

UNITE TO BEAT LABOUR AUSTERITY

DEJI OLAYINKA

CROYDON AND SUTTON SOCIALIST PARTY

Many people voted Labour at the general election because they were sick and tired of the Tories, and austerity that left services crumbling and our standards of living falling.

Any hopes in Labour have been shattered. The utter disaster is worsening under Keir Starmer's government: NHS in crisis, schools underfunded, council tax going up while services are slashed, and yet more austerity cuts promised.

Divide and rule

Like the Tories before them, the Labour government has gone after those it sees as easy targets first – pensioners, disabled people, trans people. Using 'divide and rule' and scapegoating to try to redirect frustration away from themselves and the super-rich capitalist bosses whose interests it is most concerned with. By doing so, Labour has opened the door for right-wing populists Reform UK to make electoral gains.

Labour have attacked every part of the working class since taking power. But we haven't taken it lying down. There's been inspirational protests: thousands marched in London against disability cuts, and most recently a rapid mobilisation of tens of thousands in response to the Supreme Court ruling, protesting to defend trans rights.

But now we need to win!

Just two years ago, the trade union movement was leading the fight against the cost-of-living crisis. By striking, including days of coordinated strike action, workers forced concessions from the Tories and money from the incoming Labour government.

Workers fight back

Now the unions must lead the fightback, including with strike action to demand fully funded public services and decent pay. The trade union movement could bring together all those fighting Labour attacks by organising a mass weekend demonstration, in its own name, against Starmer's austerity, as a step towards future coordinated strike action.

Reform UK, which offers no way forward for the working class, cannot be allowed to present itself as a way to express hatred at Labour at the ballot box.

We need a working-class political alternative that says make the super-rich pay, not the workers. The trade unions should stop wasting money backing Labour candidates that attack our jobs and services, and instead stand their own candidates to fight on our side against the bosses.

104 trade unionists, activists, socialist and community campaigners put up a socialist stand on 1 May, by standing as candidates as part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition. Pointing the way towards the new mass workers' party we need, with socialist policies to meet the needs of all.



MATT DOBSON



MARY FINCH

Peter Taaffe
1942-2025 - International Trotskyist
theoretician and fighter for socialism - p7-11

12-PAGE MAY DAY PULLOUT

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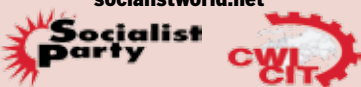
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"The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it."
Karl Marx

Why wait? Scrap anti-union laws now!

MARK BEST

SOCIALIST PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

After the announcement that inflation in March fell to 2.6%, chancellor Rachel Reeves described it as "encouraging" and showing that Labour's economic plans are working. But, as BBC news put it, "it won't last long".

As Trump's tariffs cause chaos and uncertainty across world financial markets and disrupt supply chains, big business bosses will try and protect their profits. That means they'll try to increase prices, drive down our wages and make us pay the price while they keep getting richer. 'Awful April' has come to an end but we're all living with the hikes in our bills, council tax and other costs.

The lesson of the strike wave of 2022-23 against the cost-of-living crisis was clear. Across the public and private sectors, when workers collectively acted and took strike action their pay offers were improved.

As inflation bites again and Labour, serving the same bosses as the Tories, repeatedly stress the need for us all to tighten our belts, strike action is posed again.

So it's no wonder then that big business representatives haven't stopped lobbying the government and House of Lords to water down

Labour's Employment Rights Bill, promised to make it easier for us to organise in trade unions and to take action.

Workers' rights: still waiting

It's been ten months since Keir Starmer's Labour won the general election, and the Tory anti-union laws are still in effect. Reeves, Starmer and the bosses hope that, by kicking the can down the road, those laws can be used to act as a barrier to working-class action.

Instead of dragging their feet, the Labour government could act now. Scunthorpe steelworks was taken over in a day – a Saturday! The Tory anti-union laws, which include the undemocratic 50% turnout thresholds which hold back strike action, could be turfed out just as quickly. And Starmer could remove all the anti-democratic, anti-union laws, including those introduced by Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher. Unions, including the TUC (Trades Union Congress) union federation, should demand that Starmer's government scraps all anti-union laws, sooner rather than a diluted version later.

Socialist Party members are fighting within unions and workplaces for the action we need, and for a lead to help give workers confidence to fight back and win.



National Shop Stewards Network of the TUC in September 2024, fighting to scrap the anti-union laws ISA

Anger at Labour betrayal at Welsh independence march

JOHN WILLIAMS

CARDIFF CENTRAL SOCIALIST PARTY

Socialist Party Wales campaign stalls were swamped at the Welsh independence march in Barry on 26 April. This was the first Welsh independence march in a few years, full of angry people against the new Labour government's cuts and austerity.

Socialist Party members there were campaigning on the issue of Tata Steel in Port Talbot, which was disgracefully let down by the Labour governments in Westminster and Wales.

Cardiff and Swansea trades union councils supported nationalisation of Tata Steel, under democratic workers' control. This hit the mood with the local community and some trade unionists working there, but was rejected by Wales Trades Union Congress (TUC).

It wasn't lost on everyone who signed our petition demanding that if the Labour government can take over British Steel, then it can have the same urgency when it comes to steelworks in Wales. We don't let the Welsh Labour government off the hook either, who basically stepped aside and did sod all to save the jobs.

Welsh Labour government ministers mocked nationalisation, because 'Tata Steel isn't owned by Britain'. British Steel is owned by a Chinese company. Yet, Keir Starmer's Labour could be forced to nationalise that.

People who attended the march wanted independence from austerity, cuts, pay cuts, and independence from the capitalist system that's



Socialist Party members at the march JOHN WILLIAMS

screwing us all over. And from the mainstream political parties too.

Plaid Cymru is the biggest pro-independence party in Wales. It tries to pose as 'left of Labour'.

We spoke to its voters on the march. We explained Plaid Cymru's capitalist credentials when it gets into elected positions. Those voters then completely agreed with us.

Plaid Cymru runs Carmarthenshire Council. And has rejected workers' ill-health retirement. A Plaid Cymru councillor has been telling people not to campaign to save Abertridwr library near Caerphilly.

Working-class people at the march are reaching out for alternatives, and horrified about the prospect for Reform UK. The 'clear red water' between Welsh Labour and UK Labour certainly doesn't exist.

Socialist Party Wales calls for the Senedd (Welsh Parliament) to use its powers to carry out socialist policies:

- Reverse all cuts – Welsh Government and Welsh councils to set no-cuts budgets, pool reserves, and build a mass campaign to force the UK Labour government to return the funds robbed from Welsh services
- Give our health workers above-inflation pay rises now – invest in the NHS to expand local hospitals
- Ban zero-hour contracts
- Raise the minimum wage to £15 an hour for all
- Renationalise steel, rail and utilities
- Nationalise commanding heights of the economy
- For a socialist Wales, as part of a voluntary socialist confederation of Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland

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Labour's vicious attacks on benefits - time to fight back

DANIEL
TEESSIDE SOCIALIST PARTY

Many years ago, the idea of a welfare system 'from the cradle to the grave' was widely accepted and championed by the Labour Party. Keir Starmer's actions as head of the Labour government have confirmed again that this no longer exists.

Starmer has closed his eyes to the demands from trade unionists and activists to remove the punishing two-child benefit cap. Removing the cap would lift hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty and take some pressure off of the shoulders of parents being ground down by the cost-of-living crisis.

Not only that but Starmer's government is also threatening to put the axe to disabled people's benefits. As someone who has been through the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) process, I know how gruelling it is to receive the benefits which I am entitled to due to a life-long disability. Many people who have been through what can be a humiliating process will be rightly angry with a government which does not see their needs as something to be supported, rather seeing them as a burden.

Money for wars

Starmer and his cronies plead poverty when it comes to supporting disabled people or removing a punishing benefit cap, but his generosity knows no bounds when it comes to prolonging the slaughter of workers and young people in war. Ask yourself

this, what would you rather we fund, welfare or warfare?

Some Labour MPs will express how saddened they are about the cuts, and others, seeing Labour's dire position in the polls and wanting to make sure they keep their cushy seats, may even vote or abstain against the cuts. In many of their constituencies, the number of people affected is greater than their current majorities.

MPs' cushy salaries

While Labour MPs will preach to us that the finances are tight and working-class people have to make sacrifices, they're getting paid over £90K a year. When they have a wage like that, with all of their expenses paid (without even mentioning the 'gifts' they receive, which often amount to legalised bribery), how would they know the impact of policies like cutting PIP or the two-child benefit cap?

Ultimately, working-class people can't have any faith in the 'Labour' Party, that coven of liars and cowards in parliament do not deserve our support. We need a new mass workers' party to fight for our rights, services and jobs. A party rooted in the trade unions would not only be able to take on the deceitful Labour Party, but also the divisive rhetoric pushed by Reform.

If you want to fight for a benefits system people can live on, decent jobs with decent pay, and an end to the profit-driven capitalist system where a few at the top get filthy rich at our expense, then your place is in the Socialist Party and in the fight for a fairer society.



Keir Starmer NO.10/CC

Teacher and NHS pay: No cuts and union action for the pay we deserve

As the Socialist goes to press, it has been reported that government pay review bodies will recommend that teachers and NHS staff should be given pay rises of about 4% and 3% respectively, up from the 2.8% floated previously by the government. The Labour government has responded that any pay rise must come from the already stretched education and health budgets, ie through more cuts! Socialist Party members in schools and the NHS respond below in a personal capacity:

JAMES ELLIS, HASTINGS NATIONAL EDUCATION UNION (NEU)

Teachers desperately need an above-inflation pay award. Our pay has fallen about 20% in real terms since 2010, exacerbating the current recruitment and retention crisis.

However, any unfunded pay award must be rejected outright. An unfunded pay award will mean school cuts and redundancies - heaping even more pressure onto school staff. School cuts drive down working conditions, impact the lowest-paid workers the most, and will do serious damage to the kind of education we can provide our students. If the government doesn't fund the pay award, regardless of how much we are offered, we must strike.

LOUISE CUFFARO, NEU EXECUTIVE MEMBER

The knock-on effect will be exacerbating the cutting of staff and hours of the lowest paid, which is already happening over falling rolls in areas where student numbers are decreasing. In the national NEU fightback, we must demand funding for pay, linked to democratic control and accountability. We must have a national strategy - school-by-school is not enough. The crisis will mean closures and a tsunami of redundancies. Staff are worn out and leaving, meaning schools rely on temporary staff, and we get unhappy, unsafe staff and children! We should link up with doctors, nurses and other broken privatised public services.



Avenue Road school strike in Newham, against cuts NIAL MULHOLLAND



Ambulance workers on strike in 2023 PAUL MATTSSON

ADRIAN O'MALLEY, NEC CANDIDATE AND UNISON HEALTH SERVICE GROUP EXECUTIVE, YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE

A 3% pay rise for NHS workers is an insult. To have a portion of it paid for by cuts in services and jobs is an outrage.

It should be rejected by health trade unions, and coordinated strike ballots arranged as soon as possible. Health workers will not accept paying for our own pay rise, we've got to strike back now!

JOHN MALCOLM, NHS UNISON BRANCH SECRETARY

The 3% offer comes in response to threats of strike action and union consultation on NHS pay. 3% is hardly an increase for health workers and the campaign should be stepped up for an increase worth taking action for.

SALLY GRIFFITHS, NHS UNISON REP

I had no idea that 0.2% is so 'significant'! Perhaps when you are an MP a 0.2% increase in salary is significant, but if you're on band 2 pay within the NHS you're teetering between below minimum wage and a smidge above it. Neither 2.8% or even the 'significant' 3% will touch the sides of the massive pay erosion that NHS workers have endured. Unison members at my work have been contacting us today and they are angry.

LEN HOCKEY, BARTS HEALTH UNITE BRANCH SECRETARY

'Balancing the books' between patient care and burnt-out healthcare workers is disgraceful and has to be met with coordinated strike action by the health unions to defend our living standards and services.

