The Covid capitalist crisis is hitting the working class hard from all sides. We face a tsunami of job cuts and attacks on living standards. At the same time, many of us still in work are now being pushed back into unsafe workplaces. We’ve got to fight for our livelihoods, and fight for our lives.

The number of people on Universal Credit has already doubled in the six months to June. The furlough scheme, covering nine million workers, is due to end in October. This will be a cliff edge resulting in many more job losses. If there’s a second wave of the virus, then unemployment could hit five million by the end of the year - that’s one in seven workers.

The working class must fight to defend every job. This includes being prepared to occupy workplaces to prevent closures and layoffs.

We can have no trust in big business or its politicians to protect workers. For them, concern for the economy is only a concern for profits, not for our livelihoods. That’s what’s behind Johnson’s new push for an end to home working and a full return to schools in September. This is when the virus is still widespread and test-and-trace systems are still woefully inadequate.

This is another reckless move by a government that cares only for its rich mates.

And nationalisation is the way to save work. The Tories have shown they’re willing to intervene to rescue profits; why not jobs? Trade unions should fight for this too.

Ultimately, socialist nationalisation of the big businesses that dominate the economy is the only way of ensuring that workers come first.

This would allow democratic economic planning to share out the work available without loss of pay. The resources of society could be used to create socially useful work for those otherwise facing unemployment, with decent pay and conditions.

Covid-19 has come at a great human cost, magnified many times by the inherently unequal capitalist system. The economic crisis will only cause further misery - unless we struggle to defend ourselves.

We aren’t expendable pawns in the bosses’ insatiable drive for profits. We must fight for socialist change.

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HUGELY SIGNIFICANT TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL WORKERS’ STRIKE CONTINUES

The week-long secret in public sector unions Unison is finally out. Right-side-gangling secret Dave Prentis has announced that he doesn’t intend to stand in the next general secretary election in just a few weeks. He leaves a legacy of failure. He has let us and our members down against the deterioration of local government services, more important, the effectiveness of public services, and council workers pay – all brought exposing in the countries’ pandemic.

In order to come up its bulging, and to silence any opposition, Prentis also embarked on witch-hunting to silence any who opposed him. This is not the result of those workers facing similar conditions. So far there have been two-three days of strike, nationally since the swing of the weather, further down to the ad-cadets.

The judicial panes have been salt, with workers hard hanging, and maintaining social distancing. The errors, solidarity and resilience have been discerned and confirmed.

On all different sites, workers have received a lot of support and solidarity from people walking or clapping – with food testing and clear from putting bases, bashes and workers.

This is yet another strike against a Labour-led council. A strike at the car pound pointed out that Unison is affiliated to the Labour Party, and nominated Rita Sturman as leader. May the third times be the charm.

As we have been the frontline workers during the pandemic, but now the Labour council is sinking and repossessing all of us to the society. We are attacking us at the earliest opportunity. This is not a strike against a Labour council, it is a strike against a Labour social service union working for the lowest paid and marginal significations. A victory would show the threat of closure to other workers facing similar conditions.

“Workers’ councils have a central role to play in combating the recession. The Labour council is so far not providing the necessary support. The loyalty to the members is not up to the mark, the socialist for the national executive council, is not standing behind the national black members’ seat on a workers’ wage. Hugo has pledged to stand on a fighting and democratic programme capable of taking on the Tories, and he has said he will not take the £14,000 salary he could earn by only take an average worker’s wage elected.

Hugo Pierre for Unison general secretary
For a fighting, democratic general secretary, on a workers’ wage!

Hugo’s programme

1. Full council terms, including free time
2. We won’t pay for the Covid-19 crisis
3. Social services: a national strike for a £10 billion funding mismatch, all outs and decent working conditions
4. For a nationalised NHS and INHS CONTRACT
5. Full collective bargaining and national terms and conditions
6. Remove all education privatisation, Academy back to local authorities. Full funding for more and higher education
7. For a real fight as public sector workers
8. A socialist government and parliament
9. Trade union rights to organise
10. A socialist NHS

For a real fight on public services and environmental catastrophes

Britain does not need to pay the £13 million minimum wage. Trade union solidarity – not trade unionism – is needed.

For a socialist government and environmental catastrophes

Sign up now! This will be an online event – but if the opportunity to have in-person meetings arises you can decide to upgrade your ticket or keep a virtual pass.

A SOCIALIST FORUM OF DISCUSSION & DEBATE OVER FOUR DAYS
20-23 November 2020

Join us and challenge the status quo! The 2020 event will be our biggest ever! We need your help to make it happen. But we can’t do it without your support.

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**TIME TO RELAUNCH THE TRADE UNIONS AND SOCIALIST COALITION**

**The role of TUSC**

The Trade Union and Socialist Coalition (TUSC), an electoral alliance of the TUC delegates, was founded in 2010 by the Usdaw transport workers, and others, set up in 2010. TUSC was established to enable workers to participate in shaping their own lives and society through their own direct action, through unions and socialist organizations. This is all about securing central and Welsh government to act to defend the trade unions for “the hard, long struggle of the future,” not for the rich, powerful and corporate. As we have seen in the past, this struggle is all about the trade unions and the socialists in those unions. The TUSC movement is not only a trade union movement, but also a socialist movement.

