government’s plan to return to school in 2020, as outlined in the ‘Plan for a safe return to school’ document.

Yes to self-identity: Fight for trans rights

In 2016, the Tories initiated a de


deliberate attempt to open the door to the more rapid and radical changes that were taking place in society at the time. This was part of a broader strategy to undermine the power of the trade unions and mobilise workers into a confrontational struggle. The aim was to weaken the trade unions and their influence on the workforce and to create a climate of fear and division in an attempt to break down the solidarity of the working class.

In secondary schools, they propose support for study, educational and technical centres, in jobs, housing, transport, education and other

premises.

The failed capitalist profit model, which Johnson describes, is the root cause of anxiety and under

investment in the public sector. Only socialist policies can build better, greener and safer communities.

The capitalist class attempts to divide and conquer the working class.

Yes to self-identity: Fight for trans rights

In 2016, the Tories initiated a de

deliberate attempt to open the door to the more rapid and radical changes that were taking place in society at the time. This was part of a broader strategy to undermine the power of the trade unions and mobilise workers into a confrontational struggle. The aim was to weaken the trade unions and their influence on the workforce and to create a climate of fear and division in an attempt to break down the solidarity of the working class.

In secondary schools, they propose support for study, educational and technical centres, in jobs, housing, transport, education and other premises.

The failed capitalist profit model, which Johnson describes, is the root cause of anxiety and under-investment in the public sector. Only socialist policies can build better, greener and safer communities.
 PCS: CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP NEEDED TO SECURE UNION’S FUTURE

LEAD: Socialists in the Trade Union Movement

ISSUE: Union reform

PCS: CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP NEEDED TO SECURE UNION’S FUTURE

As an active trade union for public servants, PCS has long been at the forefront of workers’ rights and the fight for better conditions. However, recent events have raised questions about the leadership and direction of the organization. With a new election for the union’s national executive committee (NEC) looming, it is crucial for members to demand a change that reflects the needs and aspirations of workers.

The current NEC has come under criticism for its handling of key issues, including pay negotiations and workplace safety. Members have raised concerns about the lack of transparency and accountability within the union. The NEC’s record has been marred by internal disputes and a failure to address members’ grievances effectively.

Leadership needs to change

Ablog by a local government worker criticizes the NEC for not supporting members sufficiently during the pandemic. The worker says that the NEC is more focused on internal disputes than on the needs of members. The worker also highlights the NEC’s failure to provide adequate support to members who are facing cuts and job losses.

A letter from a PCS officer raises concerns about the NEC’s decision to cut pay. The letter says that the NEC has failed to consult members adequately and that the pay cut will hurt workers who are already struggling to make ends meet.

Meanwhile, a letter from a PCS member argues that the NEC’s priorities are misplaced. The member says that the NEC should be focusing on providing adequate support to members during the pandemic and that the pay cut will not have the desired effect.

A letter from a PCS member criticizes the NEC for failing to address the needs of members adequately. The letter says that the NEC should be more proactive in supporting members and that the pay cut will hurt workers who are already struggling to make ends meet.

A letter from a PCS member argues that the NEC’s priorities are misplaced. The member says that the NEC should be focusing on providing adequate support to members during the pandemic and that the pay cut will not have the desired effect.

A letter from a PCS member criticizes the NEC for failing to address the needs of members adequately. The letter says that the NEC should be more proactive in supporting members and that the pay cut will hurt workers who are already struggling to make ends meet.

A letter from a PCS member argues that the NEC’s priorities are misplaced. The member says that the NEC should be focusing on providing adequate support to members during the pandemic and that the pay cut will not have the desired effect.

A letter from a PCS member criticizes the NEC for failing to address the needs of members adequately. The letter says that the NEC should be more proactive in supporting members and that the pay cut will hurt workers who are already struggling to make ends meet.

A letter from a PCS member argues that the NEC’s priorities are misplaced. The member says that the NEC should be focusing on providing adequate support to members during the pandemic and that the pay cut will not have the desired effect.

A letter from a PCS member criticizes the NEC for failing to address the needs of members adequately. The letter says that the NEC should be more proactive in supporting members and that the pay cut will hurt workers who are already struggling to make ends meet.

A letter from a PCS member argues that the NEC’s priorities are misplaced. The member says that the NEC should be focusing on providing adequate support to members during the pandemic and that the pay cut will not have the desired effect.