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Unison NEC meeting shows fighting leadership is needed

Vote for socialists in the NEC elections

APRIL ASHLEY

UNISON NEC MEMBER, PERSONAL CAPACITY

The Unison National Executive Council (NEC) April meeting was the first since the Labour government announced £5 billion cuts to disability benefits. There was little time to discuss this brutal attack on disabled workers as the meeting was mainly for National Delegate Conference business. But the NEC agreed a major campaign against the cuts to be led by disabled workers, with various public activities, including a 'sit out' in Parliament Square.

I proposed that we write to all 127 Unison-supported MPs demanding they vote against the planned cuts. But I was frequently reminded by general secretary Christina McAnea that the union does not sponsor

them, and so she asserted that we cannot make any demands on them. And although the leadership proudly claims they support Unison policies - although seemingly not in this instance - she said we can only tamely lobby them and work through the union's ineffectual Labour Link committee.

The Employment Rights Bill was briefly discussed as it progresses through parliament. The NEC was informed that Unison fears that employers are trying to water down the bill and has put forward evidence to strengthen it.

However, I said that the delay of the repeal of the 2016 Trade Union Act, with the 50% ballot turnout threshold, was an act of betrayal by Starmer's Labour government. It was reported that the officers believe that the Act will be repealed by the end of

the year - too late for the current public sector pay campaigns.

Although Unison had previously agreed to hold a mass demonstration against council cuts and austerity for last autumn, which was then pushed back to spring 2025, that is now kicked into the long grass. I proposed that we link a mass demonstration against the cuts with the welfare attacks as they are both part of Labour's austerity 2.0 agenda.

Angela Rayner

The NEC agreed to send a message of solidarity to the Unite Birmingham bin dispute as a very important dispute for the whole trade union movement. I characterised Labour deputy prime minister Angela Rayner's role calling in army planners as strike-breaking. This was not accepted by all the NEC. But because of her role

in the bin strike, following my intervention the NEC did at least agree to remove her name from a motion congratulating her on progressing the Employment Rights Bill.

The NEC met on the day the UK Supreme Court ruling came out attacking trans rights. We heard this announcement at the end of the meeting and so the NEC did not immediately issue a statement reflecting Unison's policy on trans equality and fighting transphobia. Unison should be calling out the Supreme Court judgement as a clear attack on trans rights, reaffirming the union's commitment to protecting trans rights and ensuring trans workers' safety in the workplace.

All these issues demonstrate why we need a fighting NEC and general secretary, not one that kowtows to the Labour government.

Please vote for the following socialist candidates:

- April Ashley - Black members female seat (standing for re-election)
- Balaka Fell-Holden - London reserved seat
- Jim McFarlane - Scotland general seat
- Eve Miller - West Midlands reserved seat
- Adrian O'Malley - Health general seat
- Amy Sage - Police, Probation and Cafcass female seat
- Ellie Waple - Disabled members female seat

Please also vote for other candidates standing for a fighting union:

- James Robinson - North West general seat
- Candidates on the 'Time for real Change' list standing in other seats

Usdaw ADM

Build a union that delivers what members need - No blank cheque for Labour



Usdaw strike at Sainsbury's warehouse 2019 LONDON SOCIALIST PARTY

SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBERS IN USDAW

Retail and distribution union Usdaw's Annual Delegate Meeting (ADM) in Blackpool this year takes place ten months since the fall of 14 years of Tory rule, with a Labour government which many Usdaw members hoped would bring relief after years of austerity and worsening living standards.

But while Usdaw leaders supported Starmer, Socialist Party members warned whose side the Labour government would be on. One of its first acts, cutting the winter fuel allowance, has set the tone. Usdaw members voted last year to call on the incoming government to scrap the two-child benefit cap, but Starmer kept it and suspended MPs who voted against. Labour betrayed the WASPI women pensioners and now attacks disability benefit claimants. Massive cuts are proposed to government departments, council cuts continue, and privatisation is extended in the NHS. Meanwhile, chancellor Rachel Reeves decided to 'soften' her approach to non-dom tax evaders.

No wonder Oxfam reported that in 2024, UK billionaires' combined wealth went up by £35 million a day! This is what is meant when Labour declares it is a 'strong voice for business' and that 'Labour has changed'.

Retail workers under attack

The climate is not looking rosy for retail and distribution workers either. The key December month saw retail sales fall by 0.3% rather than the 0.4% growth that had been projected.

Retail workers know from experience that bosses will try to cut our jobs, hold back pay, and close stores to protect their profits.

Retail store closures increased by 28% from 2023 to 2024, according to the Centre for Retail Research, with projections made in January that 17,000 stores could close this year.

Usdaw-organised workers in

Sainsbury's are facing 3,000 job cuts and café closures. Morrisons is closing 17 convenience stores and shutting 52 cafés, while 400 jobs are to go in Tesco and Sainsbury's have been scrapped.

Members will be looking for a response from the newly elected general secretary, Joanne Thomas. The previous leadership's model of partnership/tripartite-working will be especially unable to deliver for members in the more stormy period of global economic convulsion ahead.

In the snap election called as a result of the sudden resignation of the general secretary and deputy general secretary, in order to raise the fighting programme that is needed, supporters of the union's Broad Left met and decided to put forward Socialist Party member Scott Jones for deputy general secretary, after other candidates without the necessary fighting stance had already declared. But unfortunately, with the short timescales, Scott didn't receive the required number of nominations to get on the ballot paper.

Weetabix strike

Usdaw members will need to be in a position to take industrial action in order to win the pay rises and conditions we deserve and our employers can certainly afford. We send solidarity to our members at Weetabix, who have taken strike action on pay - showing that Usdaw members are prepared to take action if the union gives a lead.

That's why Usdaw members will be outraged that the pledge to repeal the Tories' 2016 anti-union law has still not been carried out. This includes the undemocratic 50% ballot turnout thresholds. The crisis at Scunthorpe steelworks shows how legislation could be rushed through parliament in 24 hours, so why did it take 97 days to publish 'Making Work Pay' proposals, themselves watered down from the original 'New Deal for

Working People'? Usdaw should demand no more time is lost and they are repealed immediately.

Political voice

Usdaw, like many trade unions, has a parliamentary group of MPs it works with to raise issues in parliament. Usdaw members should demand that those MPs argue for the policies our members have adopted at ADM.

Of the Usdaw parliamentary group of MPs, only one, Navendu Mishra, has committed to vote against disability benefits cuts. Four, including Usdaw parliamentary group secretary Helen Dallimore and vice-chair Connor Rand, co-signed a letter supporting the cuts!

The disillusionment being felt by many who voted for an end to the Tories is fuelling the cynical attempt by Nigel Farage's Reform UK to fill the vacuum.

Usdaw members urgently need both a strong industrial muscle to challenge the bosses and a political voice to challenge their representatives in parliament. Workers desperately need a new mass party on a socialist programme as an alternative to the pro-big business parties, which includes Starmer's Labour. As a step towards this, we need to back trade union-based candidates who will stand up and consistently fight for our interests, whether they are in Labour or not.

There is no reason why workers in vital sectors like the supermarkets, food and pharmaceutical manufacturing, and retail, should be as low paid as many of our members are. We need to boldly face up to this new period, and challenge the bosses for the pay and conditions we deserve.

Usdaw 'Activist' ADM fringe meeting

Monday 5 May 12.30-1.30pm
Melville Hotel, 70-72 Adelaide Street, Blackpool, FY1 4LA



Unison members on strike in 2023 ROGER THOMAS



Black workers at the forefront of the Barts NHS strikes in 2023 JAMES WENS

TUC Black members conference: 'We want a serious discussion on the fightback'

ISAI MARJERLA

SOCIALIST PARTY BLACK AND ASIAN GROUP

The TUC (Trades Union Congress) Black members' conference on 11-13 April brought together over 200 delegates and visitors to discuss the key issues facing Black and Asian workers in Britain.

The mood of the majority of the delegates could not be further from the wording of the motions that were put forward at the conference. The anger against the Labour Party runs deep, and yet none of the motions reflected this or called for the Labour government to oppose war, or stop all cuts to our jobs and services.

The anger against Keir Starmer was felt particularly during the Palestine discussion. The conference started with a powerful and passionate

debate on the ongoing bombardment in Gaza and repression in the West Bank. The debate discussed three emergency motions on the issue, all unanimously voted through.

The frustration towards the Labour Party was so intense that even Abena Oppong Asare, one of the first two female British Ghanaian MPs, felt the need to apologise on behalf of the government. She stated that for Labour to improve, we must actively push the government. One thing she said which I agree with, is that we as trade unionists have a role to play.

There was also a high number of first-time delegates and speakers who spoke on various motions, appealing for action rather than just voting motions through and having them in the TUC statute book. It's not enough to discuss the issue; the purpose of these conferences should be

to agree on action and to campaign on it in trade union branches and locally.

Trade unions should lead the fight against racism

The conference discussed many issues, but two main topics were fighting far-right ideas, as well as racism and sexism in workplaces and society. The impact of the 2024 summer riots was felt during the debate on the composite motion on anti-racism campaigning and challenging the rise of the far right.

The mood of the conference was a show of solidarity, strength and support. The idea that we are not alone in this struggle. This is much needed in the day-to-day battle against racism and sexism. But outside the conference, delegates were expressing dissatisfaction about just discussing

issues on which we all agree - we should also discuss the differences in tactics and programme to end oppression and how to cut across support for far-right ideas.

In his speech, Paul Nowak, general secretary of the TUC, focused on the TUC's anti-racism manifesto. He said: "Reform does not, has not and never will represent the interest of working-class people. It's down to our movement to show Reform is no friend of working-class people."

Yes, we agree - but the TUC is not showing the way to do this. With over 6.5 million workers, the TUC is the biggest workers' organisation in Britain - and as the Socialist Party says, it can and must lead an anti-racist, united workers' fightback to cut across the divisions that are created by the capitalist system.

Join the fightback

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Don't forget to vote in the PCS president and NEC elections!

We need a bold, socialist leadership to fight Starmer and Reeves's £2 billion axe

Vote Marion Lloyd for PCS president and for a fighting, democratic NEC

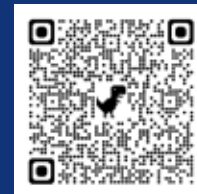
Post your ballot paper before Wednesday 7 May, to ensure it is counted by the 9 May closing date. Broad Left Network candidates, including Socialist Party members, are standing as part of a coalition for change.

- Fight for every job. No to increases in workload
 - Inflation-proof pay rises that win back what we have lost
 - Defend flexible and hybrid working. No quotas or office closures
 - Defend and improve pensions
 - End privatisation. Bring outsourced work back in-house
 - Stamp out inequality and discrimination in the workplace
 - Repeal Tory 50% turnout thresholds immediately, and all anti-trade union laws
 - For PCS and the trade union movement to lead the fight against racism and war. Demand jobs and homes, not racism!
 - No to climate injustice - decarbonisation with no worker left behind
 - For a political voice that represents the interests of members
- See 'PCS must fight Starmer's cuts' at socialistparty.org.uk and bln.org.uk for more on the fighting stand in this year's PCS leadership elections.



Marion on the picket line ROB WILLIAMS

Scan here for the full slate of left candidates



Tower Hamlets support staff strike to save jobs

HUGO PIERRE

UNISON MEMBER AND TOWER HAMLETS SOCIALIST PARTY

Unison, GMB and National Education Union members at St Luke's primary school in Tower Hamlets are taking joint strike action to fight eight teaching assistant redundancies. Teaching assistants have taken four days of strike action. The jobs are crucial to keeping students and staff safe.

The school managers have chosen to spend extra money on management posts for the school but haven't

made any provision for how reducing the total number of teaching assistants by a third will affect the children's education.

The school has a high proportion of children with EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plans) to support their special needs. It is these children that will be most affected by these cuts.

Teachers face an increasing workload because of these cuts.

The union members are continuing their joint fight for jobs to secure a safer school for children and staff.



