

# FIGHT LABOUR CUTS

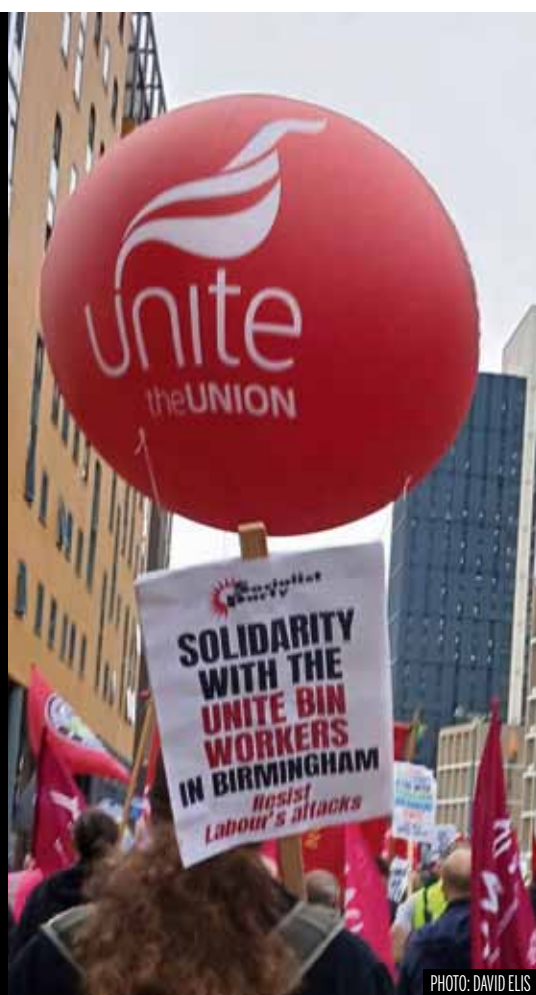


PHOTO: DAVID ELIS

MARK BEST  
SOCIALIST PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

**C**uts to disability benefits, pensioners' winter fuel allowance and public sector spending across the board. The record of Keir Starmer's Labour government has been one of attacks on the working class. They have raised tuition fees for the first time in a decade and drag their feet on improving rights at work.

And the situation facing working-class people is getting worse. The cost of the food we buy is going up. Finding a job, especially for young people, is dire. And rents are still out of control. And, most importantly for the politicians, 'the markets' are looking shaky.

Desperate to steady the rocking ship, the government has pushed back the Budget to 26 November. That's about as late as it could possibly be. They're hoping against hope an economic miracle happens in the meantime. But we have to be clear, alongside potential tax rises which will hit working-class people hardest, Labour is preparing the next round of brutal austerity. It would mean cuts to our NHS, education system, local councils and civil service - already all in deep crisis.

We need to prepare the fight back now. The TUC (Trades Union Congress) met at the start of September and passed a motion that called on it to "organise a weekend demonstration against Labour austerity as a launchpad for sustained trade union action in defence of workers and young people". It needs to start building for it now.

Why not name the date the 22 November, the Saturday before Rachel Reeves's planned brutal budget? It would show working-class people are ready to fight back, and act as a launchpad for coordinated industrial action.

Socialist Party members are fighting in our unions, our communities and on our campuses for an alternative to endless austerity. By fighting together we can win - that is the lesson of the monumental strike wave of 2022-23. Workers who took action forced the then-Tory government back to the table and were able to win pay rises previously ruled out of the question.

While Labour politicians meet and shake hands with representatives of big business to reassure them that the Labour government will continue to be for the bosses, working-class people need a party of our own. One that will take the wealth and resources out of the hands of the super-rich capitalist class and run society on a truly democratic basis, putting the power into the hands of ordinary workers to make decisions based on what we need instead of the profits of a few.

# MAKE THE SUPER-RICH PAY

# Trade unions must name the day for a demo

the Socialist formerly Militant

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

Starmer recognises Palestinian state while continuing support for war



PHOTO: PAUL MATTSOON

ALI MANSFIELD CAMDEN AND HARINGEY SOCIALIST PARTY

Ahead of a meeting of the UN General Assembly, Keir Starmer announced the British government's formal recognition of a Palestinian state. The governments of Canada and Australia made similar announcements on the same day. Netanyahu has responded with vows to extend settlements in the West Bank.

Starmer, who has previously spoken in favour of the Israeli state's 'right' to withhold power and water from Palestine, is not moved by genuine concern for the self-determination of Palestinians. His government has maintained more than 90% of export licences for sending arms to Israel. Several components of the fighter jets used in the Israeli state's bombing campaign are manufactured in the UK. RAF planes have carried out surveillance flights over Gaza. In a parliamentary debate, then-foreign secretary David Lammy said, in March, that: "Israel remains an important ally. We have an important trading relationship... any discussion of sanctions is just not correct."

The British government's support for the Israeli regime reflects capitalists' interests in maintaining it as an ally in the Middle East.

At the same time, increasing sections of the capitalist class's representatives fear the potential for further radicalisation caused by the horrors unfolding in Gaza. The Labour government's complicity in the genocidal onslaught in Gaza has provoked massive public anger, and the move to recognise Palestinian statehood reflects the pressure of that

anger. This follows partial U-turns on cuts to disability benefits and winter fuel payments, also after massive public outcry. Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana's announcement of a new party has added to this pressure. Huge sections of the 800,000 people who signed up to know more about 'Your Party' will have been moved to do so in part by the issue of Gaza.

