

£1 / £2 solidarity price

socialistparty.org.uk



the Socialist

Issue 1332

7-20 August 2025

formerly **Militant**

WE NEED A PARTY OF OUR OWN



LEFT TO RIGHT: PAUL MATTSSON, BIRMINGHAM SP, REEL NEWS/CC, PAUL MATTSSON

AGAINST THE BOSSES

- Trade unions must take the lead
- Fight for socialist change



WHAT NEXT IN THE FIGHT FOR A WORKERS' PARTY? >>>

Read what we think p8-10

the Socialist

formerly **Militant**

Issue 1332
7-20 August 2025

DO YOU HAVE NEWS FOR US?

The Socialist is written, read, sold and bought by ordinary workers, trade unionists, young people and Socialist Party members. We want you to write for the Socialist.

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

CONTACT US

editors@socialistparty.org.uk
020 8988 8777 - ask for the editors

DEADLINES

Friday before publication, or Monday morning for urgent news, unless otherwise agreed with the editors.

The Socialist goes to press on a Tuesday night. We publish online on Wednesday and in print on Thursday.

SUBSCRIBE

to the Socialist for weekly working-class news, analysis and fighting strategy
socialistparty.org.uk/subscribe

- Paper subscription £4.50 a month, or £6.50 including Socialism Today
- E-subscription £2.50 a month, or £4 including Socialism Today

SOCIALISM TODAY

our monthly Marxist magazine
socialismtoday.org

- Paper sub £3 a month, e-sub £2.50

SOCIALISM: THE PODCAST

available on all podcast platforms

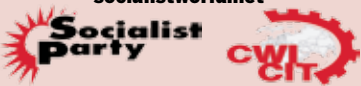
FOLLOW US

Instagram @SocialistPartyCWI
YouTube - Socialist Party
Twitter @Socialist_Party

SOCIALIST PARTY

The Socialist is the weekly newspaper of the Socialist Party, the England and Wales section of the Committee for a Workers' International

socialistparty.org.uk
socialistworld.net



BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

Left Books: Marxist classics and Socialist Party publications available online at

leftbooks.co.uk

OUR NEWSPAPER TEAM

Editor of the Socialist	Editorial staff
Josh Asker	Scott Jones
socialistparty.org.uk	Ian Pattison
Mark Best	Paula Mitchell
Circulation manager	Mark Best
Ali Mansfield	

ISSN 1366-9621

Published by Socialist Publications,
PO Box 1398, Enfield EN1 9GT

Registered as a newspaper
at the Post Office

Printed by trade union labour
at Reach Printing Services

Militant issue 1: October 1964

The Socialist issue 1: 7 February 1997

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

Karl Marx

Labour threatens SEND support

Fight for the funding we need

DAVID ELLIS
BIRMINGHAM SOCIALIST PARTY

Thousands of vulnerable children could lose vital support under proposed government special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) reforms. The proposed reforms promise to increase SEND provision within mainstream schools as well as establishing more specialist state schools. If schools were provided adequate funding, with teachers, parents and students having a democratic say, that could be positive. But that's not what Keir Starmer's austerity government is going to do.

Included in these plans are changes to the eligibility criteria for Education, Health and Care plans. These require local authorities to provide one-on-one support, transport, and sometimes private education to children with the highest needs which stretched and underfunded public services can't meet. Activists fear these reforms will restrict how many families can access the support they need. This fear is backed up by the education minister's statement to MPs that "we won't be removing any existing, effective support" - implying that new pupils will face cuts, similar to proposed attacks on disability benefits.

Cost of privatisation

The number of children in need of SEND support has doubled in the last decade. But the cost of care has also been driven up by the increase in outsourcing to the private sector. This year, councils in England

handed over £2.1 billion to private companies for SEND school placements. This profiteering comes at a huge cost to the public: a state-run SEND school costs £24,000 a year per pupil, while private providers charge an average of £62,000!

Rather than slashing support, the government must fully fund and nationalise all SEND provision. These services should be under the democratic control of the teachers and staff who work there, as well as the families of their pupils, and student organisations. Ending profiteering would reduce the costs by cutting out the profit-making middleman, while ensuring that services are fit for purpose. These groups, through trade unions and other democratic organisations representing students and people with disabilities, should be the ones to decide any national changes to SEND support provision.

The Labour government is desperate to balance the books by ramping up austerity and making the working class pay for a crisis we didn't cause. However, following a series of U-turns on welfare and winter fuel payments, they will undoubtedly want to be very careful in announcing any changes. More importantly, people across the country have seen that Starmer's Labour Party can be forced back by coordinated action. This makes it all the more likely that they will face mass resistance if and when they try to implement any further cuts. The trade union movement must prepare now to defend every child's right to education and care.



Protest against SEND cuts in Leicester STEVE SCORE

STEVE DANIELS AND ZARA FERRAR/10 DOWNING STREET/CC



Car finance: Reeves and courts decide its ok to rip us off

For months, the courts have been wrangling over how to address unfair and dishonest car finance deals. Unsurprisingly, the supreme court has sided with the big business finance companies, limiting the redress likely for people like me who have been ripped off.

I got a second-hand car on finance in 2012. I needed a car for my first job, which would involve me driving country roads alone so I wanted it to be reliable. My parents suggested we try their local car dealership which had a 0% finance weekend.

I found a good-sized second-hand car in good condition so we signed up and did the paperwork. But when I got home I realised I hadn't signed up to a 0% deal, but 0% for a year and then excessive interest thereafter.

9%

rise in Lloyds shares, the biggest car-finance provider after the news, taking them to a ten-year high

We had been got by clever car dealer tricks.

We went back to complain but they said the original 0% deal was no longer available because it was no longer the special weekend. Last year, I submitted a complaint and was notified I was on one of these finance schemes. I now realise that the dealership was incentivised to get me to sign up because they would be taking a cut of the interest.

The court ruling means I won't be refunded what I lost, just a gesture to be decided by the Financial Conduct Authority. Something that sticks in the throat is that chancellor Rachel Reeves intervened, threatening ahead of the supreme court decision, to overrule it to help save the financiers billions of pounds, fearing the impact it would have on 'markets'.

So the courts have ruled it's ok to rip us off, and the Labour chancellor again looks after the interests of big businesses versus the rest of us. The original ruling could have led to payouts totalling £44 billion, peanuts for the huge capitalist investment banks behind these car finance firms - nationalise them!

BEA GARDNER

1 million at risk of poverty due to climate crisis inflating food prices

YAVNIK GANGULY
SOUTH EAST LONDON SOCIALIST PARTY

Increasingly extreme weather caused by the climate crisis could drive up food prices in Britain by more than a third by 2050, according to a report by thinktank the Autonomy Institute.

Britain's largest retailers have also warned that hot, dry weather has reduced fruit and vegetable harvest yields. This has already contributed to rising prices this year, with heatwaves, droughts and floods all disrupting food production, all made worse by climate change.

The UK is particularly vulnerable; almost half of our food is imported. Storms and floods reduced domestic vegetable production by 12% in 2023 showing that domestic farming is also under pressure. Lower-income households will be hit hardest, as they spend a larger proportion of their income on food. The thinktank has stated that the inflation in food prices caused by the climate crisis risks pushing almost 1 million people into poverty.

Capitalism = climate chaos

The responsibility for the climate crisis lies with the capitalist system. Energy companies continue to extract and burn fossil fuels in pursuit of profits for the capitalist class, despite the destruction this causes to the planet and the existential threat this poses to humanity. While the

planet destabilises, disrupting food production and leading to increasing migration as more areas of the world become uninhabitable, energy companies continue to enjoy profits uninterrupted. In the UK, the previous Conservative government awarded the development of the Rosebank oil field to Norwegian oil giant Equinor, at no benefit to the UK public.

Again, the capitalist class causes crisis and then offloads the costs on to the working class. Working-class people should not be made to pay higher food prices due to the climate crisis which the capitalist class is profiting from. When corporate food giants raise their prices its to maintain their profits. Why should we put up with that?

The climate crisis cannot be resolved unless key industries are taken from the corporations which prioritise profit. Energy companies should be nationalised and brought into democratic workers' control, so that the industry can be directed for the common social good and transitioned into renewable energy without making working-class people pay the price. Alongside the banks and big business, including agribusiness and the food industry, nationalised industry could be used as part of a democratic socialist plan of production to remove the waste and environmental damage inherent in the profit-driven capitalist system and provide a decent standard of living for all.

House of Lords tries to rule out ban on zero-hour contracts

SAM WARD
LEICESTER SOCIALIST PARTY

Starmer's Labour was elected just over a year ago promising a 'crackdown' on zero-hour contracts. The Employment Rights Bill, after passing through the Commons, entered the House of Lords and has been amended. Tory Lords took issue with parts of the bill including the legal requirement for bosses to offer guaranteed hours to a worker.

What happens now? The bill will be passed back and forth between the Commons and the Lords until they reach an agreement or, in truth, until it has been watered down enough. It is well-known that Lords and MPs in Labour and the Tories have big business breathing down the backs of their necks, needing to be satisfied that these 'workers' reforms' won't hurt their bottom line.

A 'practical and balanced' (towards the capitalists) approach will be the excuse given by Labour and their peers when promises of strengthening workers' rights aren't followed through. It has been over a year since Keir Starmer was elected, there's still no real improvements to workers' rights and all the anti-union laws are still in force. Earlier this year, the same government intervened on a Saturday afternoon to save British Steel by passing all stages of legislation, including through the House of Lords, in a day. What excuse could they have for not taking similar measures for a manifesto promise that would improve the lives of millions of workers?