A letter from a PCS member criticizes the NEC for failing to address the needs of members adequately. The letter says that the NEC should be more proactive in supporting members and that the pay cut will hurt workers who are already struggling to make ends meet.

A letter from a PCS member argues that the NEC’s priorities are misplaced. The member says that the NEC should be focusing on providing adequate support to members during the pandemic and that the pay cut will not have the desired effect.

A letter from a PCS member criticizes the NEC for failing to address the needs of members adequately. The letter says that the NEC should be more proactive in supporting members and that the pay cut will hurt workers who are already struggling to make ends meet.

A letter from a PCS member argues that the NEC’s priorities are misplaced. The member says that the NEC should be focusing on providing adequate support to members during the pandemic and that the pay cut will not have the desired effect.
The past few months have felt like war - normal life has been upended as society has adapted to new challenges. The NHS has been stretched to its limits to deliver vital services while facing unprecedented pressures.

The NHS has long struggled to provide adequate care, especially for the elderly, due to a lack of beds and funding. In 2019, the government announced plans to build new hospitals, but these have faced delays due to the coronavirus crisis.

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of universal healthcare, with many people relying on the NHS for their basic needs. The government has promised to increase funding for the NHS in the future, but questions remain about how this will be achieved.

Workers making vital contributions in the NHS are being treated shamefully while bosses live off their hard work for nothing. The NHS needs a complete reorganisation so that care can be delivered for need, not profit.

Care of the elderly

Pressure to increase patient numbers while caring costs mean patient care has had to be cut. This has led to a decrease in the number of beds for the elderly.

Many new community hospital wards have been opened to help care for the elderly. These wards are meant to provide care for people who need help but do not need to be in a hospital setting.

The government has promised to increase funding for the NHS in the future, but questions remain about how this will be achieved.

Careers and work

Workers making vital contributions in the NHS are being treated shamefully while bosses live off their hard work for nothing.
TV review: 13th
From slavery to Black Lives Matter
RACISM AND CAPITALIST INJUSTICE EXPOSED

Crack cocaine came on the market and was more accessible to the black, Hispanic and Latino population. It was distinguished from cocaine, and possession of crack carried longer sentences: “What Reagan ultimately did was to repackage the problem of economic inequality, of hyper-segregation in America’s cities, and the problem of drug abuse, and criminalises all of it in the form of a war on drugs.”

One interviewee says: “Black people in general are overrepresented in news as criminals. When I say overrepresented that means they are shown as criminals more times than is accurate that they are actually criminals based on FBI statistics.”

The term ‘super-predators’ emerged, implying they are not just gangs of kids. Five innocent teenagers were put in prison in the Central Park jogger case and served between six and eleven years before DNA evidence proved they were all innocent. At the time, Donald Trump wanted to give them the death penalty and took out a full page ad to put on the pressure!

The 13th Amendment to the American constitution made it unconstitutional for someone to be held as a slave, granting freedom to all Americans. There was an exception, however, for criminals and this ‘loophole’ was used in the south of the US where the economy had been based on slavery (four million people had been slaves). These former slaves were arrested, en masse, for extremely minor crimes such as loitering and vagrancy. They basically became slaves again (‘convict leasing’), working to rebuild the economy while imprisoned.

Rhetoric created the image of ‘black criminality’, rapacious and violent, an evil that had to be banished. This was magnified with the 1915 film ‘The Birth of a Nation’, a major blockbuster at the time. Every image of a black person was demented, cannibalistic and animalistic. The film “was also an accurate prediction of the way in which race would operate in the United States.” It was also partly responsible for the rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan and another wave of lynching and terror.

Around the same time, the Jim Crow laws were created, which enshrined segregation in law and relegated African Americans to permanent second class status. The activists of the civil rights movement were portrayed in the media as criminals deliberately violating the segregation laws.

The documentary explains that up to 1970, the US crime rate was roughly flat for decades. Following a big population rise, however, crime rates rose through sheer demographic change. But politicians claimed the civil rights movement itself was contributing to rising crime rates, and that if African Americans were given freedom the US would suffer more crime.