Building on the clear enthusiasm for a new party to fight for a political voice for the working class is vital in taking the anti-war movement forward. Mass organised working-class action is also needed, including to restrict the supply of arms to Israel.

Starmer's token gesture will not end the unimaginable horror inflicted upon the Palestinian masses in Gaza. Nor will it end the enormous anger directed towards his government. The government's stated aim is "to protect the viability of a two-state solution and create a path towards lasting peace for the Israeli and Palestinian people". But genuine self-determination for the people of Palestine is not possible on the basis of capitalism, nor can capitalism offer any hope for peace in the region.

The only way forward is on the basis of the mass struggle of Palestinians, with the working classes throughout the region, with the aim of socialist transformation. By taking power out of the hands of the tiny capitalist ruling classes, and taking wealth and resources into the hands of the working-class masses - including in Israel - democratically planned economies can lay the foundation for negotiation on borders, the distribution of resources, and a region free from famine, war and repression.

Trump gets a soiree while Starmer sweats

DAVE MURRAY SOCIALIST PARTY EASTERN REGION

Thanks to Shakespeare, any banquet held in Britain will be said to have a ghost at it. The UK state banquet for Donald Trump, held behind the walls of Windsor Castle, was haunted by three - the spectre of child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, the remains of Prince Andrew's reputation and the career of Peter Mandelson.

All three are connected to each other and to the guest of honour by bonds of friendship, a fact illustrated by a giant projection onto the castle depicting the president in 'happier times' - socialising with the world's most notorious paedophile. Right-wing 'free speech' crusaders seem unphased by the fact that the folks who displayed said photos were quickly arrested and subjected to criminal charges under the Malicious Communications Act. On the menu was Ballotine, chicken that's had its spine and all rigid parts removed prior to cooking; Poulet à la Starmer, perhaps?

According to the UK media, Trump's great Hogwats sleepover was a rare triumph for Sir Keir. Despite having to deliver a formal speech at the banquet and a press Q&A at the PM's country retreat the next day, President Trump didn't offer to buy or invade any countries. Nor did he declare himself a living god or make his horse a senator. He did appear to confuse Abbamania, a cultural phenomenon, with a warring state, but



PHOTO: NUMBER 10/CC

since he's done the same with 'antifa' that was hardly even news. More remarkable to the commentariat was the mildness of the President's disagreement with Keir Starmer's recognition of Palestine. Clearly Mr Trump can recognise a totally cynical gesture, even if they can't.

Another 'win' for Starmer was a tech deal said to be worth \$340 billion, to which Trump applied his public scribble. Starmer says US tech companies like Microsoft, Nvidia, OpenAI and Google will create 15,000 UK jobs. For investments worth 10% of Britain's GDP? You do the maths. UK attempts to get a zero tariff on steel have now ended, leaving Britain on 25% rather than the standard 50%. To be fair, Britain has only the remnants of a steel industry due to failure to invest by private corporations and government alike. In your face, rest of the world!

The visit seems to have been managed so as to minimise public scrutiny and, above all, protest. Respect and solidarity is due to all who protested Trump's second visit to the UK as an honoured guest. (see pages 4-6 for reports of protests and walk-outs across the country).

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!

The case for a workers-led new party gets even stronger

Barely two months after Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana's 24 July joint announcement of 'a new kind of politics' under the temporary banner of 'Your Party', simmering tensions between their two camps erupted into the open on 18 September.

Eager to knock down the possibility of a new alternative developing to the capitalist parties before it is properly formed, the establishment media jumped in. The Guardian, the tame house journal of Keir Starmer's New Labour Mark II party, relished in the 'terminal feel' of an 'early split' which leaves, "it would seem", the hundreds of thousands who signed up "still politically homeless". (19 September)

The underlying differences on how to proceed to a new party are real and significant, going beyond the surface appearance of a dispute over membership data administration. They reflect an embryonic class divide, albeit obliquely and not directly or consciously expressed by all the actors involved, and with cross-currents and shifting positions in both camps - as, indeed, all social forces are never 'pure' in form or content.

The activity of the Socialist Party is always aimed to help develop the self confidence of the working class that it is an alternative power to the capitalist class who rule our society. And that it has the capacity to create and build its own democratic mass workers' party to realise that power politically. But unfortunately that has not been the approach of some of the key figures of both camps in the September schism, and it is that which is at the root of the current 'Your Party' crisis.

But whatever the immediate outcome is, the process towards the formation of a new, mass vehicle of socialist working-class political representation does not end here. The unfolding crisis of British capitalism, facing its own problems of representation as the Starmer government flounders and Britain's perilous position in the world economic and geopolitical system becomes ever more exposed, is pushing forward the conditions for its realisation.

However, the organised workers' movement now needs to assert itself forcefully to ensure that the current opportunities for a new party to come into being are fully seized.

SOCIALISM TODAY This is an extract from the editorial of the forthcoming October edition of Socialism Today, the monthly magazine of the Socialist Party. The full article on the Your Party crisis is available at socialistparty.org.uk. To subscribe to Socialism Today go to socialismtoday.org. Monthly magazine of the Socialist Party socialiststoday.org/subscribe / 020 8988 8777 Paper subscription £3 a month, e-subscription £2.50

Privatisation leeches £200 billion off us - we need socialist nationalisation



PHOTOS: PAUL MATTSOON, MOTACILAY/CC AND PUBLIC DOMAIN

ADAM HARMSWORTH COVENTRY SOCIALIST PARTY

It has been estimated that around £200 billion has gone into the pockets of shareholders controlling privatised services since the 1990s. Billions of pounds every year that could have funded our services, increased pay, created jobs, has instead disappeared into the bank accounts of the wealthiest 1%.