Fire and rehire

Labour promised to ban 'fire and rehire', the very same loophole that the Labour-controlled Birmingham City Council is currently using to try and force bin workers to accept a massive pay cut. But in the bill, 'fire and rehire' may be allowed by companies or organisations who claim they're in dire circumstances - like cash-strapped councils will say they're in after years of implementing Tory cuts.



MARY FINCH

Starmer will shed crocodile tears when those pesky Lords try to stop Labour from restricting 'fire and rehire' and banning zero-hour contracts. We know from the experience of the Birmingham bin strikes that Labour doesn't care about workers.

Labour is no longer the voice of the workers. Alongside their big business backers, they will continue attacking workers in Birmingham and across the UK where they are in power. Workers need a political party we can call our own, to fight back against the capitalist politicians. The 700,000 people that have signed up to 'Your

Party' have shown how many of us have come to the conclusion that Labour will not deliver for us. Steps need to be taken for us to have a party of our own.

Such a new party, with the direct involvement of the working class and the trade unions, would fight to ban of zero-hour contracts and scrap all the anti-trade union laws - and put power into the hands of the workers.

Do you agree?
JOIN THE SOCIALISTS
socialistparty.org.uk/join



MARY FINCH

1.9 million
council houses have been lost to Thatcher's 'right to buy', around a million more have been sold off in bulk transfers



£1.3 million
paid to Yorkshire Water boss via its offshore parent company, despite attempts to ban mega-payouts

Tesla CEO Elon Musk has been granted **\$29,000,000,000** of shares after his previous pay award of \$58 billion was ruled unlawful



MICHAEL PUGH

Nationalise Lindsey Oil Refinery to stop jobs devastation

ALISTAIR TICE
YORKSHIRE SOCIALIST PARTY

Production at Lindsey Oil Refinery near Immingham in North East Lincolnshire has ended. The refinery, owned by Prax Group, a trading name of State Oil, has been in the hands of the Insolvency Service for the last two months because the billionaire owners have not paid £250 million in taxes. They did pay themselves £3.65 million in dividends last year, despite £22.5 million losses!

Around 1,000 workers and contractors will lose their jobs, with all the knock-on effects to the local, already depressed, economy. Around 440 workers are being kept on till October to wind the refinery down safely.

Unite, the main trade union at the site, organised a midday protest rally outside Grimsby Town Hall on 24 July, attended by around 250 workers. Unfortunately, the union invited local Tory MP Martin Vickers and newly elected Reform mayor of Greater Lincolnshire Andrea Jenkins to speak. Both blamed the inaction of the Labour government and "Net Zero religion" for the closure,

which gained a certain echo from the crowd.

By far the biggest cheers and applause though, were for Joe Gibbins, secretary of Hull Trades Council, who brought solidarity greetings from across the River Humber. Joe attacked the Tories for having destroyed so many local industries like the docks and steel, and called for a workers' transition to green energy to safeguard jobs whilst protecting the environment. He demanded that the government step in, not to find another billionaire asset stripper, but to nationalise the plant as the only way to save jobs. Joe concluded by saying that Hull TUC is working with other trades councils to help set up a new party to represent the working class.

The pro-big business Labour government has already taken action under pressure to save jobs. With a special parliamentary session on a Saturday, the government took control of nearby Scunthorpe steelworks to keep it running. The Labour government effectively nationalised the plant to stop its private owners from shutting it down. With concerted workers' action, the government

could be pushed to take measures to save Lindsey Oil Refinery.

Strike action in 2009, in which Socialist Party member Keith Gibson played a leading role, defeated plans to make hundreds of redundancies. Then Labour prime minister Gordon Brown sought to sew divisions between workers at Lindsey, calling for "British jobs for British workers". Feeling emboldened, the far-right British National Party even attempted to attend picket lines, quickly given short shrift by the workers. But it was united workers' solidarity and fighting militant action that won. (see 'Lindsey oil refinery strike deal' at socialistparty.org.uk)

Now Reform UK politicians are presenting themselves as fighting to save jobs, at the same time as Reform-led councils are themselves carrying out brutal cuts on our public services (see page 13). Unite should be demanding nationalisation to save jobs, and be taking steps to establishing a working-class political force to fight for it. There can be no truck with capitalist politicians like those of the Tories, Reform or Starmer's Labour, who offer no solutions to the jobs threat at Lindsey.



Strike action at Lindsey in 2009 PHOTO: SEAN FIGG

Gaza starvation backdrop to Starmer's Palestinian statehood pledge

JOSH ASKER
SOCIALIST PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Over 1,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been massacred queuing for food in the past weeks. Television screens are filled with images of children starving and malnourished, hundreds of whom are hospitalised each day, dozens dying. The Israeli state is using starvation as a weapon, on top of its razing to the ground vast swathes of the Gaza Strip.

For nearly two years, Israeli state terror has persisted in this worst war on Gaza yet. From the beginning, Israeli politicians have promised 'hell' - "no electricity, no food, no water, no fuel... we are fighting human animals and we act accordingly", said former Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant on 9 October 2023.

Asked then whether it was appropriate for Israel to cut off power and water, Britain's now prime minister Keir Starmer replied "I think that Israel does have that right".

Now, with over 60,000 dead, Starmer says the government "must do all we can to end the current suffering", and that "we have long been committed to recognising a state of Palestine". This "inalienable right" will be acknowledged by the British state "unless the Israeli government takes substantive steps to end

the appalling situation in Gaza and commits to a long term sustainable peace, including through allowing the UN to restart without delay the supply of humanitarian support to the people of Gaza to end starvation, agreeing to a ceasefire, and making clear there will be no annexations in the West Bank."

For Starmer, the Palestinians' "inalienable right" to their own state is a bargaining chip. 140 countries already symbolically recognise a Palestinian state, although not yet any of the G7 countries.

Labour minister Emily Thornbury asked on BBC Radio 4: "If we were completely irrelevant, why has Netanyahu completely lost it overnight?", referring to the Israeli prime minister's accusations that the move would "reward Hamas".

Any pressure - however weak - from the UK government is not irrelevant, but in fact, Netanyahu was probably mostly alarmed by Trump's initial response to Starmer: "I'm not going to take a position, I don't mind him taking a position" and "What he says doesn't matter". And the fact that US president contradicted the Israeli prime minister by saying "there's real starvation, you can't fake that".

The Israeli state's war of terror on Gaza, and its brutal occupation, are supported by US imperialism. It is one of the biggest beneficiaries of US foreign aid. Its recent bombing of Iran, ongoing bombardment of Lebanon,

military intervention into Syria and strikes on Houthis in Yemen, are accepted by US capitalism and with massive military assistance - with Trump as president, as with Biden previously.

Trump is a less reliable representative of US imperialism, and also a reflection of the relative weakening of its ability to call the shots in the Middle East. Despite Trump's rhetoric against the US being involved in 'foreign wars' and the support that gets from a section of his support base, he is acting in US imperialism's interests by continuing Israel's historic position as a bastion of its influence in the region. In fact his abhorrent 'Gaza rievera' plans are an example of his naked pursuit of US capitalist interests.

Huge pressure

Trump's 'loose words' on starving children, and Starmer's turn on Palestinian statehood, are both a result of huge pressure of public opinion and revulsion to images from Gaza, as well as political turmoil domestically. Trump's net approval rating is down 15 percentage points since taking office and he is mired in the Jeffrey Epstein scandal. Starmer has just been forced to butcher his benefits bill to avoid a parliamentary rebellion, faced hundreds of MPs pushing on the issue of statehood under public pressure including from within the cabinet, and most importantly there is the huge

enthusiasm that has existed for Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana's announcement of steps towards a new party.

"The world is failing the Palestinian people - a failure that will haunt western nations in particular for years to come", the Financial Times says. Sections of the capitalist establishment know that the brutality of their system being exposed in Gaza is radicalising workers and young people worldwide. The FT now calls for sanctions on Netanyahu and his government, and to halt all arms sales to Israel. Arguing before Starmer's announcement, for governments to follow France in recognising a Palestinian state.

Alongside building for the largest possible anti-war demonstrations, it is working-class struggle, giving an organised expression to ordinary people's revulsion to what is going in Gaza, that can best put pressure on capitalist governments and on Netanyahu. That includes an expansion of workers' action that has already taken place to prevent arms reaching the Israeli state, for example. And importantly fighting for a working-class political alternative to capitalist rule that has enabled and assisted genocidal slaughter.

Capitalist governments' formal recognition of a Palestinian state will not bring an end to the Israeli state's brutal oppression of Palestinians, nor will it offer them genuine self-determination. That requires mass

struggle of Palestinians, and of the Israeli working class, to bring an end of the rule of the capitalists. By building independent workers' organisations and parties that can organise to take wealth and power out of the hands of the capitalist bosses, democratically planned economies can begin to improve the living standards for all people on both sides of the divide, creating space for democratically elected workers' representatives from each side to discuss, negotiate and reach agreement on issues such as borders and distribution of resources. As part of a socialist Middle East and socialist world, that is the only way to achieve peace and prosperity.

The task of socialists in Britain is to fight to strengthen and develop the organisations of the working class, and to win them to a programme for socialist change here and worldwide.

