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# the Socialist

Issue 1296

31 October - 6 November 2024

formerly **Militant**

# RESIST LABOUR'S CUTS BUDGET TAKE THE WEALTH OFF THE SUPER-RICH

**RYAN ALDRED**  
SOCIALIST PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

**A**t the time of writing, we don't know exactly what will be in Labour's Budget. But Keir Starmer has told us it will be full of 'tough decisions'.

The Labour government has already declared war on pensioners and parents alike, with winter fuel payments facing the chopping block and the two-child benefit cap being maintained, which plunges 1.1 million children into even deeper poverty.

There's money enough when it comes to supplying 'military aid' to escalating conflicts around the world, and yet when it comes to keeping pensioners warm and children from going hungry we are faced with the "harsh light of fiscal responsibility".

Despite Labour's promise of "change", working-class people will still struggle to keep their heads above water with rising rents, skyrocketing energy bills and an on-going cost-of-living crisis.

A government that really wanted to 'support working people' could immediately repeal Tory strike vote thresholds rather than kicking the can down the road, and scrap the rest of the anti-union laws too. A government serious about 'change' could

bring all of rail, mail, water and our energy companies back into public ownership rather than leaving them in the hands of multimillionaire shareholders. A government keen to 'get Britain building' could choose to construct council homes to meet need.

Britain is the sixth-richest economy in the world. There's plenty of money sloshing around at the top, even though it doesn't feel like it for the rest of us. For example, Centrica, the parent company of British Gas, has already announced profits of £1.1 billion in the first half of 2024, after record profits last year.

If the obscene wealth in the hands of the elite were in public hands we could properly fund our ailing NHS, inject life-saving cash into our decimated local services and turn around the growing deficit developing in higher education. Starmer can stuff his 'tough decisions', we say: Make the super-rich pay! (see pages 8-9)

The workers' and trade union movement has to fight against every attempt by this Labour government to make working-class people pay. By taking strike action, like London Underground workers fighting back against bosses' attacks, overseen by London Labour mayor Sadiq Khan (see page 7). By organising protests, like the students fighting for 'Funding not Fees' for universities (see pages 3 and 13). And by taking steps towards building a party of our own - a new mass workers' party that fights for socialist change.

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**BUILD THE SOCIALIST OPPOSITION TO STARMER**



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Send us reports of your workplace and community campaigns, short letters on working-class issues, or ideas for other articles.

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editors@socialistparty.org.uk  
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### OUR NEWSPAPER TEAM

<b>Editor of the Socialist</b>	<b>Editorial staff</b>
Josh Asker	
<a href="http://socialistparty.org.uk">socialistparty.org.uk</a>	Scott Jones
Mark Best	Ian Pattison
<b>Circulation manager</b>	Paula Mitchell
Chris Newby	Mark Best

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"The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it."  
**Karl Marx**

# Our health or their wealth?

Labour secretary of state for Work and Pensions Liz Kendall has talked about "spiralling economic inactivity" amongst workers. What does she mean? It all depends on your position in society.

For working-class people, unhealthy population stats are personal. It affects ourselves, our families, work/school/college mates and our communities. And not just when we're 'economically inactive', it affects us as children and through to retirement. So, we are equally bothered about figures showing decreased life expectancy, with the UK falling in the global rankings. 'Healthy life expectancy' is declining. Child mortality is increasing. This doesn't seem to be making the headlines.

Ill health affects our quality of life and our ability to survive economically. Working-class people's income comes from working and when we can't work or are retired, we have to depend on pensions and benefits, which may not keep up with the real cost of living (or of being ill). Ill health also impacts us as carers for family

and friends, affecting our mental and physical health.

But under capitalism there's a small layer of people in society who are removed from all this, not just because of their enormous wealth but because of how they make it. Billionaires don't have to work to survive, it's our labour which creates their wealth. They don't see a health crisis - they see a threat to profits.

When Keir Starmer's Labour government refer to our declining health as the "greatest employment challenge for a generation" they reflect the perspective of the capitalist class not the working class.

Their solutions address their problems of 'tight employment': increased costs connected to sickness and absence and the fear of increased taxes on their wealth to pay for our welfare, not the health and well-being of working-class communities.

We need a party which puts the health of the working class before the wealth of the billionaires.

UNITE MEMBER



CAN PAC SWIRE/CC

# NHS conversation: so far a bit of a laugh

As was reported in last week's Socialist, available online, Labour health secretary Wes Streeting launched a 'national conversation' website for people to suggest NHS reforms.

As suggestions go live and can be viewed straight away, maybe the suggestions that there should be a pub on every ward to improve morale, or for princess Diana statues aren't the most serious.

But some of the most popular ones on the website would help fix the crisis in the NHS. Abolishing tuition fees for nurses and paying them a living grant. Getting rid of car parking fees and stopping them going straight into the coffers of private companies. And paying staff proper wages to fix staff retention.

These would all go a way to dealing with the crisis in the NHS. But are Streeting, Starmer and Reeves going to listen? Or will they listen to the private health voices clamouring for more privatisation? Or the financial markets which are allowed to hold our country ransom by the Labour Party?

So far it's been a very one-sided conversation!



UK PARLIAMENT/CC

# Who makes the rules?

Rachel Reeves is changing the rules. The Labour government will now allow itself to borrow more money if it is used for capital investment.

So if councils were to invest in building council homes to meet need, using reserves, borrowing and any other powers at their disposal, what's stopping them? If it breaks any of Reeves's 'rules', she can change them!

If we are in the business of changing the rules, why not let the working class set them? Some suggestions: scrap all the anti-union laws now,

make it against the rules to pay any worker less than £15 an hour, no-one should be able to suck profit out of our NHS.

The reality is, Reeves and the Labour government are setting the rules to try to best serve the capitalist bosses. Tear them up, let the working class decide!



These two? SIMON DAWSON / NO.10 DOWNING STREET/CC

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# Councils can pay pensioners winter fuel payment

One council has said that pensioners in its borough will receive a winter fuel payment after the government scrapped it nationally. Aspire-run Tower Hamlets council in east London will pay some pensioners a winter fuel payment to replace Winter Fuel Allowance. While, at £175, it is a lot less than the means-tested Winter Fuel Payment - worth £200 or £300 depending on when someone is born, and is not available to all - it shows it can be done.

Socialist Party members are fighting for the trade unions to demand that all councils replace Winter Fuel Allowance, and union leaders saying that it can't be done should look at Tower Hamlets. Pressure in Tower Hamlets is also needed, with pensioners saying they have not been told yet how to get the payment, one saying: "I'll believe it when I see it."

### The Socialist Party says:

- Reverse the winter fuel payment cut
- Decent pensions for all
- Stop energy price hikes - nationalise the energy industry
- We need a new mass workers' party that will make the super-rich pay and fight for socialist change



# Gap between rich and poorer university students grows Fight for Funding not Fees

JESS EVANS  
LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST PARTY

Coinciding with the launch of Socialist Students' "Funding not fees" campaign comes a hard-hitting new report. For the first time in a decade, there has been a fall in the number of 'disadvantaged' students reaching university. The Department for Education has released figures showing that 29% of students eligible for free school meals aged 15 progress onto university aged 19. The figure has fallen for the first time since records began in 2005-06. It is clear the capitalist education system is harming social mobility - a socialist transformation is needed.

Poverty is one of the most important factors for educational outcomes. A study has shown that children who experience persistent disadvantages on average leave school a staggering 22 months behind their peers, attainment wise. Issues related to poverty - poor nutrition, a lack of access to technology, lack of a quiet room to study due to overcrowding, looking after siblings and many more - all hinder a child's ability to flourish and do well in school.

The number of children living in poverty in the UK has increased by over 700,000 since 2010, to 4.3 million. It is obvious that the Tories' austerity warpath and capitalist

crisis have plunged more children into poor living conditions. And without a mass working-class party armed with a programme to fight poverty, many more children are going to be denied access to education.

### Private schools

Another crucial aspect is that your likelihood to enter university is dependent on which kind of school you went to. 67.2% of private school pupils gained places at elite Russell Group universities, compared with 34.2% of state school pupils. It is abhorrent that you can simply pay your way to university. Keir Starmer needs to go further than simply charging VAT on these schools' tuition fees. Private schools need to be abolished completely, and their resources put under the democratic control of local councils - alongside all schools, including academies.

In response to this report, there have been calls for prestigious universities to accept more working-class, state-educated students. Whilst an important aspect, poverty does not simply disappear when you get to university. More university students are having to skip meals and work extra jobs, at a real risk to their attainment and ability to finish their courses.

The marketisation and consumerisation of higher education has meant students are living in rat-infested accommodation, charged extortionate



Jess (third left) campaigning with Liverpool Socialist Students LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST STUDENTS

rent, transport and food costs. Marketisation needs to be kicked out of our universities, with living grants not debt that students can live on with free education for all.

If you want to join the fight against increased tuition fees, for the funding that universities and students need for a proper, free education, join Socialist Students.

# Join the student fightback!

JOIN socialist students

Visit [socialiststudents.org.uk/join](http://socialiststudents.org.uk/join) or call 020 8988 8761 or text your name and school, college or uni to 07749 379 010

# Our NHS is being destroyed by capitalism

NIKKI DOYLE  
PORTSMOUTH SOCIALIST PARTY

The NHS stands as one of the proudest achievements of the working class in post-war Britain, a beacon of socialised medicine that provides care for all, regardless of income. Yet decades of neoliberal austerity, privatisation, and underfunding have left it teetering on the brink of collapse. The pressure on healthcare workers, particularly GPs, is a stark example of how profit-driven capitalism, even in the healthcare system, fails to meet human needs. A fully funded, socialised healthcare system is not just desirable - it is essential for both the wellbeing of patients and healthcare workers.

The crisis for GPs is a microcosm of the broader issues plaguing the NHS. Despite the increasing demand for primary care services, newly qualified GPs are struggling to find stable employment. Ironically, the shortage of doctors, which is a pressing issue across the NHS, is not due to a lack of trained professionals but rather a lack of adequately funded and secure job placements. Many GPs are forced into precarious, locum roles or part-time contracts, leading to burnout and frustration. The government's

half-hearted attempts to address this shortage have done little more than tinker around the edges, leaving many GPs disillusioned and unable to provide the care their patients need.

