Hospitals are under massive pressure. What shall we do? Let’s build more hospitals, train and employ more medical staff, devote more resources to providing a good service...

Or not. If you’re a government minister or fat cat health bureaucrat, let’s just blame the patients for turning up to A&E. No wonder people are dying in corridors.

A&E departments aren’t meeting their targets - let’s just change the targets.

Let’s attack the Red Cross for exposing the “humanitarian crisis” which the Tory government and its rich backers are presiding over.

Theresa May and health secretary Jeremy Hunt squirm and try to lie themselves out of the blame for this crisis.

Yet Hunt has blurted out that, for years, funds have been siphoned out of areas like mental health treatment to prop up the rest of the collapsing NHS. But the best that Labour can do is to accuse the Tories of being in “la la land” and tell them to “get a grip”.

Avalanche

The avalanche of privatisation is clear. If you need a test or a scan these days, you’re often sent to a private centre - usually an anonymous office block which someone has rented out, probably with grants to buy the equipment. It’s a licence to print money, getting shed-loads of cash off the NHS and private patients. Where big business can make an easy profit, it will.

Let’s take all those facilities back into the NHS. Let’s scrap all rip-off PFI privatisation schemes and cancel all the health trusts’ debts. Why should we waste resources paying, for decades, multinational construction firms for building or running our hospitals?

Let’s expand the NHS to take full advantage of the latest developments in medical science. We can pay all NHS staff a decent wage. We can devote the resources needed to provide healthcare outside hospitals.

More importantly, we can run the NHS democratically for the benefit of us all, not for the profits of big business. Let’s get rid of the humanitarian crisis by having a humanitarian revolution!

We need a bit more than “get a grip” - we need a socialist programme to transform the NHS.
We’re sick of sham consultations – give us a real fightback!

After the December in-strike victory vote, the RMT intends to return to action in a coordinated way.

**STRIKES SHOW WORKERS’ POWER**

**Coordinated action on a mass scale needed**

**What we think**

After the December in-strike vote, the RMT plans to return to action in a coordinated way. This is the beginning of a new phase of action that will see the trade unions fighting against the threat of cuts and closure of ticket offices. As predicted by unions, a review of the situation in the Underground has shown that there is a need for more resources in order to keep the service running.

The Tories are now accusing the transport unions of taking action to “inflict maximum pain on the electorate”. This is nonsense. The unions are taking action to defend the interests of ordinary Londoners.

The mass movement of workers will be the key to winning this battle. The unions must work together to ensure that the workers are organised and prepared to fight.

The Labour Party has the potential to win.

**HARINGEY: PRESSURE GROWS AS LABOUR COUNCIL PLOUGHS AHEAD WITH CUTS**

Haringey council’s ‘steering committee’ will apparently recommend a delay to a massive social transfer for elderly people who have lost their pensions. However, the committee has yet to decide on the final contract, and it is clear that the council’s decision will be taken in the interest of ordinary Londoners.

The committee has received no offers of financial support from national level organisations. However, there is hope that the committee will be able to negotiate an additional source of funding.

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Northern Ireland: socialist alternative needed

Cash for scandal set to bring down NI government

Edited statement from Labour Alternative, a cross-section political alliance in Northern Ireland between trade unionists and left activists, including the Socialist Party (SNP Inters)

The “unsustainable heat” implicit in the scandal has prompted Martin McGuinness’s resignation as Northern Ireland’s deputy first minister, which looks set to trigger a fresh assembly election.

This comes as everything which is wrong with Northern Irish politics—cronyism, corruption, sectarian sabotage and divisions—is in smoke through the vast ad absurdum express train of cash for ash.

The DUP and Sinn Féin built entire constellations of public support through their ambition to provide a cross-community, radiating benefits for Northern Ireland. They cast a spell of false hope to their electorate.

But both the DUP and Sinn Féin uphold opportunist and short-sighted policies which will erode through the decades. One of the most distressing things is the level of non-pro-choice, some of the main parties sponsor a woman’s freedom to control her own body.

A fresh election will be a complex struggle for the party to provide any solutions. In fact, the DUP attitude rises against any chance of peace.

While surviving many of the deep inequalities we are facing, the lack of confidence to provide solutions. In short, the demand for solutions and the desires of society.

Martin McGuinness was a symbol of the determination of a people to change society.