We say:

- The end of the siege of Gaza and the occupation of all the Palestinian territories. For the permanent withdrawal of the Israeli military from those areas
- The release of the thousands of Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli prisons and the Israeli captives held in Gaza
- A mass struggle of the Palestinians, under their own democratic control, to fight for liberation
- The building of independent workers' parties in Palestine and Israel and links between them
- An independent, socialist Palestinian state, alongside a socialist Israel, with guaranteed democratic rights for all minorities, as part of the struggle for a socialist Middle East
- No trust in capitalist politicians internationally. Fight to build workers' parties that stand for socialism and internationalism

15th and 16th November 2025

SOCIALISM

Come and discuss

A SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE TO TRUMP'S WORLD DISORDER

Over 700,000 have signed up, showing their intention to join a new political party led by Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana.

As this week's editorial says, "even just the promise of a new party has lifted the confidence of all those suffering pay restraint, cuts to public services and benefits, and watching with horror the unimaginable misery being suffered by Palestinians in Gaza at the hands of the Israeli state."

This autumn will be hot with debate about the way forward.

The Socialism weekend, 15-16 November, is your chance to discuss with over 1,000 other socialists in dozens of workshops, and to attend the inspiring main rally.

In the last week of July, over 100 brought a ticket, taking the total to over 400 already. Get your ticket now to take advantage of a 15% discount.



Visit www.socialism.org.uk for tickets or scan the QR code. See 'golden' ticket option which includes a night in a hostel near the venue.



Orgreave: Inquiry into state's war on the working class

SHEFFIELD SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBER

13 years of relentless campaigning by ex-miners and supporters in the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign (OTJC) has finally forced the Labour government to carry out its manifesto commitment, announcing that there will be an independent inquiry, with statutory powers, into the role of the police and Tory government in the 'Battle of Orgreave'.

On 18 June 1984, during the year-long miners' strike to save jobs and communities, 95 striking miners were arrested at Orgreave, near Sheffield. Police in full riot gear, with truncheons, dogs, and charging horses, brutally attacked miners dressed in T-shirts and trainers, who had gathered for a mass picket at the coking plant.

Those 95 miners were later charged with either riot or unlawful assembly, offences that could carry a life prison sentence. But when the cases went to court, the trial collapsed due to the unreliable and untruthful evidence of South Yorkshire Police. All 95 were acquitted.

But in 2016, the then Tory Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, callously ruled out such an inquiry on the grounds that "there were no deaths or wrongful convictions." More like a cover up!

So the OTJC has welcomed the inquiry ordered by Labour Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, but wants to make sure that the inquiry has the power to require all the relevant information and evidence to be produced to it, especially in the light of Northumbria police having already destroyed all

their Orgreave files (another cover-up!). And OTJC say "the inquiry must ensure those who have an interest in the inquiry must be able to fully participate in order to lend their experience, knowledge and understanding to the process, and be accessible and inclusive to allow people to provide oral contributions to the evidence-gathering process."

Given the increasingly authoritarian nature of Keir Starmer's government, it's all credit to OTJC for achieving this inquiry. It is quite right that it demands the exposure of the role of the state and government in the political policing of the miners' strike, and not just the blaming of a few 'bad apples'.

A CIVIL WAR WITHOUT GUNS LESSONS OF THE 1984-85 MINERS' STRIKE
BY KEN SMITH, £5

LEFT BOOKS

The bookshop of the Socialist Party
• Visit leftbooks.co.uk
• or call 020 8988 8789
• PO Box 1398, Enfield EN1 9GT



PHOTO: WAFA/APA IMAGES/CC

Socialists in PCS campaign for a stronger fight against Starmer's cuts

SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBERS IN PCS

Reps and members of the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union would be forgiven for wondering what is happening with the union's national campaign. Annual Delegate Conference, meeting in May, determined that the union needed to saddle up against the cuts raining down on the civil service from Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves's Labour government.

Since conference concluded, the Labour government has announced a below-inflation pay rise for civil servants, with a pay remit of 3.25%. Further job cuts - including 25% job cuts at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office - have also been announced. Departments are expected to find 15% savings.

Faced with this, members might expect the leaders of the largest civil service union to be ready with a plan, including preparation for an urgent national strike ballot. With a bit of fight, a Labour government whose support in the last election was 'a mile wide but an inch deep' could be fended off and concessions won.

Leadership 'optimistic' in face of Starmer's cuts

Instead, in a paper to the July National Executive Committee (NEC), general secretary Fran Heathcote (part of the misnamed 'Left Unity' grouping that now has the majority on the NEC) describes how "discussions with the Cabinet Office should give us some cause for optimism". Worse, Heathcote went on to suggest that pay restoration "be funded through finding efficiencies within the civil service", ie job cuts.

Heathcote and national president Martin Cavanagh take the willingness of the Cabinet Office to meet with them as indication that this Labour government is doing things differently from the Tories before them. But this is a government on the side of the bosses, not us.

The July NEC endorsed a 'ballot-ready strategy', but this seems to be

light on actually building a campaign capable of winning amongst the membership itself - such as arming reps to have worker-to-worker conversations, with leaflets putting the union's case. Members' meetings will be arranged from mid-August.

The NEC majority agreed to put in place a mechanism to refund six months of levy that members were paying to support strike action; a maximum of £30. And meanwhile a consultation to create a 'sustainable fighting fund' will take place, to conclude by the end of November 2025. Hardly a deadline which gives confidence that a September ballot will proceed in line with conference policy.

And that is pretty much it. It could all have been agreed back in May.

Serious strategy put by BLN

Broad Left Network (BLN) supporters, and allies in the wider left coalition for change - seven out of 35 NEC members this year - opposed the above as not going far or fast enough, and proposed a motion that would have set PCS immediately on a 'war-footing', with preparations to match the urgency of the situation.

We need a national campaign ready to go quickly. That is not the course set by the current NEC.

We must fight for a genuine, serious national campaign. But if necessary, BLN members will support members to build campaigns in different groups and among a coalition of PCS branches and groups.



STEVE ION

Political strategy motion

Given the U-turns by this Labour government, it is key that we exert even more pressure on Starmer and Reeves in order to win for members. In this context, Socialist Party members Marion Lloyd and Fiona Brittle put forward a motion to develop the union's political strategy.

The motion urged the NEC to invite Jeremy Corbyn and Sarah Sultana to meet the NEC to discuss how PCS could be involved in building a new workers' party, to carry our members' struggles into parliament; as well as to contact Unite, the University and College Union, the bakers' union BFAWU, and any other unions exploring the need for a new workers' party. Together with other important issues, this was not discussed and will be carried over to the September NEC.

- Join the PCS Broad Left Network and work with us to build a fighting, democratic PCS and the campaign members deserve

PCS strike for recognition at civil service pensions administrator

STEVE ION, LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST PARTY, SPOKE TO STRIKERS ON THE PICKET LINE

PCS members at pensions administrator MyCSP began six weeks of strike action on 7 July (see 'PCS fights for recognition at civil service pensions administrator' at socialistparty.org.uk). The campaign is for full trade union recognition and involves members in Liverpool and Cheadle Hulme. MyCSP currently administers 1.7 million civil service pension scheme members. PCS members carry out a range of roles including pension administration, telephone staff, team leaders and senior managers. MyCSP has refused to recognise the union.

The workers are demanding the right to negotiate better terms and conditions as they TUPE transfer to Capita, which has won the contract from MyCSP.

Pressure is being brought to bear

to achieve negotiation rights and bring the work back in-house.

Disgracefully, managers are encouraging staff, typically younger and less experienced workers, to work an additional 12 hours a week - 49 hours a week in total - to support service delivery, all for a £50 'thank you' bonus!

Strikers described how new employers Capita have said they are prepared to sit down and talk to the union at a meeting at the beginning of August to discuss recognition from day one of the transfer. The reps will now apply to the union's National Disputes Committee for an extension to their six weeks strike action, to give the possibility of continuing strikes until an agreement is made and they are recognised.

The numbers on the picket line in Liverpool and Cheadle are solid! Pickets are confident of success and if it is achieved this will be testament to their determination.

The camaraderie on the picket line continues to grow. This will only strengthen the solidarity and the support for the union now and for the future.

- Solidarity and messages of support to adam@pcs.org.uk

Doctors' strike: 'We don't have to accept that things get worse all the time'

50,000 resident doctors in England walked out from 25-29 July. Their union, the British Medical Association (BMA), says that despite above-inflation pay rises given since their previous wave of strikes, real-terms pay is still down by a fifth since 2008. Labour Health Secretary Wes Streeting outrageously said doctors need to 'feel pain' to end the strike. Socialist Party members joined picket lines around the country.

London - fury at press coverage

"What do we want? Fair pay! How do we win it? Strike!" was one of the many chants roared by strikers on the picket line at St Thomas' Hospital in London. Joining the striking resident doctors was a swarm of journalists. But many of the pickets refused interviews, partly as a protest against the establishment media's coverage of their strike. One expressed his fury at the anti-BMA headlines covering many of the newspapers that morning, singling out a Guardian 'think-piece', in which Wes Streeting called the doctors' strike "unnecessary". The Labour government is doing all it can to stop the BMA from inspiring others to fight, and the capitalist media backs them up.

ADAM POWELL-DAVIES

Brighton - fighting for NHS funding

There was a lively picket line at Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton which was at least as big as, if not bigger than, the pickets during the previous round of strike action in 2024. Numerous passers-by honked their horns or called out to show their support - despite Wes Streeting's claims that public support for the strike has collapsed.

As well as low pay, strikers spoke about the high costs of student debt, expensive mandatory training which they have to pay for themselves, and a lack of job vacancies which makes it harder to progress in their careers.