This is not a failure of individual doctors, patients, or even managers, it is systemic. Underfunding, coupled with the creeping privatisation of healthcare services, has commodified healthcare, prioritising profits and cost-cutting over the well-being of both workers and patients. GPs are increasingly squeezed by targets, quotas, and the pressures of running clinics like businesses, all while being asked to do more with fewer resources. The result is inefficient and unjust.

When healthcare is treated as just another business, patients become customers, and GPs become overworked, underpaid service providers. This is not just unsustainable, it is immoral. Good health should not be treated as a commodity, subject to the whims of market forces.

The answer lies in fully funding the NHS and removing the profit motive entirely from healthcare. The big pharmaceutical companies, private health vultures and medical supply companies should be nationalised. A socialist healthcare system would prioritise human need over corporate profit. It would ensure that all GPs and healthcare workers have secure, well-paid jobs with manageable workloads, allowing them to focus on providing the best possible care. It would recognise healthcare as a right, not a privilege, and ensure that everyone, regardless of wealth, has access to the services they need.

### A NEW ERA FOR THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

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# Starmer rejects reparations

Keir Starmer, attending the Commonwealth heads of government international gathering, came under pressure from heads of states of post-colonial countries on the issue of reparations. As Paula Mitchell, writing in Socialism Today magazine in 2023, writes:

"For hundreds of years, there have been calls for reparations for enslavement and its legacies on individuals and communities; for imperialism's subsequent exploitation of Caribbean and African countries through colonialism and neo-colonialism; as well as for the material effects of the racist policies enacted in the US and European capitalist countries - racism that was consciously promoted in order to justify enslavement, and then developed as a vital tool of divide and rule of the emergent working class created by capitalism."

In this article, Paula traces movements that have demanded reparations, from the civil rights to today, and what justice would look like for capitalism's bloody past and crucially how can it be won.

- Read the article in full at [www.socialistparty.org.uk/reparations](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/reparations)
- And to read more articles from Socialism Today and to get a subscription [www.socialismtoday.org](http://www.socialismtoday.org)



Strike wave overview  
German revolution  
Spycops scandal  
Climate chaos

# Unions must lead fight against Labour austerity to undermine support for far right

**Socialist Party**  
**WHAT WE THINK**

On 26 October, just four days before this Labour government's first budget, far-right Tommy Robinson supporters called a demonstration in central London. It was estimated that around 10,000 turned up, slightly fewer than the 15,000 that attended in July.

There was a lively counter-demo, unlike in July, this one was of a comparable size to that of the far right. Many will have been appalled that Robinson was planning to march again after the summer riots, attempting to whip up racism, division and potentially violence on our streets.

The riots in the summer were resoundingly rejected by the majority of people. They resulted in growing counter-demos to defend working-class communities, many of which massively outnumbered those taking part in riots.

There is clearly huge anger in society, millions have been forced down into poverty, there are massive council house waiting lists and the private-rented sector feels out of control with rising rents. On top of this, the NHS and other services are on their knees. And it is the anger at problems like this, together with racist anti-migrant rhetoric, which Robinson and his ilk use to mobilise people.

One of the slogans on Robinson's demo on Saturday was "enough is enough" which, just a few years ago at the start of the strike wave was the name of a campaign in support of striking workers initiated by Mick Lynch and Dave Ward, leaders of RMT and CWU trade unions. Hundreds of thousands signed up to support it, and tens of thousands attended rallies, many with the expectation of it becoming a new party. However, it came to nothing because its leadership did not see it as a step towards a workers' party, but only as a vehicle to put pressure on Labour.

Now Robinson cynically uses the slogan, but of course, he doesn't want to mobilise anger in a fight to improve the lives of working-class people but to whip up violence alongside a core of hardened racists and fascists.

John McDonnell MP, currently suspended from Labour for voting to scrap the two-child benefit cap, told those on the counter-demo that the likes of Tommy Robinson look for an opportunity to "spark a fire and that opportunity came after 14 years of Tory austerity".

Others also called out 14 years of Tory rule, such as Mick Whelan from Aslef, the train drivers' trade union.



Socialist Party members on the protest. PHOTO: LONDON SOCIALIST PARTY

He said the recent riots and large Robinson demonstrations were a product of cruel austerity and the right-wing press echoing those ideas, pushing that people should blame austerity rather than migrants for the many issues facing working-class people.

But the Tories are no longer in power. They were resoundingly forced out at the general election on 4 July. Yet, unfortunately, none of the speeches put forward the need for a serious campaign on Starmer's Labour government to stop and reverse further austerity.

It was only Daniel Kebede, the general secretary of the National Education Union, who even mentioned the budget and called for it to include investment in public services not more cuts, when he said from the platform: "We need jobs, we need homes, we need investment in our communities so that there are no longer the pools of bitterness that allow racism to fester".

This call echoed Trades Union Congress policy passed in 2018 calling for "Jobs and homes, not racism". That resolution was pushed for by Socialist Party members, who have continued to build in their workplaces, schools and communities. A serious campaign, led by the trade unions, to oppose racism and fight the Labour government for what our

communities need, would undermine support for the far right.

Rachel Reeves admitted that many of the public sector pay rises, were granted to prevent further effective strike action. Following the strike wave of two years ago, workers continue to organise against cuts, outsourcing and low pay.

### Austerity

Already having attacked pensioners' winter fuel payments and refused to scrap the two-child benefit cap, this Labour government will make further attacks on working-class people on behalf of the capitalist bosses. Rachel Reeves's budget on 30 October, after the Socialist has gone to press, won't include full funding for our NHS, or sufficient funding for local authorities to reestablish services cut by Tory austerity. It won't include the "investment in our communities" Kebede called for.

On the demonstration, left-wing Labour and independent MPs, many of who have signed an open letter to Rachel Reeves calling for a wealth tax, had a platform in front of thousands of people. But they failed to raise any programme to counter Starmer's austerity. That was a missed opportunity.

The same was true of the speeches from trade union leaders who, by simply blaming the Tories and

ignoring Labour's continued austerity, effectively acted as a cover for Starmer and Reeves. Rather than cheerlead for the government, the trade union leaders must organise a serious struggle.

Pressure, both industrial and political must be built not just to prevent further austerity but reverse the huge attacks which people have faced. If it isn't, then growing layers of people, angry at both the Tories and Labour for austerity, will look to the likes of Tommy Robinson and his racist rhetoric.

Mass working-class action is needed to challenge Labour's attacks. The trade unions giving a lead is essential to cut across attempts by the far right to spread their disgusting and divisive ideas.

**AFTER THE RIOTS:  
THE CASE FOR  
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# ISRAELI FORCES ESCALATE HORRORS IN MIDDLE EAST

JUDY BEISHON  
SOCIALIST PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

While the media worldwide focused on the Israeli regime's horrific war on Lebanon and its exchanges of firepower with Iran, 100,000 civilians in the north of Gaza were under a devastating siege. Their conditions have massively worsened, with day after day of bombardments obliterating lives and infrastructure; making emergency services, humanitarian aid and even media coverage impossible.

Gaza's death toll has gone over 43,000, with over 100,000 injured, and more than 2,500 people have died so far in the war in Lebanon. In addition is the enormous suffering inflicted on millions of civilians who have been made homeless and lack basic necessities. Outrageously, deliberate denial of the means of survival is being pursued further by Benjamin Netanyahu's Israeli government, with its recent parliamentary vote to derecognise the United Nations relief organisation UNRWA, the main provider of aid and services to Palestinian refugees.

That ultra-right wing government is trying to depopulate zones in Gaza, the West Bank and South Lebanon, serving its ambitions for expansion and "reshaping" the region. It uses the pretext of bringing security for Israelis, but its extreme military brutality hasn't succeeded in recovering

the remaining Israeli hostages held in Gaza, never mind enabling Israelis evacuated from border areas to be able to return to their homes. And the bloody wars are creating heightened outrage, despair and a desire to fight back in parts of the Palestinian and Lebanese populations.

Meanwhile, the military exchanges between Israel and Iran, while each time pitched to try to avoid all-out war between them, become more forceful, raising fears worldwide of a rapidly worsening spiral of war that has already directly impacted on six countries across the region.

For the Western capitalist governments, that possibility of a destabilising wider war is part of their underlying reasons for limited sanctions being applied against Israel. They also fear that mass movements will erupt from below across the Middle East, but have the more immediate pressure of great anger in their own populations at their unwillingness to alleviate the terrible plight of Palestinians in Gaza.

French president Emmanuel Macron recently called for a total arms embargo on Israel and even Israel's most powerful and loyal backer, Biden's US administration, threatened to suspend arms sales if aid is not allowed into Gaza. But such declarations are while at the same time staunchly defending western imperialism's ties with Israeli capitalism, so they are just warning shots to the Israeli regime to keep its barbaric