During Richard Nixon’s presidency ‘crime’ became a code word to refer to black political movements of the time like the Black Panthers. Nixon fought against this and other social movements: “there can be no progress in America without respect for law”. He doubled federal spending on the ‘war on drugs’, treating it as a crime rather than a health issue. Love law offences, such as marijuana possession, were punished. The documentary quotes John Ehlinchman, Nixon’s adviser: “The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the anti-war left and black people. You understand what I’m saying? We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black... but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, then criminalising both heavily, we could disrupt those communities... Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”

Ronald Reagan later turned the rhetorical ‘war on drugs’ under Nixon into a literal one. In 1982 he launched a national crusade, determined to define it as a problem. There was a crisis in the US economy, the worst since the Great Depression. There were cuts to the welfare state alongside tax cuts for the rich and more funding for prison facilities.

The documentary highlights how no black people take plea bargains to avoid mandatory minimums, even when innocent. They would face a far greater sentence if they went to trial and they can’t afford to pay bail. Kalief Browder was innocent of a minor offence and spent two years in prison. He later committed suicide aged 22. Prisons are like warehouses, in which people experience sensory deprivation and dehumanisation. On release they are still denied citizenship, they cannot vote, many doors are closed to them.

This documentary graphically exposes the way in which the US capitalist state has criminalised the black population in particular, but also other minorities, the poor and those prepared to rise up and challenge the system. Now, in the Black Lives Matter protests which have swept the US and the world, a new generation is rising up against racism economic inequality and the crimes of capitalism. To end that system a united working-class struggle will be necessary.

The 13th is currently available on Netflix.
No trust in Google
to control our news

On 25 June, Google announced a “new
licensing programme to support the news
industry”. The programme pays publish-
ers for high-quality content in an effort
to remove paywalls. A “new news experi-
ence” will be released later this year for
users to consume.

While the programme is starting in
Germany, Australia and Brazil, its impli-
cations may eventually also affect us
here in the UK. The concept is grand: no
more paywalls, so news can be accessed
by anyone and anywhere. But who de-
termines what is high-quality content
and verifies these publishers? I suspect
it’s not the workers who will stand
against Google’s culture of sexual
harassment in 2018.

The programme has been launched
against the background of the recent
pandemic, and the Black Lives Matter
protests which have erupted across the
globe. Local news journalists and pub-
lishers have been strained financially,
and Google is offering them “access to
new markets and… additional commer-
cial benefits.”

To boost Google’s reputation, it funded
the Journalism Emergency Relief Fund,
and supported a £15 million Support Lo-
cal News Campaign.

Working-class people, however, do not
want a large corporation paying for news
on their behalf. We need a state-funded,
democratically controlled workers’ news
broadcaster which is not manipulated by
the Tories.

While not state-funded, the Socialist
Party produces the paper you’re reading
right now. It is financed by those who pay
for it, and welcomes contributions, in-
cluding from non-party members.

My question to Google is: “If we put a
paywall on our website, would you deem us
a trusted publisher which produces
high-quality content, and pay us to re-
move it, and welcomes contributions, in-
cluding from non-party members, right
now? It is financed by those who pay
for it, and welcomes contributions, in-
cluding from non-party members.”

I think we all know the answer.

JOSHUA ALEERTON
WOLVERHAMPTON

Join us
How many more humiliations should
socialists in the Labour Party have to
endure? Rebecca Long-Bailey tried to ac-
tom the right wing, and she was
purged at the first opportunity. Who is
next? Join us in a party with a socialist
programme and no career prospects!

SEAN BROGAN
EXETER

A party for the 99%
Since Keir Starmer sacked Rebecca
Long-Bailey, I have never had so many
positive responses to my Facebook posts
about the need to build a new workers’
party.

The trade unions need to call a con-
ference of all interested trade unionists,
campaigners, and working-class people
to democratically discuss how a party
can be built.

The working class has suffered long
enough. Young people coming into po-
litical action for the first time in the anti-
racist protests deserve it. The Post-Covid
world of economic crisis, precarious and
unsafe work, and unemployment needs it.

The working class cannot be made to
pay for this crisis as it paid with austerity
for the banking crisis of 2007-8. Working-
class people need a party that fights to
improve their lives. A party for the 99%
needed.