They explained that their strike is part of the fight on NHS funding and staff burnout. As one striker said: "We don't have to accept things just getting worse all the time. We want to show that striking works".

The news that teachers and college lecturers are considering potential strike action later in the year was welcomed. Strikers agreed that one lesson from the strike wave is that coordinated action across the public sector would be a powerful step.

BRIGHTON SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBERS

Leeds - 'We're all in this together'

Registrar Cristina Costache spoke to the Socialist:

"You're going to feel differently when you come to work if you feel valued. It just makes such a big difference to that extra tiredness; that extra loss of time that you could have spent with your family or with your children.

"The government's decisions, whether the current government or previous government, have affected a lot of people that work in the public



Bristol ROGER THOMAS

sector. We're all in this together. I'd support anybody that wants to go on strike for their pay."

Oxford - 'Far from the end'

A dense crowd of resident doctors holding BMA placards assembled a short distance from John Radcliffe Hospital. One doctor said this is far from the end. The BMA have a six-month mandate for future strike action, and the resident doctors are determined to fight for what they're worth.

Another said that he could never imagine voting for Labour again, and also expressed doubt that Labour would make any meaningful concessions unless serious pressure

was exerted on them. "No movement ever succeeded just by appealing to the conscience of those in power."

OXFORD SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBERS

Cambridge - study and debt

There was a really determined and confident mood amongst the 40-50 pickets at Addenbrookes Hospital.

BMA regional rep, Jinnie Shin, explained that, after six-plus years' study, with debt of around £100,000, newly qualified doctors, taking life and death decisions, still studying for further promotion (and paying professional insurance and exam fees), are paid just over £18 an hour.

STEVE CAWLEY AND JON LLOYD

St Thomas', central London ADAM POWELL-DAVIES



North West ambulance workers demand 'fair payment for all of us'



HANNAH PONTING LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST PARTY

On 30 July, Socialist Party members attended a Unison demonstration of striking dispatch education workers from the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS). These workers play a crucial role in training Emergency Medical Advisors (EMAs).

One of the striking workers, Sai-rah, explained that some colleagues receive a 9% recruitment and retention payment on top of their normal wage, whereas others do not, despite doing the same job. The strikers are "just after getting a fair payment for all of us".

Another striker, Chris, spoke during the demo, stating: "Let me be

crystal clear. No educators, means no EMAs. And no EMAs means no ambulance service. It's that simple."

This disgraceful treatment of vital NHS workers is yet another stark representation of how capitalism as a system inherently prioritises profits over people. Essential services like this should be fully funded and staff well paid. This clearly demonstrates the urgent need to fight for socialist policies, in order for services to be run on the basis of need, not profit, in the interests of workers and the wider public.

- See 'North West ambulance control room educators fight pay cut' at socialistparty.org.uk for more about the dispute from one of the strikers

nationalshopstewardsnetwork

1PM SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER - THE OLD SHIP HOTEL, 32-38 KINGS RD, BRIGHTON BN1 1NR

LOBBY THE TUC

CALL A NATIONAL DEMO AGAINST STARMER'S CUTS!

SHOPSTEWARDS.NET

Brum bins 'mega-picket' shows whose side workers are on



If it wasn't clear to Birmingham City Council whose side of the bin dispute people were on, the second 'mega-picket' on 25 July was another clear indication. As well as from across Birmingham, trade unionists and supporters came from Wales, Yorkshire, Liverpool, London and elsewhere, including Socialist Party members and the National Shop Stewards Network. Fire Brigades Union members were even at Smithfield from 4am to stop the employer sneaking wagons out early.

Nick Hart reports that at Perry Barr, no wagons managed to get out while the picket was there, and they

ended up being stood down. Strikers were angry about management pitting agency and full-time staff against one another, and about the £8 million+ the council has spent on agency and scab labour since the strike started.

Workers can see that the bin strike is the front line against council cuts. Keir Starmer and Labour council leader John Cotton have clearly shown that they are on the side of the bosses, banks, warmongers and capitalist class. No wonder that, in working-class communities and among trade unionists, Labour's support is being eroded.

Birmingham bin workers are facing pay cuts of up to £8,000. They go on strike. How do you react?

Stand in solidarity with the bin workers fighting for their livelihoods **OR** Tell the bin workers to accept the cuts and hire scabs to undermine them

Jeremy Corbyn **Angela Rayner**

What we saw Image shared by 'Unite for a Workers' Economy'

Cardiff Bus workers strike for better pay and conditions

DAVE REID CARDIFF SOCIALIST PARTY

Unite the Union members at Cardiff Bus will be striking for three weeks from 17 August against low pay and poor working conditions. Despite providing a service throughout the Covid lockdown and being praised as frontline workers, Cardiff Bus workers, including drivers, have lost pay in real terms ever since and are paid less than the average for bus workers in the UK.

Unite members at the company are also demanding improvements in sick pay, and in working conditions which force them to walk long distances to break facilities, with breaks disrupted when buses are running late.



DAVE REID

Nurses say: 3.5% is not enough!

Members of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have voted overwhelmingly to reject the Labour government's 3.5% pay award.

The RCN says it is giving ministers the summer "to reach agreement or face formal escalation to dispute and an industrial action ballot."

Join the fightback

JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

- Visit socialistparty.org.uk/join
- or call 020 8988 8777
- or text your name and postcode to 07958 032071 to find out more today!

700,000 SIGN UP TO 'YOUR PARTY' CALL: WHAT NEXT IN THE FIGHT FOR A WORKERS' PARTY?

Socialist Party

WHAT WE THINK

In one week, more than 700,000 people have signed up to the yourparty.uk website to support Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana's initiative to build a new left party. The party doesn't yet exist, and so there is not yet a membership fee. Nonetheless, this figure shows huge enthusiasm for the party. It tops the highest membership in Labour's history: achieved when Jeremy Corbyn led it. It has reached as many as the current membership of Labour, Tories, Liberals and Reform combined.

A year ago, in the immediate aftermath of the 2024 general election, the Socialist Party pointed out the extremely shallow base of support for Starmer's Labour, elected by just 9.7 million voters, 20.1% of the electorate, the lowest share for any incoming government since the first ever election fought under universal (male) suffrage in 1918. We drew a contrast with the votes Labour received when Corbyn was leader, pointing particularly to the 12.9 million his anti-austerity manifesto received in 2017.

Unsurprisingly, these basic facts were not being reported in the establishment media at the time because, as we explained, "the capitalist class wants to boost the authority of the incoming Labour government hoping that, despite its very shallow social base, it will still be able to implement a programme in the interests of the elites. They are also desperate to cement the lie that Corbyn's policies were unpopular. Despite their best efforts, however, this government will be rocked by mass working-class struggles against it, which will also inexorably find a political expression." (Socialism Today July 2024)

Just 12 months later and the potential power of that political expression has become palpable. Even just the promise of a new party has lifted the confidence of all those suffering pay restraint, cuts to public services and benefits, and watching with horror the unimaginable misery being suffered by Palestinians in Gaza at the hands of the Israeli state. While our chins have been lifted, those of the capitalist class and their political representatives have dipped. Polls even before a party was announced showed that 18% of people would consider voting for a party led by Corbyn, and that it would come first among young people.

Labour loyalists are desperately beating the drum of 'vote for us or

get Reform', but it is not working. Too many people can see that, if the workers' movement supports this Labour government for the rich it will be a gift to Reform, who will be able to falsely pose as the representatives of the 'little people'. If, on the other hand, a mass workers' party is built with a fighting, anti-austerity programme, it would cut across Reform. One recent Merlin Strategy poll gave an indication of how - despite all of the slanders of the capitalist press - Reform voters still perceive Corbyn as representing something different to the establishment politicians. It found 67% of them think he is for working people, 64% believe he is honest and principled.

Debates on the way forward

Inevitably, the mainstream media has attempted to poke fun at the allegedly chaotic announcement of the initiative, and the fact that there are different views at the top on the character and structure of a new party. Correction, Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana have both shrugged off these smears, explaining that a democratic debate involving all those who have signed up can only be positive.

This is absolutely correct. The potential for a new party could not be clearer, but of course that does not mean success is guaranteed. Previous opportunities have not come to fruition. Most recently, during the strike wave three years ago, half a million people signed up to Enough is Enough hoping it would be a new party. Enough is Enough was launched by RMT general secretary Mick Lynch and CWU general secretary Dave Ward, both unions at the forefront of the strikes. The strike wave had, as Mick Lynch correctly said at his union's 2023 annual conference, "reversed the trade union movement, putting our values and our policies back into the mainstream in this country". The working class and its unions were back as a leading force in society, able to shape events. But no party was launched to give that an electoral expression and Enough is Enough dissipated. This time a major step forward has been taken - a new party is going to be launched - but the way that it is done could be decisive to its longer-term success or failure.

First and foremost, we need a party based on the working class. Capitalism is a system based on the exploitation of the majority for the profits of the few. Our class is potentially the most powerful force in society. As the pandemic laid bare, the working class keeps society running, and it can also bring it to a halt. In this era,



PHOTOS: PAUL MATTSSON AND JESSICA TAYLOR/UK PARLIAMENT/CC

the working class is probably a bigger majority in society than ever before. The living standards of many who had previously considered themselves middle class have been badly eroded, and, like the doctors, they are increasingly adopting working-class methods of struggle.

