

Why are you marching?

Today we are facing the same questions concerning jobs and living standards as they did 75 years ago. The difference is we have more to lose now. The Con-Dem government wants to blot out the gains made in the decades since the original march. The student movement at the end of last year showed that young people are not prepared to see our futures torn to shreds. We now need unemployed youth and young workers to come into that struggle.

Paul Callanan, Youth Fight for Jobs national organiser

The Jarrow March is something my family members have talked about since I was a child - my great grandfather was one of those men who marched from Jarrow to London. My nan used to tell me stories of her life in Jarrow in the 1930s where she would run around with no shoes on because no one had money for their kids' shoes. And here I am almost 75 years later living in Britain with nearly one million young people without a job or the slightest hope of getting one.

Dylan Hussey, college student, Hertfordshire

This march is in the finest traditions of the workers' movement in the UK. This government has set an agenda which destroys the lives of a whole generation and forces many more into misery, poverty and fear, not by accident but by design. We will be fighting back! I will be marching in solidarity with those young people this and previous governments have attempted to scapegoat and throw on the scrap heap, to draw attention to the power of trade unions and the organised workers' movement to fight and to win!

Leah Maughan, library worker, London

I have struggled to find a job since leaving college a year ago, and many of my friends are in the same situation. Growing up I was fed the lies in school that by working hard at school and sixth form there would be the opportunity to then go on to university and get a good job with prospects. These bold claims of yesteryear have been proved false for all but the most privileged with the cutting of EMA and the rising of tuition fees.

In Hull we've got the second worst youth unemployment in the country and up to 83 people applying for every job, and this is before the Con-Dems' brutal slashing of public services has really started!

Matt Whale, unemployed, Hull

Youth unemployment is at a disgraceful high. Young people should be encouraged to fight back and realise this is not their fault, they are not lazy and they deserve a good job with good pay and reasonable hours.

Stephanie Maston, unemployed, Leeds

This government has thrown young people on the scrap heap. One million of us can't find work and I'm very worried for my future. I think the government should be investing in a programme of job creation for the unemployed, especially young people.

Jethro Waldron, student, Coventry

I am going to express my anger at the lack of jobs for young people and to show there is a fightback that can



photo Paul Mattsson

grow and can succeed.

Nick Parker, civil servant, Lincoln

I'm marching because I think everyone should have the right to a

decent job. If this system can't afford jobs for young people, we can't afford this system.

Rob Challinor, GMB member, Nottingham

Why are you supporting the march?

Three-quarters of a century on, the young people recreating this famous march are sending an important message that our communities must never again be abandoned to pay for an economic crisis they did not cause.

Instead of cutting jobs, pay and working conditions - and hacking away at our public services and our welfare state - the government should be investing to provide work and clamping down on the wealthy tax dodgers who deprive our public finances of tens of billions of pounds a year.

As we prepare for the largest public sector strike in decades as part of our fight against these cuts, on behalf of PCS, I send solidarity to the marchers and wish them well on their journey for justice.

Mark Serwotka, general secretary of the PCS civil servants union



photo Suzanne Beishon

The Fire Brigades Union supports the March for Jobs because youth unemployment is a national scandal.

The policies of the coalition government are destroying the future for a generation and it is fantastic to see young people getting organised and fighting back.

The memory of the unemployed campaigns of the 1920s and 30s should provide a lesson for the trade union movement today.

We cannot allow ourselves to be divided between those with work and those without it - that will only strengthen the government and our employers who want to use the recession to drive down our wages and conditions and to destroy our pensions.

We need a united fight against unemployment and for good quality, union organised jobs. We cannot allow this generation to be sacrificed because of the failures of the banks and big business.

I hope this campaign brings a new generation of young activists into the labour movement to fight for a future and to put the demands of young people to the trade union movement.

Matt Wrack, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union

My union RMT is proud to be supporting the Jarrow March for Jobs organised by Youth Fight for Jobs. The RMT-sponsored Easington Colliery brass band will play the marchers out of Jarrow and my general secretary, Bob Crow will welcome them to London at the rally at the end of the march in Trafalgar Square on 5 November.

We know young people are the first victims of the capitalist crisis, which is unfolding before our eyes. Day after day permanent job vacancies and apprenticeships dry up, new entrants, temporary and casual staff are shown the door and young people in Britain get doubly punished by having their educational opportunities snatched away from them with withdrawal of EMA and massive increases in student fees.

In some ways young people face worse problems today even than those my generation faced during the 1980s recession, because the labour market is now global and employers encourage cut-throat competition for jobs among a 'reserve army of labour' from all across the EU.

The march for jobs is an opportunity to rally together behind some inspiring (and very fit) young workers who are showing us that it doesn't have to be this way. Good jobs and a good future for young people have to be fought and campaigned for. Youth Fight for jobs has always campaigned for young

people to be active in trade unions and organised at work. You don't have to accept 'McJobs'. We deserve better than that.

Alex Gordon, president RMT train workers union

Teachers and students work hard for the exam results that are meant to open the door for our school leavers to full-time work or further study.

Yet, this summer, 200,000 have been left without a university place. The scrapping of the EMA has stolen away vital financial support from many thousands more 16-19 year olds. One in five young people are already unemployed - and the cuts mean there is worse to come. Youth deserve better - but, as we've found over teachers' pensions - to defeat cuts and defend your future, you have to organise.

The 2011 Jarrow March is exactly what's needed to galvanise young people into that organised fightback. I'll be backing the march - as is my local NUT Association in Lewisham.

I hope teachers and all trade unionists will be welcoming the marchers right along the route and publicising this tremendous initiative in our schools and workplaces.

Martin Powell-Davies, member of the National Union of Teachers executive