

# SUPPORT JUNIOR DOCTORS' STRIKE SAVE OUR NHS NO PRIVATISATION



## JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

Text JOIN with your name & postcode to 07761 818206  
e: [join@socialistparty.org.uk](mailto:join@socialistparty.org.uk)  
t: 020 8988 8777  
a: Socialist Party, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD  
t: @socialist\_party  
f: Socialist Party



## Subscribe to the Socialist



Weekly paper of the Socialist Party  
[www.socialistparty.org.uk/main/subscribe](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/main/subscribe)



100% **TUSC**  
ANTI- **AGAINST**  
AUSTERITY **CUTS**

The Socialist Party is part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition

[tusc.org.uk](http://tusc.org.uk)

[socialistparty.org.uk](http://socialistparty.org.uk)

Junior doctors' historic vote for strike action shows determination to defeat the government's attempt to turn the clock back. Jeremy Hunt wants to reverse gains made since the 1975 junior doctors' strike by removing payment for unsocial hours.

98% voted Yes to strikes on a 76% turnout. At the general election the Tories won just 36.7% of a 66% turnout. What a message this incredible vote sends to the Tories a week after their 'anti'-Trade Union Bill got its 3rd reading in the House of Commons! The Tories have no mandate to wreck the NHS. But that's what they are trying to do.

Hunt's contract, which he threatened to impose on junior doctors, opens the door to doctors working longer hours for less pay. Under pressure of the huge demonstrations he came up with an 11% rise in basic pay. Junior doctors saw through that sham. Many would still have lost out because of loss of unsocial hours payments. Pay would most likely then have been frozen for several years.

Hunt is still trying to spread the myth that his contract is about improving weekend service. Junior doctors have always provided a round the clock service. Longer hours mean tired doctors having to make critical decisions while caring for patients and relatives.

Doctors are also entitled to time with their families, to wind down after stressful shifts and to take care of their own health by eating properly and having time to exercise.

If Hunt were to succeed in imposing this contract, consultants and GPs are his next target. He aims to attack all health workers' terms and conditions.

All health trade unions should immediately campaign for united strike action throughout the NHS, in solidarity with junior doctors and to defend all health workers and the NHS itself.

The BMA's programme of escalating action is more effective than the 4-hour walkouts over pay called by health unions in 2014. More action may be needed after these three December strikes. National NHS strikes, with emergency cover decided by local health

unions, would rock this weak divided government. Junior doctors should vote on any new offer before it is accepted by the BMA.

**"OUR AMBITION SHOULD BE TO  
BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS  
BETWEEN PRIVATE AND  
PUBLIC PROVISION, IN EFFECT  
DENATIONALISING THE PROVISION OF  
HEALTH CARE IN BRITAIN"**

**Jeremy Hunt in 2005**

The Tories aim to undermine the NHS with cuts and crisis. They hope that will reduce opposition to their goal – privatisation and a two-tier health service, with minimal free emergency care and payment to profit-making companies for anything extra.



Circle ran Hinchingbrooke Hospital in Cambridgeshire from 2012 to 2015 but found it couldn't make enough money. Profit-making corporations want health workers' pay and conditions cut. The NHS should be run for patients, not profits!

A call from the BMA for support from all workers would have a big impact. All trade unions should now campaign among their members in defence of the NHS. In 1988 dockers, miners and bus workers went on strike supporting striking nurses. With a clear lead from the TUC and particularly the left-led unions, millions of workers would take co-ordinated strike action to defend the NHS.

The growing NHS crisis is a result of the internal market, massive PFI debt, years of under-funding, profiteering by privatised services, pharmaceutical and medical supplies industries. Both Labour and Tory governments pushed this big business agenda through.

**A socialist programme would reverse all privatisation, end all cuts and nationalise pharmaceutical and medical supplies industries. Instead of being run by managers implementing a capitalist government agenda, it should be democratically planned and managed.**

Jeremy Corbyn now leads Labour and has rightly said, "It's our NHS. Let's not just protect it from being further destroyed but let's take it back and ensure it's completely publicly run and publicly accountable." But most Labour MPs and councillors don't support him.

To achieve Corbyn's aim and defend their future, junior doctors need to join together with other workers, helping to build a movement to challenge the rule of big business and its political representatives that is destroying our NHS.

Do you agree?

**JOIN THE  
SOCIALIST PARTY**

See over for details