What we receive in return are public services getting worse and worse, and costing us more. Our NHS on its knees, water companies pouring sewage into our rivers, poorly run train and bus services, Royal Mail cutting deliveries. Bills and prices have soared, while workers in these privatised services have their pay and conditions attacked over and over.

Every way you look at Britain's lurch towards privatisation, it has been a failure.

That's why the Socialist Party calls for the full re-nationalisation of all these services. And given how much they've taken from us in profits already, nationalisation must be with no compensation for the super-rich. Only those investors who would

genuinely suffer without compensation should get it, on the basis of proven need instead of some mythical 'market value'.

We desperately need public ownership to end this theft by private profiteers. But, we don't think for a second that nationalisation alone can fix the crises in our services. Plenty of workers in state-owned services have taken strike action in the last few years over the unacceptable situations in their workplaces.

Labour in power, like previous Tory governments, is acting in the interests of the capitalist class. That means when they aren't selling off our services to the capitalists, they're running them on shoestring budgets while adding bureaucracy and top-down control to keep workers in their place. We need workers ourselves to have democratic control of our services, to guarantee they are run in the interests of our class and not for profit or penny-pinching. Imagine what we could have!

RECONVENED TRADE UNIONISTS FOR A NEW PARTY MEETING

Monday 13th October 2025 6:30pm

WHAT NOW FOR THE NEW PARTY PROJECT?

TIME FOR A TRADE UNION-LED RESET

Register at linktr.ee/TU4NewParty or scan to register:



Petition: www.change.org/TradeUnions-LaunchANewParty

Over 1,000 trade unionists, on Zoom and via a live feed, attended the first 'Trade Unionists for a New Party' meeting on 21 July, which included contributions from Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana MP, just days before they made their mould-breaking call for a "new kind of political party" - which has since gathered 800,000 sign-ups!

Since, meetings have taken place of trade union activists to discuss the next steps in their individual unions including; Unite, CWU, UCU, Unison, NEU, RMT, GMB, Usdaw and Napo.

Now, following the public spat between Corbyn and Sultana, and with a 'road map' to a founding conference having been published, Dave Nellist as instigator of the 'Trade Unionists for a New Party' petition is organising another discussion: 'Time for a trade union-led reset'.

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# Trump walkouts give youth a voice

ADAM POWELL-DAVIES  
SOCIALIST STUDENTS

**H**undreds of school and college students walked out to protest Donald Trump's state visit to the UK on 17 September. On the thousands-strong protest through central London, the Socialist Students contingent was by far the most lively, youthful and politically bold. Our chants and slogans were not just drawing attention to Trump and the role he is playing, but also to Keir Starmer's complicity in war, genocide, and defending the profits of the billionaires.

In Liverpool 75 walked out, there were 25 in Leeds, 15 from a Sheffield sixth form, 30 from one college in Nuneaton, 25 in Preston, and many more at youth protests around the country. The Trump walkouts showed that we can take matters into our own hands and have a voice when we organise and fight back.

Our walkouts forced their way into the national media. The government had been doing their best to keep Trump's visit under wraps, knowing the anger it would provoke. But our campaign got onto ITV and BBC, into the Independent newspaper, even over the pond into Time magazine – which has twice named Trump 'Man of the year'!

## Right to protest

Hundreds walked out against Trump, but it would have been many more if not for the police being called on students to try to intimidate us into not exercising our right to protest.

In west London, about a dozen police officers were waiting at the tube station to try to intercept students travelling to the central London demo. In south London, a headteacher called the police on us, as well as ripping up leaflets that students were being handed as they were going into school.

In east London, hundreds of students spilled out into the playground at lunch, ready to walk out and join the protests in central London. They were prevented from doing so by a police van as well as about a dozen police officers at the school gates.

In north London, headteachers in Enfield were communicating with each other and the police to try and clamp down on student exercising their right to protest. That didn't stop nine students walking out at one school.

Despite all the obstacles, when we are organised, we can overcome all the barriers put in our way. We can have a say over what goes on in our lives.

Schools, colleges, sixth forms... our entire capitalist education system is designed to strip away young peoples' confidence to take action: restrictive rules try to teach us from a young age to obey authority; there is a complete lack of a say over our curriculum and what we get taught; gates are locked to keep us in all day, trapping us in prison-like conditions; students are thrown into 'isolation



rooms' as punishment, facing a wall in solitary confinement conditions. All this is designed to make us feel powerless. And it's not accidental.

This capitalist system we live under is about making profit for a tiny few at the top of society, a super-rich minority, at the expense of everyone else. It means mega wealth for the billionaires while poverty, war, and climate destruction become the norm. Capitalism will look for all the ways it can to maintain this unequal arrangement, that includes trying to drill into us from a young age, while we are in school, that we can't fight back to change things.

The youth walkouts against Trump were a way to show that we can fight back. We sent a clear message to Trump, Starmer and the capitalist

class that we won't accept their agenda.

## Build students unions

As a first next step, Socialist Students is calling on young people to build our own students unions. These can be spaces where students in a school or college can come together to share ideas about how to fight back and to make a plan of action. Why not organise a meeting of everyone who is interested, including those who joined walkouts and other supporters?

