

STRIKE TILL WE WIN!

**FOR FULL DEMOCRATIC
CONTROL OF THE
DISPUTE**

**No agreement with
the employer
unless
members
say so**



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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
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works in the interests of
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**TUSC
AGAINST
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With a storm of protest on social media overnight, and remarkable scenes on angry picket lines and massive protests, University and College Union (UCU) members around the country have ensured no backtracking in their struggle to defend their pensions. They were enraged at a proposed agreement reached at conciliation service Acas and the joint statement from Universities UK and UCU released on 12 March.

But all but two of the 64 branches on strike have organised emergency meetings and voted to reject the deal, and so has the UCU higher education committee which met on 13 March.

Big, angry and lively protests around the country pressured the national leadership to rethink. Hundreds of university workers and students mobilised in only 12 hours to protest outside the UCU talks and say no to the deal and Sally Hunt's version of democracy.

This will be a huge blow to the university bosses who were already on the back foot. This is a union being transformed, rapidly growing and emboldened by action, that expects their union to be democratic and combative.

The deal, which was a significant concession on the previous proposal, would still have been a massive cut to the value of our pensions. Strike action forced concessions, but this was not the deal members are striking for.

Even worse, the joint statement - issued the night before branches were consulted - suggested we would call off strikes and action short-of-strike, and that members would reschedule teaching. This risked demobilising the strike when all the momentum was on our side and pickets had remained so strong.

The situation is moving quickly but it is clear UCU members are not willing to cease their action for a shoddy deal and nor should they.

Support from students has been fantastic, with students striking and joining the pickets, marching and occupying. The Socialist Party and Socialist Students groups all over the country are doing all we can to help that grow.

UUK are raising the issue of the deficit but we should demand that the government underwrites the scheme. Instead of gambling our pensions funds on the stock market they should be nationalised and given guaranteed legal backing like the teachers' fund.

The planned strike action should be continued and escalated - linking up with fellow university unions and students and UCU members in FE who are taking action on pay. There are plans for regional and localised action, but it is important that national dates are also set as soon as possible. No retreat!

**We have made history,
waging an incredible
struggle, despite the Trade
Union Act, and we are the
first union to do so.**

**KEEP UP
THE STRIKES,
KEEP UP
THE ACTION!**