He weeps crocodile tears over the army of workers in insecure, precarious work, since the average life of a London Underground worker is working before they receive for the third day just a £1,000 an hour. These bosses had were driving them to respond to the demands for which was voted.

So is this an attempt by Blair to hype up anti-worker Blairite politics!

Meanwhile, in Grimsby, 42 struggling families have no more than 50p a week to eat. The Times: the benefit cap came into force on 7 November. “We don’t want to be.” The artistic community includes axed axeman Community leader, has been described as a “publicly available data.” But which government is it again

And in London, £100,000 people are homeless. 47% of them are single, 23% are women, and 17% are male.

The gulf in pay is undoubtedly widening. Undoubtedly some bosses do want for this, but these bosses are not.

Does our prime minister think we will not see an increase in the number of new homes rising exponentially, while the amount of ‘publicly available data.’ But which government is it again

And which government is it again

So is this an attempt by Blair to hype up anti-worker Blairite politics!

While outlining many of the deep inequalities we are facing, the lack of solutions.

The Tories’ new benefit cap strikes are seen as a private prison system.

The SNP, through its local government, has been forced to accelerate housing budgets, which is a significant reason for the rise in the number of council house

Programme of mass council house building embarked upon.

As long as super-rich minority billionaires own and controls the top corporate

And which government is it again

While outlining many of the deep inequalities we are facing, the lack of solutions.

The gulf in pay is widening.

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Why shouldn’t workers own the underground? Why shouldn’t workers own this? We have every right to demand of bosses?

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LONDON TUBE STRIKE SOLID IN FIGHT FOR JOBS AND SAFETY

John Reid
Outgoing RMT executive member

The strike of 4,000 station staff between 8 and 9 January brought London to a standstill on a very busy back-to-work day when up to 4.8 million passenger journeys would have taken place in the capital.

This was a pivotal moment for station staff, who showed their power. It is testament to the fighting strategy of the RMT. The RMT’s actions brought over rank-and-file TSSA reps and members in revolt against their leaders, who had attempted to do a shabby deal with the strike-busting mayor Sadiq Khan.

Many train drivers also quite rightly refused to drive their trains on the grounds of safety, as stations - the few that were open - were staffed by untrained and unqualified staff.

Mayor Khan, instead of condemning strikes, should find the money to fund the hundreds of extra frontline jobs that are necessary to staff the underground, which carries many passengers than the combined numbers of all Britain’s other rail networks.

A salary cap of managers at £100,000 a year, instead of the £600,000 that some of them get, would be a start.

Bringing cleaning and engineering back “in house” would also save millions. The underground is very soon going to have its subsidy removed, which would make it the only major metro system in the world to be unsubsidised. This must be reversed.

Indeed, we call for an increase in funding to provide a fully staffed, fully publically owned service, which would provide a cheap and safe underground for the people who use the service.

Leytonstone

Going along to the picket line at Leytonstone station was energising and inspiring. We listened to station staff explaining their experiences and their reason for striking. The drastic cuts to station staffing on the Underground have resulted in many stations being closed and some very busy stations left running without any staff. They are told last minute where to drop off the keys to the station because there is no one else to replace them. They are forced to stay behind. Worst of all, some of them are left alone to run a very busy station. This puts their safety at risk, as well as travellers’ safety.

Isai Priya

Barking

Pickets at Barking train station gave out 1,000 leaflets to C2C rail commuters who, with one or two exceptions, fully understood that the strike is about their safety and their service.

As Colin Hall, Barking station rep, explained to the Socialist: “I think people had had enough of austerity. They realise we are all workers together. There’s not enough staff on the Underground to keep it safe and that’s what we are proving. We’ve proved it today because the service has shut down.”

Pete Mason

Victoria

Having walked passed numerous closed tube stations, I found a lively picket line at Victoria station of around 20 workers from RMT and TSSA.

One striker told me that while working alone on New Year’s Eve she was sexually assaulted by a passenger. These are the dangerous conditions that underground staff find themselves working in.

Another striker explained that many stations are operating below minimum staffing numbers and of the staff that are there, many are from a new lower grade and are not trained in safety to place them. They are forced to stay behind. Worst of all, some of them are left alone to run a very busy station. This puts their safety at risk, as well as travellers’ safety.

Helen Pattison

See socialistparty.org.uk for more

Sham Royal Mail pensions consultation should be met with action

Carl Harper
CWU representative and Peterborough Socialist Party

Royal Mail has announced a ‘formal consultation’ on the pensions plans of its workers, following a national statement with ‘proposals’ sent to workers’ home addresses.