Online rally: Fight the London transport funding cuts!

London is the only area where a campaign has been launched to defend the trade unions and communities. The TUSC movement is not only a trade union movement, but also a socialist movement.

United Left general secretary hustings shows widest debate needed for left in Unite

Brian Ashley, central organiser of the Socialist Party (SP), called for a “United Left” general secretary hustings to show the diversity of opinion on the left in Unite. The SP, along with other left-wing parties and trade unions, has called for a United Left general secretary hustings to show the diversity of opinion on the left in Unite.

Debenham: Fighting closures and redundancies in the UK and sending solidarity to Ireland

On 3 July protest and solidarity events were held in London, Liverpool and Manchester to send solidarity messages to workers facing job losses and redundancies in the UK and Ireland.

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**The Socialist Party**

The Socialist Party (SP) is a socialist political party in the United Kingdom. The SP is a member of the Socialist Party International and the European Socialist Party. The SP was founded in 1976 and has been active in the UK since then.

**Socialist Party member and Usdaw activist Amy Murphy attended the online rally**

Amy Murphy, a Socialist Party member and Usdaw activist, attended the online rally to fight the London transport funding cuts. She spoke about the importance of fighting for the trade unions and communities, and the need for a united front against the cuts.
would have thought that the answer to homelessness would be so simple as to give everyone a home. 

Claim to have housed 90% of homeless people during the pandemic, through the ‘Everybody In’ campaign. Working for a homeless service in Westminster, I know this to be a lie. The chaotic response by national government has been managed by the local authorities, who have been severely limited in what they can do to help. Councils have all the tools to solve the crisis. They only lack the resources.

The ‘Everybody In’ scheme is a failure. It hasn’t worked; it’s been a fiasco. For example, the government has seen fit to close, and only some of the soup kitchens are still open. No one who became homeless during the pandemic should have to go hungry. Any attempt to deal with homelessness also needs to address our broken housing system, which conduces to the problem in the first place. Private rental sector eviction has become easier. People are being wrung out of housing costs. Private rental sector evictions has been the cause of homelessness since 2013, over taking rough sleeping as a housing crisis. Local authorities should be accountable for increasing evictions. In practice, in the last two years, housing status has moved from one-hour contracts and the gig economy, together with the housing crisis. Without radical change the problem is only likely to get worse.

An attempt to stop a wave of homelessness, the government’s announcement of a housing boom where they have done purgatory the crisis – I mean the Government’s response to the increase in rough sleeping of 169% rising homelessness – with an increase in their lives. To do this, we need to give everyone a home.

But this wave of homelessness is not the same as creating housing associations. The majority of housing associations have their origins in the state’s failure to deal with repeatable housing crisis through Britain’s history. With state resources, the government can build the homes we need in a decade. The housing market is in crisis because the government has failed to build the homes we need, instead of allowing people to become destitute. Would you have thought that the answer to homelessness would be so simple as to give everyone a home. 

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**Brisol statue**

In its public declaration before the local Bristol City Council to save the slave trader Edward Colston statue from being destroyed, the Bristol Political Action Committee (BPC) called for it to be moved to a site outside the city. The BPC said it was a “legendary Bristol” tradition to remove statues from public view if they don’t meet the community’s standards.

**US imperialism**

A new report claims that the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operated a listening station in Australia as part of its global surveillance network. The report, released by the Australian Greens, states that the CIA is responsible for securing connections between its stations worldwide, with Australia being “a key node” in the network.

**Unsafe and illegal**

Four dining areas on the first floor of the Woolwich Dockyard, which was once the main naval base in southeast London, are currently illegally used for commercial purposes. The areas, which are located on the first floor of the Dockyard, are being used for events and meetings without the required safety equipment, including fire extinguishers and smoke detectors.

**Football is fans not owners**

What has happened at Old Trafford is the result of mismanagement by Manchester United owners, with the club’s financial situation and lack of investment in player development causing frustration among fans. The club’s future is in danger and fans demand greater transparency and accountability from the board.

**Lockdown nowhere Armageddon**

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to spread, there are concerns about the long-term effects of lockdown on mental health and social cohesion. Some experts argue that the current crisis could be an opportunity to rethink our approach to public health and social policy.

**Bristol trans rights protest**

The Bristol trans rights protest was held on Saturday, with thousands of people taking part. The event was organized by the Bristol Transgender Network, which is campaigning for better rights and support for transgender people in the city.

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The Socialist is now running our annual summer supplement. This issue will be available online from 23 July, with a print edition available from selected socialist bookshops.

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As live performances are cancelled, there could be a job meltdown in the whole theatre and arts sector unless the government steps in. In response, the UK government announced an £18.5 billion subside, but this does not address the need for permanent funding. Wales, the Drakeford government has given £59 million to the arts, but without any strings requiring employers to protect jobs. Wales, The Arts Council of Wales and the Welsh National Opera Centre will cut 250 jobs.

