

As youth unemployment soars...

Join the international fightback

# MARCH FROM JARROW WITH YOUTH FIGHT FOR JOBS

**T**HE ANNOUNCEMENT of the latest youth unemployment figures comes as a chilling reminder of the worsening situation facing workers and young people.

Danny Byrne

The attempts by the government and its masters - big business and the financial markets - to make us pay for their crisis will effectively rubbish any hope of a decent future for the vast majority.

And the 'anti-crisis' policies favoured by the Con-Dems will not improve the situation. In fact, the austerity consensus of cuts, tax rises and job massacres will have the opposite effect - deepening the crisis and ruling out any serious economic growth.

But young people won't just sit back and allow our futures to be consigned to the scrapheap! Alongside the student protests in Britain, recent weeks and months have seen inspiring proof of this in numerous countries throughout Europe and beyond.

On Saturday 12 March over 200,000 people (in a country of less than ten million) marched through Lisbon, Portugal, in a protest against youth unemployment and

the precarious conditions forced on young workers by rotten low pay bosses. One placard mused that the situation being foisted on the youth had made Portugal "no country for young men"!

In Italy hundreds of thousands of young people participated in a mass protest movement in December against attacks on the education system.

A huge response by school and university students also confronted Nicolas Sarkozy's pension reforms in France.

Even in the US, where people say 'it will never happen', thousands took part in two days of school student walkouts against the cuts and anti-trade union laws, inspired by workers' protests in Wisconsin.

## Britain

IN BRITAIN, all the conditions for an 'uprising' of the young, students and the unemployed, exist in spades! After all, in the revolutionary events in North Africa and the Middle East, mass youth unemployment formed an important ingredient in the explosive cocktail that saw tyrants in Tunisia and Egypt overthrown.

Young people will be marching from Jarrow to London in October with Youth Fight for Jobs to show

that we won't take this situation lying down.

There is an alternative to growing youth joblessness. It involves breaking with the austerity consensus.

The Socialist Party stands for a society where the economy is democratically planned to meet the needs of people and where our money and wealth is 'put to work', not to bail out the rich for their mess, but to improve the lives of everyone.

Just a fraction of the amount used to bail out the bankers and speculators would create hundreds of thousands of jobs for young people - on decent pay too!

[www.jarrow2london2011.wordpress.com](http://www.jarrow2london2011.wordpress.com)

[www.youthfightforjobs.com](http://www.youthfightforjobs.com)

The Socialist Party, as part of the Committee for a Workers' International, fights together with young people worldwide. The capitalists' international offensive has to be met with international resistance! Join us today to fight for a socialist alternative

[www.socialistworld.net](http://www.socialistworld.net)



Students protest against the proposed bill which attacks trade union rights in Wisconsin.

## 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 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!