The Communication Workers’ Union (CWU) has replied with a statement to the company that any non-agreed pension changes will be met with a national strike ballot. Members of my branch supported this position unanimously at a gate meeting on 6 January.

Deputy General Secretary Terry Pullinger said of the consultation: “We have anticipated [it] for some months... we move from shadow boxing to the ring.” In reality, following privatisation, it is less a boxing match and more a strategy of ‘death by a thousand cuts.’

A pension dispute is likely to be followed by further cuts as the company looks to claw back the terms and conditions of employment we have won in the past, in search of profits and as an ideological attack on the CWU.

Between the lines in the cover letter accompanying the consultation pack, we see an indication that cost - or more specifically profit - is the driving force behind this attack.

The company states in the letter that any new deal will be in line with other companies’ pension plans - signalling a race to the bottom on our pensions, justified in their opinion by achieving a stable return for shareholders.

The unanimous vote by members is a welcome sign that they understand the full significance and potential magnitude of this attack and stand resolutely in opposition to pension changes which have not been agreed by us as a trade union.

Action should link these attacks to the privatisation of the postal service and a campaign for renationalisation of the company and the wider postal industry.
Support BA cabin crews strike for fair pay

Chris Newby
London Socialist Party

British Airways (BA) cabin crew, members of general union Unite, at Heathrow airport took 48 hours’ strike action against poverty pay starting on 10 January.

Despite the heroic battle of cabin crew six years ago to defend pay and conditions, British Airways management forced through new contracts on far worse terms and conditions for all new starters.

This has led to a situation where cabin crew working on the mixed fleet contract have basic pay starting at £12,192, plus £3 an hour “flying pay” totalling an average pay of only £10,000, including allowances each year.

Mixed fleet cabin crew work on a combination of long and short haul flights.

A recent survey revealed that almost half of new cabin crew had taken on a second job to make ends meet, with some saying they had to sleep in their cars between shifts because they could not afford the petrol to drive home.

Two-thirds admitted to going to work unflit to fly because they could not afford to be off sick. Yet the parent company of BA, IAG, is forecast to make profits this year of £2.3 billion.

These pay levels are some of the lowest in the industry. The determination of the cabin crew to win better pay and conditions is shown by the fact that over 800 cabin crew from British Airways’ mixed fleet have joined Unite since the start of the dispute over poverty pay.

The Socialist Party fully supports cabin crew in this struggle.

UNISON LEGAL BATTLE LOOKS INTO ALLEGATIONS ‘TEAM DAVE’ BROKE RULES DURING GENERAL SECRETARY ELECTION

Unison General Secretary Dave Prentis

For years Unison activists have suspected that there has been illegitimate interference from unelected officials in the union elections in breach of the rules. As such the 2015 general secretary election was no different, except this time they got caught red handed.

The Union had hoped to silence the anger of the members. Unfortunately for them the three left of Prentis candidates weren’t going to let them off that easily and now a court will determine if the election was free and fair and if it should be re-run.

Complaints

Unison national executive committeep member Roger Bannister, who was one of the candidates, is currently locked in this legal battle with the union. There are three other similar cases also being heard.

Roger has made two complaints. Firstly, that a meeting held in the greater London region for all organising staff breached the rules by organising for incumbent general secretary Dave Prentis during the election, when the rules are clear that no Unison resources should be used on behalf of any candidate.

And secondly that election rules were changed unconstitutionally during the election in order to get around the fact that the Prentis camp were breaking the rules.

All complainants are claiming that there was so much widespread malpractice and breaches of the rules by unelected full-time officials that the election should be re-run again.

In the face of overwhelming evidence, the union is not disputing this — but claiming that their appeal was taken on the basis of cooperating with rules by unelected full-time officials that the election should be re-run again.

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As such, the union wasn’t liable for her actions. In addition the problems were contained to London, and such was the margin of Prentis victory that even if his London vote was discounted, he would have still won. After three days of the hearing on 19-21 December, the outcome is an open question.

The judge is clearly of the view that there was a shoddy and overly restrictive investigation into one official only, when there was clear evidence that there was the open and willing participation to knowingly break the rules by the majority of London officials in the infamous meeting.