HUGO PIERRE

Birmingham trade unionists meet to support the bin workers and fight the cuts

NICK HART
BIRMINGHAM SOCIALIST PARTY

40 trade unionists and campaigners from across Birmingham gathered on Saturday 26 April at a meeting hosted by West Midlands NSSN (National Shop Stewards Network) to discuss how a victory for the ongoing bin strike could help turn the tide on council cuts as a whole.

Members of Unison, the National Education Union, PCS civil service union, Equity and students attended. Messages of support were received from Fire Brigades Union and Musicians' Union branches, and members of the Communication Workers Union.

Kicking off the meeting were speakers from Unite, the union representing Birmingham's striking bin workers.

A bin worker told us about the real reasons behind the strike. Pointing out that they're in the same boat as many key workers, he said: "How can you justify taking £8,000 off people who keep society functioning? There's doctors and teachers facing the same. The people who keep the wheels on the bus turning."

Unite national lead officer Onay Kasab made it clear the union makes no apologies for bringing its members out on strike. "If defending working people makes you a



Stop Press: Birmingham council attacks bin drivers too

As we go to press, Labour-run Birmingham City Council has stepped up attacks on its bin workers. Already, 170 bin workers faced plans to downgrade their role, inflicting a pay cut worth thousands. Now around 200 bin drivers now face the same, an £8,000 pay cut.

All the council trade unions and the wider trade union movement have an important role to play, including organising solidarity mobilisations to bin worker picket lines.

militant, than we are proud to be called militants." He explained how despite the 'bankruptcy' there's money there, both on the council's books and in wider society, to fund services. He told the meeting

that Unite has a policy of calling on councils to set no-cuts budgets that meet the needs of working-class communities.

NSSN national chair Rob Williams underlined this. "What we

need across the trade union movement now is that if we have Labour councils and a government that act like Tories, then we treat them like Tories."

Representing actors' union Equity,

Tracy Biggs talked about the scale of arts cuts and what this means for jobs in the city, saying: "For the joy that the arts bring, it's time to move from resilience to resistance. Arts jobs are real jobs."

The meeting also heard from people involved in community campaigns against the planned 'social cleansing' of the Ladywood and Druids Heath housing estates, as well as local library campaigner and food project volunteer Ann Marie Gallagher, who told us that: "We are sick of filling the holes in the social fabric."

Independent councillor Martin Brooks sent greetings, after being kicked out of the Labour group on Birmingham City Council for voting against cuts to local libraries and day centres.

'We have to fight'

Socialist former MP and councillor Dave Nellist made the point that councillors like Martin can't be left to fight on their own. "Ahead of next year's elections we have to find workers with the same guts as the bin workers to stand for the council and take on the commissioners."

The meeting resolved to organise a further conference to begin preparations for next year's council elections. We called on local trade union branches to invite council candidates to come and explain their positions on public service cuts. Specifically, whether they would be prepared to support a no-cuts 'people's' budget and make campaigning to win back funding stolen by central government the number one issue in the run-up to and following these elections. We need a slate of genuinely anti-austerity working-class candidates on the ballot paper in every part of the city.

Sheffield bin strikers say: 'Veolia: Clean up your act!'

ALISTAIR TICE
SHEFFIELD SOCIALIST PARTY

The strike by Veolia bin workers in Sheffield, members of Unite, fighting for union recognition, is now entering its tenth month.

Resolve remains firm among the strikers, whose morale has been boosted by a recent solidarity visit by French CGT trade unionists and striking Birmingham bin workers.

That was followed by a visit to the Lumley Street depot picket by Unite union general secretary Sharon Graham, who promised an escalation

of action both in Sheffield and internationally.

Since then, the leverage campaign targeting Veolia's multinational headquarters in Paris has been stepped up, with huge visual displays on prestigious buildings demanding, in French, "Veolia: Clean up your act!" At the same time, the publicity campaign in Sheffield has been ramped up.

Most effective has been a bit of France or Birmingham coming to Sheffield on the picket line. Pickets, wearing Veolia CEO masks, have started 'slow walking' in front of the

depot gates, preventing the bin wagons from leaving on several mornings, delaying and disrupting refuse collection by several hours. The first time resulted in 7,000 bins being 'dropped' that day, meaning not collected.

The police presence has increased, and 'Veolia - Private Property' signs have gone up, with a white line painted across the depot entrance to define their private property. But so far the disruption has continued, putting more pressure on Veolia and the council to resolve this dispute.

The 'Private Property' sign should say 'Privatised Property' because the council's waste management contract was outsourced to Veolia in 2001 and runs till 2038! The Socialist Party, whose members have supported the strike from day one, believes that bringing the waste contract back in-house should be a key demand of a people's budget to be campaigned for by Sheffield Trades Council.



PHOTO: ALISTAIR TICE

Hit Uber in the profits on 1 May

SHEILA CAFFREY
BRISTOL SOCIALIST PARTY

While Uber reports profits of \$10 billion last year and shareholders have seen shares rise 159% over the last five years, Uber drivers have seen the commission taken by the company increase to between 35-45% - money stolen from them every ride! It's quite clear where this massive profit rise has come from: by squeezing the workers.

It is far from being an easy job. One driver reports having been on a shift all night but only doing two journeys for the total of £14. From this they would need to pay insurance, petrol, money towards the annual licence, and other general motor costs. Another driver told us about one job request: an hour and a half ride of over 90 miles was being offered for £25, which would barely cover the costs.

It is no wonder drivers are struggling to pay their bills, are working all the hours they can, and have had enough!

Uber drivers in Bristol were invited to a corporate event with an Uber

CEO. They decided to lobby the event and ask the CEO some questions. About 100 drivers protested outside, but when some tried to enter, the doors were locked. Even though they were invited, apparently they weren't welcome.

Uber is an international company with shareholders, and they have deep pockets they want to fill. They don't care that drivers can't afford to pay their rent. Instead, Uber just looks for more ways to make profit, such as forced training courses, done in the drivers' own time, which they pay £35 for. And the threat dangles over drivers' heads - if anyone steps out of line - the suspension of the drivers' app. No explanation, no discussion!

Bristol drivers felt their collective strength on 25 April (strong enough for an Uber CEO to lock the doors!) and many started to discuss the need to join a union. They're going to join the national 'shutdown' day of action on Thursday 1 May, where they'll all switch their apps off and picket the Uber offices. Hitting Uber where it hurts: in their profits!

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PETER TAAFFE

International Trotskyist theoretician and fighter for socialism

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Peter Taafe, who after a long illness died on 23 April 2025. The loss of Peter is a big blow to the working-class movement and Trotskyism internationally. Since becoming active in the revolutionary movement in 1960, Peter made an indispensable contribution, both theoretically and practically to the hard graft necessary to build a revolutionary party and international. Peter was a leading member of the International Secretariat of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), Political Secretary of the Socialist Party in England and Wales, and for many years its general secretary.

Characteristically, Peter fought a determined battle against numerous illnesses in recent years, which allowed him to enjoy his final years a little longer. On behalf of the CWI throughout the world and the Socialist Party in England and Wales, we send our heartfelt condolences to Peter's wife Linda, daughters Nancy and Katie, his grandchildren and great-grandson, and all his family and friends.

Coming from Birkenhead, and

an extremely poor working-class background, Peter found his way to Marxism and revolutionary politics. Never going to university, working for Liverpool City Council for a time, he educated himself through the revolutionary movement and experience. Well versed in literature as well as Marxism, he was not what is often perceived in some circles as a stereotypical theoretician coming from a petty bourgeois background. As a result, Peter was an inspiration, especially to those not from an academic or petty bourgeois background themselves – he demonstrated what those from a working-class background can be capable of theoretically and culturally. One of Peter's strengths was that he never lost touch with the working class and oppressed as a workers' leader. He continued to feel the pain and suffering they experienced. One of the greatest public orators of his generation, with a distinctive Merseyside accent and speaking style, Peter was able to immediately connect with audiences small and large. Peter summed up the horrors of capitalism and the struggles of the working class,

explaining Marxist ideas in an accessible manner.

Entering the movement

Initially, Peter examined the Socialist Labour League, later the Workers Revolutionary Party, led by Gerry Healy at the time, but was repelled by the ingrained combination of its ultra-leftism and opportunism and its methods. Peter subsequently joined the forerunner of Militant, Socialist Fight, a small Trotskyist group largely comprised of workers, whose journal appeared infrequently. In Birkenhead and Merseyside, he was to participate in the building of the Young Socialists, intervening in many strikes and battles, including the apprentices strike in 1964, along with other activists.

One of Peter's important early theoretical contributions was, together with others, developing a clear Marxist analysis of the Cuban revolution that overthrew the Batista dictatorship in 1959. This event was to see some on the Trotskyist and revolutionary left disorientated and mesmerised by Castro and his victorious guerrilla forces, resulting in their advocacy of the false methods

of guerrillaism as a path towards the socialist transformation of society.

The group preceding Militant was a somewhat ramshackle affair involving, amongst others, Ted Grant, the Deane brothers Jimmy and Arthur, and Keith Dickinson, but it had a largely working-class membership. Grant had played a key role in the Trotskyist movement, analysing the new world situation that unfolded in the post-Second World War period. However, he was not an organiser or party builder. In an increasingly more favourable situation, Peter was decisive in turning the organisation around and seizing the opportunities which developed.

In the early 1960s the group was mainly based in Liverpool, London, Tyneside, and some other cities. Resources were few and far between. Originally still on Merseyside when Militant was launched in 1964, with himself as editor, Peter moved to London. Herculean efforts were required, largely driven by Peter. At one stage, as he would recount, having moved to London he slept under the desk in the office for a period.

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PETER TAAFFE

►► CONTINUED FROM P7

'Wages' were paid intermittently – depending on if enough money had been raised. Later, together with others, Peter helped effectively reconstruct a building, bought after a fundraising drive, in Bethnal Green where drains were dug, walls erected, and floors laid.

This demonstration of backbreaking determination to overcome all odds was characteristic of Peter and was essential in allowing Militant to take decisive steps forward into the 1970s. He was determined to seek every opportunity to build our forces while, at the same time, defending and developing the programme of Marxism. This was demonstrated in many discussions Peter had with activists, and sometimes with workers' leaders, in Britain and internationally.

The 1960s saw important changes in the situation in Britain and internationally. Following the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), there came the anti-Vietnam war movement, the Civil Rights movement of Black Americans and the Black Panthers, the French general strike, and the upheavals in what was then Czechoslovakia in 1968, and the revolutionary upheavals in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In Britain, the experience of Harold Wilson's Labour government, especially its 'In Place of Strife' anti-trade union proposals, produced a growing shop stewarded opposition. These were all anticipations of even greater events and upheavals in the class struggle in the 1970s. These developments provided a wider audience, both of existing activists and those looking for answers and a way in which to be politically active.

Against this background, which included the beginning of an increase in class struggle and political radicalisation in Britain, in 1970 supporters of Militant won a majority in the Labour Party Young Socialists (LPYS). At that stage it was a shell of an organisation. It began to grow through

our activity and ideas. Under the leadership of Militant supporters, it was to be transformed as an organisation and grew to approximately 10,000 members, mainly of young workers. Peter's great capacity here was in how he systematically assisted and gave room to younger comrades to play a role in developing this work and encouraged them. To encourage, however, was not to simply praise them. Peter took up weaknesses and mistakes, sometimes sharply, which was necessary as a revolutionary leader. But it was always from the point of view of assisting younger comrades to develop both themselves and the work. One of Peter's great qualities was his ability to build teams and to bring the best out in those he worked with.

Peter always sought to politically develop himself and others, and this was reflected in the large amount of material which Militant started to produce. After becoming Editor of Militant, in fact the general secretary of the Militant Tendency, he produced regular political reports covering our activity and current political issues. At that stage he took a particular interest in the Civil Rights movement in Northern Ireland, guerrillaism, and the movement of Black Americans, particularly the Black Panther Party, writing on all of them. Peter later became a regular reviewer of books bringing to the attention of readers newer developments and ideas and responding to them. But whilst looking forward, he also saw the importance of drawing from the past and learning lessons from history, which included writing a book on the French Revolution.

