

The Tory Trade Union Bill has completed its journey through the Parliamentary process to become law. Disgracefully, the TUC has not organised a single national demonstration against the Bill. In reality, the Tories recognise the potential power of the unions, still with over 6 million members, to be the major barrier to their cuts. But to fulfil this potential requires mass demonstrations and co-ordinated strike action. The heroic struggle of the Junior Doctors only emphasises how broad layers in society could be united in a movement against this weak, divided and tainted government.

Instead of such a mass campaign, the TUC's opposition has been reduced to lobbying the House of Lords. They celebrate the pruning of some aspects of the Bill. But still enshrined in it are the utterly undemocratic voting thresholds that, if applied to local government, would mean that hardly a councillor would be elected, as are measures to victimise lead pickets.

The NSSN calls for an emergency TUC Congress to discuss how the Act can be resisted. This is what happened when previous Tory PM Heath brought in the Industrial Relations Act in 1971 which was subsequently defeated after a whole series of strikes. Such a congress, which should be opened to thousands of shop stewards and union reps, could be a 'Council of War' that takes inspiration from the Junior Doctors and teachers whose ballot for strikes against forced academies pushed the Tories into another U-turn, although the battle to defend education and teachers' pay and conditions continues.

Fight for a 24-hour general strike

It's becoming increasingly clear that workers are up for the fight. There are disputes breaking out every week – but how do we bring them all together? Prison officers without a legal right to strike have walked out against brutal staff cuts, while PCS museum staff in Wales have been on all-out strike. Steelworkers are supporting the NSSN's call for 100% nationalisation to save their jobs and communities, while black-listed construction workers have won millions of pounds after an incredible seven-year struggle for justice.

It's a disgrace that on the very day that marked the 90th anniversary of the 1926 General Strike, the Tories have been able to bring in the most serious attack on unions for three decades with hardly a squeak from the TUC and many union leaders. But the NSSN along with thousands of union activists will be fighting for mass action on the scale of a 24-hour general strike to defeat the Tories, their cuts and the anti-union laws.

REGISTRATION FORM £6 registration fees

Name & union

Address

Postcode **Phone**

Email

Cheques made payable to "National Shop Stewards Network". Pay on the day or send money and details to: NSSN, PO Box 54498, London E10 9DE – info@shopstewards.net – www.shopstewards.net