Our class has the power to transform society. At this stage, however, the working-class majority has no mass party of our own, while the capitalists have plenty. Establishing a mass workers' party would be a vital step forward in realising our class's potential strength. With a fighting socialist programme, it would also be able to win the support of many of the middle layers of society, including small businesspeople and farmers.

It is therefore very positive that Zarah Sultana argued at the 'trade unionists for a new party' meeting hosted by Dave Nellist on 21 July 2025 "for a party that stands with workers not the wealthy, a genuine democratic socialist alternative that is rooted in the trade union movement and built by and for our class, the working

class." However, in her subsequent 28 July 2025 interview with Novara Media on a new party, she said that One Member One Vote (OMOV) would be the best way to build the kind of party we need. In our view that is mistaken. Jeremy Corbyn outlined a better proposal when he said, in his interview with Owen Jones (30 July 2025), he thought the party "would end up with some kind of federal nature and trade union involvement will be an important part of it".

Record of OMOV in the workers' movement

Undoubtedly for many of the hundreds of thousands who would be part of a new party, OMOV would initially appear a very democratic way of taking decisions. However, there was a reason that former deputy prime minister John Prescott credited OMOV with being central in the 1990s to the transformation of Labour into the

'New Labour' party that the capitalist establishment could wholly rely on. In fact, he considered it more central than the abolition of Labour's socialist clause in its constitution, 'Clause IV'. OMOV was a means of using the more passive members - those sitting at home and seeing debates within the party via the capitalist media - against the more active layers who participated in those debates via the democratic structures of the party.

Crucially, it was also central to undermining the strength of the collective role of the trade unions within the party in deciding policy, selecting candidates and its general governance. Labour was founded as the voice of the trade union movement. Prior to Tony Blair's establishment of 'New Labour', Labour had been a 'capitalist workers' party' - so its leadership did defend the capitalist system, but it had a mass working-class base which was able to pressurise the leadership via the party's structures. That meant, for example, that when the Labour government threatened to introduce the 'In Place of Strife'

anti-union laws in 1969, the opposition of the trade unions split the Cabinet and quickly led to the legislation being dropped. Of course, the old trade union 'block vote' in the pre-Blair Labour Party is not a model for a new party. It was often wielded by right-wing trade union general secretaries without any democratic checks via union structures. Trade union representation in the new party should be under the democratic control of trade union members. Today there are more than six million workers in trade unions. In those which are still affiliated to the Labour Party, including the biggest three - Unite, GMB and Unison, there is huge anger about paying members' money to a party that is attacking workers. That was epitomised by the emergency motion at Unite conference, which agreed to reassess the union's relationship with Labour. Across the whole trade union movement - affiliated and unaffiliated - there is growing enthusiasm for a new party that stands in workers' interests. A battle

is going to rage in the unions between those who want to cling to Labour, and those who want to support a new party, and the stakes are high. If even a quarter of the trade union movement, inevitably sometimes on a local rather than national basis in the first instance, joined with a new party, the absolute numbers, and more importantly the social weight because of their collective power, would far outweigh the very impressive 700,000 who have signed up as individuals.

However, OMOV would not allow the collective voice of the trade union movement to have any weight within a new party. Active trade unionists understand the concept of representative workers' democracy. Union branches elect delegates to trade union conferences to represent their interests, and would require the same right approach of a new party.

Of course, Zarah Sultana will certainly not have been thinking of John Prescott and Tony Blair when she enthused about OMOV. Probably her concept is closer to that of Podemos, the anti-austerity party that was founded in Spain in 2014. Branches, or 'circles' exist in Podemos, but without decision making powers. It was conceived as a 'horizontalist' party with votes taken by all members online. While this sounds democratic, it actually leaves decision making in the hands of the small group that are setting the questions.

To give a concrete example, one of the issues that has already come up for debate is whether and how to cooperate with the Greens. James Schneider, co-founder of Momentum, argued for 'joint open primaries' with the Greens, and Zarah Sultana seemed to suggest electoral agreements with them in order to block Reform. Jeremy Corbyn had, in our view, a better approach when he said that, while the party should work with the Greens on

individual issues, he did not favour an alliance with them because they are not a socialist organisation. We would add they are not a party based on the working class.

It is absolutely correct for these issues to be thoroughly debated in a new party. But if that is done just via online questions it will not be a genuine debate. If members were asked 'is cooperating with the Greens in order to maximise the left vote a good idea?' a positive answer would be overwhelmingly likely. If on the other hand, they were asked 'would you favour the party standing down in the local elections for Green councillors with a record of voting for austerity in the council chamber?' a negative response would be most likely. Leaders from the top determining how 'discussions' are framed is not democracy from below.

So how could a federal structure work?

Jeremy Corbyn's suggestion of a federal structure is not a new one. We have long pointed to the history of the Labour Party - which began as a highly federal organisation with representation from different trade unions and socialist organisations - as the best basis for a new mass workers' party, especially in its early stages. On a much smaller scale the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC), an electoral coalition which the Socialist Party takes part in, over fifteen years has successfully used a federal 'umbrella' structure to bring together disparate forces to contest elections on an anti-austerity basis including, for ten years, a national trade union,

►► CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

“
A democratic structure is not secondary; it will be crucial to this party developing the kind of political programme and fighting determination that the working class desperately needs



PHOTO: PAUL MATTSSON



PHOTO: DAVE SINCLAIR

of parliament of the workers' movement, setting policy for councillors to implement, and organising action 'on the street' like rallies and demos to support their stand. The creation of a party able to play that role in the many struggles ahead would be a tremendous step forward.

The political role of a democratic structure

A democratic structure is not secondary; it will be crucial to this party developing the kind of political programme and fighting determination that the working class desperately needs. It is already clear that this new party will inevitably face an avalanche of slander from the capitalist media and establishment, as they try to pressurise its leadership to become more 'moderate' and 'respectable'. Bowing to that pressure would ultimately mean becoming just one more capitalist party. A structure through which the working class can apply strong counter pressure, holding the leadership accountable, will be essential.

It would also be important for scrutinising forces that join the party – particularly those that are already councillors or MPs for Labour or the Greens. Of course, it is welcome if councillors and MPs break with their existing parties to join a party with a clear anti-austerity programme, but that will not be the only motivation for switching parties.

Ten years ago, in Greece, Syriza – the Coalition of the Radical Left – came to power on an anti-austerity programme. In the course of a few months, the Syriza government capitulated to the demands of the institutions of capitalism and implemented austerity. One factor was that, seeing the party heading towards power, MPs from PASOK – the equivalent of Labour – jumped ship and joined Syriza. They did that partly to try and save their own careers, but also as conscious agents of the capitalist class, working from the inside to make the party safe for the ruling elite. Councillors who continue their record of voting for cuts to local services and workers' pay and conditions should not expect to be welcomed unchallenged into the new party.

The role of the Socialist Party

Of course, no matter how well the new party is organised, it will not be possible to prevent attempts at sabotage by agents of the capitalist class both inside and outside the party to try and prevent its programme being implemented.

It is not yet known what that programme will be, but something like Jeremy Corbyn's 2017 manifesto is a possibility. Its headlines of nationalising the privatised utilities, mass council housebuilding, rent controls,

abolition of tuition fees, a green new deal and removal of anti-trade union laws, were all enormously popular.

The Socialist Party campaigned enthusiastically for that manifesto as a step forward for the working class, as we would again for a similar one. However, we also warned that – given the inevitable attempts of the capitalist class to prevent its implementation – to really build a society 'for the many not the few' will require taking decisive measures to take the levers of power out of their hands, such as nationalising the major corporations and banks under democratic workers' control, and mobilising the working class in support of such a programme. These vital issues will inevitably be debated in any party that is serious about fighting in the interests of the working class, and the Socialist Party will be to the fore in arguing for the clear socialist programme that is needed.

In the meantime, we are contributing to the debate on how the party should be founded, not least by our campaigns in the trade union movement for engagement with the new party, not just giving passive support, but demanding that they are at the heart of its foundation.

We are also holding Socialist Party public meetings across the country, open to all. If you want to see the new party develop as a mass party of the working class, with socialist policies – come to a meeting in your area and join us in the fight for the party that workers need.



PHOTO: JAMES IVENS

▶▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

the RMT, with 80,000 members.

Of course, something more developed than TUSC's very simple structure will be needed for a party on the scale that is now possible. A founding conference with delegates from affiliated trade unions, affiliated political and working-class community organisations, plus groups of independent councillors would be a good first step. It is positive that Jeremy Corbyn has indicated he supports autonomy for the party structures in Scotland. The same should also apply in Wales.

Local members' organisations – branches or districts covering a local council area – could also have representation at national conferences as the party develops. They could also operate on a federal basis, again taking the best traditions of the Labour Party. Local district committees could again have delegates from more localised units made up of individual members, probably based on wards, plus affiliates, a youth wing and so on.

Some may argue that such a federal approach would be an obstacle to building a fighting party that is involved in struggle, but the opposite is true. For example, in the 1980s the Socialist Party – then Militant – played a leading role in the mass struggle of Liverpool City Council against the Thatcher government. The District Labour Party (DLP) was the key body via which the course of the struggle was decided at each stage. It had more than 600 delegates from unions, ward Labour parties and so on – there as representative delegates, not accidental individuals – and was a kind

Trade unionists for a new party

Over 1,000 trade union activists attended a Zoom meeting on 21 July, organised by socialist former MP Dave Nellist, to discuss how to fight for the trade unions to take a lead in building a new working-class party. Since, the 'Your Party' declaration has attracted huge support.