Internationalist

Supporters of Militant in the 1960s increasingly clashed with the leadership of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International (USFI) around people like Ernest Mandel and Pierre Frank. In 1965, our group in Britain was effectively expelled from this international. The differences related to crucial questions on the revolutions in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the then Sino-Soviet split, and the perspectives and programme for the working class in Europe, the US, and elsewhere. Peter played a prominent role in those debates and was a delegate, alongside Ted Grant, at the World Congress that downgraded Militant's status.

Later, Peter played a central role in taking the decisive steps towards building a new international organisation, which would be founded in 1974 as the CWI. He was to play a crucial role along with other comrades frequently travelling to help form what were to become sections of the CWI. He initiated the political intervention we made in Ireland in the late 1960s and early 1970s to win support for our programme and played a crucial role in developing the CWI's unique position



on the national question there and elsewhere. This entailed making trips to Derry and Belfast during the height of the armed conflict. On one occasion he had to abandon his speech and the large meeting at a university campus as a bomb exploded nearby.

His theoretical contribution on the national question has been amongst his most important, not only in Ireland but also in Sri Lanka, the Spanish state, Israel/Palestine, the Balkans and the former USSR, and Scotland. As Peter would emphasise, this was not the work of one person but of collective discussion. However, in any team certain players have a crucial role. Initially, Peter's role and presence was crucial in countries like Ireland, Greece, Sri Lanka, India, Spain, South Africa and later elsewhere.

At the same time as undertaking this international work, Peter steered Militant's growth and development in Britain. In Britain in the 1970s and 1980s, events, especially the rise in the class struggle and political radicalisation, allowed Militant to build a much larger base amongst important sections of the working class. At that time, the radicalisation inside the Labour Party allowed Militant to play a big role and block, until the mid-1980s, the attempts of the pro-capitalist right-wing of the party from any decisive victory in the struggle between the left and the right. In some areas of the country, to a greater or lesser extent, Militant was the backbone of the left within the Labour Party. This was later repeated to an

extent in some of the trade unions. Through the support we had won in the Labour Party, three supporters of Militant – Pat Wall in Bradford, Dave Nellist in Coventry and Terry Fields in Liverpool – were elected as MPs. Militant had won a dominant position in the Labour Party in Liverpool. Eventually Militant was able to build the largest Trotskyist organisation seen, so far, in Europe, with an overwhelmingly working-class membership and record of struggle.

Mass campaigns

Through the positions that had been conquered, mass campaigns were initiated. Two of these, above all, reflected the support that had been won. The battle between Thatcher and Liverpool City Council in the mid-1980s, and then the struggle against the hated 'poll tax' involving millions, which led to the defeat of Thatcher. In these struggles Peter demonstrated not only the theoretical capacities he had but also his strong grasp of adroit tactics, initiatives and strategy during important struggles, and a principled Marxist approach to politics. He was especially sensitive to the mood and outlook of workers. Above all, he demonstrated a great flexibility both politically and organisationally, without ever abandoning a principled Marxist position.

From the early 1980s, the Labour Party leadership was taking a rightward lurch, especially under the treacherous guidance of Neil Kinnock. Initially, it was the five members

"One of the greatest public orators of his generation, with a distinctive Merseyside accent and speaking style, Peter was able to immediately connect with audiences small and large"

PHOTO: SOCIALIST PARTY



Peter was Militant's founding editor
MILITANT, OCTOBER 1964

International Trotskyist theoretician and fighter for socialism

of the Militant Editorial Board, including Peter, who were expelled in 1983, but then hundreds more faced the same fate for putting forward a socialist programme. In Liverpool, following an epic struggle against the Thatcher government, from 1986 Militant supporters began to be driven out of the party, while the councillors were surcharged and removed from office. The LPYS was emasculated as a campaigning organisation in 1987. By the end of the 1980s and early 1990s the expulsions sped up.

One crucial issue that arose during the poll tax struggle centred on the question of the MPs who supported Militant – should they refuse to pay their personal poll tax? The threat of expulsion from the Labour Party was posed and the loss of the parliamentary positions. This was to become the harbinger of a political struggle which developed in Militant and the CWI.

Peter was adamant that MPs could not demand that millions refuse to pay and face the threat of imprisonment for doing so but then pay it themselves to keep their seats in parliament. This policy was eventually accepted but was opposed by Grant and some others in Militant's leadership at the time. A witch-hunt ensued as Militant supporters were expelled for opposing the poll tax and supporting non-payment. Terry Fields MP went to prison and was expelled from the Labour Party.

During the witch-hunt, Peter appeared on numerous television programmes like Face the Press, Panorama, and others, debating with both left- and right-wing leaders of the labour movement. The workers' movement was the natural environment for Peter and the ideas of Militant, nevertheless, in later years he debated at the elite Oxford Union,



Five members of the Militant Editorial Board, including Peter, were expelled from the Labour Party in 1983

PHOTO: SOCIALIST PARTY

arguing so persuasively that he won the motion on the superiority of socialism to capitalism.

Changing world

By the end of the 1980s and early 1990s, the world situation was in the process of going through a fundamental change. This was to have a direct impact on the revolutionary left and the CWI. The new situation necessitated a reappraisal of the world situation, tasks and tactics needed to build a revolutionary party. This was not a straightforward task. Yet these changes revealed a crucial quality that Peter embodied: an openness to see changes taking place and being ready to adapt to them. He would often say that repetition of a formula which had become outmoded was not enough and became a danger. Thus, he and others were open to the possibility of capitalist restoration in Eastern Europe in the 1980s, especially following Thatcher's visit to Poland in 1988, an issue discussed at a CWI World Congress at the end of that year.

This perspective was to be vindicated as events unfolded throughout Eastern Europe and then in the former USSR in 1991-92. Peter was to lead the majority in the CWI recognising capitalist restoration had taken place and exploring the consequences that flowed from this. Grant and a minority in the CWI insisted on clinging to an outmoded formula and denied reality, even though Trotsky had raised the possibility of the USSR collapsing into capitalism in his book *Revolution Betrayed* in the 1930s.

Concretely, the processes at work were also reflected in the British Labour Party and the social-democratic parties and many 'Communist' parties internationally. It required a change of position and the adoption of what was termed the 'open turn' – no longer working in the social-democracy but building independent revolutionary parties. This arose from the bourgeoisification of the social-democratic parties. Grant and his supporters rejected this, arguing this was "a threat to forty years' work" and that "the revolutionary party in Britain will be built through the trade unions and Labour Party – there is no other way in Britain". These differences culminated in a split in the CWI in 1992. Adjusting to this entirely changed world situation and being sufficiently aware and open to see the

changes afoot was in many respects one of Peter's most important political contributions. It enabled the CWI to prepare for the new world situation and intervene in it.

Peter at the same time was self-critical. Often, he would ask his collaborators, "What would Trotsky do in this situation?" He felt Trotsky would have been severely critical of Militant for not launching an 'open turn' at the height of the poll tax movement or even earlier when we were driven from the Labour Party in Liverpool.

1990s

The 1990s was a testing time for revolutionaries. The obstacles and difficulties that arose from the collapse of the Stalinist states were immense. Support for socialist ideas for a period was thrown back. Conflicts and wars erupted along with struggles of youth and workers. The wars in the former Yugoslavia and the break-up of the former USSR saw Peter again produce important material dealing with the national question in these areas. He was to play a crucial role in analysing these events and developments. Internationally he continued his work. Peter helped initiate discussions with other political tendencies to exchange experiences and to see whether there was a political basis for joint activity. In the 1990s and 2000s he visited many countries in Europe and further afield, including Russia, Kazakhstan, the US, Chile, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and South Africa, to assist with the work.

The objective situation, although explosive by the time of the "Great Recession" in 2008 and afterwards, was still complicated due to the weakness or lack of political organisations of the working class and its political

consciousness. New stresses and strains developed within the CWI. A section, frustrated with the situation, began to seek short cuts, opportunistically capitulated to the pressures of identity politics, and turned away from the organised working class. This eventually led to another split in the CWI.

Again, Peter showed his grasp of what lay behind this development, which again reflected changes and complexities in the objective situation. In both the major divisions within the CWI, the opponents initially tried to evade the political differences that emerged. They hid behind claims of an alleged inner-party 'regime', attacking Peter for alleged 'intolerance', echoing a point repeatedly featured by some of our political opponents and the class enemy. Political debate was in fact rife inside the CWI from its foundation onwards, with many discussions on, for example, the national question in Sri Lanka, the character of the Indian ruling class, perspectives for the European Union and euro, the class character of China, globalisation, plus the abandonment of building a revolutionary party by some Scottish members who themselves eventually left the international, Marxist economic theory and the tendency of the rate of profit to fall, and other issues.

For Peter, occasional sharp exchanges were political not personal. Our opponents on the left and the right are certain to feature this and similar issues. In doing so they only demonstrate their lack of substance, seeking refuge in incidental issues to avoid the cardinal political questions

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Mass campaigns led by Militant - Liverpool City Council in 1980s (left) and against the Poll Tax in the early 1990s (right) - both defeated Thatcher

PHOTO: SOCIALIST PARTY



PETER TAAFFE

International Trotskyist theoretician and fighter for socialism

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involved. He was aware of the accusations of 'intolerance' and 'authoritarian' attitudes, and answered them in writing on occasions, where he pointed out that such accusations were nothing new. The same denunciations were levelled at Lenin and other revolutionary socialists.

Many lives

Peter lived not one but many lives. Devoted to the working class and revolutionary politics, he nevertheless also had other pursuits and an intensely human side. Peter, as a revolutionary leader, with the commitment, time and sacrifice necessary over decades of struggle, was the first to recognise the incredible support he needed from his family. He received that support in the bucketful, especially from his wife and comrade, Linda, a leading member of the Socialist Party herself, his daughters Nancy and Katie, and the rest of their family.

Always concerned about the welfare and personal situation of those involved in the struggle, Peter was attached to the life of human beings. Ever keen to engage with humanity in all its guises, and with an astonishing overall knowledge, he would gain and draw from all encounters with people from all spheres of life. He enjoyed social occasions of all kinds from the theatre to art galleries and evenings in the bar with a folk group.

Peter and Linda have welcomed generations of revolutionary socialists from around the world to their home. Their generosity is renowned and appreciated by both longstanding and newer members of the CWI. Peter's authority never affected his ability to engage in a comradely and friendly manner.



His passion for football and his beloved Everton was ingrained. Match of the Day was always more eagerly awaited when Everton won, especially against their Merseyside rivals. When they lost, he would quip "it's only a game", in a futile attempt to hide his bitter disappointment. In the 1970s and 1980s he drove those working alongside him to play football at lunchtimes, having been a useful footballer while at school, even being picked to play for Birkenhead boys at Goodison Park. The matches would sometimes be a continuation of political discussions and debates, issues frequently resolved in the best of spirits over a beer in the local pub.

The Militant team at one stage played various Labour Party clubs, including the Parliamentary Labour Party, and even some journalists on The Times newspaper. Devoted to his family and proud of their achievements, he drew on this experience often in discussions.

Always open to meet and engage with others, including those not involved in the struggle, he often stated that Marxists can learn something from most individuals in all walks of life. It was a tool for him to understand and gauge society in all its varying aspects. On one occasion, flying back from a meeting in Barcelona, the former Tory

MP and Cabinet minister Jonathan Aitkin boarded the plane. Aitkin put his briefcase in the overhead locker which then was about to crash down onto him. Peter sitting behind him leapt up and grabbed the case. Unbeknown to Aitkin, injury was prevented by a leading Trotskyist! Peter lamented at the time that he would have liked to have spoken to Aitkin just to grasp a little more of what our opponents are made. Similarly, in 2016 when visiting BBC studios for a televised discussion with former left-wing journalist Paul Mason, he engaged in conversation with right-wing Tory Brexiteer John Redwood, who confided to Peter that if then prime minister David Cameron lost the EU referendum, he was "toast".

