



Capitalist crisis deepens in Britain and eurozone

Big business governments have no answers

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STRIKE BACK AT PENSIONS ROBBERY!

• All out on 30 June

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NUT national executive member

National Union of Teachers (NUT) members across England and Wales are balloting for strike action over pensions. So are members of the smaller ATL teaching union. We must win those ballots and defeat the government's plans to make every teacher pay more for a worse pension.

We also have to look ahead and make plans for big regional demonstrations on 30 June, planned as the first strike day. Striking teachers, lecturers and civil servants will be marching to defend their pensions. We hope other workers will come and join us to show their opposition to the Con-Dem cuts.

The pensions robbery is not the only attack facing teachers. Budget cuts mean that schools are announcing staff redundancies. We should take inspiration from a victory at Rawmarsh School in Rotherham where 25 teachers faced redundancy. After over ten days of strike action, NUT members have finally fought off the very last threat.

The government is also determined to accelerate the spread of academies. The pensions ballot covers members in academies too. It's a chance to unite the whole member-



NUT members on the 26 March anti-cuts demo of 500,000 people photo Paul Mattsson

ship in struggle.

The pensions loss calculator on the NUT's website spells it out. The government's proposals mean that a young teacher might have to pay in £60 more a month. For what? - to be told they must work until they are 68 or have £300,000 stolen from their pension during their retirement!

These calculated losses are shocking enough. But the Con-Dems' plans for 'career-average' pensions could mean that they are an under-

estimate of what we could lose.

The idea put forward by the leaders of the NASUWT teaching union that we should wait until negotiations are completed before unions start to ballot is, at best, naïve. The Con-Dems have already budgeted for £2.8 billion that they plan to rake in from the attack on public sector pensioners. They're not offering any serious negotiations.

Fortunately, five other teacher, headteacher and lecturer unions

have agreed to issue the same united message - "now is the time to defend our pensions". The UCU lecturers union is considering action. The PCS civil service union is likely to vote at its conference to ballot for strike action too.

Let's win the ballot and make 30 June a real show of strength. If the government won't back down, unions need to be ready to go further and escalate our action next term.

The NUT ballot closes on 14 June

Fight all the cuts - come to the NSSN conference

The National Shop Stewards Network (NSSN) is at the forefront of the battle against the Con-Dem cuts. The NSSN was initiated by the RMT transport union in 2007 so that rank and file trade unionists could organise together across the union movement and ensure that workers in struggle would be supported.

This role was important in 2009, when workers in the private sector fought a series of disputes at the Lindsey Oil Refinery, the Visteon and Linamar car plants and the Vestas wind turbine factory.

We say that we must fight ALL the cuts, including Labour councils' cuts

Now it's the turn of all workers, their families and communities as the Con-Dems look to make us pay the price for the bankers' crisis. They want to take us back at least 80 years by decimating the NHS, education, public services and the welfare state.

From the beginning, NSSN supporters have played a leading role in setting up local anti-cuts campaigns. To aid the anti-cuts work, in January, at a conference of 600 trade unionists, community campaigners and young people, the NSSN launched its anti-cuts campaign with a majority trade unionist committee.

We say that we must fight ALL the cuts, including those of Labour councils, who shamefully have passed on the Con-Dems' cuts. Now we must fight the implementation of these cuts - library by library and school by school if necessary.

The 2011 NSSN conference will be held on 11 June at South Camden Community School, London NW1 1RG. The main discussions at the conference will be on the pensions strike, the anti-trade union laws and the NHS. Registration begins at 10.30am. For more information and to register as a delegate see: www.shopstewards.net and www.stopcuts.net