The meeting could take place in the playground, or a quiet indoor space, or there might be sympathetic teachers who are open to allowing us to meet in their classroom, for example. A starting point could be to

find out which teachers are trade union reps for the education unions in your school.

Then the meeting can decide collectively what campaigning issues to take up. There might be anger at what is going on in the world – war, poverty, climate catastrophe. But locally there might be anger at canteen prices, the cost of school trips, uniform policies... At some schools, students have been told that they are unable to wear political badges, for example.

Once a main campaigning priority has been agreed on, one idea could be to write a short protest letter setting out the issues, getting as many students as possible to sign it, and to take a list of demands to the headteacher. That pressure could be increased by organising a protest at

lunchtime or outside the gates after school. A march to the local council offices could lobby a meeting of local councillors to ask what they are going to do to address the issues. There could also be a lobby of a local MP.

Students in east London prevented from protesting plan to write to their local MP Dianne Abbott to ask for her support in demanding the right to protest.

Socialist Students groups can also get together to attend protests outside of school or college. Socialist Students will have a contingent on the 11 October Gaza demo in London, for example. In Liverpool on 27 September, there is a protest outside of Labour Party conference, which Socialist Students will be attending – exposing all of the ways in which the Labour government is attacking our futures.

## A new party fighting for our future

Events across the whole of society shape the conditions which we grow up in. We have a Labour government hiking uni fees, cutting funding to schools and public services, that has attacked benefits for disabled people including getting rid of PIP for under-18s.

Outside of schools and colleges, young people need a political voice. Many have been enthused by Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana's 'Your Party'. It is polling highest among 18 to 24-year-olds. Socialist Students calls for a new mass workers' party that fights for a future for young people.

As leader of the Labour Party, Corbyn called for free education, mass council house building and a fully funded NHS, and many other policies to make the super-rich pay. Now young people again have a chance for a political party to fight for those things. There is the opportunity for a mass party that puts across an anti-war, socialist alternative to Labour, as well as to Reform. Socialist Students says any new party should be a democratic socialist party. We are holding meetings on 50+ university campuses across the country to discuss that.

Young people need a voice – our own students unions organising to fight in our collective interests. And a political voice, a party that links our struggles to those of other young people and the working class as a whole.

We have to fight for a future. That is linked to the struggle for a socialist society as an alternative to capitalism. That would be a system where the banks and major industries are owned and run by the working class, democratically discussing and collaborating to draw up a plan of how to use the wealth and resources in society to meet the needs of all. Internationally, that would lay the basis for an end to war and climate disaster. Join Socialist Students to fight for a future. Fight for socialist change.



Waltham Forest, east London



Plymouth ALEX MOORE

# Stoke Newington School Protest goes on in face of intimidation

ADAM GILLMAN  
SOCIALIST STUDENTS

Students tried to walk out from Stoke Newington School. For a few weeks, we had been giving leaflets to students. The students themselves had organised too, planning to protest in the playground, and then walk out.

But as supporters of students organising, we had been interrogated by the headteacher and her senior leadership team. They tried snapping leaflets out of students' hands, and tried to stop us from leafletting.

Senior management raised vague concerns about 'safety', implying it's not safe for students to be protesting. This is not true. Students go to and from school on their own, and other activities, and are trusted.

## Right to protest

Students also have the right to organise. Throughout history, students have played a role in getting rid of unpaid youth work, corporal punishment, and showed their opposition to climate change, tuition fees, and war.

If the leadership team truly cared about student safety, why didn't they accept being stewards to the march supervising them?

On the day, we saw an inspiring protest of around 200 students in the playground chanting "let us out", asserting their right to protest. However, management locked them between two sets of gates, before ushering them back into classes.

## Police

Even worse, the school had called the police, who turned up with a car, a van, and seven officers. This heavy-handed presence was deliberately meant to intimidate students.

The police forced me and another Socialist Party member to give our details, or be arrested - accusing us of 'incitement' and anti-social behaviour for supporting a peaceful protest.

We were fine. But this is why it's essential that students get organised to fight back, not only against Trump, but against the many issues we face as students - from barbaric isolation rooms to canteen prices going up.

We need fighting, democratic student unions in schools, colleges, and universities - building links with the staff unions, and to stop senior leadership teams sowing fear in organising.

## Latymer School, north London - 'we are the future, we have the power'

JOSH ASKER  
ENFIELD AND LEA VALLEY SOCIALIST PARTY

A student at Latymer School got in contact with us in the weeks leading up to Trump's visit. They had taken in leaflets and posters, with details about the assembly point for the walkout.

Several who walked out did so because they had seen posters pinned up in the toilets. Others were given a leaflet at the school gates.

On the day itself, senior teachers did all they could to persuade students not to protest. Others gave quiet words of encouragement.

The argument from the head and deputies was that a walkout would be too dangerous. Students responded to say: Trump in the White House is dangerous!

As we gathered at the park next to school, students appeared one by one. Some had stayed off for the morning, because they didn't want to be locked in. Lots who assembled had never met before, and were excited to meet like-minded students.

Confidence grew as we walked down to the station, and cars beeped in support.

People on the train wanted to discuss all topics political with us. It's not every day that a group of protesting teenagers gets on to your carriage!

Arriving in central London, we joined the Socialist Students contingent.

Student Robert said: "I'm from the Latymer School. I walked out to defend women's rights, LGBTQA rights, and everyone's rights. There were posters in my school, and I felt like I needed to join."

"The day has been thrilling. I felt like I made my voice heard, and all of my peers as well, I was very proud of them."