Sadly, our movement has lost Peter and his larger-than-life drive and enthusiasm. However, his contribution will remain in what he leaves behind politically and theoretically, including the many articles and books he wrote, which are an invaluable resource for future generations entering struggle and discovering the socialist and Marxist ideas that can change the world. Peter's lasting contribution also remains in the decisive role he played in assisting the political development of those who will continue to build the CWI in his absence. His legacy will therefore live on – a lasting testimony to the unique contribution made by Peter Taaffe to working class struggle and the revolutionary socialist movement.

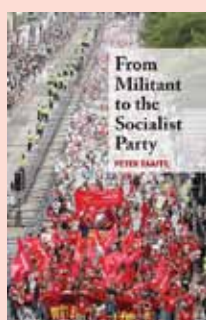
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BOB LABI
HANNAH SELL
NIALL MULHOLLAND
TU SENAN
JUDY BEISHON
SEAN FIGG

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE CWI

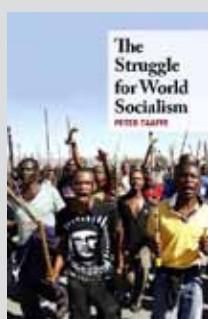
The Rise Of Militant



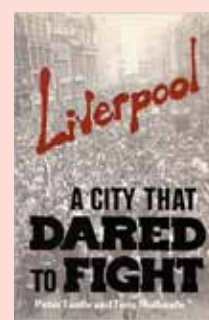
From Militant to the Socialist Party



The Struggle for World Socialism



Liverpool: A city that dared to fight



Peter's last meeting

Peter's funeral will be held on Tuesday 13 May, 2025. All who want to remember him and celebrate his life are welcome.

Sir James Hawkey Hall, Broomhill Road, Woodford, Woodford Green IG8 0BG.

Please be there for 11.30am.

The family request that black is worn, but a splash of red is very welcome.

The wake will be in the same venue from 2 – 5.30 pm. Drinks and savoury food will be available after the service, and participants are encouraged to 'bring a cake for the wake'.

No flowers, but donations in Peter's memory can be made online:

socialistparty.org.uk/peter-taaffe-memorial-fund/



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'A phenomenal man dedicated to the cause of the working class globally'

CLARE DOYLE

Peter Taaffe - a comrade and friend for 60 years, whose funeral takes place on 13 May - was a phenomenal man! Coming from a poverty-stricken background in Merseyside, he dedicated himself to the cause of the working class on a global scale.

Tributes from far and wide - including even from hostile political quarters - are testament to his tremendous ability to quickly analyse and explain new situations, skilfully applying the basic tenets of Marxism.

Many words are still to be written in his memory and about his legacy to all of us, especially to young people.

Peter was fond of using the famous quote about revolutionary youth not being trained in ballet schools. He himself would tackle any task with great energy and determination from digging drains in the first premises we ever owned to laying the groundwork for building mass revolutionary workers' parties.

Numerous discussions we have had in our International have demonstrated the key role this renowned revolutionary has played throughout his life.

Peter's quite prolonged illness, and now the closing of the curtain on his life, throw down a challenge to the comrades in whose capacity he personally had enormous confidence - the leadership of the Socialist Party and the Committee for a Workers' International.

His writings - books, articles, pamphlets - are an invaluable storehouse from which our movement can draw great lessons as the future throws down new challenges and new opportunities for building socialism worldwide.



Peter and Alec on an international visit to South Africa in 2012 (above), Peter and Clare (below) PHOTOS: WEIZMAN HAMILTON AND HEATHER RAWLING



'Outstanding leader, tenacious revolutionary'

ALEC THRIVES

Peter's ears would have been on fire over the past week from the much-deserved tributes that have poured in from Socialist Party/CWI members and supporters across the world.

The inevitable repetitions are a testimony to this 'giant' figure of modern-day Trotskyism and the outstanding leader of international socialist struggle.

Politically firm on Marxist principles and method but always flexible and open to persuasion on tactics and demands, Peter commanded respect from allies and even staunch opponents.

For a comrade with so much authority, Peter was very modest personally and politically. He would never use the term 'I' because it was always 'we', expressing the collective efforts and contributions of all comrades in the building of a socialist alternative to the horrors of capitalism.

His political legacy remains in the treasure chest of his Marxist writings. His easy to read literary style and forensic analysis, particularly in the trilogy of the history of our party, bursts out on almost every page with the energy, determination and fighting spirit which Peter embodied.

As a close friend, as well as a political collaborator, I was fortunate enough to witness over decades, a more personal side to this 'giant' of Marxism.

His devotion to his wife and comrade Linda, his pride and love of their kids, grandkids and most recently his excitement at becoming a great-grandfather epitomised the human side of a hardened, tenacious revolutionary.

The Taaffes' house is renowned as an 'open house' which has welcomed dozens of comrades, old and new, over decades, all receiving the same five-star welcome from Peter and Linda.

Watching Match of the Day, with another Penderyn whiskey in our hands, and his beloved Everton losing again to Liverpool, just highlights to me that even 'giants' can't always get it right. Cheers Peter!

'An inspiration and a model'

KEITH DICKINSON

We mourn a genuine leader in Peter Taaffe! He was general secretary of our party for 60 years, from a few months before the first issue of Militant in October 1964. He was nominated by Jimmy Deane, his predecessor as general secretary, to the position as 'Editor', then in fact general secretary.

Before he quickly uprooted himself from Merseyside to London, Peter started directing national activities. He brought a new dynamic to the work, and there was no task that he hadn't done and was not prepared to do himself.

Peter joined the party in 1960, and I remember him at his first branch meeting in Pat and Pauline Wall's flat. He had been first contacted by Don Hughes on a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) demonstration in Liverpool. He threw himself into building the branch and became the political leader in the Labour Party Young Socialists, winning many to our Socialist Fight group, as we were known. It was due to his effectiveness that the organisation asked me to move to London in 1962 to do the youth work here.

More importantly, Peter was asked to go full time as Editor and general secretary, moving to London in 1964. He was promised £4 a week and accommodation; neither promises were kept. In fact, I think it wasn't until Linda, his future wife, came down and sorted us out that they found a flat together.

It was while living in Islington that he became friendly

with Jeremy Corbyn, before he became an MP, encouraging him later to speak at public events, as Peter would do with others on the left.

Peter was a model for all comrades in all aspects. Others have related his origins from a Birkenhead council estate, but he had already steeped himself in the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, and loved the writings of Jack London - particularly the Iron Heel and the speech to the Philomaths.

He believed all comrades had great potential and shouldn't hesitate to push themselves forward and speak up, to understand that they are not carving out a career for themselves, no matter what other people may think, they owe it to their ideas to put them forward at every opportunity. Strive to become respected elected leaders at all levels of the working-class movement. The Revolution will need you.

Peter was a great teacher, that is borne out by the comments of all the online condolences. I worked alongside him for over 50 years and, although being seven years older than him, I learned from him and was inspired consistently.

When he stepped back due to his illness, he expressed his confidence in the experienced, political ability and organisational skills of the current and upcoming leadership of the Socialist Party, nationally and regionally, as well as the Committee for a Workers' International worldwide.

He is sadly missed by party members, and all who knew him, and by myself - as my best friend and comrade.

Peter, Keith and Linda Taaffe SOCIALIST PARTY



Why I joined – socialism has rekindled my hope

JAMIE SPEKA
WEST LONDON SOCIALIST PARTY

I was born in the USA right before 9/11, and I grew up in the haze of the Iraq war. When I was seven, I watched as the recession saw my parents struggle with job security.

After joining my parents at a party to celebrate Barack Obama's election, we watched as he bailed out the bankers. My health insurance didn't cover a surgery for me, so I had to go without.

Held captive to the decisions of politicians and bankers, my parents keep finding their social security depleting, inching towards retirement in their 70s. This is no way to live.

But my parents were never ones to sit and watch. When I was three, I was at my first anti-George Bush demonstration. At eight, I shuffled along the steps of the county courthouse to watch my dad play 'Union Maid' on guitar. I stood with the teachers' union alongside my mom to protest the administration.

Shooter drills

Growing up, I got used to the school-shooter drills. The unprecedented days off school that came from unbreathable air pollution, as the largest Californian forest fires in history – fuelled by global warming – raged around my town.

We staged student walkouts to draw attention to the environment, sat in protest during the national anthem at school, marched for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, and looked with hopeful eyes towards our future.

My generation was filled with hope. But it's been systematically dismantled by politicians following the money trail.

One would think that decades would have made a few budges in the political puppeteering manoeuvred by billionaires. Or maybe there



Jamie, as a kid, protesting with her parents against George Bush in the US, who led the invasion of Iraq

would be safer gun laws, eight years on from the national school walkouts. Is it conceivable that five years after BLM, the sitting president blamed crime rates on immigrants' "bad genes"?

Seeing no tangible changes can reinforce the belief that what we do is nothing, compared to the avenues that the rich are given.

The solution is found in a bottom-up approach, that doesn't sell democracy to the highest bidder. A solution is to do away with a money-hungry world that gives the 99% no voice. To fight for a workers' party, and to bring an end to the exploitative, divisive capitalist system.

Join the fightback

JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

- Visit socialistparty.org.uk/join
- or call **020 8988 8777**
- or text your name and postcode to **07958 032 071**

to find out more today!



ANGIE WALLER
SOUTH YORKSHIRE SOCIALIST PARTY

The local elections come when hatred of Labour for continuing austerity has never been higher. There is disgust and disappointment at the punitive removal of winter fuel allowance for pensioners and disability welfare benefits, taking its toll on the most vulnerable.

Andy Hiles is the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) candidate for Doncaster mayor. He works as a benefits advisor at a charity organisation called Benefit Buddies. He describes in our weekly Socialist Party meetings the horrendous cases he deals with in this highly deprived area.

Over 100 people stood for TUSC across the country. We go to press as the election campaign is ending.

Our first stall

On 1 March, we had our first campaign stall of the Doncaster election campaign. We sold 14 copies of the Socialist paper, raised £32 fighting fund on top. Four people asked about joining the Socialist Party.

Since the start of the campaign, we have sold 201 Socialist papers, and raised £457 fighting fund on top, from our 16 stalls, including four stalls at the college.

We explain that donations are used to pay for our leaflets, petitions, and to hire rooms for our two public meetings

We have continued to have a huge response to our stalls, with new supporters joining to help out. In fact, we met Stacy, one of our council election candidates, on a Socialist Party stall less than two months ago.

More support than expected

Our candidates have gone on to gain support from their friends and neighbours to run for TUSC. Far more support than we ever expected.

Our main election campaign public meeting was attended by 37 people, and raised £265 in donations. We had Dave Nellist, TUSC national chair, and Andy Hiles speak.

Tosh McDonald, former Aslef train drivers' union president, also spoke. He is standing for TUSC in Town ward, with Nikki McDonald, both ex-Labour and independent councillors, and Mal Perkins.

40 people have asked about joining the Socialist Party. 18 new people have attended our meetings. And we've had five of them.

Whatever happens at the ballot box, TUSC and the Socialist Party will continue to build on this success.

AREA	£ RECEIVED	£ TARGET	Q2: APRIL-JUNE 2025	DEADLINE: 30 JUNE 2025
North West	940	1,200		78%
South West	1,167	2,100		56%
East Midlands	719	2,050	35%	
Wales	841	2,400	35%	
West Midlands	644	2,700	24%	
London	914	5,000	18%	
Northern	146	800	18%	
Yorkshire	468	2,650	18%	
Southern & SE	382	2,400	16%	
Eastern	190	1,300	15%	
Other	708	2,400	29%	
TOTAL	7,117	25,000	28%	

Help fund the fightback

DONATE

socialistparty.org.uk/donate

We won't play Labour's 'Hunger Games'

Don't cut or close our library

MARIAM KAMISH
CAERPHILLY TRADES UNION COUNCIL SECRETARY

Public Debate! We had a hard time persuading a Plaid Cymru councillor to take part. Would Labour send someone to represent the council?

In the end, they didn't. But the room filled with people determined to save Abertridwr library. In the front row sat two young boys who'd come on their own.