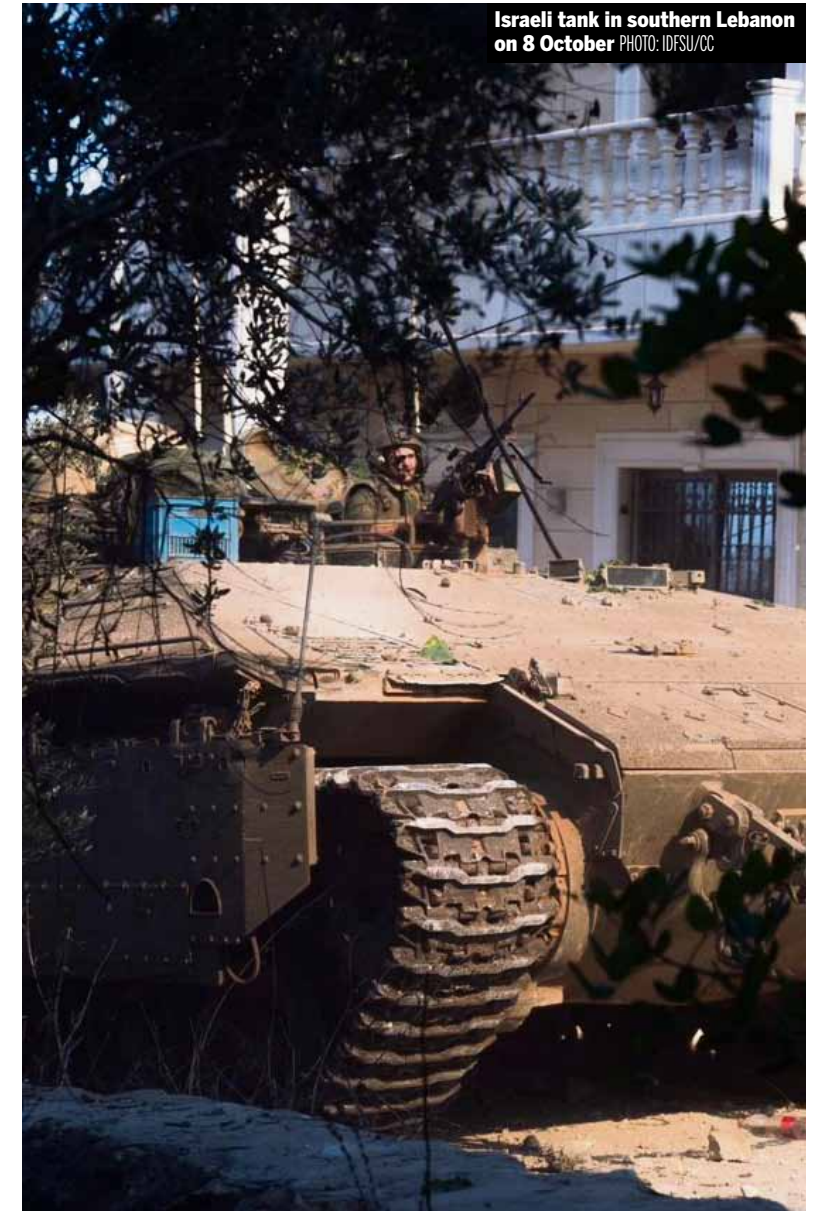
actions within limits, rather than seriously trying to stop them.

The plight of ordinary people in Gaza or Lebanon isn't among their real concerns, as shown by their lack of action to stop the war for over a year now. Opposition to them must be stepped up - including against Keir Starmer's New Labour government's intrinsic support for the Israeli military actions. Measures in genuine support of workers, the poor and refugees in the Middle East will only be taken by workers' movements in Britain and globally - through building the anti-war demonstrations, and workers' actions against the wars and in solidarity with those effected by them in Gaza, Lebanon and elsewhere.

In Israel, regular anti-war protests take place, drawing from a small minority at present but their size will come to grow, as was happening before the Israeli government's drive for war against Hezbollah in Lebanon temporarily cut across that development.

No brand of pro-capitalist government anywhere offers a solution that can deliver national liberation for the Palestinians, or be able to satisfy the aspirations of both Palestinian and Israeli workers for security and decent living standards.

Urgently needed is the building of independent workers' organisations that can put forward a socialist alternative in Palestine, Israel and across the Middle East - for a future free from oppression, poverty and war.



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# UN climate – dark clouds overhead Fight for socialist change to stop environmental destruction

DARA FITZGERALD  
WEST LONDON SOCIALIST PARTY

The news cycle horror show continues unabated as a new report puts into stark terms the environmental disaster slowly unfolding before us. The 'UN Emissions Gap Report' is a yearly assessment of the difference between what's been pledged by countries to reduce their carbon emissions, and what's needed to meet the 2016 Paris Agreement's requirements to cap global increases of temperatures to 1.5°C. The intro to the report was clear:

"Nations must accelerate action now, show a massive increase in ambition in the new pledges and then deliver urgently with policies and implementation. If they do not, the Paris Agreement target of holding global warming to 1.5°C will be dead within a few years and 2°C will take its place in the intensive care unit"

While there has been undoubted global action to address the oncoming climate catastrophe, this has so far been woefully insufficient. Emissions of the G20 countries increased in 2023, accounting for 77% of the total. Huge technological advances have been made in the solar, wind and electric vehicle sectors, but without upgraded grid infrastructure, neglected in the UK for years, and a massive upsurge in grid storage capacity, the reliance of fossil fuels to prevent capacity fluctuations will be leaned on for the foreseeable future.

Huge funding gaps remain. The question is - how is this to be funded? More and more people are finding it difficult to afford even the basic essentials for a life worth living. There are things that can be done that won't make workers pay for the benefit of the wealthy. We can transition workers in the oil and gas sector to others so they aren't made to pay with their

livelihoods - like the green excuses Tata Steel have used to shut down steel production in Port Talbot. But only if those industries and the banks and business that dominate the economy are nationalised under democratic workers' control. We could end bloated subsidies to auto-industry bosses, and massively expand a high-quality, free public transport system. By taking over the building companies we could make sure there's safe, energy-saving insulation and renewable materials in all new homes built.

Under capitalism, the measures needed can only be carried out partially and attempts will be made to make us - the working class - pay for it. Due to the profit seeking and extractive nature of capitalism, as well as the competing interests of capitalists and different capitalist states, the only alternative is an international socialist response. Come join us in our fight for a better future.



# Haringey housing workers all-out strike

## 'A Labour council and a Labour government, but workers see no change'

NICK AUVACHE  
UNITE HOUSING WORKERS BRANCH

Housing maintenance and repair workers at Haringey council have decided to take indefinite strike action over the Labour council's continued refusal to negotiate with them over the issue of pay.

Unite's members haven't had a pay rise in over a decade, despite inflation running rampant in recent years. This has left some workers over £6,000 out of pocket.

On 1 June 2022, when the housing service in Haringey came back in-house, workers were given commitments that there would be a pay review within the first six months. None has materialised in the last two years. This contempt for workers has turned anger into strike action.

Staff who are carrying out exactly the same work in 2024 as in 2014 earn the same rates of pay as they did then.

Unite has compiled a "doggy dossier" following years of broken promises by management failing to meaningfully negotiate with union members on pay, terms and conditions.

### Labour behaving like Tories

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: "This is a Labour-run council behaving like Tories in disguise. It has decimated housing services and is now determined to treat our members - their key workers



Haringey Labour council housing workers on strike HELEN PATTISON

- with utter disdain. They need to know that Unite won't stand for it and our members have the full backing of their union in this dispute."

Haringey Labour council continues to waste money on contractors who are also being used to break the strike, according to Unite. Neither residents nor workers want to see contractors used.

This dispute shows graphically that even with a Labour government and a Labour-run council in power, workers have seen no change in the way they are treated. They will continue to fight industrially but the dispute also raises the need for genuine workers' political representation. If Unite cannot rely on Labour politicians to represent their members' interests, then it should consider supporting genuine workers' candidates.

The Haringey Repairs strikers are calling on other workers to support them. They will be on picket duty from 7.40am at 251 Lordship Lane, N17 6AA every Thursday, followed by a rally opposite Wood Green station at 9.30am. Please pop by to support them.

- Requests for speakers can be made by contacting the branch email: UniteUG130@outlook.com
- Donations to the London Borough of Haringey strike fund can be made by sending donations to their bank account here:  
London & Eastern UG130  
AC: 20461153  
SC: 60-83-01

## Underpaid Birmingham housing workers strike

CLIVE WALDER  
BIRMINGHAM SOUTH SOCIALIST PARTY

200 maintenance and admin workers employed by Citizen Housing in Birmingham, Coventry, Worcester and Hereford, members of Unite, started five weeks of strike action on Mondays and Fridays from 28 October.

The workers were underpaid for years and eventually fell below the minimum wage, forcing the employer to conduct a pay review. They are now using that as a reason to limit this year's pay offer to 4%. Although the GMB union has accepted the offer and Unison is yet to ballot, Unite is by far the largest union.

While Citizen workers are paid below the industry average, the CEO and Chief Financial Officer are paid above the average for bosses!

The mood on the Birmingham picket line was determined and the vast majority of eligible workers were on strike.

It is likely that the repair backlog will build up quickly. Despite the potential inconvenience, workers report that most tenants support the strike.

The workers hope that they won't need to strike for five weeks, but are determined to get justice.



PCS outsourced workers strike ROB WILLIAMS

## PCS outsourced workers demand better pay - and an end to privatisation

PCS members working on outsourced contracts with G4S, ISS and OCS are on strike for two weeks over pay, terms and conditions. They are taking action at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the Department for Business and Trade, the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, and the Cabinet Office.

The strikers include security staff, receptionists, cleaners, caterers and porters. Bosses have only offered pay equivalent to the London Living

Wage, with minimal annual leave and no entitlement to sick pay.

PCS calls for these workers to be brought in-house on civil service contracts - the civil service 'boss' is now a Labour government!

- Workers are striking in East Kilbride and London. Picket lines in London are on 28-31 October and 4-7 November.
- PCS members working for G4S as Jobcentre security guards are also continuing their action

## Sheffield bin workers in action for recognition

### 'No striker will be left behind'

ALISTAIR TICE  
SHEFFIELD SOCIALIST PARTY

On 25 October, Unite the Union national officer Onay Kasab (Kaz) addressed 40 Sheffield Veolia bin workers on their tenth week of strike action. His message was: "You will win recognition. The strike plus action (leverage campaign) is back on, and will stay on until Veolia sign the draft recognition agreement they've already agreed."

The leverage campaign, which had taken Unite's big inflatable rat to multinational Veolia's Paris headquarters and forced the company to the table, was suspended to facilitate national talks. But Veolia keep hiding behind the GMB union (which currently has sole recognition) to play the divide-and-rule card. After two weeks without recognition, Unite's rat will be back in action!

Bolstered by a very strong renewed strike ballot - 92% voted to continue industrial action - picketing and protests will be stepped up again to force Veolia into signing a dual union recognition agreement at the Lumley Street depot.

Unite is also demanding that three strikers sacked during the dispute are reinstated before the strike is called off. No striker will be left behind.

