

Students and workers join the demonstration in Manchester on 29 January

MARCH TOGETHER WIN TOGETHER

AS A Christmas present to the bankers and big-business, the Con-Dem government voted through the tripling of tuition fees and have now stopped processing new claims for Education Maintenance Allowance. When the billionaires say 'cut!', the government asks 'how deep?'

Jethro Waldron
YFJ colleges organiser

The Con-Dems thought that students were apathetic and wouldn't fight back, and deliberately chose us to be the first victims of the cuts. They have been proved wrong. 2011 will see the continuation and the stepping-up of student protests and occupations across the country.

But the student movement cannot stand alone in this struggle. The government is not just after our right to education, but is moving in to attack the whole of the working class. Our urgent priority must be to link the student movement to the wider anti-cuts movement.

The fight against these cuts is the fight of our lives. We are not just taking on the Con-Dem coalition, but the international capitalist class who demand vicious cuts from all governments. Only a united fightback of students and workers will stop them in their tracks.

The civil servants union PCS is organising a demonstration against youth unemployment on Saturday 29 January in Manchester. This will coincide with the TUC rally against youth unemployment at the same location. The demonstration is backed by the Youth Fight for Jobs campaign.

It is important for students to attend and build for this march. Rising unemployment and job cuts will make it increasingly difficult for young people to find work once they have left education. The fight of young unemployed people and young workers is also our fight too.

We must also use this demonstration to build links between student campaigns and the wider labour movement at both local and national level. This is an excellent opportunity to start broadening the fightback as early in 2011 as possible.

To defeat the government and preserve our right to free education we must play to win. We cannot afford to separate our movement from the wider struggle against the cuts.

This is why we need a maximum turnout of students in Manchester on 29 January. This demonstration can become an important marker in the building of a strong, united fightback of students and the wider working class. When we organise and strike together, we will win together!



what we stand for

The Socialist Party fights for socialist change – a democratic society run for the needs of all and not the profits of a few. We also fight, in our day-to-day campaigning, for every possible improvement for working-class people.

As capitalism dominates the globe, the struggle for genuine socialism must be international.

The Socialist Party is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), a democratic, socialist international that organises in over 40 countries.

Our demands include:

Work & Income

- Trade union struggle to increase the minimum wage to £8 an hour without exemptions as an immediate step towards £10 an hour. For an annual increase in the minimum wage linked to average earnings.
- All workers, including part-timers, temps, casual and migrant workers to have trade union rates of pay, employment protection, and sickness and holiday rights from day one of employment.
- An immediate 50% increase in the state retire-

ment pension, as a step towards a living pension. Reinstatement of the link with average earnings now.

- Reject 'Welfare to Work'. For the right to decent benefits, education, training, or a job, without compulsion.
- Scrap the anti-trade union laws! For fighting trade unions, democratically controlled by their members. Full-time union officials to be regularly elected and receive no more than a worker's wage.
- A maximum 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

Public services

- No to privatisation and the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Renationalise all privatised utilities and services, with compensation paid only on the basis of proven need.
- Fully fund all services and run them under accountable, democratic committees that include representatives of service workers and users.
- Free, publicly run, good quality education, available to all at any age. Abolish university tuition fees now and introduce a living grant. No to academies!
- A socialist NHS to provide for everyone's health needs – free at the point of use and under democratic control. Kick out private contractors!

- Keep council housing publicly owned. For a massive building programme of publicly owned housing, on an environmentally sustainable basis, to provide good quality homes with low rents.

Environment

- Major research and investment into replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy and into ending the problems of early obsolescence and unrecycled waste.
- Public ownership of the energy generating industries. No to nuclear power. No to Trident.
- A democratically planned, low fare, publicly-owned transport system, as part of an overall plan against environmental pollution.

Rights

- Oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, disability, sexuality, age, and all other forms of prejudice.
- Repeal all laws that trample over civil liberties. For the right to protest! End police harassment.
- Defend abortion rights. For a woman's right to choose when and whether to have children.
- For the right to asylum. No to racist immigration laws.

New workers' party

- For a new mass workers' party drawing together workers, young people and activists from workplace, community, environmental and anti-war campaigns, to provide a fighting, political alternative to the pro-big business parties.
- Trade unions to disaffiliate from the Labour Party now and aid the building of a new workers' party!

Socialism and Internationalism

- No to imperialist wars and occupations. Withdraw the troops immediately from Iraq and Afghanistan!
- Tax the super-rich! For a socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies and banks that dominate the British economy, and run them under democratic working-class control and management. Compensation to be paid only on the basis of proven need.
- A democratic socialist plan of production based on the interests of the overwhelming majority of people, and in a way that safeguards the environment.
- No to the bosses' neo-liberal European Union! For a socialist Europe and a socialist world!