Posters shone from bus shelters, utility boxes, telephone poles. Everyone we stopped with a leaflet knew all about it.

Labour Caerphilly council proposes to close ten libraries, saving £500,000 over three years, claiming

to concentrate resources into hubs – that they expect people to travel miles to. Our debate was organised as ten one-minute exchanges on how we can stop this – followed by an open discussion.

The Plaid Cymru councillor didn't address the issue. She told us we were a deprived area – which didn't sit well with our pride.

Jargon

She talked council jargon. She told us to blame democracy – 'Plaid haven't won enough seats'.

I argued we have to build a mass campaign that the council can't ignore. I called on the council to set a legal no-cuts, needs-based budget.

I explained how to buy time by dipping into massive council reserves. Speaking from the floor Robert Hopkins, a former miner, said: "Wake up Labour councillors. You need to represent us."

Another attendee, Kenny Matthews said: "One thing I've seen today is the community spirit of the mining valleys. I believe we make our own luck. And I believe we can beat the council."

Labour's consultations feel based on the Hunger Games. They want us to fight each other. We won't play.

We're supporting every area to save its library or leisure centre. There's still time to link up, fight back, and win.



People back into the debate with the trades union council and Plaid Cymru about saving the library MARIAM KAMISH

Trans solidarity marches continue

Cardiff – 'we're suffering under the same system'

JOHN WILLIAMS
CARDIFF CENTRAL SOCIALIST PARTY

Thousands demonstrated against the Supreme Court ruling that disgracefully attacks trans rights. We haven't seen a demo this big since Donald Trump's first state visit.

The sense of solidarity was overwhelming. From start to finish, anger was clear.

The first speaker said, if you stand with trans women, you also stand with disabled people facing cuts. If you stand with trans women, you stand with the Palestinian people.

It set the tone for the whole event, that all different oppressions are linked to the vile capitalist system that we live in.

We had four speakers at the event from the Socialist Party, three of them are also on Cardiff Trades Union Council.

Katrine Williams said trade unionists fight for all women, for full funding for all, and reject the lie that there is only so much money and resources to go around.

Trump

Dave Bartlett spoke about attacks on trans people coming from Trump in the US. He said we should give Trump the same treatment, if he ever dared come here.

"The aggression against a minority of people is classic divide and rule. United we stand, divided we fall".

His answer to those that say that trans rights conflict with women's rights, because there's only so much resources to go around, is tax the rich! But don't stop there: "Build a mass movement to fight for a society for the millions, not the millionaires".

Socialist Party member Eilonwy, from PCS Proud, representing the LGBTQ+ members in the civil service union, said: "The patriarchy system is not separate from the system of capitalism. Austerity and the oppression women face are part of the capitalist system, where a small minority owns the wealth.

"They profit from the exploitation of the working class. Women and trans women are exploited under this system."

Eilonwy called for socialist change and, through nationalisation, for workers to take control of industry, and the NHS etc, so we can implement the change we need.

Socialist Party member and trans man, Eira, said: "Unlike Labour, I'm not a coward, and I will fight for trans rights".

Compare that to big business backer Keir Starmer, who's U-turned on his previous support for trans rights. That statement got shouts of "Fuck Labour! Fuck the red Tories!"

Eira also said: "Trans people are the scapegoat of a failing capitalist system. Capitalism has failed to give people a functioning NHS. Failed to give us peace in Gaza. Failed to give us affordable and secure housing.

"We are all suffering under the same system. We need to come together to fight it."

I was so proud of all the Socialist Party members who turned up and helped. Especially those who are new, some were at their first demo of this size. It's not easy, especially being LGBTQ+, and putting your neck on the line.

Queues at Socialist Party stall

After our members spoke to say they were in the Socialist Party, and give our perspective, people came up to the stall. Queues were forming. I was struggling to keep up. And I work in a pub!

The organisers, Trans aid Cymru, provided excellent stewarding, had an open mic, and were very thankful for trade union support.

People didn't criticise the Tories. But why would they? We have Labour in charge, who are pursuing the same anti-trans, pro-capitalist policies.

The mood of anger isn't going away. The anger at Labour isn't going away.

We gave out over 400 Socialist Party leaflets. Every person we spoke to agreed with our demand for a new mass workers' party.

The Supreme Court ruling is just the start of attacks on LGBTQ+ rights. Just like the Labour Budget was just the start of austerity mark 2.

But these protests are just the start as well.



Southampton protest FRANNIE COULTAS

Cheltenham – 'We can't rely on courts to protect us'

BILLY JONES
GLOUCESTERSHIRE SOCIALIST PARTY

A driving force behind organising the event of 200 people in Cheltenham was the thriving local drag scene. One of the organisers told the Socialist Party: "For such a small place, I didn't realise how many people were allies or trans themselves. This is not the final protest, and none of us will be silenced."

Speaker after speaker came up to the microphone, many of them transgender people expressing their pain, anger, and feeling of betrayal by the system.

"This ruling is going to kill people", one person said. Considering that

hate crimes against transgender people have already risen in the past few weeks, this statement feels horribly accurate.

Swindon Socialist Party member Ryan spoke: "When Starmer and Streeting say they are defending women, they are lying. They are using trans people as a scapegoat to scavenge support from anybody who has not already felt betrayed by their lies and broken promises. It is about dividing the working class in an attempt to stop us from getting organised and fighting back.

"This Supreme Court ruling shows that we can't rely on the courts to protect us. Every legal protection we have was not given to us by the system, but won through collective struggle."

The crowd cheered as Ryan called on trade unions to be more energetic in backing LGBTQ+ rights, as well as the need for a new mass workers' party that will represent the interests of the working class, not the elites.

Southampton solidarity

FRANCIS COULTAS
SOUTHAMPTON SOCIALIST PARTY

Up to 600 people marched right through the city centre. Despite threats from the far right, there was no sign of them. Instead, many locals and local businesses showed their support, even joining in.

Trans people are understandably hurting, distressed, and anxious. But the message of the march ignited a real air of hope and solidarity.

Southampton Trades Union Council president and Socialist Party member Maggie Fricker gave a rousing speech. She brought solidarity from local trade unions, leading members of the crowd breaking out into 'solidarity forever'.

users or workers, including using the excuse of the High Court ruling to do so

- Begin a discussion within our union on the need for a political strategy that fights for the policies our union and members stand for, and to support those political candidates who back those policies, as a step towards a real political voice for workers

Pass this motion in your trade union

THIS BRANCH NOTES:

- That the Supreme Court ruling on the interpretation of the definition of 'woman' can lead to people being excluded from the services and spaces they need
- That the ruling will also embolden those who wish to attack trans and non-binary rights and identities
- That the Labour government

has welcomed the ruling, following on from the years of attacks on trans people by Tories seeking to distract from their cost-of-living crisis

- That women are at the sharp end of austerity – in terms of job cuts, low pay, and the destruction of public services that women are more reliant on because of pre-existing oppression

THIS BRANCH BELIEVES:

- That the Supreme Court ruling will not improve the situation facing women in austerity Britain
- That any division in the working class will weaken our ability to fight the attacks on all our living standards and rights

THIS BRANCH INSTRUCTS THE NEC TO:

- Work with the TUC for a mass

trade union-led campaign against austerity and division, which can draw together all sections of the working class, including a national Saturday trade union-led demo, and coordinating industrial action

- Call on the TUC to announce public backing of all members and branches who challenge employers who discriminate against service

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S SHOCKWAVES HIT NIGERIA

PELUOLA ADEWALE
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (CWI NIGERIA)

Donald Trump’s policies, purportedly aiming to ‘Make America Great Again,’ have thrown the world into turmoil. It is an ‘America First’ agenda which is characterised by protectionism, anti-immigration measures and transactional diplomacy. This is to defend the power of US capitalism, which, though still by far the strongest in the world, is in relative decline. Being the world’s biggest economy, there is likely no country which is immune to the disruptive reverberation of Trump’s policies. Of course, Nigeria, though not a major target, is also on the receiving end. Despite his racist and anti-immigration policies, which have the potential of adversely impacting many Nigerians in the US, Trump divides opinion in Nigeria and has a fervent support base in the country. He would fill a stadium if he held a rally in Lagos. Who are the supporters of Trump in Nigeria? They include Christian fanatics, just like their counterparts in the US, who believe Trump is a symbol of Christian values.

“The Tinubu government will have to borrow much more than originally projected to finance the budget deficit. This is expected in addition to deeper cuts in social spending (education, health care, etc.) and an increase in taxes to pass on the burden to the working class and middle-class people

It is also not impossible that Trump has wormed himself into the embrace of a section of Nigerians who are prompted to support Russia in its war on Ukraine by the historical, blatant hypocrisy of Western imperialism. Unlike other US and Western leaders, Trump is not antagonistic to Putin and has significantly reduced US support for Ukraine, in his purported bid to end the war. However, emotional support for Trump by a section of Nigerians is not a shield from his arrow. To be clear, the current egregious devastation of the living standards of most Nigerians was not caused by Trump. It is a brutal consequence of the anti-poor neoliberal capitalist policies of

the Bola Tinubu government, worsening the economy already in crisis. However, Trump’s policies would make a bad situation worse. While Trump’s tariff policy exempts oil and gas, which accounts for more than 90% of Nigeria’s exports to the US, Nigeria is not immune to its reverberating effects both on the US and world economies. The increasing US trade sanctions against China, which have been escalated by the current Trump regime into a trade war, will likely reduce the global trade volumes, slow down world economic growth and, as a result, plunge down the demand for oil. Already, Trump’s ‘Drill, baby, drill’ agenda, aimed at increasing the US domestic shale oil production and the response of OPEC by increasing production to dominate market share, has forced down the prices of crude oil. Brent crude oil dipped below \$60 a barrel at one point in the second week of April, to its lowest since February 2021. The projection of the US Energy Information Administration for oil prices in 2025 is \$63.88 per barrel from a prior forecast of \$70.68 a barrel, citing global trade policy and higher OPEC production. An irony of an oil price fall, to sub-\$60 according to oil experts, is that this may make US shale production unprofitable and thereby increase US dependence on imports for a time. However, the 2025 budget of Nigeria is benchmarked at \$75 per barrel. This means that the Tinubu government will have to borrow much more than originally projected to finance the budget deficit. This is expected in addition to deeper cuts in social spending (education, health care, etc.) and an increase in taxes to pass on the burden to the working class and middle-class people. At the same time, the government, at all levels, safeguards the avenues for looting, and the opulent lifestyle of its top functionaries. Besides, the decline in oil prices will reduce the foreign exchange earnings and, as a result, trigger a further depreciation of the naira and its concomitant inflationary pressure on the already outrageously prohibitive costs of living and doing business. Nigeria relies on crude oil exports for 90% of its foreign exchange. In April, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) lamented how a decline in crude oil prices presents “new dynamics for oil-exporting countries such as Nigeria.” This prompted the CBN to sell nearly \$200 million to support the naira on 5 April alone. If the crisis is prolonged, it is not likely the Tinubu government will have the capacity or the willingness, because of its commitment to neoliberal economic philosophy, to sustain such an intervention. This is especially as the situation may be compounded by a possible rise in inflation in the US because of the tariffs. Together with anti-immigration measures, this may reduce the volume of diaspora remittances – a good share of Nigeria’s foreign exchange earnings. The possibility of the US Federal Reserve (the US central bank) raising interest rates