Kaz addresses Unite strikers ALISTAIR TICE



## School and council workers vote to reject, but pay offer accepted

### Unison's left NEC must stand up to general secretary who doesn't want to rock the boat



PHOTO: HUGO PIERRE

HUGO PIERRE  
UNISON LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE GROUP  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER, PERSONAL CAPACITY

Almost 350,000 Unison members were balloted for a strike to win a pay claim of £3,000 or 10%. This claim would have started to address nearly 15 years of real-terms pay cuts, where the average school staff or council worker is 20% poorer - effectively working one day a week for free compared to 2009 pay levels!

80% voted to reject the employers' offer of £1,290 for all grades. It barely met the Labour government's pay award to other public sector workers at the very bottom of the scales, and was completely inadequate for lower-paid workers, never mind those on average pay.

This year's pay claim was submitted late, and the response from the employers was received well after the 1 April date the pay rise was due. Members were balloted for strike action from the start of September in a national ballot that was broken down by employer.

### No serious lead from top

There was a need to get a good number of councils over the 50% turnout level required by the still unrepealed Tory anti-union laws. Unfortunately, there was no discussion throughout the union involving a wide layer of activists as to what was the best strategy for achieving the 50% turnout in a larger number of employers than was achieved last year.

To many activists, it appears as though the ballot was a negotiating ploy rather than a serious thought-through strategy to win. Many branches put in a lot of work to get a turnout but unfortunately only three large employers got over the 50% turnout threshold.

The Labour Party is the largest party on the body that represents the majority of councils, the Local Government Association, and it currently holds the chair. The £1,290 offer was made under the Tories. While the union negotiators asked for the

negotiations to be reopened, there was no demand on Keir Starmer's Labour during the general election to back our pay claim.

### Letting Labour off the hook

This is staggering, considering Unison has a political fund that is affiliated to the Labour Party. However, it is not so surprising when we read on the union's website that the Starmer-supporting general secretary, Christina McAnea, believes that closing the £40 billion funding gap "won't be a painless experience and there is a clearly a price to be paid for the years of dreadful Tory economic mismanagement."

Even though she goes on to say that the budget should protect workers and public services over the next five years, it's clear to many members that the message from the top of the union is that 'we need to give Labour a fair chance; they have a tough job to do and we shouldn't cause them too much trouble.'

The intention not to 'rock the boat' has clearly been behind the whole approach of the general secretary and union machine all through this year's pay process.

Determining a strategy to win the ballot and getting ready to achieve it should have been discussed widely among a broader layer of activists. A national seminar earlier in the year to learn lessons from the campaigns in Knowsley and Lambeth - the councils that got over the line in 2023 - was a missed opportunity to bring the resources of the union behind significant and selected branches to win a 'yes' vote.

Unison must demand now that Labour immediately repeals the Tory anti-union thresholds.

The National Executive Council (NEC) of Unison is led by the left-leaning Time For Real Change group. The NEC cannot afford more failure to organise members to fight on pay. The school and council workers' ballot shows that Unison members are ready to fight to win back lost pay. They now need the leadership to win.

## Tube strikes: 'It's a nonsense to argue that the money's not there'

GARY HARBORD  
SECRETARY, LU TRAIN GRADES, PERSONAL CAPACITY

The transport union RMT's strike on London Underground, 2-8 November, remains on.

Talks are ongoing. London Underground offered an average pay rise of 4.6%, worth up to 5.9% for the lowest paid, but strings attached mean that not everyone gets a consolidated rise.

The company's plans are a threat to our collective bargaining, with management being able to arbitrarily impose the limit of what our members are paid (see Tube strikes are back: 'No union could possibly agree' at socialistparty.org.uk).

This is unacceptable for a large proportion of our membership and it remains our position that all pay rises in future should be fully paid and consolidated. We want a commitment from the company to work towards an ending of the pay bands and the introduction of 'spot salaries' (where all people in that grade are paid the same).

The hopes that some members had with a Labour government have quickly disintegrated. The Labour mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, was quick enough to moan about the funding cut when the Tories were in power, but he's done nothing to demand that the funding should be

reinstated. Instead, he's offering up the excuse of the alleged £22 billion 'black hole' that the New Labour government says it inherited.

Workers on London Underground generate billions of pounds for the London economy every year - it's a nonsense to argue that the money's not there.

What's needed is political will to redistribute the wealth in society. That can only be done by implementing RMT policy "to work for the supercession of the capitalist system by a socialistic order of society."

RMT members will continue to fight for a fully funded, publicly owned, democratically run, sustainable transport system in our capital.

- In a separate development, members of the RMT in the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) are facing attacks to their jobs, terms and conditions. The ERU deals with people under trains, derailments, fallen trees and network repairs. London Underground bosses have proposed a reduction of 10% in staffing levels, a reduction in team sizes from six to four, and the imposition of a new roster. This will lead to a significant risk to the travelling public. Consequently, ERU members have imposed an overtime ban from 30 October, with the threat of escalated action if management doesn't back down.



PHOTO: PAUL MATTHEWSON

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# HOW TO MAKE THE SUPER-RICH PAY

CALLUM JOYCE

SOUTHERN AND SOUTH EAST SOCIALIST PARTY

Britain is bankrupt - or so the bosses' politicians try to tell us. 14 years of austerity have decimated our public services and left us with crumbling infrastructure. The Progressive Economy Forum think tank estimates that if austerity had not been carried out, an extra £540 billion would have been spent on public services by 2019.

Local government has suffered hugely - £15 billion a year has been cut in funding to local councils since 2010, leading to half of all councils warning that they will be unable to continue funding all but the most basic services and will face effective 'bankruptcy' in the next five years.

While the Labour ministers plead poverty, they refuse to point to the colossal wealth that has been hoarded by a tiny minority of super-rich billionaires. The Sunday Times Rich List for 2024 - a who's who of exploiters and speculators - reports that the 350 richest individuals and families in Britain now have a combined wealth of over three-quarters of a trillion pounds!

In 2023, Shell and BP made £22 billion in profit between them, aided by the huge rise in energy bills for most households. The water companies have racked up £60 billion of debt since they were privatised in 1989 while hiking bills - not to pay for investment in infrastructure, as is obvious from the repeated pollution scandals, but to churn out £72 billion of profit in the same period!

Working-class people have paid to line the pockets of the super-rich and are continuing to do so. Oxfam estimates that the wealth of the richest globally increases by £1.9 billion every day! Clearly it's not a question of whether or not the wealth is there, but of who owns and controls it, and how it's used. So how can we make the super-rich pay?

## Working-class struggle

The organised working class has already given a glimpse of how industrial struggle is a means to fight against the disparity between rich and poor getting even worse. Hundreds of thousands of workers taking part in strike action over the last two years were able to win improvements on the paltry pay offers initially given by the government and private employers. Workers were told there was 'no money' - until it became clear that workers weren't taking 'no' for an answer!

RMT members in London forced New Labour mayor Sadiq Khan to cough up an extra £30 million of funding to avert further strike action on London Underground. The Scottish Trades Union Congress estimates that industrial action by workers in Scotland alone won an extra £4.4 billion worth of pay and pension improvements over two years - £3 billion better off than they would have been if they'd accepted the initial offers to



**£1.9bn**  
how much  
the wealth of  
the richest  
globally  
increases  
every day

them. Between August 2021 and August 2023 Unite, Britain's biggest private sector union, won an additional £400 million for its members across 900 different workplace disputes.

While no deal won during the strike wave was perfect, united action was able to limit the extent to which inflation further impoverished workers and enriched the big bosses.

## Tax the super-rich

Industrial action is not the only way that wealth can be won from the super-rich. Unite the Union has raised the demand for a 1% wealth tax on the richest 1% in Britain, which it estimates would raise £25 billion. This alone would be enough to restore the funding cut from local government or to provide a 10% pay rise for public sector workers as well as increasing staffing levels within the NHS.

In another struggling sector, the University and College Union has called for an 'education levy' to help plug the gap in higher education funding. It says increasing corporation tax to 4.3% would raise £17 billion, which could be used to scrap tuition fees while injecting billions of pounds of extra funding into universities.

A motion raised by Unite at the recent Labour Party conference calling for the reinstatement of the winter fuel allowance and a tax on the 1%

to pay for it was passed by delegates - but has not been adopted as government policy. Starmer and his cabinet are not even required to follow the decisions of their own supposedly democratic conference!

Labour is planning to go ahead with abolishing the 'non-dom' status for individuals in Britain who register their permanent residence as being abroad for tax purposes. This allows them to avoid paying tax in Britain on money that they make abroad. In fact, this loophole is so egregious that even the Tories pledged to abolish it when they were still in power, following the revelation that Rishi Sunak's wife had avoided paying millions of pounds of tax through the scheme!

The abolition of this scheme will be welcomed by many and the government originally estimated that it could raise around £1 billion by doing so. They are also increasing the windfall tax on energy companies from 75% to 78%, which is set to last until 2030. Again, this is welcome. But these measures in no way signify that Starmer is willing to take on the super-rich. The amounts of money raised are nowhere near enough to reverse the damage inflicted by Tory austerity.

The windfall tax on energy companies was in fact originally brought in by the Tories after the huge

profiteering during the cost-of-living crisis. Few people would accuse the Tories of trying to take the wealth off the super-rich!

The role of a capitalist government - regardless of which party is in charge - is not just to allow big business to do whatever it likes, but to try and rein in any 'excesses' by big business that could undermine the capitalist system or provoke discontent from the working-class population.

That's the real motivation behind these small measures to clip the profits of these big companies. In the end however, the profits being made are still at record levels and the super-rich capitalists will be allowed to continue making them.

## Super-rich resistance

However, even these minor measures are facing resistance from a layer of the super-rich. The Financial Times reported earlier in the year that tax advisors across Europe have faced a rush of inquiries from British millionaires and billionaires considering leaving the country once the non-dom status is abolished. There are rumours the government may even cancel plans to scrap the non-dom status after worries that it will no longer raise the money estimated once those who would be liable to pay tax have left. In response to the continuation of

the windfall tax, energy companies BP and Shell have also threatened to withhold further investment in the British economy in protest.

Not all of these companies and individuals who have threatened to withdraw their money would necessarily do so, but it shows how much resistance there is even to very minor measures aimed at taking a small portion of wealth off the super-rich. Behind their threats lies the fear that even small steps could raise workers' expectations and open the floodgates to them demanding more radical measures.

