

STRIKE TOGETHER TO STOP DOO!

RE-NATIONALISE THE RAILWAYS!

The Socialist Party says:

- Keep a safety-critical guard on ALL trains - no to DOO!
- Support the right to 'turn up and go' for vulnerable and disabled travellers, for a safe and fully accessible railway
- Renationalise the railways - no compensation to profiteering rail bosses and major shareholders



Do you agree with us?

**WE NEED YOU TO
JOIN THE SOCIALIST
PARTY TODAY**

The Socialist Party in England and Wales is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), which links us together with socialist organisations all over the world.

We say: take the wealth off the billionaires.

Fight for a society that works in the interests of the 99%.

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**100%
ANTI-AUSTERITY**

The Socialist Party is part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition: tusc.org.uk

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It's barely the second week of the new year and guards at five train operating companies are taking strike action in defence of railway safety.

While greedy bosses push forward with their plans to de-skill and then de-staff the railways in order to ratchet up their profit margins, RMT members across the country are fighting back in one of the most bitter and resolute industrial struggles in recent times.

The Socialist Party salutes the guards and the RMT and the guards who have shown tremendous courage and resolve to retain the guarantee of a guard on our trains.

Fares continue to rise and yet profits are siphoned off and pocketed by shareholders, most of the UK's rail operators are now foreign-owned, often subsidising rail operations abroad. Instead of investing the rail companies continue to attack the staff with guards in the firing line along with station staff and others who are treated like a luxury rather than a necessity.

As we start the new year fares have increased by an average of 3.4% with season tickets soaring by 3.6% yet rail companies are unwilling to commit to keeping guards on trains in the interests of passenger safety.

The Socialist Party calls for the whole of the railway network to be nationalised and run in the interests of the people and the environment, alongside buses and trams as part of an integrated national public transport system – not simply bailed out to make them attractive to their profiteering owners.

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While it is welcome that Jeremy Corbyn and other Labour Party figures support the guards local Labour politicians don't seem to have got the message. Merseyside Labour's Steve Rotherham and Joe Anderson have publicly stabbed the Merseyrail guards in the back while Labour councillors across Northern England sit on their hands and fail to act while Northern Rail tries to do the guards in.

Jeremy Corbyn needs to bring these characters to heel and demand that they get behind the RMT or stand aside. Furthermore while he is right to stand for renationalisation of the railways he shouldn't wait for rail franchises to expire before doing it – this could take a decade or longer.

The dispute is now beginning to resemble a national dispute with all four corners of England affected in one way or another. There is no doubt that the Tory government and the Department for Transport are tacitly supporting the attack on guards, hoping that they can land a defeat on the RMT. The bosses hope that once the guards are beaten they can move on to the other grades.

This is why it is vital that the RMT brings together guards from all of the companies in dispute at this present time along with reps from those which are not yet directly involved.

As franchises come up for renewal or change hands as has happened in December at London Midland/West Midlands Trains talk is of the threat to the safety-critical role of the guard- the 'guard guarantee'. There is now no time to lose in making sure that all members are prepared and up for the fight.

NSSN CONFERENCE 2018

11am-4.30pm

Saturday 30 June in

Conway Hall,

25 Red Lion Square,

London

WC1R 4RL

Open to all trade union
and
anti-cuts campaigners

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