to fight inflation may lead to capital flow out of emerging markets like Nigeria to the US, and also necessitate the depreciation or devaluation of the naira. The Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) has also lamented a serious implication of Trump’s 14% tariff imposed on Nigerian non-oil exports. In a statement issued on 15 April, MAN revealed that its “members who are exporters in agro-processing, chemicals and pharmaceutical, basic metal, iron and steel, non-metallic mineral products and other light industrial manufacturing rely heavily on the US for market access.” For instance, the Trump tariff could result in a loss of between N1 trillion and N2 trillion in Nigeria’s agricultural exports, which accounted for over N4.42 trillion in 2024. As a result of the fall in export revenues, according to MAN, many companies may reduce production and downsize workforces to cut costs. Healthcare Trump’s suspension of foreign aid programmes, for an initial duration of 90 days, to developing countries like Nigeria has already taken its toll on ordinary people, especially those on health care. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Nigeria, along with Kenya, Lesotho, South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Haiti and Ukraine - would run out of life-saving anti-retroviral (ARV) medicines in the coming months. Specifically in Nigeria, millions of people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and tuberculosis patients may face a shortage of essential drugs and consumables. Yes, the Trump administration has granted humanitarian waivers, including the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). However, the dismantling of USAID by Trump means there are no staff to process the waivers. For instance, in Nigeria, where PEPFAR reportedly accounts for close to 90% of the treatment for people living with HIV, the treatment has hit the rocks. A health worker commented: “Logistics was a constraint because most people working in the ARV clinics are under the IHVN [Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria], and not under (Nigerian) government. After Trump’s Executive order, we were told that the account had been frozen, and many of us (workers) did not get paid”. IHVN is a major partner of USAID in Nigeria on its projects on HIV and tuberculosis. About two million people in Nigeria are reportedly living with HIV. Trump’s finger on the pulse of foreign aid has a devastating impact in countries like Nigeria because of its neocolonial character. This is worsened by the backwardness of its corrupt capitalist ruling elite. This explains the chronic underfunding of health care and other basic needs like education and provision for clean water and sanitation. At the same time, the ruling elite travels abroad, in most cases at the expense of public funds, for the health needs of themselves and their families. Despite the agreement of the African Union at its meeting in Abuja in 2001, that member-countries should allocate at least 15% of their budget to the health sector, Nigeria has not gone beyond about 5% in its federal budget. So even by the African standard, the Nigerian ruling elite is useless and irresponsible. However, it should be stated that what is needed is both

adequate funding of health care and its democratic control in order to ensure the judicious use of the funding. How successive, irresponsible governments abandoned critical health needs is evidenced by HIV and tuberculosis funding being funded by foreign aid supports. According to a US embassy report, in 2023 alone, the US invested over US\$600 million in health assistance in Nigeria. That is about 21% of Nigeria’s 2023 annual health budget. However, despite foreign aid, the funding gap for healthcare in general is majorly filled with out-of-pocket spending by whoever can pay the bill. Of course, many working people cannot afford the cost of private health care or commercialisation of critical services at public hospitals. **“What is needed is the building of a formidable mass movement, including trade unions, to resist all anti-poor capitalist attacks, which may even be intensified because of Trump’s America First policies. The task of such a movement also includes building a working people’s party on a socialist programme** Resistance In the US, working people and youth have not held arms akimbo, resigning to fate. They have begun to build resistance against the ruinous policies of Trump. Mass protests were held across 1,400 towns and cities on 5 April. The US is deeply divided but Trump’s support will weaken in the event of a sharp economic crisis, especially as he promised “good jobs and good wages” in his election campaign. Trump’s international rivals will try to blame him for the crisis when in fact it is an outcome of the competition and rivalry between all capitalist countries, especially the imperialist ones. There is a need for international working-class solidarity, in whatever form, everywhere, which opposes all capitalist elements. However, in Nigeria what is more needed is the building of a formidable mass movement, including trade unions, to resist all anti-poor capitalist attacks, which may even be intensified because of Trump’s America First policies. The task of such a movement also includes building a working people’s party on a socialist programme. This is to wrest political power from the backward capitalist ruling elite and, based on democratic socialist planning and international working-class solidarity, to use the collective wealth of the country for the benefits of the vast majority. Such a development, in any country, especially a major one like Nigeria, would be an inspiration to the working class and poor internationally to follow that example and start to bring about socialist change throughout the entire world.



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:

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!
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to find out more today!

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Oil production in Niger Delta
PHOTO: SARALEIGH LEWIS/CC

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the Socialist

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formerly **Militant**

WORKERS AND STUDENTS UNITE TO FIGHT UNI CUTS



PHOTO: SOCIALIST PARTY

ARIS PREVOST

CARDIFF SOCIALIST STUDENTS

The last academic year has seen crisis after crisis in higher education. Universities across the country have been announcing job cuts and the closure of courses. At Cardiff, they announced 400 job cuts, including the closure of the School of Nursing and the School of Music, before they scaled back these plans due to protests and staff taking voluntary redundancies.

Elsewhere, Durham has announced 200 jobs are set to go, and Dundee has said it has plans to cut a staggering 632 jobs, which bosses say may have to increase to fix a £35 million deficit. Years of mismanagement at every level in higher education has left universities facing a £1.6 billion deficit nationwide. The University and College Union (UCU) reports that this could result in 10,000 jobs being cut, a total of 5% of the entire workforce.

Given this year of misery for

staff members in universities, the UCU has started to fight back. It has called a national week of action, and supported local branches taking strike action. It has also announced a 'Stop the Cuts' campaign, and organised a national rally in London on 10 May.

Socialist Students has been fighting for student unions to mobilise and organise transport, and is mobilising our members to show our solidarity with the UCU. An attack on one is an attack on all. The

Labour government can and should fully fund higher education.

It was a Labour government 27 years ago that introduced tuition fees and, while most university students now aren't old enough to remember free university education, we need to fight for a return of free education for all.

The rally has the potential to be used as a launchpad for future mass protests bringing together students and staff fighting for free, fully funded education.

Join Socialist Students on the UCU demo!

socialist students

- Visit socialiststudents.org.uk/join
- or call **020 8988 8761**
- or text your name and school, college or uni to **07515 921 699**

WHAT WE STAND FOR: THE SOCIALIST PARTY'S MAIN DEMANDS ►► see column on page 15



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1 MAY INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

May Day is an annual celebration of workers' struggle against capitalism. And workers have been doing just that in the fantastic strike waves of the last few years, with millions of workers taking strike action and fighting back.

May Day's origins lie in the general strike for an eight-hour working day, put down by police gunfire in Chicago in 1886, and in the foundation of the Second International, bringing together revolutionary socialists around the world in 1889. Its history shows us the power of the working class to transform society, and the need to overturn the capitalist state.

The Socialist Party's links with the organised working class - the agent of socialist change - are fundamental to our work. Each year, we ask groups of workers and trade unionists to support the Socialist newspaper and its ideas by financing a May Day greeting. There has been a fantastic response to our campaign. We have once again received pledges totalling over £9,500, represented by 95 greetings across 12 pages.

Scott Jones,
May Day greetings organiser

Workers' struggle for a socialist alternative to cuts and war



Socialist Party members on the NSSN steering committee

nationalshop
stewardsnetwork

send May Day greetings to the Socialist



Greetings from West Mids Socialist Party

Coventry ★ Nuneaton ★ Stoke ★ South
East Staffs ★ Birmingham Central
★ Bromsgrove ★ Black Country ★
Shropshire ★ Worcester

Solidarity with the Birmingham bin workers. Victory to the strikers!

May Day greetings from

Coventry TUC



"UNITY IS STRENGTH"

- Welfare not warfare
- Solidarity with strikers
- End the war on Gaza
- Rally Saturday 3 May, 12 noon, Broadgate, Coventry



**Welfare not warfare.
Solidarity with the
Birmingham bin workers!**
May Day greetings from the
Unite WM/6050 Tom Mann
Coventry and Warwickshire
Local branch



**Alice Arnold Branch
Coventry and Warwickshire
Unite Community**
sends May Day greetings 2025
End the genocide in Gaza
Ofgem has failed, public
ownership now
End cuts to public services

**Unite Birmingham
South Local
WM/6030**

sends
May Day
greetings
to workers
around the world



Unite Nottinghamshire Health Branch



Knock out privatisation

- Greetings on International Workers' Day to all trade unionists and NHS campaigners
- Step up the fight for a fully funded, democratically run NHS
- Pay all NHS staff a decent wage
- Abolish student fees and replace with bursaries at a living rate
- End privatisation - bring all outsourced services back into NHS control
- No more profiteering from healthcare - nationalise pharmaceutical and medical supply industries, with compensation only where proven need

unite the UNION

EM/NG32 Nottinghamshire Health branch



Greetings from East Mids Socialist Party

Chesterfield ★ Leicester ★
Lincolnshire ★ Mansfield ★
Northampton ★
Nottingham & Derby

May Day greetings from Unite East Midlands Area Activist Committee

unite the UNION

May Day greetings from Notts Trades Council



Solidarity to workers across the world on International Workers' Day

unite the UNION

Unite the Union EM/LE04 SPS Technologies, Leicester

Happy May Day greetings to the backbone of our society. All hard working individuals who make it all possible

the **Activist** - bulletin of Socialist Party members in

U USDAW

- Nationalise failing retailers to save jobs
- Minimum wage of £15 an hour
- Retail workers need a fighting and democratic union

usdawactivist.wordpress.com

national education union

Socialist Party members in the NEU

Solidarity with educators across the world

Fight for a socialist world free from poverty

Educate, agitate, organise

May Day greetings from Socialist Party members in the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers



May Day greetings from socialist students



For student and workers' unity against war, cuts and capitalism!

socialiststudents.org.uk

May Day greetings from Usdaw Broad Left



Usdaw Broad Left ADM Social Monday 5 May 2025, 7:00-11:55 PM

Hotel and Apartments Social Club, Coronation Street, Blackpool, FY1 4QQ

Solidarity from Socialist Party members and supporters in

UCU

University and College Union

May Day greetings from Committee for a Workers' International members in Unite



LE/0375M Doctors in Unite

- May Day greetings to all trade unionists and NHS campaigners from Doctors in Unite
- Patients before profits - fight corporate/state violence, big pharma and big tech!



End academisation

May Day greetings and solidarity from the **Anti Academies Alliance**

Let's build a National Education Service together

- Comprehensive and progressive
- Democratically accountable to local communities
- Fully funded and inclusive

Let's make a landmark statement for future generations by abolishing the social barbarism of grammars and selection and the structural inequality of private education

Twitter: @antiacademies
Facebook: Anti Academies Alliance
Email: office@antiacademies.org.uk
Website: www.antiacademies.org.uk

"A good local school for every child"

Socialist Party members in

UNISON

the public service union



The following Socialist Party members are standing for election for the Unison NEC

- April Ashley, Black members female seat
- Balaka Fell-Holden, London reserved seat
- Jim McFarlane, Scotland general seat
- Eve Miller, West Midlands reserved seat
- Adrian O'Malley, Health general seat
- Amy Sage, Police, Probation and Cafcass female seat
- Ellie Waple, Disabled members female seat

May Day greetings from Socialist Party members in the Public and Commercial Services Union



Vote Marion Lloyd for president and for a fighting NEC

Scan for full slate of candidates



Or search 'PCS' must fight Stammer's code' at socialistparty.org.uk



May Day greetings from

unite the UNION

Housing Workers

BRANCH LE1111

JOBS AND HOMES FOR ALL





Southampton and South West Hampshire TUC

**Repeal all the Tory anti-union laws. Resist
Labour's austerity - welfare not warfare**



May Day greetings
from

South East Kent TUC



Brighton Hove and District Trades Council

- May Day greetings and solidarity to all workers fighting against austerity and war
- Repeal ALL the anti-union laws!
- Free Palestine!