As discussed in the July meeting, follow-up meetings are now being arranged for the respective unions to discuss concrete steps that can be taken within each union, to campaign for trade unionists and trade unions to be at the heart of a new party.

• **Meet with activists in your union to discuss:** linktr.ee/TU4NewParty



PHOTO: PAUL MATSSON

Tees Valley

Over 20 attended our public meeting, over half had never attended any of our meetings before. All were enthusiastic about the prospect of a new party launched by Corbyn and Sultana.

Following the introduction, there was a wide-ranging debate, covering the role of trade unions in a new party and on 'one member one vote', with some concerns about the trade union 'block vote', based on past experience in the Labour Party. There was also discussion about how younger activists relate to campaigning compared to older activists, and an acceptance that there needs to be a balance between online work and campaigning on the streets.

The discussion also covered what type of party structure is needed, including a federal approach. Some had been in the Labour Party and were looking for a new home, ruling out the prospect of changing Labour. The idea of a delegate-based founding conference was also welcomed. Since the idea of a new party was raised we have seen a lot more interest on our stalls, as well as increased paper sales and fighting fund.

JOHN MALCOLM

Waltham Forest

Out selling the Socialist newspaper, I have detected a renewed enthusiasm since Corbyn and Sultana's announcement. This has been reflected in great sales. The branch sold 42 papers this Saturday, for example.

Swansea

Despite being called at short notice, the Swansea public meeting was well attended – a full room and a number of new attendees, including new recruits to the Socialist Party.

Gareth Bromhall, a member of the Wales TUC general council who stood in last year's general

election as part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition, introduced the discussion. This included highlighting the socialist programme necessary for success.

Rhys, a young worker and Unite activist also announced plans locally for the youth protests against Trump in September.

The discussion itself was wide

ranging and filled with hope and enthusiasm, but with a sober edge, taking into account lessons from the history of the movement.

One older worker asked how the Socialist Party would work with other forces with which we disagree on certain aspects of our programme. A young person asked what practically could be done at a local level in Swansea

to make the new party a reality – these were both answered both through the discussion and the reply. An important feature was how important the role of organised socialists would be in these developments.

Five new people attended, four younger attendees stayed behind to discuss joining the Socialist Party.

Come and discuss with the



The Socialist Party has dozens of branches in towns and cities up and down the country.

Visit socialistparty.org.uk/events to see a list of upcoming public meetings.

Get in touch for more info about meetings in your area, or to discuss joining – socialistparty.org.uk/join or text 07958 032071

Tower Hamlets

Tower Hamlets branch in East London put up loads of posters to advertise our public meeting. We started by watching the 'best bits' video of the 'Trade Unionists for a New Party' meeting. Then Hugo Pierre, former Unison National Executive Council member who has stood in the borough as part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition previously, introduced the discussion. Importantly, he set out how Corbyn and Sultana's new party must have an anti-austerity programme which addresses the housing crisis, by building affordable and decent council homes, is anti-war and trade union-led. Key questions and contributions from the audience focused on the state of the NHS, junior doctors strikes, underpayment of doctors, local poverty, lack of affordable rent for local workers, the crisis of homelessness in Tower Hamlets, Tower Hamlets council's lack of a socialist programme, and more.

The meeting led to several new people wanting to join the Socialist Party.

SAMANTHA ERIN

be reached by a new party putting forward an alternative.

Our branch public meeting had a lot to discuss: How do you turn 600,000 plus sign-ups into a coherent political force? How can the trade unions play a leading role? Should socialists have 'red lines', what should they be? The list goes on!

ROY WILLS

DEFEND OUR COMMUNITIES FROM FAR-RIGHT ATTACKS

Trade unions must lead Fight for council homes and services, not racism

A rash of protests, including among them far-right agitators, have sprung up outside of hotels the government is using to house asylum seekers - intimidating those living and working inside, and many in the local community. When racist riots spread across Britain in summer 2024, they were brought to an end by the mobilisation of tens of thousands to anti-racist counter-protests to defend our communities,

reflecting the overwhelming public mood of revulsion against racism, hatred and violence. It is communities themselves, with their workers' movement and trade unions, that can best organise to defend themselves and drive the far right and its influence out. The Socialist Party puts demands on the trade unions, with over six million members organised in workplaces in every community, to take a lead. In the north of Ireland, the biggest public sector

union Nipsa, which has a socialist leadership, has led and is fighting for the trade union movement more widely to organise working-class defence of our communities. In east London, Waltham Forest Trades Council, in which Socialist Party members play a leading role, has brought together trade union activists to plan how to build and strengthen the workers' movement in Epping - a town just to the north of London where the far right has been involved in violent, racist attacks on a hotel.

Trade unionists leading the fight against racism in the North of Ireland

Interview with **Carmel Gates**, General Secretary of Northern Ireland Public Service union NIPSA, and a member of Militant Left (sister party of the Socialist Party)

NIPSA is an Irish trade union of 47,000 members. Health workers, education workers, civil service and more. The left have a majority on the union executive. Since I got elected in 2021, we've grown from 39,000 members. That is largely as a result of the campaigning work we have done. From 2022 until 2024 every section of the union was engaged in industrial action. When workers see unions take action and see what unions do, they join. The union has grown, built on a programme of struggle and taking the battle to the government. That included the first ever public service general strike in January 2024, which succeeded in winning extra money for the Northern Ireland budget.

Building a working-class political alternative is also part of the fight against racism

NIPSA's fighting stance has given members the confidence to take the lead on fighting racism. Trade unions are the only organisations that can organise workers and organise them safely and so NIPSA put forward a proposal to have trade union-trained stewards on

demonstrations to ensure that counter-protests against the racists are well organised and safe. If the trade unions lead, with stewards who are properly trained, then we can drive the racists off the streets. Our action has been in response to the racist activity that has grown in the North since the summer of last year, when a group went on a rampage in Belfast. They were attempting to march to the mosque to attack it and although they didn't get there, they did attack businesses and shops on the way. We called on the rest of the trade union movement to engage and be part of the counter-demonstration that day. Many individuals did turn out and as the campaign went on more trade unionists did mobilise. We used that experience to bring a motion to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) Northern Ireland conference in November, that it should organise a trained group of stewards who would be ready and able whenever the racists took to the

streets. The motion was passed at the conference in November. We made that call because we learned from the work that we've done previously. In the North of Ireland during the 1980s there were sectarian killings, and families forced to move out of their area. 'Militant' called for trade union defence. For united, democratic defence of workers and communities. That is the experience that we have brought to this issue now. But we need to fight on the things that give rise to racism. Significant poverty has affected a whole layer of working-class people who now feel they have been left behind. People are without homes, without jobs, and without proper services. Unless we take up those issues then there is fertile ground for racists to blame refugees and migrants. Building a working-class political alternative is also part of the fight against racism. A meeting has been called on 11 August to bring together trade unionists to begin a discussion to establish a new working-class political voice. Because of sectarian divisions, that task has always been difficult. Nonetheless, we have always called for workers' unity and socialism. What we do know is that 3,000 people signed up to the Labour Party in the North when Jeremy Corbyn was leader. Those 3,000 haven't gone anywhere, and more and more young people are now very disillusioned with 'politics' and sectarianism. I believe there will be a thirst for a new party based on workers' unity and socialism. In fact, 'For workers' unity and a socialist economy' was the backdrop and the slogan of NIPSA conference this year. It's now in the NIPSA constitution. Through our role in the union we've normalised the language of socialism so much that when we have the privilege of speaking on behalf of members in the media, the presenters often joke to us, 'So when you are you going to mention a socialist economy!'



PHOTO: MILITANT LEFT



PHOTO: HULL SOCIALIST PARTY

Waltham Forest Trades Council (WFTC) convened a meeting on 29 July to discuss giving assistance to the trade unions and communities of Epping to help build a united campaign for the resources all residents need and against the far right.

Local trades councils, regional trade unions, and our delegates and branch secretaries were invited. Over 30 trade unionists attended in the room and on Zoom, including representatives of:
• Several trades councils in north and east London and two in Essex
• RMT members and officers at branch and regional levels
• NEU officers at district and national levels
• Members and officers of other trade union branches, including WFTC delegates
• Representatives of Day Mer, a Turkish and Kurdish community organisation

The meeting was introduced by WFTC president Nancy Taaffe and secretary Kevin Parslow, who both emphasised the role that trade unions could and should play in defeating the far right, as we had done in Walthamstow last year. Both made the case for the trade unions to offer assistance to the workers' movement and communities in Epping to sink roots and build a movement that can drive out the influence of the far right. That this can be achieved by offering

Waltham Forest Trades Council responds to Epping events

a lead fighting for the resources our communities need: council homes, fully funded services, and well-paid jobs, by uniting the working class, rejecting racism and division. An Usdaw activist reported on visits to workplaces in the Epping Forest district to discuss with workers and union reps. Also raised was how an anti-racist campaign among students and young people could be given confidence by a trade union lead.

RMT London Transport secretary Jared Wood offered to put such a campaign to the regional council and the union's general secretary Eddie Dempsey. There was also discussion on the organisation of anti-racist counter-protests, including on the leading role trade unions should be playing in planning them and mobilising members, as well as having a democratic say over slogans and stewarding, including on transport to and from protests.