CLAIRE WILKINS
NOTTINGHAM

Real alternative
Child poverty, holiday hunger; an epi-
demic of job losses and closures; lack of
PPE for key workers; a stigmatising re-
sponse to the pandemic; council budgets
strained to breaking point; care homes in
crisis; crocodile tears about racism from
the people who gave us Grenfell Tower;
Windrush and all manner of racist legis-
ation… and a Labour Party seeking co-
operation… surely now is the time for a
real alternative!

SUE POWELL
GLoucester

Campaigning party
needed
Ironically, Rebecca Long-Bailey went out
of her way to appease the Jewish Board
of Deputies during her uninspiring La-
bour Party leadership campaign. The
cold truth must be dawning on all by now.

The ruling class unleashed major forces
to stop Corbyn from coming to power.
The opposition front bench is now just
another wing of capitalist executive man-
agement. Starmer welcomes the reckless
Tory lifting of the lockdown. Labour-run
local councils routinely pass on central
government cuts, with barely a whimper.
Yet, in the midst of a public health and
economic crisis, a mass campaigning
operation... surely now is the time for a
Campaigning party.

NANCY TAYLOR
Waltham Forest, London

Bournemouth beach
All this nonsense about selfish people
on the beach in Bournemouth. We used to
have five kids just in my area of London
alone, along with numerous public swim-
mimg pools, on top of loads of paddling
pools in parks. Virtually all of them have
gone.

When it’s 35 degrees in the city, where
are working-class people meant to swim
but the beach? A day at the beach for a
family of four can be a much cheaper op-
tion than anything else.

NANCY TAYLOR
Waltham Forest, London

Civil servants
attacked
Civil servants are regularly described
in negative terms. We’re bureaucrats,
we’re a drain on the state, we live in ivory
towers. As austerity was implemented, we
were rewarded for our hard work with ten
years of pay restraint. Last year I compared
my pay slip with one from January 2014, and
my net pay over five years had increased
by £20.

I saw so many colleagues made
redundant, and many offices in the West
Midlands were closed to implement
budget cuts. In the next 12 months the
offices in Brierley Hill, Coventry, Solihull
and Wolverhampton will be closed. This
was demanded to pay for the bailout of
the banks.

Now it seems civil servants are need-
ed to revive the High Street. Well it’s
ten years and innumerable attacks too late.

JOHN PAUL ROSS
Coventry

Defend the triple lock
State pensions are far too low at pre-
sent, yet the Tories are planning to scrap
the triple lock that at least gives some
protection to the value of the pension.

If we allow the Tories to scrap the triple
lock they will next come for our free bus
passes and winter fuel allowances.

As the virus recedes, the Tories will in-
terest their attacks on workers and their
families. Remember, the workers of today
are the pensioners of tomorrow.

TERRY PEARCE
Thames Valley National
Pensioners Convention

Tax the rich
Benefit fraud costs the UK around £1.2
billion annually. Tax avoidance costs the
UK around £120 billion annually (Tax
justice and PCS estimate). There are 54
billionaires in the UK not paying their fair
share, yet we are led to believe the folks
on welfare are costing us.

NEIL ASHHEAD
Rotherham

What’s your view?
editors@socialistparty.org.uk

News

Billionaire paradise
Are you considering taking a long-
delayed holiday? Try the pacific is-
lands of Fiji. In an enticing tweet, the
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your
country’s prime minister says: “Say
you’re a billionaire looking to fly your

process… you may have a new home
to escape the pandemic in paradise?”

Can’t wait.

Deeper in debt
Unsurprisingly, given the rise in un-
employment and the effects of pay
cuts through furloughing, etc, the
number of people unable to pay their
bills continues to increase.

Last month, mortgage repayments
were down 14%; rents by 11%, and
council tax by 9%, compared to pre-
pandemic levels.

Food insecurity
Latest government figures from the
Food Standards Agency show that
decreasing incomes during the pan-
demic have forced millions to go
without food or rely on food banks.

The FSA reckons up to 7.7 million
cash-strapped adults reduced meal
portion sizes or skipped meals. And
up to 3.7 million adults had to use a
food bank.

Councils’ crisis
A £6 billion shortfall in council fund-
ing during this financial year by the Tory
government will mean more savage cuts to local
services and council tax/service charges
increases. Extra financial pressures and
revenue falls because of the pan-
demic mean that an estimated eight
out of ten councils face bankruptcy.