At one point she asked a national union official, pointing out that in the tape the regional secretary was instructing staff to lie, “wouldn’t this normally result in summary dismissal?” The officer being questioned had no option but to agree.

What also came out in the hearing was the extent of the involvement of senior national officials in ‘Team Dave’ (his campaign team).

In breach of the rules they organised a meeting of paid officials on behalf of the union, to launch his campaign. They subsequently intervened to overturn a decision of the union election officer and the Electoral Reform Society by not allowing branches to say why they had nominated a candidate, only the fact that they had.

The judge was also clearly unhappy that when a complainant raised that this was a breach of the rules, he was served with a lawyer’s letter threatening him with libel by the union. The judge seeing this as an attempt to silence complaints.

Team Dave

The decision to only investigate one official was taken by the president (a member of Team Dave); the investigating officer appointed was a member of Team Dave and the panel hearing the case were members of Team Dave!

Whatever the outcome of the case, it won’t be good for the union leadership. They could be forced to re-run the election, and/or initiate further action against other officials in London.

In the meantime, the left in Unison needs to let rank-and-file members know exactly what is going on.

Through the newly-formed Unions Action group, we must assemble slates of candidates for this year’s NEC elections to ensure that an anti-Prentis majority is elected.

See socialistsparty.org.uk for full article

[News in brief]

Harrods demo arrest

Hundreds of protesters descended on plush west London department store Harrods on 7 January in protest at the company retaining 75% of its waiters tips, as reported in the last issue of the Socialist. The United Voices of the World (UWW) trade union is taking on Harrods and organised the demo. After it emerged the union’s general secretary Petros Elia, along with other union members and protesters were arrested. After his release Petros said: “I was kept in a cell for around 17 hours at Belgravia Police Station and released without charge along with other UWW members and other protesters. Needless to say that the allegation against me is 100% false, not that the police were interested in evidence at the point of arrest. Despite there being not a shred of evidence against me I have been released on bail and prohibited from going within 50 metres of Harrods. The policy has therefore temporarily banned me from representing members of UWW at Harrods or from protesting outside their store. On a side note, the demo was fantastic and we will now be escalating the campaign with a run of demonstrations and other actions at Harrods until 100% of tips go to staff.”

Cinema strike

Hackney Picturehouse workers have held a series of successful strikes including on New Year’s Day. To widen and increase the pressure on management, all Bectu members were balloted at Picturehouse cinemas at the Ritzy (South London), in Hackney and Piccadilly Circus, with turnouts of 75%, 85% and 62% respectively. The vote for strike action was a huge 93%, 100% and 100% majority at the three sites. Despite this, following a threatened legal challenge by Picturehouse owners Cineworld, the strike planned for 13 January has been called off. There may be protests taking place at all three sites.

Brian Debus
Hackney Socialist Party
The last 12 months have been the worst in the his- tory of the NHS. It’s under pressure like never before.

The crisis moment came of its own. According to Dr Nikki Kanani, chair of the Royal College of GPs, the NHS is facing its ‘worst pe- riod’ yet.

Crucial funding now is less secure than ever with a average of 1.5% a year, which is 3% below the NHS’s own recom- mendation. Dr Kanani said: “It is crystal clear to us that the NHS is in crisis.”

Pressure from campaigners has already increased the risk of infection in hospitals with cases of coronavirus in hospitals now at a five-year high. Despite plaudits parades from the government that they are investing in the NHS, the state of the service has never been worse, with a 12% increase in the number of people waiting for treatment. Meanwhile, taking just three months to turn a group of patients away from the hospital to cope with work being shifted out of the system. What this amounts to is a finan- cial crisis for the NHS.

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### Socialist Party National Women’s Meeting

**Date:** September 2016

**Location:** South West and West Lancashire Socialist Party

**Title:** Taking leadership roles within trade unions, the student movement and its community campaigns.

The final women of the day, on abortion rights under attack and the fight to defend the right to choose.

Abortion

In Poland up to 146,000 marched in response to restrictions being put in place. In Ireland the campaign demanding the repeal of the Eighth Amendment — which the Socialist Party has always argued is a fundamental right — continues to go from strength to strength.

The Centre for Reproductive Rights recently gave testimony to the UN Committee on the Rights of Women. It called for an end to restrictive abortion laws in Europe. Fundamentally, abortion is a human right and a fundamental human right that must be respected around the world.