Cooperation with other countries to stop tax dodging is unlikely to yield serious results either. Earlier this year, over 140 countries attempted to agree to a deal that would make it easier to tax multinational companies. The hope would be that this would reduce the ability of companies to threaten withdrawing investment if there are less low-tax alternatives for them to run to. But already this has run into trouble as the US, the world's biggest economy, is declining to take part.

Why would US capitalism agree to measures that might undermine its own domestic businesses, especially when it is faced with the rising threat of competition from Chinese capitalism? In a period of increasing polarisation and political fragmentation, it is completely utopian to imagine that global

cooperation on the scale needed to implement serious international tax reform would be possible.

## Pro-capitalist Starmer

All of these factors underlie why Starmer refuses to consider any serious measures to properly fund public services by making the super-rich pay. He fears a repeat of what happened to Liz Truss during her time as Prime Minister when her unfunded tax cuts for the rich triggered a crisis of confidence in British capitalism in the international markets, and a subsequent huge drop in the value of the pound - events which ultimately led to her resignation. Any measures deemed too 'radical' or risky (for their profits that is) by international markets could lead to a repeat of this scenario and another economic and political crisis for Starmer, something he is desperate to avoid.

But he also fears working-class resistance. And that is the key factor that could potentially push Starmer to encroach further on the wealth of the super-rich than he would like to - up to a point of course. It's not for nothing that Starmer and Reeves granted above-inflation pay rises to many public sector workers after coming into government - the threat of continued strike action and working-class resistance is factored into their

calculations.

It is not excluded that under the pressure of a mass movement Starmer could implement more far-reaching policies in an attempt to cut across a growing mood of working-class opposition. But that wouldn't represent any change of heart by Starmer or the capitalists - it would simply be them buying time to try to avert a threat to their system. They would then quickly look to recoup any losses through cutting wages, slashing jobs, withdrawing investment and so on.

This period is not like that of the post-war boom from the 1950s to the 1970s, where much higher tax rates were tolerated by big business for a prolonged period without as much of a backlash. Given the more favourable economic situation of more sustained growth and the different global balance of forces - not to mention the very large and powerful trade union movement in Britain at that time - the capitalists were willing to grant concessions, as long as they could maintain profits at the same time. Now however, stagnation and economic uncertainty are the norm. Desperate to maintain their profits in this more difficult period, the capitalists will not tolerate long-running concessions in the way that they did in the past.

## Socialist nationalisation

Socialists however, do not accept this as a reason not to fight to take the wealth off the super-rich. We support any measures, however limited initially, that fight to use society's resources in the interests of working-class people. Fear of provoking a backlash from the capitalists is not a reason to avoid going 'too far', 'too quickly', but highlights the need for a clear programme and strategy to stop attempts at economic sabotage by big business and to place the wealth in society - along with the big companies and banks that produce it - firmly under the democratic control of the working class.

A workers' government would need to bring the top 150 monopolies into public ownership through a rapid programme of nationalisation - with compensation only paid on the basis of proven need - to ensure that the main levers of the economy continue to function and cannot be held hostage by their capitalist owners.

Nationalising the banks and the big financial companies too would open up access to huge reserves of wealth, but crucially would allow the implementation of capital controls to block any attempts by the super-rich to remove their wealth from the country without permission. Socialist

nationalisation would not involve decisions being made by unelected government officials, but by elected representatives of workers and service users in each industry, with full control over how they are run. All representatives would be regularly elected and subject to recall, as well as only being paid the same wage as their fellow workers.

Any further attempts to sabotage the economy or stop the workers' government would need to be met with mass mobilisations of workers and young people through their own organisations to defend the government, and to ensure that its socialist programme doesn't just remain on paper but is actually put into practice.

Using the existing wealth as part of a proper economic plan to massively raise the living standards of the whole population - increasing wages, expanding public services, building low-cost, high-quality housing - would be a huge inspiration to the workers' and poor masses of other countries globally.

Working-class solidarity, and the struggles of the working class to take power internationally, would be necessary to effectively stop any attempts at sabotage or intervention by foreign capitalist powers as well.

## Organise and fight for socialism

Of course all of that will simply remain as an idea, unless the working class is organised and fighting for it. Importantly, that includes having its own political party fighting for its own interests. The authority accrued by the trade union movement over the course of the strike wave - not to mention their material resources and millions-strong membership - means they are in prime position to take concrete steps towards the formation of a new party of the working class and young people.

Members of the Socialist Party would fight for any such organisation to adopt a socialist programme which permanently takes the wealth off the super-rich to democratically plan its use for the benefit of the whole population.

Every month seems to bring a new crisis for Starmer and a new set of attacks against the working class. More and more people will draw the conclusion in this period about the need for independent working-class political representation and will look to join the struggle for a world free from poverty, oppression, and exploitation. If you want to fight for those ideas as well - to discuss, organise, and campaign - then join the Socialist Party today.

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# US elections Fighting for a working-class alternative to the Republicans and Democrats



PHOTO: GAGE SKIDMORE/CC

The US presidential election takes place on 5 November along with the election of vice president, all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 34 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate. 13 state and territorial governorships and numerous other state and local elections will also be contested. **BW Sculos**, Vice President of Rio Grande Valley United Faculty (TFA/NEA) (personal capacity), Edinburg, Texas, explains what the Independent Socialist Group (the CWI's co-thinkers in the US) is calling for.

**B**oth Democrat and Republican corporate party campaigns represent a continuation of a status quo that has increased the power and wealth of corporations, continued to spread profit-making war around the world, and done little good for the vast majority of people. Endlessly voting for the Democratic 'lesser evil' has allowed the Republican Party to push politics further and further rightward. We need an independent pro-worker campaign that earnestly pursues policies that actually benefit all of us - not just the very rich. There are two such options in Jill Stein's Green Party campaign and

Cornel West's independent campaign. Working people should support both of these campaigns as a step towards building an independent party of and for the working class. We call for a vote for Stein in states where she is on the ballot, and a vote for West in states where Stein is not on the ballot but West is. In states with neither, we call for writing in Stein. This is the best way to win the strongest possible vote for an independent left campaign. These are not wasted votes. Voting for either the Stein or West campaigns is voting based on our values and interests. The real wasted vote is a vote for either the Republicans or Democrats while they

continue to betray the needs of the vast majority of people. Voting for left independent politicians is an important part of helping to organise a mass working-class party. In addition to voting, we need to remain active beyond the election, regardless of which corporate party might take power. We should organise mass protests against Trump and the right wing, as well as opposition to the capitalist and imperialist agenda of Harris and the Democrats. The working class needs a mass socialist movement to fight for a genuine alternative to the corporate duopoly that plagues the US and working-class people everywhere.

## Who are the independent and left candidates standing?

There are hundreds of independents, Greens, and left candidates running for office across the United States. **Nick Wurst**, Independent Socialist Group (ISG) and SMART-TD Local 1473 & Railroad Workers United (personal capacity), looks at a number of those campaigns.

### Dan Osborn - Nebraska

In Nebraska, union steamfitter Dan Osborn continues his working-class bid for the US Senate, taking on Republican Party (RP) incumbent Deb Fischer. Uncompromisingly independent, Osborn has refused endorsements from the Democratic Party (DP) and taken no corporate money. Since our initial article in February, Osborn has secured endorsements from the state trade union federation AFL-CIO and out-fundraised his opponent, accepting donations from working-class people and unions. "Unlike Deb Fischer, I'm not taking corporate PAC money from Pfizer, Boeing, Facebook and JBS," Osborn said in a statement. "No one's going to own me when I get to Washington."

His campaign has highlighted important working-class issues like increasing the minimum wage, making it easier to join unions, and stopping government handouts to "hugely profitable pharmaceutical corporations". Osborn's campaign demonstrates once again that it's possible to avoid the trap of the corporate Democratic Party. The Osborn campaign is the most exciting development in

the current elections with a serious chance to win and is the only independent campaign with major union support. If Osborn wins in Nebraska, it lends credibility to the idea of running as an independent.

One key idea that ISG would raise is for the Osborn campaign to help launch an effort for a new party for working people, one which would identify and run more candidates on a similar platform to the Osborn campaign, with the same no-corporate-money pledge, and with internal democracy. If Osborn gets to the Senate, he will face tremendous pressure to 'play ball' and compromise with the corporate parties in the spirit of 'getting things done'. A party which can mobilise supporters to rally public pressure will help him break deadlocks and stay true to the working-class people who elected him.

### Green 13 slate - New Jersey

The Green Party has firmly maintained political independence from the capitalist class and its two parties. Many on the left are drawn to it and run campaigns on its ballot line, using it as a vehicle to get on ballots

Left to right Eduardo Quintana, Dan Osborn, Christina Khalil, Jason Call and Joshua Bradley



where doing so as an independent is difficult. Not all Green Party candidates or state Green Parties are left or run on strong progressive programmes and this is why the ISG does not endorse the Green Party as a whole.

The New Jersey Green Party, demonstrating the importance of maintaining a ballot line and the opportunity for leftists to use its ballot line, is fielding candidates for a US Senate seat and all 12 House of Representative seats. The candidates' platforms highlight a wide range of issues, including calling for universal healthcare, ending the housing crisis, and establishing a federal jobs guarantee. For example, the Christina Khalil for US Senate campaign "supports a myriad of solutions including access to public banking, increasing the minimum wage...and the expansion of public housing."

### Jason Call - Washington

Jason Call is a Green Party candidate for US Congress in Washington state's 2nd district. Call got involved in the Democratic Party in 2016 because of Bernie Sanders' support for the party, getting elected to the

Democratic Party State Central Committee. He campaigned for the 2nd congressional seat in 2020 and 2022 as a 'progressive' democrat, following the failed strategy to try and reform the Democrats championed by Sanders etc. He left the Democrats in 2023, realising "the sad truth is that the Democratic Party, like the Republicans, is owned and controlled by Wall Street and the war machine". He was recently arrested on the campaign trail with Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein when they attended a protest at Washington University against the ongoing war in Gaza. His campaign programme highlights "Medicare for all, tuition-free college, climate emergency, strengthening labour, and ending endless war."