Trade unions and the wider working
class communities must get organ-
ised to stop jobs and services being
slashed.
The St Mellons community from the Cardiff community fights nursery closure: Council must step in

We're back! After three months, the Socialists have got their weekly newspaper back in the hands of the public who signed the petition, took our leaflets, bought the Socialist and stayed with us. It feels like we're really building a socialist community back on the streets. We fight for democratic community assemblies, accountable, democratic committees that reflect the local area.

The struggle doesn't stop, and neither do we. Our members - socially distanced, wearing masks and sunglasses, gloves and carrying placards with our campaign themes - met in the streets of Cardiff on Sunday. We can't stop now. We need you to join us. Let's get on the streets and take back our community! Join us!

The Black Lives Matter protest - costs money to produce and print every week. We need to raise up to £20,000 to keep it going.

ST MELLONS

The Black Lives Matter protest needs crowdfunding on our social media. Protesters should make a coordination for the Socialist Party places. We raised £41 at a Bradford protest, £110 at Cardiff and £33 at Cheltenham and funded this way.

The Socialist Party is in charge of the weekly Socialist Party newspaper. We are still meeting virtually and attending online events. We need more people to step forward and help make the Socialist Party work.

Join us!

The Little Fishes nursery in Cardiff has temporarily closed its doors due to issues of affordability. The nursery is not able to continue to provide childcare at a level that meets the needs of the new situation.

NHS - but now with additional demands to meet the needs of the new situation.

On 29 June, Socialist Party members have been campaigning on the streets of Cardiff, Gateshead, Brent Kennedy, a young girl who drowned after racist bullying at school. Our members - socially distanced, wearing masks and carrying placards with our campaign themes - met in the streets of Cardiff on Sunday.

The struggle doesn't stop, and neither do we. Our members - socially distanced, wearing masks and sunglasses, gloves and carrying placards with our campaign themes - met in the streets of Cardiff on Sunday. We can't stop now. We need you to join us. Let's get on the streets and take back our community! Join us!

The Black Lives Matter protest - costs money to produce and print every week. We need to raise up to £20,000 to keep it going.

ST MELLONS

The Black Lives Matter protest needs crowdfunding on our social media. Protesters should make a coordination for the Socialist Party places. We raised £41 at a Bradford protest, £110 at Cardiff and £33 at Cheltenham and funded this way.

The Socialist Party is in charge of the weekly Socialist Party newspaper. We are still meeting virtually and attending online events. We need more people to step forward and help make the Socialist Party work.

Join us!

The Little Fishes nursery in Cardiff has temporarily closed its doors due to issues of affordability. The nursery is not able to continue to provide childcare at a level that meets the needs of the new situation.

NHS - but now with additional demands to meet the needs of the new situation.

On 29 June, Socialist Party members have been campaigning on the streets of Cardiff, Gateshead, Brent Kennedy, a young girl who drowned after racist bullying at school. Our members - socially distanced, wearing masks and carrying placards with our campaign themes - met in the streets of Cardiff on Sunday. We can't stop now. We need you to join us. Let's get on the streets and take back our community! Join us!

The Black Lives Matter protest - costs money to produce and print every week. We need to raise up to £20,000 to keep it going.

ST MELLONS

The Black Lives Matter protest needs crowdfunding on our social media. Protesters should make a coordination for the Socialist Party places. We raised £41 at a Bradford protest, £110 at Cardiff and £33 at Cheltenham and funded this way.

The Socialist Party is in charge of the weekly Socialist Party newspaper. We are still meeting virtually and attending online events. We need more people to step forward and help make the Socialist Party work.

Join us!

The Little Fishes nursery in Cardiff has temporarily closed its doors due to issues of affordability. The nursery is not able to continue to provide childcare at a level that meets the needs of the new situation.

NHS - but now with additional demands to meet the needs of the new situation.

On 29 June, Socialist Party members have been campaigning on the streets of Cardiff, Gateshead, Brent Kennedy, a young girl who drowned after racist bullying at school. Our members - socially distanced, wearing masks and carrying placards with our campaign themes - met in the streets of Cardiff on Sunday. We can't stop now. We need you to join us. Let's get on the streets and take back our community! Join us!

The Black Lives Matter protest - costs money to produce and print every week. We need to raise up to £20,000 to keep it going.