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SAVING THE MUSIC INDUSTRY FROM PANDEMIC AND AUSTERITY

35% of music venues closed down during the 2010s

£60 common payout for a full day's work for gigging musicians

£1.1bn annual turnover of the music industry

“90”

In reality, far more venues closed and box office age for the entire culture sector. This announced a £1.6 billion rescue pack - employed from central government

Generation of Living, accessing financial support 'saviour' of the record business -

In 2019, the Musician's Union recommended rate for a full or club gig of up to three hours, including time travelling to and from the venue.

Gigging band, roadie, and agony aunt!

The average musician earns £9,000 less than the median salary.

More success, more successful musicians. A record sales and streaming have therefore been able to agree deals with the streaming services. They were therefore able to agree deals with the major labels

For many years - to learn a musical skill and a vocation - is free. And even that fee is only per gig. It doesn't account for the hours of solo training, whether you're under the weather, or simply having an off day.

And in the ongoing debates about the future of the music industry, the idea that capitalism uses new technology to control consumption is a classic example of how it works. The $20 billion-a-year gig economy, for instance, is one of the main sources of income for many streaming musicians, but not at a big enough volume to make a significant dent in their overheads.

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And even that fee is only per gig. It doesn't account for the hours of solo training, whether you're under the weather, or simply having an off day.
Socialist Party national committee

Walter White - the result of socialist national unity - led to the, in his words, "international trade union movement". The CWS was formed in December 1903 as a successor to the Social Democratic Federation (SDF) and National Union of Tradesmen's and Labourers' Congresses (NUTLC), chaired by William Morris. It was the largest trade union in the world at the time and sought to organise and educate workers.

The creation of the CWS was significant for several reasons. Firstly, it provided an umbrella organisation for the various trade unions across Great Britain, giving them a collective voice and a platform for organising major political campaigns. Secondly, it marked a shift away from the fragmented and sectarian approach of previous trade union movements towards a more organised and unified approach. Finally, it laid the groundwork for future trade union campaigns, including the famous 1911 Strike of the Birmingham Gas Workers, which was the largest strike in British history up to that point.

The CWS was instrumental in various labour struggles, including the famous 1911 Strike of the Birmingham Gas Workers, which was the largest strike in British history up to that point. The CWS also played a key role in the development of the Labour Representation Committee (LRC), which eventually evolved into the Labour Party. The CWS's influence and activities paved the way for the establishment of a strong trade union movement in Great Britain, which continues to this day.
To put it in context, the annual budget of NHS England is £134 billion. Management requested an extra £10 billion. The Tory government has pledged just £3 billion. This is clearly inadequate in dealing with the huge problems now facing the health service. In fact, not only is it a pathetic amount, but much of it will inevitably be absorbed by the profit-hungry private sector.

Meanwhile, NHS workers are pushed to the limit. Even before the coronavirus outbreak, tens of thousands were working eleven or more unpaid extra hours each week!

Overall, hundreds of thousands - 56% of those surveyed - were working at least some additional weekly hours without compensation, according to the NHS Staff Survey. It’s certainly more now.

Of course, the NHS has long been in deep trouble after years of austerity and privatisation. There is a chronic shortage of beds, staff and resources. If you combine that with massive cuts to social care and public health, it’s clear the NHS was in no fit state to deal with the pandemic.

The consequence is that - although the NHS just about coped with the impact of Covid-19, thanks mainly to the dedication of health workers - the impact on care generally has been catastrophic.

For instance, waiting lists have increased from 4.5 million to eight million since April! The Royal College of Surgeons has said it would take five years to deal with the backlog.

The stark fact is that because of the relentless attacks on the NHS by successive governments, people in their thousands have died and will continue to die unnecessarily.

And not surprisingly, the Tory government is also using Covid to accelerate the privatisation of the NHS. We are continuing to see contracts going to private hospitals to deal with ‘elective’ care while NHS beds remain empty.

In fact, the Tories are awarding contracts to just about anybody, as long as it’s not the NHS, regardless of fitness for the job. A £108 million contract for procurement of PPE has been awarded to a family-run pest control company with just 16 employees!

If the Tories have shown little regard for the NHS as a public service, this also applies to its staff. The recent pay rise excludes many health workers.

In France, thanks to a magnificent, militant campaign, health workers have won an extra €8 billion to fund pay rises! We need to do the same here.

It’s only through trade union-led struggle, including industrial action, that we can secure a significant pay rise, full staffing, and decent conditions for workers.

And it’s only through that struggle, linked to political action, that we can establish a fully funded, publicly owned and democratically controlled NHS.

Full funding and public ownership needed

Union action on pay: France shows the way!

"The news that nurses aren't getting a pay rise is an absolute disgrace. I don't begrudge any worker, and especially fellow key workers, getting more pay. But Tory ministers ‘clapped’ for all the NHS - yet we're now not worth a pay rise. Sickening! The unions should be organising now for a pay rise worthy of the work put in by nurses and all workers" - Matt, NHS nurse