

# REBUILDING A FIGHTING LEFT IN PCS

## DISCUSS & DEBATE AT SOCIALISM 2019

**socialism2019.net**

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Party**  
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The Socialist Party is hosting its major annual event – a weekend of socialist discussion and debate on fighting the Tories and austerity. Civil service workers organised in the PCS can play a key role in this battle – but that requires a strong left strategy and programme. That's why our event will include a session on rebuilding the left in PCS. The key speaker will be Marion Lloyd who is standing for the general secretary of the PCS union.

**Marion says:**

*"I have the both the experience and the programme necessary to lead a strong campaigning, fighting union. I have served members at all levels of the union - bargaining and campaigning and organising to improve pay, protect jobs, improve conditions and ensure a healthy working environment.*

*"I understand the need for strong membership that can put the political, industrial and bargaining pressure on both the employers and the government."*

**Socialism 2019 is a festival of political debate on ideas to change the world. Socialism takes place on 2&3 November in central London.**

**Book now to get a 10% discount on tickets. [www.socialism2019.net](http://www.socialism2019.net)**

**This session will start at 3pm on 2 November, registration opens at 12.**

**All the workshops and rallies for Socialism take place at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, WC1H 0AL.**

**T**he general secretary election is taking place at a crucial time for the PCS union and its members. Boris Johnson and the Tories are split and in crisis. This election gives us the chance to determine the future of our union.

It's working class people who have been made to pay for the bankers' crisis 11 years ago. We have suffered a decade of privatisation, wage cuts and attacks on our pensions. Office closures mean job losses and communities left without the services they need. It's vital that PCS has a leadership that is prepared to act decisively, industrially and politically, in defence of members, and build on the achievements after the former right-wing leadership was defeated in the early 2000s.

Socialist Party member Marion Lloyd is one of the longest serving reps in the union and has been on the NEC for nearly 20 years. Marion has played a key role in ensuring that PCS has been a fighting union – against New Labour and the Tories, on their own and in coalition with the Lib Dems. For this, PCS has been targeted by the Tories, who tried to bankrupt the union by stopping check-off. Thanks to the members, reps and officers, this attack failed.

But the ability of PCS to build on this record is now in question. The union has developed a proud history of open, democratic debate. In this year's pay ballot, however, any calls for a full debate on the tactics and strategy were denounced. Also, there is a danger that the hard-won lay democracy of the union is threatened by moves to strengthen the officialdom. The Socialist Party stands for conference

policy of extending elections to more senior officers' positions as an important step in re-dressing the balance.

PCS must be in the forefront of the unions mobilising members to demand a general election to elect a Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government on socialist policies. But this fighting stand was opposed by Mark Serwotka on the NEC before TUC Congress, including the call for a national demonstration to fight for a general election.

Socialist Party members in PCS support the election of a Corbyn government. What we do not support and do not believe the union's members or activists would support, is the use of union resources to support Blairites who have done everything possible to undermine Corbyn and his anti-austerity policies.

The Socialist Party argues that PCS needs an independent political stance - while supporting Corbyn, also recognising that Labour also contains the Blairites, who are opposed to a left Labour government. They should be deselected from standing in the election, whenever that may be.

**•Support Marion Lloyd for PCS general secretary**

**•Join us at Socialism 2019 to discuss and debate this – and a range of other questions facing our class today.**

**•Join with Socialist Party to build a fighting and democratic union**

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