ST MELLONS

The Black Lives Matter protest needs crowdfunding on our social media. Protesters should make a coordination for the Socialist Party places. We raised £41 at a Bradford protest, £110 at Cardiff and £33 at Cheltenham and funded this way.

The Socialist Party is in charge of the weekly Socialist Party newspaper. We are still meeting virtually and attending online events. We need more people to step forward and help make the Socialist Party work.

Join us!
Capitalism and corruption go hand in hand

Can a leopard change its spots? Can a Tory MP stop taking cash for favours? Not if allegations against government housing secretary Robert Jenrick prove correct.

Jenrick approved a planning decision in January, overruling inspectors, to allow former Daily Express magnate Richard Desmond to build 1,500 luxury homes on an old print works site in east London.

The timing of the decision avoided a surcharge (Community Infrastructure Levy) being imposed by Tower Hamlets council. 12 days later Desmond bunged the Tory party £12,000 - a paltry sum from a billionaire who had just dodged paying £40 million.

Meanwhile, it’s also been revealed that Jenrick, when exchequer secretary, had met with ‘family friend’ Israeli billionaire Idan Ofer, who was lobbying for government support for his ailing mining company. Ofer later donated £10,000 to the Tory party.

But Jenrick’s reportedly dodgy dealings are not unique. Health secretary Matt Hancock also has ‘questions to answer’ after intervening on behalf of Tony party donors to block a housing development near Newmarket racecourse in his constituency.

Thank you
In an apparent thank you email, Desmond told Jenrick: “We appreciate the speed as we don’t want to go hand in hand” . But instead of the matter “closed”. But instead of campaigning for Jenrick’s removal, Labour leader Keir Starmer sacked his shadow education spokesperson Rebecca Long-Bailey, and agreed to Johnson’s call to support the premature opening of schools.

Scandal after scandal
None of this comes as a surprise. Readers may remember the ‘cash-for-questions’ political scandal of the 1990s involving Tory MPs, and the ‘cash for influence’ scandals involving Labour peers and Labour MPs in 2009 and 2010, as well as the 2007 ‘cash for honours’ scandal involving Tony Blair. And not forgetting of course the cross-party MPs ‘expenses scandal’ in 2009.

Jenrick’s and corruption goes hand in hand. That’s why the workers’ movement needs working-class representatives, subject to recall and paid a worker’s wage, with all necessary expenses open to scrutiny.

Socialist Party member and former Militant-supporting Labour MP Dave Nellist used to regularly circulate to trade unions and labour movement bodies his full parliamentary expenses record to ensure political accountability.

Opposing cuts when Northampton Council was threatened with bankruptcy Steve Score

Leeds City Council in danger of bankruptcy

How the trade union movement should fight back

The Covid-19 crisis has pushed councils up and down the country into a new financial crisis. The Centre for Progressive Policy thinktank expects eight out of ten tier-one local authorities to face the threat of bankruptcy. Labour-led Leeds City Council is the biggest of the councils to publicly raise this possibility.

With business rates suspended, the council tax payments likely due to job losses and pay cuts under furlough schemes, as well as charges for parking and gyms suspended at present, the council faces a big drop in income.

Despite pledging at the outset of the crisis to ‘do whatever is necessary’, the little over £40 million pledged in emergency government funding comes nowhere near meeting the projected shortfall which is just shy of £200 million. While this year the budget is estimated to have a £60 million shortfall, the 2021-22 budget is currently projected to have a £120 million shortfall!

This comes on top of a decade of cuts, with the council already planning to make £80 million in ‘savings’ over the next few years. According to the council’s own figures, the cuts in central government core funding amount to £1.7 billion in total over the last decade. If, instead of implementing these cuts, the council had fought them, it would be in a far better place to deal with this crisis.

The cuts have been painful, with around 3,200 full-time equivalent jobs going. One council shop steward explained how, in the last five years, the team he was part of in the council has halved, while still expected to carry out the same work, receiving no, or below-inflation, pay rises.

No campaign
The council has made a number of demands on the government, including £59.9 million of additional funding to help balance the budget. But these have just been confined to letters to the government, with no strategy of mobilising a campaign to achieve this demand. Instead, the council is talking about the chief financial officer issuing a section 114 bankruptcy notice, calling for an immediate stop to non-statutory spending, and passing an emergency budget this summer. New notices of redundancies have been issued to local government unions.