Plans are being made for a lunchtime meeting at the school to discuss what next to fight back.

Another walkout participant on the London demo said: "I was at a 'stop Trump' march on my 13th birthday, and I'm here again aged 17. Walking out of school, leaving the education that I should be getting, because I think that this is more important. Because if Trump gets his way, our education will be for nothing."

"We are taking back control of our bodies, of our minds, and of politics. We are the future, and we have the power. We can't let them forget that. We can't let them think they have won."

## Cardinal Newman College, Preston - from Trump walkout to Socialist Students

PEN DAWLER  
CARDINAL NEWMAN COLLEGE SOCIALIST STUDENTS

The day after thousands of people protested the state visit of the 'bigot-in-chief' Donald Trump in London, we did the same in Preston. In the week before, more than 40 interested Cardinal Newman College students signed our petition to form a walkout.

Most that gathered on the day supported the walkout. Even those that disagreed, engaged us in conversation.

On the day, 50 people signed our petition to create an official Socialist Students group at the college. Many also took to the megaphones to chant about Palestine, telling Trump to leave.

Several took up our protest placards. One set of boys took them, chanting around the rest of the college.

Some students were also interviewed and expressed interest in a mass workers' party that takes the fight to the pro-austerity parties, like Reform, Labour, Tories and Lib Dems.



Cardinal College, Preston



Exeter MYLES HATCHER

▶▶ CONTINUED ON P6

►► CONTINUED FROM P5

## ● Pimlico Academy, south west London – ‘keep it up’

ADAM POWELL DAVIES  
SOCIALIST STUDENTS

As students arrived at school, we announced on our megaphone that Trump is in the UK, and that students across the country are walking out against him and everything he represents.

Many students gathered around to hear what we had to say. But they were quickly shooed in by senior management.

Socialist Students members have been leafletting the school since July, and we've had a great response from students. But school management wants to clamp down on students' right to protest, even taking leaflets out of students' hands as they walked in.

One student told us his leaflet had been ripped up by his teacher. He and his friends told us: "Keep up the good work".

When one student asked the headteacher why they couldn't have a leaflet, he replied: "Because it's nonsense". Thank you for your balanced political analysis, sir!

We don't think it's nonsense for young people to get organised for a future without war, poverty, climate chaos, racism, and all the horrors that Trump represents.

In that spirit, Socialist Students went to Grey Coats School Sixth Form down the road. Dozens of students gathered outside to listen to us explaining on the megaphone why students are walking out today.

We pointed to Trump being welcomed to the UK, with a banquet with Keir Starmer and the King, while in Gaza thousands starve. Almost everyone took a leaflet.

## ● Sheffield – ‘you should be proud’

ALISTAIR TICE  
SHEFFIELD SOCIALIST PARTY

When we returned for a second 'Trump out' leaflet drop, the headteacher at King Edward School (KES) asked: "Why do you keep picking on my school?"

We replied: "Because your students are so intelligent and socially aware that they are concerned about issues affecting their futures. You should be proud of them."

She obviously wasn't, as she stood at the security gate, demanding students hand her the leaflets they'd taken.

Despite this, and the main gate being locked on the lunchtime of Thursday 18 September, 25 KES students joined the protest on a nearby green. Many identified as socialists, with ten signing up for Socialist Students. And they discussed the potential for setting up a group at or from the school.



Sheffield College



Kings College, Nuneaton MAX MCGEE

## ● Exeter – new group growing

MYLES HATCHER  
DEVON SOCIALIST PARTY

The walkout was spearheaded by one particular student that the Socialist Party met when we were campaigning – someone with a tight group of friends, strong political imagination, and a firm grasp of socialist ideas.

He and his group did great campaign work promoting the walkout throughout the campus. They now want to build a Socialist Students group in Exeter College. They have also attended anti-racist counter-demos outside our local asylum hotel. Exeter students, in the preceding weeks to the walkout, were also eager to speak about the genocide in Gaza, and the complicity of the UK and Trump.

## ● Leeds – students and workers unite

LAURA FRETWELL  
LEEDS SOCIALIST PARTY

Leeds was no exception. Despite Leeds University lectures not starting until the week after Trump's visit, we engaged many members of the public and ran out of leaflets.

At the height of the demonstration, 25 people, including students from nearby Notre Dame Sixth Form College and Leeds Arts University stopped to listen our speakers. The main message from each speaker was the same – it is appalling that Donald Trump has been invited for a state visit, the political situation does not have to be this way, and we can say no to demagogues who only cater to the super-rich.

Kevin Pattison, Leeds TUC (Trades Union Council) vice-president, spoke of the importance of students and trade unionists standing together to "oppose the obscene visit of Trump – a climate denier, who would happily watch the planet burn".

Tom Gibson, from Socialist Students, spoke of solidarity with immigrants in the US, who have faced horrendous human rights abuses; Palestinians, who suffer horror and genocide by the US-backed Israeli State; and citizens of Washington DC and other US cities, who face intimidation of National Guard deployment.

Tom said that a bright socialist future around the world is possible. The vast majority "do not want our money spent on an expensive, sycophantic ceremony, held by a government that refuses to spend money to help working people."

## ● Plymouth – freshers join protest

ALEX MOORE  
PLYMOUTH SOCIALIST PARTY

We produced leaflets and posters, overprinted with info for a lunchtime rally, and a follow-up meeting on fighting Trump and the far right. We gave these out on campaign stalls prior to the event, and on a student freshers stall the day before.