### Eduardo Quintana - Arizona

Quintana is a Green Party candidate for Senate, running on a pro-worker, pro-climate, anti-war platform. However, in an example of the dirty tricks used by the corporate parties, as well as the problems with the primary system, the Democrats and Republicans both planted candidates in the Green Party primary to run against

Quintana. The Arizona Secretary of State, a Democrat, even declared the Democrat plant as the winner of the primary, until the Greens managed to correct the record.

### Joshua Bradley - Raleigh, North Carolina

In North Carolina, Joshua Bradley is a joint Green Party and Socialist Party USA (SPUSA) candidate for the Raleigh City Council. Bradley was heavily involved in the Occupy movement in Raleigh and is involved in both the Green Party and the SPUSA.

His campaign has five main themes in its programme: "Housing justice, racial justice and equity, workers' rights, environmental justice, non-discrimination and community inclusion." The joint effort is reminiscent of the 2020 Hawkins/Walker Green Party campaign for president. Hawkins and Walker won the candidacy of both the Greens and the SPUSA and were supported by several other left groups, including the ISG.

• Both articles can be read in full at [independentsocialistgroup.org](https://independentsocialistgroup.org)

# Nationalisation, compensation and small businesses – what do socialists say?

In the aftermath of the July general election, Tunde, a supporter of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition - the electoral coalition that the Socialist Party is part of - wrote to us about our programme for nationalisation. They asked:

1. On areas concerning childcare, social and health services, would small private providers be nationalised or only the largest providers?
  2. How would compensation on proven need be assessed and would that be monetary-based?
- Socialist Party National Committee member **Martin Powell-Davies** responds.

**W**ith society organised as it is, a capitalist system based on competition for profits, the living standards of workers and small traders alike are constantly under attack. Workers' wages fail to keep up with prices - leaving less in their pockets to spend in local businesses. Instead of taking wealth from the super-rich, pro-capitalist governments increase the tax burden on the rest of us, and banks rake in interest payments from loans and mortgages. To end this systematic robbery, the Socialist Party says: nationalise the 150 or so major companies and banks that dominate the British economy and run them under working-class control and management, as part of a democratically agreed socialist plan.

With these key drivers of the economy taken into public ownership, a workers' democracy could then plan not only what needs to be produced, but also the public services that need to be provided. That's bound to include free, high-quality, childcare, social and health services - areas where urgent action is needed to address the state of complete crisis.

Some of these services still remain in the public sector, run through the NHS or local councils. A socialist government would make sure that the wealth secured through nationalisation of the economy was used to finally reverse decades of damaging cuts and expand these vital services to meet needs, managed under the democratic control of staff, their unions, and service users.

However, thanks to privatisation and 'competitive tendering', too many of these services have been privatised, often to sharks relying on low pay and poor employment practices. Other big businesses - not least the pharmaceutical giants - have never been made part of the NHS, as they always should have been. All the major providers in these sectors should be placed under public ownership, putting an end to their profiteering and exploitation of their workforce.

But where does that leave, say, a family-run pharmacy or a self-employed childminder? Socialists have always made clear that small private providers shouldn't fear that they will be treated as if they were profiteering fat cats. They can play their role in a socialist plan to meet people's needs, without fear that they are going to be forcibly nationalised. Instead, small providers would benefit from government control of prices and the provision of cheap credit. State subsidies, particularly to make sure that their workers receive trade union rates of pay, decent working



PHOTOS: SOCIALIST PARTY AND REPTON/CC

conditions and training, could also be provided where genuinely needed. Grants could be paid, for example to improve premises, so they could offer a higher quality of service.

But, in return, small providers must be prepared to 'open their books' to local workers' committees who could then fully discuss with them their financial situation and agree what cheap loan or subsidy might be appropriate - or not, depending on the circumstances.

Some providers may conclude that the best way forward would be to voluntarily transfer their services into the public sector. After all, wouldn't it make more sense, to continue with these examples, for pharmacists and childcare workers to become state employees, with guaranteed pay and

conditions, instead of having the insecurity of running their own small businesses?

That kind of democratic decision-making would also be how questions about compensation would be resolved. When it comes to the fat cats, like the major shareholders of the banks and monopolies, and privatised rail, water and energy firms, the answer would be clear. While workers struggle, the FTSE100 companies are paying out around £80 billion in shareholder dividends every year! These profiteers have already made a killing at our expense, why should we pay them even a penny more when we take their firms into public ownership?!

But what about smaller businesses and shareholders, or workers whose

pension contributions might be invested in one of the 150 top firms? The Socialist Party agrees that compensation should be paid - but only where there is a proven need, assessed democratically by workers' committees with full access to the relevant books and accounts. Any individual who felt they would be in hardship when a firm is nationalised - compulsorily or voluntarily - must also have the right to fully present their case for individual compensation too.

In some cases, compensation based on need might indeed be a monetary sum. Where the concern is about pension funds, then compensation could perhaps be the guarantee of a full state pension - not at the existing poverty levels but enough to enjoy a decent retirement. Where the concern is about the potential loss of a home, there could be a guarantee of a high-quality state-rented home, as part of the wider plan that a socialist government will need to launch to address the housing crisis.

Ultimately, the exact details of what programme a workers' democracy carries out is determined in the course of struggle and is the product of democratic debate and discussion. To meet the needs of all in society while protecting the environment means developing a socialist planned economy. That can only be achieved by taking the commanding heights of the economy into democratic public ownership.

## WHY SOCIALISTS FIGHT FOR NATIONALISATION

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# NEED NOT GREED

ALAN HARDMAN 1936-2024

"ALAN'S CARTOONS CAPTURED THE POWER OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT... HIS DEPICTION OF THE MINERS' STRIKE BRILLIANTLY SHOWS HOW OUR MOVEMENT COULD COME TOGETHER AT TIMES OF NEED."

JEREMY CORBYN



BLUECOAT



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# Why I joined the Socialist Party - We're not a book club, we take action

CAITLIN BRIDGE  
LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST PARTY

I'm from a low-income background, and an autistic queer woman, so I haven't been afforded the privilege to stay apolitical. As someone whose parents have never voted, or shown interest in politics, I've had to

educate myself on the things I'm passionate about, through reading and conversation.

My friend Ali introduced me to the Socialist Party. Despite my familiarity with socialist ideas, and what the party stood for, I hadn't engaged in an organisation like this before, in-person.

I believe the Socialist Party is the

perfect starting point for others like me. It presents the opportunity to strive towards working-class solidarity by spreading awareness of what we can achieve when we work as a collective.

At meetings I was introduced to many people from different backgrounds, with vastly different life

experiences. They all shared the same joint sentiment - capitalism is exhausting.

Not only exhausting, but the cause of all inequality, through the divide-and-conquer approach to the working class.

Socialism has given me a community where I've felt heard and

understood. The party isn't just a book club, but a way to take action, and spread socialist ideas to the masses - and to make real change in the world.



## Birmingham Labour cuts youth service in Britain's youngest city

Birmingham City Council youth workers lobbied a committee meeting on 23 October, which considered massive cuts to what remains of their service. If the cuts go through, the youth service will barely exist - this in Britain's youngest city.

Speakers pointed out that these cuts are a false economy. The lack of

constructive things for young people to do causes mental health issues, which are much more expensive to deal with.

### £8,000 a week

A youth worker preventing children with behavioural problems being taken into care saves as much as £8,000 a week. The lack of a youth service leads some youth into a life of crime.

The Socialist Party support the workers' campaign against the cuts.

The youth service shouldn't be saved by cuts in other services. The money

exists to adequately fund all local services.

The Labour council has failed to demand sufficient funds from the now-Labour government, to provide effective services.

One Labour councillor has organised meetings to coordinate opposition to these cuts. The Socialist Party supports this, and will participate in any campaign. If Labour refuses to fund services, those opposed should break with Labour, and form an anti-cuts group of councillors.

CLIVE WALDER  
BIRMINGHAM SOUTH SOCIALIST PARTY

## Rotherham protest against NHS worker evictions

SHEFFIELD AND SOUTH YORKSHIRE SAVE OUR NHS

You could not make this up. Rotherham NHS Trust has entered itself to be Nursing Times's 'employer of the year', claiming it has a "joy in work approach to nurse recruitment and retention". Yet it is evicting over 76 residents, including many nurses, all NHS staff, from three onsite accommodation blocks.

One tenant said: "Many have chosen to bring their careers here. Personally, I applied to do my training in Rotherham because of this accommodation".

### Severe shortage

This clearly shows how having accommodation helps with staff recruitment and retention, providing a constant source of new staff to Rotherham Hospital. Many come from abroad, and then commit themselves to working in South Yorkshire.

The hospital has severe staff shortages, highlighted with over a ten-hour waiting time to see an A&E doctor in August. Many staff work extra-long and double shifts, and there's constant use of bank staff.

Tenants, staff, and local

campaigners have organised a protest - Thursday 7 November, 11.30am to 1.30pm, outside the main entrance of Rotherham Hospital.

The Trust says that it will "mothball" the accommodation. The Trust cites a fire safety report, but admits there are no immediate fire or health and safety dangers.

The Trust says it can't afford the repairs, but has not released any cost figures for the work. The Trust admits that the accommodation blocks are not losing it money.

So why the unseemly haste to evict doctors, nurses, and other NHS staff, many from overseas, from their homes? Are they rushing to evict the tenants before 'no-fault evictions' legislation would outlaw such rogue landlord behaviour?

Over 1,000 people have signed our petitions showing how unpopular and out of touch the Trust is. People want to support the NHS by keeping and retaining NHS staff, not adding to its destruction.

This protest is supported by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN), Sheffield and South Yorkshire Save Our NHS campaign, the Rotherham Hospital Action Group of tenants, Sheffield Tenants Union, Sheffield Socialist Party, Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC), and Taiba Yasseem - Independent councillor for Boston Castle ward, covering the hospital.

## Stop Coventry Labour cutting our libraries

SARAH DAVIS  
COVENTRY SOCIALIST PARTY AND SAVE COVENTRY LIBRARIES

Coventry Labour council is consulting on its proposal to move four libraries - Canley, Cooundon, and Bell Green - from their purpose-built buildings, into smaller buildings. Holbrooks Library will be moved into a dementia centre.