We concluded with the proposal for unions to help local organised workers to convene a labour movement meeting in Epping Forest:

To produce a model motion to help push this to happen, which would include organising public meeting(s) aiming at involving more trade union branches in an organised and planned way, and get prepared, not just for Epping but for other far-right manifestations, and against Reform on the electoral front. We appeal to all other trades councils in the east London and Essex areas to distribute our statement (see 'Epping asylum hotel: fight racism and for jobs, homes and services for all' at socialistparty.org.uk) and to visit local workplaces with it, to both get our message across for the unity of all workers; and to get involved with WFTC in preparation to establish a coordinating committee. We call on London, East and South East (LESE) TUC to prepare materials based on the TUC policy passed in 2018 for a campaign based on 'Jobs, Homes and Services, not Racism', as a matter of urgency. We also call on LESE to devote time and resources to setting up a trade union council in the Epping Forest district, where there is a small number of activists prepared to help.



PHOTO: SWANSEA SOCIALIST PARTY



WHAT WE STAND FOR

Capitalism is an ailing, crisis-ridden system based on the exploitation of the majority of the world's population by a small, super-rich elite who own most of the wealth and the means of producing it. This way of organising society, in which the pursuit of profit comes before everything else, causes poverty, inequality, environmental destruction, wars and oppression across the globe. The Socialist Party organises working-class people to fight against the attacks from this rotten system on our lives and livelihoods, and for a socialist alternative: a society which takes the wealth out of the hands of the super-rich and is democratically run by working-class people to meet the needs of all not the profits of a few.

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

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

WORK, PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

- A trade union struggle for the immediate implementation of the TUC demand of a £15-an-hour minimum wage for all as a step towards a real living wage, without exemptions. For the minimum wage to automatically increase linked to average earnings or inflation, whichever is higher.
- Share out the work. A maximum 32-hour working week with no loss of pay or worsening of conditions. The right to flexible working, under the control of workers not employers. An end to insecure working, for the right to full-time work for all who want it; ban zero-hour contracts.
- All workers to have trade union rates of pay, employment protection, and sickness, parental and holiday rights from day one of employment. End bosses using bogus 'self-employment' as a means to avoid giving workers rights.
- No to austerity through inflation.
- For all wage rates to be automatically increased at least in line with price rises.
- Open the books of all companies cutting jobs or claiming they can't afford to pay a real living wage. State subsidies, where genuinely needed, for socially-useful small businesses.
- For trade unions independent of the capitalist state, with members having democratic control over their own policies, constitutions and democratic procedures. For all trade union officials to be regularly elected, subject to recall by their members and paid a worker's wage.
- Reduce the state retirement and pension age to 55. For decent living pensions.
- Replace universal credit and the punitive benefit system with living benefits for all who need them.

PUBLIC SERVICES

- A massive expansion of public services including the NHS and council

services. Reverse all the cuts, kick out the privateers. Bring private social care and childcare facilities into public ownership under democratic control, in order to provide free, high-quality services for all who need them. Expand services for all women suffering violence.

- For local councillors who are committed to opposing austerity and all cuts to local services, jobs, pay and conditions.
- For a socialist NHS to provide for everyone's health needs, including dental and eye care - free at the point of use and under democratic control. Kick out the private companies! Nationalise the pharmaceutical industry under democratic workers' control and management.
- Renationalise privatised utilities - including rail, mail, water, telecoms and power - under democratic workers' control and management.
- Free, publicly funded and democratically run, good-quality education, available to all at any age. Abolish university tuition fees and write off student debt, end marketisation, and introduce a living grant. No to academisation. For all schools to be under the genuine democratic control of local education authorities, school staff, parents and student organisations.
- The right to a safe secure home for all. For the mass building of genuinely affordable, high-quality, carbon-neutral council housing. For rent controls that cap the level of rent. Fair rent decisions should be made by elected bodies of tenants, housing workers and representatives of trade unions. For cheap low-interest mortgages for home buyers. Nationalise the privately owned large building companies, land banks and estates.

services. Reverse all the cuts, kick out the privateers. Bring private social care and childcare facilities into public ownership under democratic control, in order to provide free, high-quality services for all who need them. Expand services for all women suffering violence.

services. Reverse all the cuts, kick out the privateers. Bring private social care and childcare facilities into public ownership under democratic control, in order to provide free, high-quality services for all who need them. Expand services for all women suffering violence.

services. Reverse all the cuts, kick out the privateers. Bring private social care and childcare facilities into public ownership under democratic control, in order to provide free, high-quality services for all who need them. Expand services for all women suffering violence.

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

SOCIALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM

- No to imperialist wars and occupations!
- Take the wealth off the super-rich! For a socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies and the banking system that dominate the British economy, and run them under democratic working-class control and management. Compensation to be paid only on the basis of proven need, not to the fat cats.
- A democratic socialist plan of production based on the interests of the overwhelming majority of people, and in a way that safeguards the environment.
- No to the EU bosses' club. Organise a campaign with European socialists and workers' organisations to use the talks on post-Brexit relations to tear up the EU pro-capitalist rules. For a real collaboration of the peoples of Europe on a socialist basis as a step towards a socialist world.

Do you agree? Join the fightback!

JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

- Visit socialistparty.org.uk/join
- or call 020 8988 8777
- or text your name and postcode to 07985 032 071 to find out more today!

Help fund the fightback!

DONATE TODAY

socialistparty.org.uk/donate





Letter: Protesting against far-right Voice of Wales

RCT SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBER

On 26 July, the racist so-called Voice of Wales held a meeting in the Coed Ely club in Tonyrefail, Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT). There was a counter protest organised by Stand Up to Racism, among others. When we arrived there was a shouting match going on - the anti-racist protesters were shouting "fascists, racists off our streets" and the people on the terraces of the club were shouting back. It was very loud and difficult for anyone to think, let alone make themselves heard.

Shouting

The people gathered in the club were clearly not all hardened racists or fascists, or all members of the Voice of Wales. There were families there with children, and others who just seemed like local people and club members. Shouting at them likely just alienated them - thus driving them into the hands of the far right, including the Voice of Wales who were present with them.

I was there holding the Caerphilly Trades Council banner, and copies of the Socialist paper. We were the most visible trade union presence, although there were some PCS placards in the crowd. There were no speeches made, so no political ideas presented.

As I was not shouting at the people

on the terrace above they started talking to me and it was quite interesting to hear what they were saying. I heard comments of "is that all you have to say?", as well as "what do you mean by 'fascist'?" and "genuine refugees are welcome". They were asking me what the trades council were doing there and wanted to have a look at the front page of the paper. When they saw our main headline criticising Labour 'Labour vs the working class - solidarity with Brum bin strike' they said they don't like Labour either. When I talked about the trades council representing workers they replied saying they are workers too.

Jobs, homes, and services

I believe the anti-racist protest would have been more effective had it adopted demands appealing to those like local people and club members. Shouting at them likely just alienated them - thus driving them into the hands of the far right, including the Voice of Wales who were present with them.

WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?
editors@socialistparty.org.uk

Help fund the fightback
DONATE
socialistparty.org.uk/donate

Angola: Mass protests against government fuel cuts



2020 Angola protest opposing government police brutality SIMÃO HOSSI/CC

JOE FATHALLAH

Mass protests broke out in Luanda, the capital city of Angola, on 28 July, in one of the latest popular protests in Africa against poverty and oppression. At the behest of the International Monetary Fund, the government had announced a cut in fuel subsidies, causing a 33% rise in the price of diesel. This is also having a knock-on effect on food prices, as companies attempt to pass on distribution costs to customers. There have been 22 confirmed deaths, over 200 injuries and over 1,200 arrests, resulting from violent police repression, including reports of live ammunition used against protesters.

Taxi strike

The movement started with a three-day strike called by taxi drivers' unions against the price increases. In Luanda, minibus taxis are the only real form of public transportation, carrying around 90% of commuters. Despite the attempts of some union leaders to call off the strike, much wider layers of the working class and urban poor have been drawn into the uprising. Shops have been looted as protesters desperately search for access to food, and overflowing frustrations have resulted in damage to buildings and vehicles. Demonstrations have also broken out in other towns and cities in Angola. On 29 July, a 16-year-old protester was shot and killed by police in the second-largest city, Lubango.

Angola is an oil-rich country. Only Nigeria has larger reserves in Africa.

There are also important reserves of diamonds, gold and copper. However, most of the population live in poverty. The average monthly wage is roughly 70,000 kwanzas, or £56. Inflation is running at 20%, unemployment is at 30%, and outbreaks of cholera, malaria and rabies are commonplace.

Portuguese imperialism

Angola was formerly a colony of Portugal, established gradually through colonial aggression and economic dominance, and eventually formalised at the 1884-85 Berlin Conference of European imperialist powers that carved up Africa between them. After World War Two, independence movements started to grow, as the urbanised working class started to find its feet and its voice. The rural workforce also started to organise ad-hoc illegal unions. In 1961, the war of independence started, with various militias fighting against the colonial occupiers. This process came to a head in 1974, with the overthrow of the fascist Nato-backed Estado Novo military dictatorship in Portugal in the Carnation Revolution. As a result, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) - supported by Soviet and Cuban military intervention that stopped the 1975-76 invasion by the army of the then South African Apartheid regime - was able to declare Angolan independence in November 1975. A civil war between the MPLA and opposition forces, however, continued until 2002.

The MPLA established a largely nationalised, planned economy, which, based on oil exports, allowed

for significant economic growth and industrialisation. However, the lack of any meaningful workers' control or democracy in the economy meant that corruption and embezzlement were rife. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the MPLA government moved quickly to supporting capitalism and neoliberalism. For a time there was economic growth based on oil and raw materials. Corruption is still rife, alongside state repression and violence against political opponents of the regime.