We met a small but enthusiastic group of students who came to protest at our stall on the day. We are following them all up, with a view to joining the Socialist Party, and setting up a new Socialist Students society.

A little effort can produce good results.

# Gary's economics: Is a wealth tax enough?

STEVE SCORE  
SOCIALIST PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

**“T**he richest 1% of Britons hold more wealth than 70% of Britons, while the four richest Britons have more wealth than 20 million Britons. How can we grow our economy when no one has any money to buy goods and services? How do we reduce wealth inequality?”

“We tax the rich. How do we tax the rich? We convince politicians.”

These quotes from a post by Gary Stevenson sum up the message of his 1.4 million subscriber YouTube channel ‘Gary’s economics’. He also has a best-selling book ‘The Trading Game’.

He is good at what he does, explaining his view of economics in a straightforward way to large numbers of people. He is very focused on the need for a wealth tax, not increasing tax on the working class or middle class but on the super-rich. As he puts it: “Tax wealth, not work”, for example assets over £10 million.

The Socialist Party fully supports the idea of taxing the rich, which is popular among many, and no doubt will be discussed as part of the process of developing a new party. We would go further though and argue that we need to nationalise the big companies and financial institutions that dominate the economy, and for a socialist programme to end capitalism itself.

Gary engagingly and honestly explains how, as someone from a working-class background who ended up as market trader working for a big investment bank, he came to these conclusions. He made millions by betting against the economists’ prediction of a big bounce back in the economy after the 2008 banking crash and that inequality meant most people did not have the money to spend, but that the price of assets bought up by the rich would increase. He is part of a group of millionaires who call for higher taxes on the rich.

## Won't they just leave?

He dismisses the argument that you can't tax the rich because they would ‘just leave the country’ by explaining that the super-rich earn, not by working for wages, but by owning assets and gaining “passive income” from them such as interest and rent (and presumably profits via share ownership). He says they should be taxed, wherever they claimed to live, on those assets that cannot necessarily be moved out of the country. Obviously, things like supermarkets, warehouses, housing etc cannot be moved out of the country. On the other hand, factories can be closed and new ones reopened elsewhere in the world, a process we have seen repeatedly. In cases such as this, nationalisation is necessary to save jobs, not a point made by Gary.

Of course, there is a huge financial and legal industry in existence to assist the super-rich to avoid tax in myriad ways, and they would not accept the level of taxation needed, for example to restore public services,



Protesters outside the Treasury against Labour cuts PAUL MATSSON

without a massive fight. The only guarantee against them avoiding paying tax would be to take their companies into public ownership.

## Capitalist exploitation

But where does wealth come from in the first place? New wealth is created from the labour of the working class, by hand or by brain. But the big employers - the capitalist class - do not pay workers the full value of the wealth they create. They cream off a chunk of it, split between profits for the owners of big business, the rent paid to owners of premises, and the interest paid to bankers and financiers. So, exploitation is built into the foundations of capitalism. All this was explained by Karl Marx a long time ago but is absent from Gary's argument.

While the Socialist Party fully supports the fight for every step forward in living standards, including squeezing every bit of tax we can from the super-rich, without ending capitalism all the same problems would reoccur.

Gary correctly points to the capitalist contradiction that when inequality is high and wages are low people don't have the money to spend on consuming. Which means the super-rich don't see the point in investing in new long-term production and the economy stagnates.

But how do we fight to improve the lives of working-class people? Gary criticises “those on the left” who lobby politicians without building the power that comes from going directly to people to explain the concept clearly. In contrast, he says his first priority was to communicate to a large number of people. Since his



**The rich will not give up their wealth easily and would use all methods at their disposal to defend it**

YouTube videos regularly get hundreds of thousands of views, he is doing a great job on that.

He argues this can be done best through social media and cites the success of the alt right especially in the US.

But then what? His strategy, explained in one video ‘How to take over your country on YouTube’, is to: build popular support for the idea of a wealth tax and then use that leverage to influence people at the top. He wants “enough connections within” political parties and from “inside posh boy's elite institutions like thinktanks as unfortunately we can't get it otherwise”.

## Concessions can be won

Under pressure, and the threat of mass action from below, it is possible to wring concessions out of the ruling capitalist class. A small increase in tax on the wealthy is possible even from the under-pressure Starmer Labour government, but not one that would be adequate to solve the problems we face. And all the concessions we force out of the bosses can be taken away. Look at the past 15 years of austerity, the systematic dismantling of the public sector and gains that workers in the past fought tooth and nail for.

The power of popular opinion is not enough, it must be organised. Workers have power to fight the bosses when we act together, in our workplaces and communities. Who really keeps society going was driven home during the Covid-19 pandemic. Working-class people in factories, supermarkets, driving buses etc. or the bosses who sit back and get rich off their backs?



**The only guarantee against the super-rich avoiding paying tax would be to take their companies into public ownership**

The rich will not give up their wealth easily and would use all methods at their disposal to defend it, including manufacturing economic crisis against a left government and increasing repression from the state. The response of the bondholders, the financiers who own government debt, and currency speculators to the Liz Truss budget would be nothing compared to the crisis they would initiate if a left government came to power and threatened their wealth.

It would therefore be necessary to go further and take control of the financial organisations and the commanding heights of the economy. Workers taking action collectively can bring the country to a halt. To do that we need to be organised. To deliver the real change we need, the decisions on what gets produced, what are acceptable living standards and services can't be left in the hands of the bosses and the establishment parties, from Starmer's Labour to the Tories, that represent and defend their interests.