### Socialist Party National Treasurer

The Socialist Party relies entirely on the financial support of ordinary members and raising funds through its fighting fund.

The fighting fund is vital to help maintain our profile and ensure our bosses’ agenda.

The fighting fund is used to help maintain our profile and ensure our struggle is visible. With more than 60 branches across the UK, only a fraction of our members donate. More and more people are giving through our website, possibly following a discussion with one of our members, and making a donation.

### Donations

- **An important way to help:**
  - By making a donation to the fighting fund through our website.
  - By sending a cheque to PO Box 8287, Southwark, London SE11 1YD
  - By paying by card via socialistparty.org.uk

**Donate today!**

If you agree with what we want to achieve in the Socialist Party, consider making a donation to the Socialist Party’s fighting fund.

#### Total donations made)

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#### New parents

In addition, children’s centres offer play spaces every day. For instance, 50 years ago, there would be a free one-hour session. Today, some centres charge up to £5 per hour. This is important, especially for working-class families.

#### Closing of the children’s centres could cost lives

The centres are a great place for integration which can help in the fight against racism. In addition, they have a multicultural atmosphere and are a test of the NHS crisis and the fightback.
FOOTBALL ABUSE SCANDAL

Reclaim the game for justice and accountability

__Further reading:__
- Reid - a socialist programme for the 21st century by Peter Taaffe. Cuba is one of the world’s most hotly contested and heavily assisted “enemies of the state.” In real life, tanks and army divisions were deployed to Heathrow airport - on two occasions, without Labour’s defence sec- tion, without Labour’s defence sec- tions, without Labour’s defence sec- tions, without Labour’s defence sec- tions, without Labour’s defence sec- tions, without Labour’s defence sec- tions, without Labour’s defence sec- tions, without Labour’s defence sec- tions, without Labour’s defence sec- tions.
- Wilson’s novel. In real life, tanks were used to intimidate and overthrow Harold Wilson, who never had US citizenship, and eventually left power.
- Wilson was the unarmed candidate of Labour’s right wing, as well as the capitalists, the CIA, MI6 and MI5 - as was Edward Wilson, a native of Balti- more who wrote a novel of the same name.
- In 1964, 1966 and again in 1974, the Labour Party for power - an Oxbridge-led elite that felt comfortable within the traditional ruling circles of Britain. The real class nature of the Labour Party was exposed in 2001 under Tony Blair, when Militant was attacked by the ruling elite and maverick sec- tionaries.
- Significantly, Edward Wilson does not mention the Labour Party’s policies or the 1964-1970 coalition government. As an unnamed press baron in the novel, he was sympathetic towards Harold Wilson’s Labour government, while a banker later does the same, declaring: “We have no intention of leaving the Labour government when it is replaced by a Coalition government.”
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PALESTINE/ISRAEL. EVERYDAY LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION

Discussion at Socialist Conference in Tel Aviv

Just before Christmas the United Nations security council symbolically voted 14-0 declaring Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank as illegal. The United States abstained, denying a veto sought by Natanyahu’s right-wing coalition government in Israel and US President-elect Donald Trump.

A week earlier, Socialist Struggle Movement – the Israel/Palestine section of the Committee for a Workers’ International (CWI) hosted its annual Socialist conference in Tel Aviv where the major themes of debate were: the fight against Natanyahu’s right-wing government, racism and the occupation. There were also discussions on the extreme right, trade unionism, the environment, women and LGBT rights, and more. In the following report Per-Ake Westerlund of Ratsforsapartiet Socialist League (Sweden) guest speaker gives a flavour of a highly successful event.

Socialist Struggle Movement

With close to 150 people and a record number of militants, the conference was a success.

Four days before Socialist conference, the Israeli executive committee of the Organisation Mondiale des Travailleurs, member of the anti-racist and anti-colonial activists in occupied Palestine, a group was shot dead with a rubber coated bullet. We’ve united, with a case as support, in the struggle against the settlment’s evacuation and the occupation of East Jerusalem. This always linking the attack of the army, border police and police. I have over 500 films on violence, abuse, and more. The Israelis have blocked off a street. I filmed and take a photo. They did not react, and then the road Then I was shot, said Mohammed.

No 2014 he was shot in the leg with the ammunition during a protest against the war and slaughter of civilians. He was arrested and interrogated, but did not report it as the police would not allow him. In January 2015, his 12-year-old son was shot in the head with a rubber coated bullet. He had been shot a stone at them. They hit him and left him to bleed, but survived.