Instead of looking at a new cuts budget, the council leadership should instruct officers to look at all options available to defend jobs, terms and conditions, and services, including reserves and borrowing powers, if necessary. Labour councillors who are serious about fighting austerity should pledge not to vote for any cuts.

Given the huge numbers of councils finding themselves in a similar position, those Labour-led councils like Leeds should convene a conference to discuss a strategy of how they could fight for the funding they need to protect jobs and services.

Leeds Socialist Party members hold important positions within Leeds Trade Union Council, the local body bringing trade unions together in the city. We will be arguing to build on the struggle we have developed in recent years linking up with community campaigns - such as a successful parents campaign to stop cuts to 16+ special educational needs and disability student transport.

A campaign to fight this new round of cuts, drawing together local government trade unions, in particular, alongside the wider trade union movement and community groups, is necessary. This should start with a mass lobby of any council meeting discussing a new cuts budget, preparing for strike action against redundancies if necessary.

IAIN DALTON
LEEDS SOCIALIST PARTY
The end of World War Two left behind a world in upheaval. Demobilised troops and a war-weary population demanded a better future. Resistance movements in Europe published programmes demanding nationalisation. Workers’ strikes broke out across the capitalist West. Former colonies struggled for freedom. The Stalinist USSR emerged from the war strengthened and, despite being controlled by a dictatorial bureaucracy, provided a model for those looking to break with capitalism. Virtually no part of the world was untouched by a revolutionary mood.

It was against this backdrop that Labour won a landslide election victory in 1945. Workers were determined not to return to poverty, poor housing and health. Despite being posed as ‘the man who beat the Nazis’, and saying Labour “would have to fall back on some form of a Gestapo” to impose socialism - Churchill was decisively booted out of office at the first opportunity.

The 1945 government, led by Clement Attlee, remained the most radical reforming Labour government ever. Unfortunately, that says as much about the competition for that title as it does for the Attlee government itself.

While the Labour Party at the time declared itself to be a ‘socialist party’, and had a working-class membership and base of support, its leaders were drawn mainly from the right of the party, and were wedded to maintaining capitalism. Reforms by the Attlee government went as far as they did because of pressure and struggles from below.

Reforms

Nonetheless, the reforms were mass achievements for the working class and improved the lives of millions. Large sections of industry were nationalised, council housing was built, and the welfare state was constructed, with the NHS as its jewel in the crown.

However, the refusal of the Labour leaders to break with capitalism meant that the gains made were constrained by the demands of the profit system. Most of the reforms have now been taken back, a process that began even while the post-war Labour government was still in power.

Britain in 1945 was faced with a multitude of economic problems. Large swathes of housing and industry had been destroyed by bombing. The supply of goods from the US through their costly wartime ‘Lend-Lease’ policy came to an end. War had been expensive, driving a rise in the national debt from £760 million to £3.5 billion (the equivalent of £152 billion today). Great expense was poured into maintaining a crumbling empire, while the country was unable to compete with the US as a global power. The economy only recovered to pre-war levels in the 1950s.

Labour nationalised key sections of the economy, including coal, steel, the railways and the Bank of England. These measures were popular with the working class, who wanted to be able to get rid of greedy bosses, and to direct the economy in their own interests.

The intense drive for profit in the private coal industry meant miners were exposed to extremely dangerous conditions. The hope was that public ownership would bring an end to such abuses.

Rescuing capitalism

Labour’s leadership however viewed these nationalisations differently. State intervention was needed to rescue important parts of the capitalist economy and help rebuild after the devastation of war. They were also pushed into carrying out reforms in order to try and prevent a movement for revolutionary change.

They ensured that reforms remained within certain limits. Nationalised industries were not controlled by workers but by the former heads of private firms. The public sector remained a minority of the economy and was dictated to by the needs of the privately-owned majority.

Had the largest parts of the economy been taken over and placed under the control of workers, production could have been democratically planned. All the wealth of society could have been used to improve people’s lives, without the capitalists taking their pound of flesh.

As it was, the economy was left at the mercy of capitalist predation, and shortages remained. The immediate post-war period was known as the ‘age of austerity’. Rationing continued (until 1956) and was even tightened; bread was rationed which hadn’t been the case during the war.

Hemmed in by its adherence to capitalism, the government was unable to afford what was needed to fulfils the popular desire for change. Income tax for workers stayed high to try and plug the gap.