## Join the socialists

To do that we need to be organised. The Socialist Party fights for working-class interests, for the action to win whatever we can get from the bosses, through industrial action, community campaigns and more. But we also see the need to change the way society is organised on a fundamental basis, for revolutionary socialist change that would put working-class people in charge. With the commanding heights of the economy in our hands, not the bosses and the bankers, we could democratically decide what we want and need, not what makes a tiny few get very rich.

**Dave Walsh, Liverpool Socialist Party member,** is chair of Liverpool and District Trades Union Council. As a teenager in the 1980s, he was one of hundreds of young people employed as an apprentice by Liverpool's Militant-led Labour council which defied the cuts and beat back Thatcher's Tories.

For many years, the Socialist Party has put the demand for a new mass workers' party central to our political programme. Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana's 'Your Party' announcement and the 800,000 who signed up to support it, shows the huge appetite that there is for a new party to fight on our side against the capitalist bosses.

For 'Your Party', or any new party, to develop into a mass democratic organisation of workers and youth capable of defeating the capitalist class, then it should be rooted in working-class communities and the trade unions. We have argued for it to adopt a federal structure that allows for bodies of the trade unions - the existing mass organisations of the working class with over 6 million members - to affiliate while also maintaining their own organisational structures and identity. Likewise other workers' and socialist organisations and parties would be able to affiliate.

A clear example of the importance of democratic structures, and how a federal structure can work, is found in the titanic struggle in Liverpool between the Militant-led Labour council, elected in Liverpool in 1983, and Margaret Thatcher's counter-reforming government. Throughout that struggle, Militant, the Socialist Party's predecessor, mobilised the power of the city's working class. The campaign built in our small northern city was so great that its 47 Labour councillors were able to inflict a tremendous defeat on Thatcher's Tory government.

During this period, Militant's fighting programme became the main political opposition to Thatcher's counter-reforms. The campaign made international headline news, and Militant used that platform to make the case for international socialism. The struggle became an inspiration to millions of workers around the world.

Councillors were on the front line, they were subject to a viciously hostile campaign of lies in the capitalist media accusing them of economic recklessness and corruption. And they lived under the constant threat of legal action, which ultimately ended in the High Court, where they received huge fines and were eventually undemocratically removed and banned from office.

But they were able to stand firm against relentless pressure from the capitalist class. The thousands of homes, the parks, nurseries and leisure centres that Liverpool City Council built, defying Thatcher's cuts, still stand.

#### Organised working class

It's important to recognise that the councillors' stand was made possible because it was built on the powerful foundation of the city's organised working class. Crucial in the task of building that movement was the democratic structures that existed in Liverpool's Labour Party at that time. The District Labour Party (DLP) democratically debated and decided the course the councillors should take. It was made up of well over 400 delegates from branches in every ward,



PHOTO: PAUL TRAYNOR

trade unions organised in workplaces and from the Labour Party Young Socialists.

Militant recognised the enormous potential of these democratic structures, but also knew that the Labour Party's right-wing leadership was adept at using the party's bureaucratic machinery to undermine rank-and-file democracy.

In the 1970s, de-industrialisation and stagflation ended Britain's post-war boom, but Liverpool's economic decline was more extreme because of the effects of containerisation in shipping. This destroyed tens of thousands of jobs in a city heavily reliant on its docks for employment. From 1964 onwards, Militant had warned that capitalism would founder, and workers would need to wage an almighty struggle to stop the ruling class destroying all the gains the working class had won in the aftermath of World War Two. In the harsh conditions that existed in Liverpool, Militant's warnings hit home, and it was able to build support for its ideas, it attracted fresh new layers of workers and youth into political activity.

Militant activists built up local Labour Party branches and armed new members with the strategy and tactics needed to overcome bureaucratic barriers and strengthen rank-and-file democracy. From there, they were able to elect capable, committed Marxists to leading positions. By the beginning of the 1980s, Militant was the dominant force within the DLP, with our late, great comrade Tony Mulhearn as its president.

# Liverpool's Militant Labour council struggle - lessons for democracy

The next task was to get elected, but years of broken promises under previous Labour administrations hampered these efforts. However, through the network of ward branches, Militant built a small army of dedicated activists who did the painstaking work of leafleting and canvassing, eventually convincing residents in their communities that this was a Labour Party worth voting for. In 1983, Labour took control of the city with a small majority of just three seats.

#### Liverpool's Militant record

On taking office, the council immediately cancelled the 2,000 redundancies planned by the previous Liberal administration. They reversed funding cuts to all council departments, and jobs and services were protected. Nursery schools were built to address the chronic shortage of places and sports centres were built in working-class areas where they were desperately needed. They created hundreds of apprenticeships for young people in housing and vehicle maintenance. And they began to demolish the slum maisonettes and tenement blocks, replacing them with attractive three-bed semis and bungalows with front and back gardens.

The capitalist media was alarmed and soon waded in, accusing the council of recklessly spending money that didn't exist. But Militant pointed out the money had been stolen from the city to give tax cuts to the rich. They called on the working class to mobilise in support of their campaign to defeat the Tories and get the funding needed to meet people's needs.

In November, just seven months after being elected, more than 20,000 people marched at a rally supporting the council campaign. It was clear by now that the DLP had tremendous authority in the city.

Attacks from the media ramped up, with local and national news accusing Militant of intimidating its opponents. In truth, what they were referring to, was the growing number of working-class members attending ward meetings and demanding Militant's programme be implemented. But for all of their lies, the media couldn't hide the fact that Militant's programme was transforming peoples' lives for the good, and they couldn't stop a landslide victory at the election in May 1984.