Libraries are the heart of the community. They are safe places, and so much more than books - computers, rhyme time, homework and book clubs. But, of course, it's the only place you can borrow books for free.

We are very concerned about the positions of the professional staff, and about the loss of book stock, computers, book groups, and other services that use the libraries.

There are safeguarding, health and safety, and confidentiality concerns. You simply can't have children in a

building that is used by people who have dementia.

Bell Green is one of the Coventry's five 'core libraries' that Coventry City Council said had a lifetime guarantee to always be fully funded, staffed by professionals, and stay in its purpose-built building.

Coventry Council, like every council, has a legal responsibility to provide a comprehensive and effective library service for all. Moving these libraries and reducing their services is a breach of that.

Coventry Council has said there were "753,975 visits to the 17 Coventry libraries, including 500,000 computer uses", which is evidence that they are being well used. So we are very concerned to see a reduction in size, rather than an expansion.

The council should make no cuts, and demand that the Labour government coughs up the money to pay for it.



ROSIE SMITH  
BLACK COUNTRY SOCIALIST PARTY

Many speakers at the protest said how the war has impacted them personally, and some gave harrowing accounts from family and friends who have lived in Palestine or Lebanon. Dozens marched in solidarity with the people of Palestine in Walsall on

20 October, joined by Socialist Party members, following the Israeli state's attacks against Gaza.

The march had an undeniable feeling of shared grief and anger at the long list of atrocities committed in Gaza over the past year. And unsurprisingly, many speakers and marchers felt frustrated and disillusioned with the new Labour government,

and called for revolutionary change in order to being about peace.

This was reflected in the speeches from two of the six independent councillors in Walsall, who resigned from Labour over its support for the war on Gaza, with Aftab Nawaz coming second behind his former party in the general election, with over 7,600 votes.

# Students fight back against Labour's cuts and fees budget

ADAM GILLMAN  
SOCIALIST STUDENTS STEERING COMMITTEE

The Socialist goes to print before the Budget on 30 October, when student campaigners around the country have a national day of action opposing Labour's plans to raise tuition fees and cut education funding.

Socialist Students has launched Funding Not Fees - a campaign that fights for free education, for living grants not loans, to end low pay and insecure employment, and to

stop all education cuts and course closures.

Tuition fees are already too high. If Labour's Budget increases tuition fees, it would put overworked, cash-strapped students, even more into debt.

Raising tuition fees wouldn't solve the university funding crisis, doing nothing to address the root cause - the marketised model of higher education.

Labour's budget will cut even more from our already crumbling public services, effecting students from on

and off campus, making it harder for them to access mental health services, for example.

No matter what comes out of this Budget, services are being cut, uni courses have been cut, rents are too high, and tuition fees will still be too high. We need to fight back for what we need.

This is why Socialist Students fights for democratic control of universities by students and staff, and the socialist transformation of society to meet the needs of workers and young people.

## Cardiff - how profit wrecks our education

JOHN WILLIAMS  
CARDIFF CENTRAL SOCIALIST PARTY

A lecturer and University and College Union (UCU) member told us there's deep cuts coming, and probable job losses. The anger that's brewing could mean strikes, which Socialist Students will be behind 100%.

University bosses are using the same rhetoric as Labour prime minister Keir Starmer. "The extent of job losses needed to address a £30 million black hole in its budget is not yet clear", Cardiff University's vice-chancellor has said.

In the Cardiff Socialist Students meeting to launch the Funding Not Fees campaign, it wasn't lost on students that the vice-chancellor is well paid... plus expenses!

And there's anger at what our tuition fees are being used for. Cardiff University hosted an event with BAE Systems - an arms manufacturer supplying the Israeli military, including components for F-35 fighter jets used to bomb Gaza.

A student from France was bewildered at the higher education system in Britain. UK tuition fees are one of the highest in the world.

The meeting had plenty of personal stories of how the profit-driven system has given them a bad time in education - mostly effecting poorer kids.

A very good question was asked in the meeting - how we could win concessions from Starmer's Labour on higher education. There's plenty of money to fund this and more, but the capitalist system means it's hoarded



by a tiny number of rich individuals. Socialist Students wants to link up the student movement and the workers' movement to mobilise a mass campaign.

As the budget looms, and an increase in fees on the cards, it's never been more important for Socialist Students to help build the fightback.

## Warwick students tell Labour - 'don't raise our fees'

Socialist Students has launched our Funding Not Fees campaign at

Warwick uni. We were talking to students about opposing any attempt by Labour to raise tuition fees, and arguing for properly funding education, scrapping uni fees, and to make the super-rich pay for it.

14 students bought our Socialist paper. That Socialist paper included our second special student wrap-around this autumn, this time launching the Funding Not Fees campaign on the front page.

And when we asked students to donate to Socialist Students, to help us pay for leaflets, posters, and more, and told them we had a card reader, they said "yes", donating £32 on top, there and then.

This was just before Labour's budget. So we'll have even more students stopping by our campaign stalls when Labour's attacks on students and workers are properly revealed.

On Budget Day, 30 October, we have a lunchtime protest at Coventry uni, followed by an evening meeting at Warwick - plus events at over 20 other unis around the country.

IAN PATTISON

## South Wales - 'that's just wrong'

Calling out to passing students, we had to compete with the roar of earth-moving equipment. The University of South Wales seems to have loads of money for building projects, and very little to spend on students and staff.

Uni bosses have announced 100 redundancies. They're making students pay extra for anything they can. They even cut back on freshers' week!

A lot of students coming up to our campaign stall gave us their mobile number to stay in touch. One student, Fatima, told us how things should be before we could even get a word in. "People shouldn't have to pay to go to uni. That's just wrong."

MARIAM KAMISH

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STUDENTS: FIGHT BACK AGAINST STARMER'S BUDGET FOR THE RICH

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Includes the 'Funding Not Fees' rally hosted by Socialist Students



## TV review

## Undercover: Exposing the Far Right

WILL MICHAELS  
HULL

Shown on Channel 4 and available on catch-up, this film gives a chilling picture of the far right in Britain, including its international links, today. The documentary makers, at no small risk to themselves, investigated several far-right groupings and individuals ranging from street movements like Patriotic Alternative and Tommy Robinson to 'Britain First' which attempts to portray itself as a legitimate political party, to a shadowy 'race science' research group the 'Human Diversity Foundation' (HDF).

The HDF, an international network of researchers, produces pseudo-scientific information based on the discredited ideas of eugenics. They rehash old racist prejudices, like the claim that races with the biggest sex-drive have the lowest intelligence and use what they label 'scientific evidence' to support their odious ideas.

These ideas would be laughable except that 'influencers' continually push them through various social media forums and far-right street activists, including Tommy Robinson, and even mainstream politicians either believe or echo these lies to justify attacks on Muslims and others.

Erik Ahrens, a far-right 'Alternative for Germany' activist and influencer, is a leading figure in the HDF. He was captured on camera calling for 'remigration'. Ahrens clearly means the forced repatriation of people not born in Germany. He also called for the establishment of an 'elite' group of physical and intellectual leaders to ensure a white future for Europe. He uses the SS as the model for such an elite. At the same time, 'Britain First' leaders who attempt, in public, to



PHOTO: CHANNEL 4

portray themselves as a mainstream patriotic party, actually want Britain to become a "shithole" because then a far-right or even an openly fascist party could be successful.

A shadowy web of connections link the university educated far-right pseudo theoreticians through to the influencers and then into the mouths of right-wing politicians and street thugs, like those who took part in the riots on 3 August. The documentary makers worked closely with 'Hope not Hate', an organisation that monitors and exposes the far right.

The film also showed the physical threats and intimidation that the far right will use to attack anti-fascists. Nick Lowles, the CEO of Hope not Hate, has been a victim of far-right intimidation. One far-right activist was intercepted with a gun after many texts and emails proclaimed that anyone who could kill

Nick Lowles would be a hero of the movement.

Nick Lowles himself made the point that something had to be done to stop the far right. Unfortunately, the big weakness of the documentary was the lack of a strategy beyond using the courts to stop fascism. A brief film clip of the battle of Cable Street in 1936, when workers from the East End of London collectively used their strength to stop Oswald Mosley and the British Union of Fascists, shows the way.

The key task is to point out to trade unions and working-class communities the menace of fascism and the far right. Ultimately, we have to struggle to establish a new workers' party that will fight for all of our communities. That would cut the ground away from the far right and their odious ideas.

● Stream now on channel4.com

## SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS SYSTEM IN CRISIS

The special educational needs system (SEND) is "financially unsustainable". That's what a report from the National Audit Office has found. Anyone who has engaged in SEND services provided (if that's the word for it) by local councils would be aware of the crisis.

With increasing numbers of children needing SEND services, council funding cut to the bone, and no councillors standing up and fighting for the funding their residents need, councils have shut down services and cut SEND transport. And there doesn't seem likely to be the much-needed funding provided in Starmer's first budget, so the deficit for providing these vital services will only increase.

**Adeel Janjua, a parent of a child who needs SEND support, spoke at a public meeting of Waltham Forest Trades Council against cuts to disability services in his area.**

## DEMAND COUNCILS FUND OUR SERVICES



Adeel lobbying Waltham Forest Labour council PAULA MITCHELL



I stand before you not only on behalf of my son Aayan, but also as a voice for those who have been systematically silenced and neglected under the main political parties. This includes kids like Aayan all over the UK, and adults with special needs.

Over the last few years, all of us have witnessed and some have suffered the dismantling of essential social services, in the name of balancing the books. These decisions have had devastating consequences, particularly for the weakest among us. Sometimes this may mean absolutely violating constitutional entitlements, as in my son's case: the local authority has failed to find him a school place since 2021. He is now in the second consecutive academic year that he has been kept out of school.

People who get elected with our votes decide to take no action. In my case, I sent an email to the leader of the council and cabinet lead in July. To date, only an acknowledgement has landed back in my email.

My son has no school place at all. He gets peanuts in the name of funding and that was after some struggle. He has no educational psychologist, no occupational therapist, no speech and language specialist. We are denied an ADHD assessment and autism assessment.