The government borrowed $3.75 billion from the US and received a further $3.2 billion from their Marshall Aid programme (see ‘A new world order - global reconstruction after World War Two’ at socialist-party.org.uk), at the cost of removing trade barriers for American firms.

Labour PM Clement Attlee (right), along with right-wing Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin (centre) in 1946 (photo archives.gov.nz/CC BY

While the 1945 government made big domestic reforms, its foreign policy more clearly revealed its capitalist credentials. Despite its dwindling empire, Britain continued to pursue an imperialist agenda.

Forced to concede independence to India, it oversaw the bloody partition of the subcontinent. Troops were sent to crush movements in different parts of the world, including the communist-led resistance in Greece.

Britain became increasingly subordinate to US imperialism, joining the Korean War at its behest in 1950, and helping to found Nato. Labour began pursuing nuclear weapons almost as soon as it entered office, diverting enormous resources away from the fledging welfare state.

Labour was reelected in 1950 with a reduced majority, but was forced to call another election the following year after the resignation of Bevan. It was defeated by Churchill’s Tories despite having won more votes. In fact, its 48.8% remains the highest share of the vote achieved by any party in British.

Because the reforms made by the Attlee government remained within a capitalist framework they have been susceptible to attack from the bosses and their representatives.

Some were quickly reversed by the Conservatives, such as iron and steel nationalisation in 1955. The NHS still exists, but has been battered by successive cuts and privatisations (see pages 8-9).

While the 1945 government ultimately protected capitalism, it was forced to concede huge reforms by Labour’s working-class base, and by struggles in wider society. Today, Labour members don’t have the same degree of influence over the party’s leadership.

The undemocratic constitutional reforms made by Blair were not fundamentally changed under Corbyn. Keir Starmer is now taking Labour back to being an out-and-out capitalist party (see page 2).

We need a new mass party that represents the working class. But it must learn from the past. Accepting the logic of capitalism restricts the scope of changes that can be made, because profit for the bosses comes first.

The desire for change that workers expressed in the 1945 election could only have been realised in a complete and permanent way by socialist planning of the economy. 75 years on, with capitalism deep in crisis, the Socialist Party’s socialist programme is needed more than ever.
Protests and gatherings are not a crime

BUILD A MASS MOVEMENT AGAINST POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND CAPITALISM

Amid confused messages as the government further eases the lockdown (but not in Leicester), police chiefs reportedly fear mass social unrest.

The huge tensions over inequality, job losses and lack of future prospects - especially for young people - could feed into further mass protests following on from the Black Lives Matter ones, and also the possibility of riots in some cities.

After Tory MPs such as Priti Patel called for a police crackdown on Black Lives Matter protests, some police chiefs who, let’s be clear, haven’t hesitated to use force against protesters in other circumstances in the past, pushed back.

The Tories are preparing the way to crack down generally on future protests and strikes. But police bosses understood that attacking the demonstrations at this time would massively ramp up tensions and result in protests on an even bigger scale. However, there is likely to be further pressure from the Tories to get tough on what they call ‘disorder’.

The media has been full of reports of raves, mass street parties and violence at various public gatherings, many of which have been broken up by police action. This is partly an attempt to shift blame for continued coronavirus outbreaks onto demonstrators and working-class young people who have responded to the overall government message that the lockdown is ending.

This is utter hypocrisy considering the fact that millions have been sent back to work, often in unsafe conditions; commuters are forced to take public transport in close proximity with others; air passengers will be allowed to sit in a small cabin for hours with hundreds of others; and schools have been opened up to more pupils against the advice of education unions.

Professor Tim Newburn from the London School of Economics, quoted in the Guardian, appropriately compared today to the 2011 inner city riots: “Young people felt very much that their lives were being very heavily constrained and surveilled and policed, and they saw more privileged people getting away with all sorts. It was a morally divided world.

And we see with Covid, that social and racial injustice doubles down - that it’s the poorest with least choices who are the ones people make negative moral judgments about or criminalise.”

As the furlough scheme ends, even more people are likely to be thrown on the dole to add to the poverty exacerbated by the Covid crisis. We need to build a mass working-class movement, including young people and trade unions, that can tackle those injustices and inequalities, demand democratic community control over the police, and end capitalism.