New party

The MPLA government, despite its radical past, acts today in the interests of neo-colonial capital. This is recognised and understood by wide layers of those participating in the protests. The movement needs to give birth to a new working-class party, drawing in wider layers of the urban and rural poor, with the objective of bringing to power a government led by the workers and poor that carries out a socialist programme. This would include bringing the large state oil company Sonangol - which is subject to a creeping programme of privatisation under the MPLA - into democratic workers' control and ownership, alongside the nationalisation of all foreign assets in the oil industry with compensation paid only based on proven need. Such a programme would free the huge material wealth of Angola to be used to raise living standards, invest in healthcare, education and infrastructure, and stand out as a beacon to all those fighting back against capitalism and neocolonialism in Africa.

London trans pride



JAMES IVENS

Around 100,000 people marched in London for trans pride. There were thousands of people angry at the Labour government not standing up for trans rights, and enthused by the announcement a few days before by Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana that steps were being taken towards a new party. "Fight for LGBTQ+ rights, fight for socialism" placards and leaflets flew out of our hands and over a hundred people left having bought a copy of the Socialist

CWI World Congress - donate to support the fight for socialism worldwide

The 14th World Congress of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), the socialist international that the Socialist Party is part of, took place in Berlin at the end of July.

We are living in a rapidly changing world full of uncertainty and volatility. Donald Trump's return to the White House brings dramatic headlines every day as his administration turns the capitalist world order on its head. The crisis of the global profit system, of which Trump 2.0 is both a symptom and an accelerator, is deepening at an alarming speed. Wars - including the terrible war on Gaza - inflict massive loss of life, injury and displacement.

The Congress had delegates from

Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America, debating and discussing the world situation and developing a political perspective for the unfolding of the class struggle.

While politically crucial, the World Congress adds enormous pressure to the finances on the CWI in 2025. The Socialist Party is campaigning to raise £25,000 to cover the costs of the successful Congress and to support the political work of the CWI over the remainder of 2025. So far, £14,741.50 has been paid in. What can you do to help us reach the target?

socialistparty.org.uk/donations/cwi-appeal-2025

West Northants: Reform council evicts 250 in supported housing

KATIE SIMPSON AND AMY MACE
NORTHAMPTON SOCIALIST PARTY

13 activists met on 24 July to discuss the future of the 'community hubs' that had been unceremoniously shut down after the council cut their funding. West Northamptonshire Council was run by the Tories, now it's Reform.

Staff had just been informed that they were all made redundant. But we made a plan of action. Not only to 'save our hubs', but to expand the campaign to all threatened services.

Northampton Against Cuts was formed. The following day, the awful news broke that 250 vulnerable adults living in Northampton face eviction as early as mid-August, with no alternative housing options.

West Northamptonshire Council demanded that the NAASH charity provide evidence for 450 supported-living claims, in a short space of time. Despite NAASH submitting evidence for the vast majority of claims on time, and offering to refund the rest, the council closed all the claims.

On 26 July, Northampton Against Cuts rallied to save NAASH. People were shocked and appalled, and many were ready to put their names down for the campaign.

Northampton Against Cuts held a public meeting on 31 July. NAASH worker Jim Treliving spoke, reading a statement from the charity trustees.

"NAASH has been involved for many years... in support of homeless people in Northampton. All those



Katie speaking at the protest

supported are people who need accommodation assistance and support, and have been recommended by West Northants Council.

"Recovering benefits from West Northants Council, on behalf of the clients who are accommodated... is NAASH's principle income. But West Northants Council has ceased making any payments, which has caused NAASH's financial position to become impossible.

"Without that funding, NAASH will not be able to continue... Timing is now critical, unless resolved immediately, NAASH will have to close."

Socialist Party member Steve Score, chair of Leicestershire Anti-Cuts Alliance, shared lessons from the campaign there. Jo Morris, who managed the community hubs, shared her and her colleagues' experience of suddenly being made redundant.

Katie is now chair of Northampton Against the Cuts. At the meeting, she

said: "We need to unite with every section of our community against these attacks."

We decided to have a protest on 9 August. Jim closed the meeting, saying he thought he "was alone in trying to fight for the residents, and was pleased to find a campaign ready to help".

NORTHAMPTON AGAINST CUTS DEMANDS THE COUNCIL:

- Stop supported-housing evictions - reinstate housing benefit payments backdated to when they were stopped
- Fully fund residents/services in NAASH, Oasis House, Hope, and other vital services for people facing homelessness
- Expand homeless services in Northampton - ensure suitable housing for all
- Stop all cuts - scrap PFI privatisation, and use reserves to fund vital services

Doncaster by-election: Fight for jobs, homes, and services Vote TUSC in Bentley on 21 August

ALISTAIR TICE
SOUTH YORKSHIRE SOCIALIST PARTY

A newly elected Reform councillor has resigned after just two months, causing a council by-election in Bentley ward in Doncaster. Reform councillors say they want to cut 'wasteful expenditure', yet it will cost more than £20,000 to hold this by-election. Reform has already suspended another Doncaster councillor.

Reform majority

Reform won a majority on the council in the May local elections. At the first council meeting, the first motion that they proposed wasn't to improve council services, build more council houses, or create decent jobs for our young people. No, it was about flags!

This is why Socialist Party member Andy Hiles is standing as the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) candidate, to offer an

anti-austerity and anti-war alternative to Reform and Labour.

Benefit cuts

Andy is a painter and decorator, a trade unionist, and a benefits advice buddy. He says on the TUSC leaflet: "I have been involved in campaigning on welfare issues, such as ending the Bedroom Tax and abolishing the two-child benefits cap for over ten years."

"I have been helping people fight unfair decisions by DWP and making mandatory reconsideration requests, helping to fill out any number of forms for Universal Credit, PIP, Pensioner Credits, and Blue Badge applications, as well as taking cases to tribunal.

"Ever since this Labour government was elected, it has been the same old story as the previous Tory government, attacks on the working class. Within days of taking office, they had announced they would

keep the two-child benefit cap. and then announced they were scrapping the winter-fuel payment for pensioners. Now they are cutting disability benefits and PIP.

"They say there's no money for us. But when Trump came calling, they soon found billions of pounds for war, for more arms and weapons to kill people in Ukraine and Gaza. I say fund welfare, not warfare."

6,000 leaflets

With the help of new Socialist Party members and TUSC supporters in Doncaster, over 6,000 leaflets have already been delivered in less than three weeks before the postal votes come out, as well as holding three campaign stalls so far.

All advertising a public meeting on Tuesday 12 August, 7pm, C-View community centre, Church View, Doncaster, DN1 1AF about "Support Corbyn and Sultana's new party, Vote Andy Hiles in Bentley".

SOCIALIST PARTY FIGHTING FUND				
AREA	RECEIVED	TARGET	PROGRESS	PERCENTAGE
South West	1,285	2,100	<div style="width: 61%;"></div>	61%
Wales	641	2,400	<div style="width: 27%;"></div>	27%
Northern	186	800	<div style="width: 23%;"></div>	23%
North West	248	1,200	<div style="width: 21%;"></div>	21%
Yorkshire	426	2,650	<div style="width: 16%;"></div>	16%
Eastern	182	1,300	<div style="width: 14%;"></div>	14%
London	504	5,000	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>	10%
Southern & SE	233	2,400	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>	10%
West Midlands	238	2,700	<div style="width: 9%;"></div>	9%
East Midlands	148	2,050	<div style="width: 7%;"></div>	7%
Other	970	2,400	<div style="width: 40%;"></div>	40%
TOTAL	5,061	25,000	<div style="width: 20%;"></div>	20%

£1 / £2 solidarity price

socialistparty.org.uk



the Socialist

Issue 1332

7-20 August 2025

formerly **Militant**

PROTEST GAZA SLAUGHTER

YOUTH WALKOUT AGAINST TRUMP

17 SEPTEMBER 2025



PAUL MATTSSON

ARCHIE HARRISON
WORCESTER SOCIALIST PARTY

“It’s about sending a message, to make it clear that young people in Britain do not welcome US president Donald Trump”. That’s what we have been telling people we have met on our many campaign stalls in Worcester.

On 17 September, Trump will begin his official state visit to Britain, with the red carpet being rolled out by spineless Keir Starmer. Socialist Students is organising for walkouts in as many schools and colleges as possible.

Trump is a stark representation of what the profit-driven capitalist system means. His government continues to support genocidal slaughter by the Israeli state in Palestine. Showing his profit-above-all-else motivations, he speaks of creating a ‘Gaza Riviera’ in Palestine. Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinians starve and

hundreds are shot in cold blood trying to access food.

Trump has attacked the rights of women, LG-BTQ+ people and other minority groups, and he supports mass deportations. He brags about helping billionaires getting even richer, and tells fossil fuel bosses to “drill baby, drill”. It’s no wonder that he is increasingly unpopular in the US and that workers and young people are beginning to rise up and protest, like in LA.

By walking out against Trump, young people in Britain can make our mark on events and show that we are not prepared to accept a future of war, oppression and environmental destruction.

With just over a month to go, we have been running stalls, handing out leaflets and putting up posters. Sign up to help build for the walkouts in your area!



WHAT WE STAND FOR: THE SOCIALIST PARTY’S MAIN DEMANDS >>> see column on p13

9 771366 962103 ISSN 1366-9621