Settlements

Ministers mentioned the growth of Israeli state violence and repression has increased with the growth of elements in East Jerusalem. Another large area of 440 square kilometres is to be taken over.

The minister of housing and buildings were destroyed in the first half of 2014 than during all of 2013. The demolitions are used in 30 years, according to the NGO B’Tselem.

The government’s demolition housing in East Jerusalem has led to the violation of the human rights of many. This includes freedom of movement and the right to housing, stated Mohammed.

Control

The description of East Jerusalem was confirmed by Yossi Zouhri from the organization Breaking The Silence, which contains former Israeli soldiers against war and occupation.

The most heavily militarized area in the Greater Jerusalem is the neighborhood of Issawiya. It is about control. They show presence of a wall that allows them to move in the area.

The Israeli state exercises control over two different systems: in Israel and the Palestinian Author- ity areas, which in practice is in the Israeli ‘protectorate’. Also, in Israeli democratic rights are increasingly restricted. The Palestinian’s collective existence is to be replaced with some autonomy and control. Kick out private contractors!

The state’s behaviour in the occupied territories is an apartheid-style regime on Palestinians living in this area.

The 12-year-old ended up in a coma, but survived. The 12-year-old ended up in a coma, but survived. The state’s behaviour in the occupied territories is an apartheid-style regime on Palestinians living in this area.

The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) soldiers out in force against anti-settlement protesters. Photo Shahar Benhorin. Israeli Defence Force (IDF) soldiers out in force against anti-settlement protesters photo Per-Ake Westerlund

Work and income

Work and income are a maximum 35-hour week with no overtime. This is to be regularized. A maximum 35-hour week with no overtime. This is to be regularized. A maximum 35-hour week with no overtime. This is to be regularized. A maximum 35-hour week with no overtime. This is to be regularized.

The government has no right to demolish any building – the arrest can be prolonged for anyone for a period of six months.

Teachers’ strike

Repression is also a sign of the regime’s worry. For example a ‘code of ethics’ that the ministry of education wants to impose on universities in Israel prohibits lecturers and teachers from taking part in demonstrations against the occupation. The laws that are designed to stop the growth of the occupied territories.

The occupation continues and deepens.

At the same time, Netanyahu is on a collision course with history in the year 2015, with the resolution in Toronto and Egypt, and hundreds of thousands in the streets of Israel in over two months against price increases and the housing crisis, support for the general strike in East Jerusalem. The strike movement in the region and the lack of attention in the international media and that allow for the ruling class to continue to enrich themselves.

Media and not just the attention of teachers needed to build solidarity. Socialist Struggle Movement need to support thousands of occupations against the occupation and against the oppression of the Palestinians in response to any notion of common interests against Israeli capitalists, and for democratic social changes without national oppression.

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As Donald Trump is sworn in as US President, Socialist Alternative, our US co-thinkers, have put out a call for people to take to the streets in protest against his racist and sexist ideas. When a similar call was made on the day of the election, 40,000 people protested in a matter of hours.

This time there will also be solidarity protests around the world organised by socialists fighting for an alternative to the reactionary ideas of Trump and the misery ordinary people have faced over the last eight years of capitalist crisis. Eight years marked by the destruction of decent, skilled jobs and their replacement with minimum wage, precarious work.

Trump’s election took place against the backdrop of a broken capitalist system, unable to provide a decent standard of living for ordinary working class people. But rather than a stunning endorsement of Trump and his ideas (Trump lost the popular vote), in reality the presidential election was a failure of the two-party system and the Democratic Party establishment.

The primaries were dominated by a massive mobilisation of working class people around Bernie Sanders’ campaign calling for a ‘political revolution’. Even in London classrooms, student members of the Socialist Party report that while people despise Trump, no one liked Clinton either.

Bernie Sanders’ campaign showed that many workers and young people not only reject the reactionary ideas of Trump, but also believe in the need for an alternative to the rule of Wall Street and big business. His popularity showed the scope for a new party of working class people which could put out a call for jobs, homes and services for all. A party with these demands could start to undo the divisive impact of Trump’s ideas.

The protests against Trump’s inauguration must just be the beginning. A serious fight is needed against war, racism and austerity. We must build mass movements in the interest of the 99% and for a socialist alternative to the misery of capitalism.

See socialiststudents.org.uk for protest details