Brighton Unemployed Workers Centre Ltd

brings May Day greetings to all those fighting poverty, racism, imperialism and oppression

- We reject any return to austerity or to the politics of New Labour.
- Liberation for the Palestinians, opposition to Zionism and apartheid Israel
- Oppose all benefit cuts and attacks on employed, unemployed and disabled people
- No to imperialism's wars – Abolish NATO
- Fighting poverty amidst plenty
- For international socialism

Bill North - chairperson; Andy Richards - secretary; Tony Greenstein - treasurer; Val Cane
PO Box 173, Brighton BN51 9EZ; brightonunemployedcentre2000@yahoo.co.uk; 07843 350 343

**End capitalism - for
international socialism**

Surrey University

**socialist
society**

**socialist
students**



Greetings from Southern & South East Socialist Party

Aldershot & North Hants ★ Aylesbury
★ Brighton & Crawley ★ Guildford
★ Surrey ★ Kent & East Sussex ★
Oxford ★ Portsmouth & IOW ★
Reading ★
Southampton



**Unite Community
Berkshire, Oxfordshire
and Buckinghamshire
sends international
solidarity greetings
to workers across the
world**



sends May Day greetings and a big thank
you to the workers' newspaper that is
always on our side - the **Socialist**

May Day
greetings
from



**Let's hammer
New Labour!**

**Portwood Handyman Mike Marx,
Southampton, 07507585825**

May Day Greetings from activists in Surrey County Unison branch



- **Smash the cost-of-living crisis - for an inclusive, cross-sector pay campaign - no-one left behind!**
- **Fight for a £15 an hour minimum wage in Local Government, Health, Private and Community employers**
- **Agitate, Educate and Organise - challenge the mainstream austerity narrative**
- **Celebrate diversity and fight discrimination - jobs and homes not racism - access is a right not a privilege**
- **Solidarity with trans and gender diverse people**
- **Stop the cuts in local government! Trade unionists and socialists need to stand**
- **Local government reorganisation is an attack on**

- democracy**
- **Socialist planning to reverse climate change**
- **Fight for Zane's Law and the Truth About Zane (www.truthaboutzane.com)**
- **For working-class solidarity - at home and internationally**
- **Solidarity with the #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigeria**
- **Ceasefire now! End the genocide in Gaza! Stop arming Israel!**
- **No to war in Ukraine - no to NATO expansion**
- **For a mass trade union-led demonstration against Trump when he visits the UK**

This greeting was funded by generous donations from the following Surrey Unison activists:

(all in a personal capacity)

- Shaka Anderson, Rep at NESCOL FE College
- Tracy Baker, Schools Convenor and Women's Officer
- Tom Bancroft, Branch-Employed Caseworker/Organiser
- Stuart Burt, Rep in Mental Health Services
- Jan Callender, branch-employed Office Manager
- Sam Church, Young Members' Officer
- Nicolae Ciupitu, Education Officer
- Alan Clyne, Adults Services Convenor
- Chris Collins, Rep in Youth Services
- Helen Couchman, Community Service Group Convenor
- Paul Couchman, Branch Secretary
- Duncan Eastoe, Rep in Mallow Crescent Residential Home

- Ginny Eaton, Joint Retired Members' Secretary
- Nancy El-Shatoury, Rep in Legal Services
- Lisa Fogerty-Scott, Joint Branch Treasurer
- Emma Gray, Joint Branch Treasurer
- Istvan Gulyas, Children's Services Convenor
- Jane Gupta, Rep in Children's Services
- Russ Harland, Deputy Branch Secretary

- Andy Hayler, Workplace Contact in SCC
- Saffy Hill-Chambers, Rep at Guildford Library
- Peta Lawrence, Senior Rep for Libraries
- James Lewis, Workplace Contact in Children's Services
- Afolake Martins, Black Members' Officer
- Liz Nabadda, Rep in Adults Services
- Andy Pattinson, Joint Branch Chair and H&S Officer

- Tanya San Juan, Branch Employed Caseworker/Organiser
- Melania Tarquino, Green Officer
- Joe Trigo, Rep in Surrey Choices
- Vikki Walton-Cole, Disabled Members' Officer
- Ellie Waple, LGBT+ Members' Officer
- Sheila Wright, Joint Retired Members' Secretary
- Huma Younis, Joint Branch Chair and Co-Convenor

And several anonymous donations.



May Day greetings from Unite London Digital and Tech branch LE/7098L, standing in solidarity with all striking workers and supporting Welfare not Warfare



RMT Piccadilly and District Line West Defending our members' terms and conditions

Solidarity May Day greetings



London GPM print branch LE/7031L

For solidarity and socialism throughout the world
 ■ Tim Colgan Branch Chair
 ■ Tom Murphy Branch Secretary

Enfield Trades Union Council



Affiliations: enfieldtuc@hotmail.com

May Day greetings from Socialist readers in Camden Unison



Waltham Forest Trades Council

We say:

- Workers of all countries unite!
- Take the wealth off the 1%!
- No to Starmer's attacks on the disabled!
- Defend all refugees and migrants welcome here!
- Freedom for Palestine!
- For a socialist world free from war, poverty and discrimination!



Waltham Forest Trades Council

Solidarity from Fenland Unite Community - Peterborough, Wisbech & King's Lynn



Basildon & Thurrock TUC
Working-class solidarity in the community



Greetings from Eastern Socialist Party

Cambs ★ Stevenage ★ Watford ★ Essex

Fraternal greetings to all workers from Stevenage & District Trades Union Council



Greetings from London Socialist Party

Newham & East London ★ Hackney & Islington ★ Waltham Forest ★ Hillingdon ★ Camden & Haringey ★ Enfield & Lea Valley ★ West London ★ Tower Hamlets ★ Lambeth & South West London ★ South East London ★ Croydon & Sutton

Welfare not warfare. Greetings from Ealing Trades Council



From Socialist Party supporters in Hounslow Trades Council - for a socialist future



May Day greetings and solidarity - Socialist Party supporters in Hounslow Unison



Solidarity from Hillingdon TUC

Hackney Trade Unionists send May Day greetings to workers of the world



- We say no to Hackney Council's school closures and all cuts to services
- Victory to the Birmingham bin workers
- End Israeli genocide in Gaza
- We say yes to a world free of war poverty, profit, and injustice

Advert is sponsored by the following in a personal capacity:
 Aasia Attas, treasurer Hackney Unison
 Peter Coleman, private sector organiser
 Balaka Fell-Holden, library steward
 Nick Panteli, library steward
 Carlene Glover, Unison steward

Doreen Hamilton, children's centre steward
 Don Green, joint chair Hackney Unison
 Brian Debus, joint chair Hackney Unison
 Osei Mensa, ex-Hackney libraries Sharmila
 Thyagarajan, Unison Will Leng, NEU
 Sandra Hall, NEU Doug Holton, Equity

and joint branch secretary Hackney Trades Council
 Henry Lagbiola, GMB and treasurer Hackney Trades Council
 Matt Paul, Unison Branch Secretary
 Derek Mahoney, Unison Health and Safety Officer
 Jim Boyd, Unite Branch Secretary

socialist students

May Day greetings from Queen Mary University



May Day greetings from NEU Newham

Croydon Trades Union Council



Newham Trades Union Council



May Day greetings from Unite Barts Health workers branch LE/7384L



- Barts Unite health branch sends May Day greetings to the Socialist paper and all struggling workers and young people
- For united coordinated strike action for a real restorative wage increase in the NHS after 15 years of more than 35% real terms pay cuts
- End PFI - for a fully funded health service
- Nationalise big pharma and medical supply industries with compensation only on the basis of proven need - tax the rich
- For a massively expanded NHS under democratic workers' control and management
- Victory to the Unite Birmingham bin strikers
- Resist Labour austerity 2.0
- Workers of all countries unite

Solidarity greetings from Unite SW/007 Gloucester District branch

To the striking
phlebotomists at
Gloucestershire
Hospitals NHS
Foundation Trust, to
the striking bin workers
at Birmingham City
Council and to all
workers fighting for fair
jobs, pay and conditions



**BFAWU Kernow sends lashings
of Cornish solidarity to all
trade unionists and all
socialists on May Day**



**We have
strength
in unity!**



Greetings from South West Socialist Party

**Bristol North and South
★ Dorset ★ Cornwall ★
Gloucestershire ★ Devon
★ Plymouth ★
Swindon**



May Day
greetings
from
 national
education
union
Plymouth

May Day greetings
from
**Highworth
Climate Talks**



May Day greetings from Cardiff Trades Council



Swansea Trades Council

**Solidarity!
Unite the
struggles.
Fight for public
sector pay**



May Day
greetings
from Socialist
Party supporters in
Carmarthenshire
Unison



Greetings from Socialist Party Wales

**Caerphilly ★ Rhondda Cynon
Taff ★ Cardiff East & Central
★ Newport ★ Swansea
& West Wales ★
Aberyswyth**



**NO CUTS! • NO CLOSURES!
Save our Libraries
& Leisure
Centres!**



May Day
greetings
from
**Bristol and Gloucester
Area Unite Community**

**Greetings from
readers of the
Socialist in
Swansea
Unite retired
members branch
Restore our winter
fuel allowance now!**



May Day
greetings to
all comrades
and
supporters
from Socialist Party
members in Unite the
Union, South East Wales.
Fight austerity and the
bosses system. Forward to
Socialism!



**Cyfarchion Calan Mai i holl
gymrodyr a chefnogwyr o
Blaid Sosialaidd yn Uno'r
Undeb, Cymru de-ddwyrain.
Ymladd cyni a'r system
y penaethiaid. Ymlaen at
Sosialaeth!**

May Day greetings from
**Devon
Unite
Community**



May Day
greetings from
**New College
Swindon**

May Day greetings from
**Aberystwyth
Socialist Students**



May Day greetings from

**Unite West Yorks
and Humber
Youth Workers
& Not-for-Profit
NE/403/15 branch**



Kingston-upon-Hull

**For a properly
funded education
system with
properly paid
education workers**

May Day greetings and solidarity

**Unite NE/SEC/2
Hull branch**



**Solidarity with Birmingham bin
workers who are at the forefront
of the working class fightback.
Unions need to step up to the tasks
at hand to agitate, educate and
organise workers to fight for the
socialist change that we need.**

May Day greetings from
**Leeds, Wakefield and York
Unite Community**
Restore the Winter Fuel Allowance



Leeds TUC Presents

**MAY DAY MARCH
AND RALLY 2025**

Together we can win!

Assemble 11.30am Leeds City
Art Gallery Saturday May 3rd.

Speakers: Richard Burgen MP
Ellen Clifford - National DPAC
Dave Pike - new Regional TUC secretary
All welcome - bring your banners!



Greetings from Northern Socialist Party

**Carlisle ★ Tyne and
Wear ★ Teesside**



May Day greetings from
**Unite Community
Cumbria branch**

Fight Labour's cruel benefit cuts!



May Day greetings from
Hull Unity Shop
Solidarity not charity



Greetings from Yorkshire Socialist Party

**Grimsby and Scunthorpe ★
Hull ★ Sheffield SE & NW ★
South Yorkshire ★ Bradford
★ Leeds ★ Wakefield and
Pontefract ★ York**

May Day greetings
from Yorkshire

**YOUTH FIGHT
FOR JOBS**

May Day greetings from
readers of the Socialist in

**South Leeds
Labour Party**



May Day greetings from
RMT Leeds City



**Hull and
District
Trades
Council**

**May Day solidarity with
all workers particularly
those struggling against
dictatorships.
Drop the treason
charges in Nigeria!**



May Day greetings from

THE LIVERPOOL 47 GROUP OF COUNCILLORS 1983-87



Still standing as a magnificent example to those Labour councils who carry out every cut demanded by the Tories



■ We refused to cut and fought back successfully for resources which Thatcher had stolen from Liverpool

■ Labour councils should refuse to implement any further austerity

MAY DAY GREETINGS



Officers of Liverpool & Merseyside 0538 branch would like to show our solidarity on Worker's Memorial Day.

Worker's, past and present, struggle for the worker's of tomorrow.



Neill Dunne
(Joint Secretary)

Alex Smith
(Organiser)

Dean Young
Conor O'Neill
(Youth Officers)



Unite Liverpool and Merseyside 0538 branch.
Oldest Unite branch in the North West of England.



Greetings from North West Socialist Party

Lancashire ★ Manchester
and Salford ★ Liverpool and
District ★ West Cheshire

**Build the socialist opposition to Labour austerity
Forward to a new mass workers' party**

May Day greetings to
readers of the Socialist



May Day greetings from



**Cheshire Unite
Community
Branch (NW100/C3)**

United we stand

May Day greetings from
**Merseyside Construction
and Civil Engineering
branch**

**Solidarity with the
Birmingham bin workers and
all workers in struggle**



May Day greetings from
**Liverpool Socialist
Students**