My son is not alone in his fight, he is like 7,000 in Waltham Forest, 200,000 in London and 1.7 million in England who don't have a diagnosis and/or support.

The political decision-makers think that by dismissing legitimate demands of people and their families, like you and me, we will sit down muted.

No, we will not sit down. We will stand up, we will be loud and clear, we will speak out on meeting platforms. We will fight them in the courts. When the time comes, we will pay these politicians back with our votes.

And we all know that these failings are the logical consequence of years of the last government's policies - policies that favour the wealthy while taking away help from those who need it most. Vital services like those for people with special needs are seen as expendable,

while in fact this is a lifeline for them. Now, the Labour government is extensively using the word 'change', but we don't see change, we see a continuation of the same policy.

What we need now is a bold, socialist vision - one that puts people first and restores the support systems that local communities rely on. I believe in a society where no one is left behind; where everyone, regardless of their ability or circumstances, has the right to live with dignity, and have educational resources.

A government truly committed to fairness would ensure that every disabled person has access to the support and education they deserve. We must also demand the reversal of cuts to local government funding. It's time to invest in public services, not to cut them.

Now, the question is: what can you do? What can I do? The answer is simple but powerful. Organise. Speak out. Demand change from your local representatives. Attend local council meetings, write to your MPs, and make your voice heard.

More than that, we need to come together as a community. Solidarity is the answer to the problems created by Conservative and Labour neglect. If they won't fight for us, we will fight for ourselves.

The strength of a society is measured not by the wealth of its wealthiest members but by how it treats its weakest. Under Conservative and Labour rule, we have failed this test. But together, we can turn things around. It's time to embrace a new vision, one based on solidarity, compassion, and collective action.

In the words of the great socialist thinker Karl Marx, "The social revolution... cannot draw its poetry from the past, but only from the future." It is time to start building the future that we know is possible - a future where every citizen, including our disabled community, is valued and supported.



PHOTO: MARY FINCH



## WHAT WE STAND FOR

Capitalism is an ailing, crisis-ridden system based on the exploitation of the majority of the world's population by a small, super-rich elite who own most of the wealth and the means of producing it. This way of organising society, in which the pursuit of profit comes before everything else, causes poverty, inequality, environmental destruction, wars and oppression across the globe.

The Socialist Party organises working-class people to fight against the attacks from this rotten system on our lives and livelihoods, and for a socialist alternative: a society which takes the wealth out of the hands of the super-rich

and is democratically run by working-class people to meet the needs of all not the profits of a few.

Building fighting democratic trade unions in the workplaces and a new mass workers' party is a vital part of the struggle to change society along socialist lines.

Because capitalism is a world system, the struggle for socialism must also be international. The Socialist Party is part of the Committee for a Workers' International which organises across the world. Our demands include:

## WORK, PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

- A £15-an-hour minimum wage for all, without exemptions. For the minimum wage to automatically increase linked to average earnings or inflation, whichever is higher.
- Share out the work. A maximum 32-hour working week with no loss of pay or worsening of conditions. The right to flexible working, under the control of workers not employers. An end to insecure working, for the right to full-time work for all who want it; ban zero-hour contracts.
- All workers to have trade union rates of pay, employment protection, and sickness, parental and holiday rights from day one of employment. End bosses using bogus 'self-employment' as a means to avoid giving workers rights.
- No to austerity through inflation.
- For all wage rates to be automatically increased at least in line with price rises.
- Open the books of all companies cutting jobs or claiming they can't afford to pay a real living wage. State subsidies, where genuinely needed, for socially-useful small businesses.
- For trade unions independent of the

capitalist state, with members having democratic control over their own policies, constitutions and democratic procedures. For all trade union officials to be regularly elected, subject to recall by their members and paid a worker's wage.

- Reduce the state retirement and pension age to 55. For decent living pensions.
- Replace universal credit and the punitive benefit system with living benefits for all who need them.

## PUBLIC SERVICES

- A massive expansion of public services including the NHS and council services. Reverse all the cuts, kick out the privateers. Bring private social care and childcare facilities into public ownership under democratic control, in order to provide free, high-quality services for all who need them. Expand services for all women suffering violence.
- For local councillors who are committed to opposing austerity and all cuts to local services, jobs, pay and conditions.
- For a socialist NHS to provide for everyone's health needs, including

dental and eye care - free at the point of use and under democratic control. Kick out the private companies!

Nationalise the pharmaceutical industry under democratic workers' control and management.

- Renationalise privatised utilities - including rail, mail, water, telecoms and power - under democratic workers' control and management.
- Free, publicly funded and democratically run, good-quality education, available to all at any age. Abolish university tuition fees and write off student debt, end marketisation, and introduce a living grant. No to academisation. For all schools to be under the genuine democratic control of local education authorities, school staff, parents and student organisations.
- The right to a safe secure home for all. For the mass building of genuinely affordable, high-quality, carbon-neutral council housing. For rent controls that cap the level of rent. Fair rent decisions should be made by elected bodies of tenants, housing workers and representatives of trade unions. For cheap low-interest mortgages for home buyers. Nationalise

the privately owned large building companies, land banks and estates.

## ENVIRONMENT

- Prioritising major research and investment into replacing fossil fuels and nuclear power with renewable energy, and ending the problems of early obsolescence - where products are designed to "wear out" and be replaced - and unrecycled waste.
- Nationalisation of the energy companies, under democratic workers' control and management, with compensation paid only on the basis of proven need, in order to carry out a major switch to clean, green energy, without any loss of jobs, pay or conditions.
- A democratically planned, massively expanded, free to use, publicly owned transport system, as part of an overall plan against environmental pollution.
- For a major, publicly funded, insulation and energy transition plan for existing housing stock.
- Agribusiness to be taken into democratic public ownership. For a food processing and retail industry under

workers' control to ensure that standards are set by consumers, small farmers, and all workers involved in the production, processing, distribution and retail of food.

## DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

- For united working-class struggle to end discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexuality, age, and all other forms of prejudice and oppression.
- Repeal the anti-trade union laws and all others that trample over civil liberties. For the right to protest and to strike! End police harassment. For the police to be accountable to local committees, made up of democratically elected representatives of trade unions, local community organisations and local authorities.
- For the right to choose when and whether to have children - for the right to access abortion, contraception and fertility treatment for all who need it.
- For the right to asylum - with democratic community control and oversight of emergency funding resources. No to racist immigration laws.
- Expand democracy. For the abolition

of the monarchy and the House of Lords. For all MPs to be subject to the right of recall by their constituents at any time, and to only receive a worker's wage. For proportional representation and the right to vote at 16.

- For the right of nations to self-determination. For an independent socialist Scotland and for a socialist Wales, both part of a voluntary socialist confederation of Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland.
- Oppose the dictatorship of the billionaire owners of the media. For the nationalisation of newspaper printing facilities, radio, TV and social media platforms. Access to these facilities should be under democratic control, with political parties' coverage being allocated in proportion to the popular vote at elections.
- For a new mass workers' party, based on the trade unions, and drawing together workers, young people and activists from workplaces, and community, environmental, anti-racist and anti-cuts campaigns, to provide a fighting, socialist political alternative to the pro-big business parties.

## SOCIALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM

- No to imperialist wars and occupations!
- Take the wealth off the super-rich! For a socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies and the banking system that dominate the British economy, and run them under democratic working-class control and management. Compensation to be paid only on the basis of proven need, not to the fat cats.

- A democratic socialist plan of production based on the interests of the overwhelming majority of people, and in a way that safeguards the environment.
- No to the EU bosses' club. Organise a campaign with European socialists and workers' organisations to use the talks on post-Brexit relations to tear up the EU pro-capitalist rules. For a real collaboration of the peoples of Europe on a socialist basis as a step towards a socialist world.

Do you agree? Join the fightback!

## JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

- Visit [socialistparty.org.uk/join](http://socialistparty.org.uk/join)
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# the Socialist

Issue 1296

31 October - 6 November 2024

formerly **Militant**

# HOW TO END ISRAELI STATE TERROR

## Come and discuss at Socialism2024

**F**or more than a year there has been no end to the massacres and atrocities carried out by Israeli state forces in Gaza. Palestinians in the West Bank face constant brutality. Ordinary people in Lebanon too now face bombardment and incursion. Across the Middle East, people live in fear of war spiralling into a deeper regional conflict, with still more suffering.

In a fresh act of cruelty, Israeli politicians have voted for a legal ban on the United

Nations agency delivering aid to Palestinians. The consequence: further hunger and disease (read more page 5).

What way out is there from the seemingly endless violence? What is at the root of the world's wars and conflicts? and what can be done about it?

On 9-10 November in London, hundreds of socialists and working-class activists will come together to discuss those questions and more. Those attending both days will have the

opportunity to attend four out of a total 36 discussions, included among them: How is a Palestinian state realisable? Where now for the Iranian revolution? What is the role of the Israeli working class?

And if you have your own questions, related to those issues or any others, that you want to put to socialist activists - this is your chance.

On the Saturday evening, those hundreds of activists will come together to for a rally:

'Build the socialist opposition to Starmer's war and austerity agenda'

Speakers will report from the struggles of workers and young people, putting forward the next steps forward in how to build the socialist opposition to Starmer, linking this to the need for socialist change in Britain and worldwide.

Book your tickets online today. And if you have already got your tickets, invite your friends and workmates too.

*Come to the rally to*

# BUILD THE SOCIALIST OPPOSITION

## TO STARMER'S WAR AND AUSTERITY AGENDA

Speakers include:

**Hannah Sell**, Socialist Party general secretary  
**Tony Saunois**, secretary of the Committee for a Workers' International

**Fiona Brittle**, PCS national executive committee  
**Jared Wood**, RMT London Transport regional organiser (personal capacity)

**Odunayo Eniayekan**, Nigeria Solidarity UK  
**Nadia Ditta**, anti-war socialist election candidate  
**Cas Middlemas**, Funding Not Fees student activist

Chaired by: **Josh Asker**, editor of the Socialist

**Saturday 9 November  
5.30pm - 7.30pm**

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WHAT WE STAND FOR: THE SOCIALIST PARTY'S MAIN DEMANDS >>> see column on p14-15



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