



# London's Bus Workers have had enough!

## STRIKE FOR...

# ONE RATE

### Attacks on our pay

The Socialist Party fully supports this London wide bus strike of 27,000 workers. The enormous anger that exists amongst bus workers was shown in the ballot result where over 84% voted in favour of strike action and in the recent 100+ strong picket line at Lea Interchange in the recent Tower Transit strike. The last seven years have been the most ruthless with bus workers having to endure miniscule pay 'rises' which in real terms have meant pay cuts due to inflation. This London wide bus strike will have a massive effect not only on all bus workers but on workers throughout London

There is a huge disparity in pay, terms and conditions across the 17 different bus operating companies who each have up to 5 different pay scales for drivers all doing exactly the same job. Hourly rates can vary by as much as £6.00 per hour with the lowest being £9.75ph to the highest at £15.26ph. When drivers first start their job they may have to stay at the low rate for up to 5 years before moving up the ladder to the higher rates. This of course is unacceptable and we support the

current campaign for Sector Wide Negotiation (SWN) one pay scale and one set of terms and conditions - the best, for all London bus workers.

The fantastic victorious strike in 2012 that won the Olympic bonus showed that London busworkers are prepared to fight and win and we can win now. Today's action will give bus workers confidence. This is a major campaign which will require a determined battle and we need a diary of escalating action of more strikes that show the bosses we mean business.

### Build the branches

This campaign could also be used to help build the branches. Members work long hours and unsocial shifts so they find it extremely difficult to get active. There are particular difficulties in organising across so many separate bus firms in London but the strike over the Olympic bonus showed what can be achieved. The important thing now is to build strong active union branches in all the garages. We need branches that meet regularly and keep members informed.

# FOR THE JOB

### Strike together

London bus workers are, like many other workers, facing big attacks on their jobs, pay and conditions. George Osborne's Autumn Statement was a declaration of war on working class people, threatening to take us back to the conditions of the 1930s. Unfortunately Ed Balls has made it clear that whoever wins the general election in May we are going to face the fight of our lives. The effect of all London bus workers coming out on strike will be massive but just imagine the effect that a 24 hour general strike would have. Last year the magnificent July 10 strike saw

over a million public sector workers take strike action and in the last few months of 2014, firefighters and NHS workers have been on strike.

But pressure must be built within the unions to go further by calling for more dates of co-ordinated action and also reaching out to workers in the private sector. This includes London busworkers as well as the London Underground tube workers who have been on strike last year. In fact, Socialist Party members in the RMT have successfully argued that their union should support the bus workers' struggle and co-ordinate future RMT action where possible with any bus strike.

## Meeting for Bus workers - Build the strikes

5pm-7pm

Friday 16th January

Lucas Arms

245A Gray's Inn Road

Holborn

WC1X 8QZ

For more info ring  
07906 591794

## Build a real alternative – Build TUSC

This Con Dem government has wreaked havoc on workers, slashing public services, attacking workers' jobs, wages and conditions and cutting benefits. Would Labour be much different? Labour has promised, that, if elected, they would continue a similar programme of austerity. Yes, in 1994 it was a Tory government that privatised London's buses letting firms come and buy up a public service cheaply. Since then hundreds of millions of pounds have gone to these profiteers in public subsidy annually. Yet in their 13 years in government Labour did nothing to bring London buses back into the public sector.

The Socialist Party is part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) along with the RMT transport union and key leading union activists, other socialists and community campaigners. TUSC was initiated to provide an anti-cuts alternative to all the three main parties. A coalition that says no to all cuts, defends public services and stands up for trade unionists and the poor. Unite members were part of a 561-strong anti-cuts TUSC stand in

**Support Suzanne Muna for  
Unite London & Eastern  
territorial Executive seat –**  
there is going to be a by-election in the next few weeks for this vacant seat. Suzanne is the branch secretary of the LE/1111

housing workers branch that has organised a whole number of disputes over the last few years, including victories at St Mungo's Broadway and HCA.



last May's council elections and will be standing 100 General Election candidates this May.

## Join the Socialists

We live in a capitalist society – where the profits of the few always come before the needs of the many. The Socialist Party argues for a democratic socialist society where the major corporations and banks that dominate the British economy are taken into democratic public ownership. That would allow production to be planned to meet the needs of the population and the environment, rather than to line the pockets of a few billionaires.

# TUSC AGAINST CUTS

The **Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition** (TUSC) was set-up in 2010 to enable trade unionists, community campaigners and socialists to stand candidates against the pro-austerity establishments parties.

TUSC has a clear position of opposing all cuts, and candidates endorse a clear 10-point programme (see the website).

TUSC was co-founded by the late **Bob Crow** and includes other leading trade union fighters and socialists, including the Socialist Party.

For more information see  
[www.tusc.org.uk](http://www.tusc.org.uk)




 **nationalshopstewardsnetwork**

The NSSN was initiated by the RMT in 2006. Eight national unions – RMT, PCS, CWU, NUM, POA, NUJ, BFAWU & NAPO – officially support our campaigning work, as well as many union branches, shop stewards committees and trade councils.

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

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