That huge victory shocked Thatcher and the Tories. Because they were fighting on two fronts with the Miners' Strike still raging, they were forced to give in to the council's demands and released £30 million of funding (£150 million adjusted for inflation). This money allowed the council to continue implementing its radical reforms.

Inspired by the victory, many Labour councils around the country discussed the idea of setting a needs budget. The campaign that emerged nationally was known as the 'rate-capping rebellion', in which councils defied government attempts to cap income councils could raise from rates on businesses and residents. A temporary united front of councils developed, but other councils' stands faded away. The approach taken by most other councils bore no resemblance to Militant's campaign of investing

and funding the services needed, and then building a grass-roots movement capable of defending those gains. Labour leader Neil Kinnock was aware that Militant's campaign in Liverpool had succeeded because of the party's democratic structures, so he consciously set about hollowing them out.

Later Labour leaders continued that process, with every change designed to concentrate power at the top. Among those changes was the introduction of a 'one member one vote' system, used by the Labour right as a measure to dilute workers' collective influence in the Labour Party structures through the trade unions. It was one part of the process of transforming the party into an out-and-out party of the capitalist bosses.

One of the changes implemented in 2014 following the Collins Review, abolished the electoral college and allowed new registered supporters to pay just £3 and have an equal vote in leadership elections. Ironically, following the law of unintended circumstances on the part of the Labour right, it was under this system that Jeremy Corbyn was elected as leader in 2015, not winning an overall majority amongst the party members but coming out decisively ahead amongst the registered supporters and trade union-affiliated members. But Corbyn only made it on to the ballot paper because of the stupidity and complacency of some right-wing Labour MPs whose signatures got him over the threshold of support from 15% of Labour MPs.

In her excellent article in the June

bureaucratic attacks.

Ward branches continued to be a hotbed of activity, debating motions that their elected delegates took as resolutions to the DLP, building the campaign against the Tory government's attacks. DLP meetings, made up of ward and constituency delegates, as well as delegates from affiliated unions and Labour Party Young Socialists, continued to build and thrive because members were in control.

Thousands of working-class people remained active members of Liverpool's Labour Party because they were in control of their local branches and they mobilised demonstrations of up to 50,000 people. This is how the Militant Tendency built a democratic workers' party with a Marxist leadership in Liverpool. It still serves as a shining example for the struggle to build a new mass workers' party.

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# Italy Strikes in solidarity with Gaza flotilla



HUGO PIERRE  
REPORTING FROM ITALY

The Italian working class is beginning to take centre stage in the fight to end the brutal genocide inflicted on the people of Gaza by the Israeli state. In the middle of August, the Global Sumud Flotilla docked in Genoa. Workers from across the city collected tonnes of aid to send to Gaza where the Israeli state is using starvation of Palestinians as a military tactic.

On 22 September the USB union federation, alongside others, called a strike that blocked ports, particularly in the USB strongholds of Genoa and Livorno but in many others as well. The strike on the railway network started at 9pm on 21 September for 24 hours with national trains being severely disrupted and in some cities and regions no local or regional trains at all.

In Rome, over 100,000 marched, and many other demonstrations took place in 81 other cities such as Milan, Florence, Bologna, Turin and Venice. The cry came from many to block everything if the flotilla is not allowed to complete its mission.

USB called all its members, in both

the public and private sectors, out on strike. Other trade union federations such as CUB did the same.

The dock workers who are part of the USB, pledged that if the flotilla was attacked or the aid was not received by Palestinians, they would not load or unload any commercial or military cargo to Israel. Genoa is one of the main ports in Italy. That pledge was made in front of a mass demonstration of Genoans.

Two weeks later on 30 August, over 50,000 marched through the streets of Genoa in a mass show of solidarity with the dockers and the people of Gaza.

A meeting on 11 September of 600 workers and youth met to plan action and to hear from dockers leaders in the city. USB leader Guido Lutrano called on other unions to 'focus their strikes for 22 September'.

The mass response of workers to the strike is putting pressure on all sectors of society. One of the largest trade union federations organised action amongst its members on 19 September. In Naples, CGIL members attracted over a thousand in a late afternoon rally.

Workers are now putting increasing pressure on the right-wing Italian government. They demanded an

end to all military ties with Israel and full support for the flotilla to achieve its aims. The strike raised the potential to link all the grievances workers have against the government into one mass struggle.

This strike raised the opportunity for workers to discuss how can they end the brutal right-wing Meloni government, how can the trade unions put together a workers' list of candidates to replace them, what should the policy and programme be and the centrality of the ideas of socialism.

They have also built links to trade unions in other ports in the Mediterranean such as Athens, Marseille and Tangiers. An international link, not just with Mediterranean dock workers but other workers in Suez, the oil-exporting ports in the Gulf and other ports around the world, with similar solidarity action could play an important role in the fight to end the genocidal war on Gaza.

The 22 September strike can re-awaken the sleeping giant of the organised Italian working class, not just on the key question of Palestine, but also to end austerity by removing their own government and bringing in socialist policies to benefit the working class.

# Challenging racism in Falkirk

## Trade unions must lead

GARY CLARK  
SOCIALIST PARTY SCOTLAND

In recent weeks, Falkirk has become the focal point of attention across Scotland because of the demonstrations and counter-demonstrations around the Cladhnan Hotel, which is now housing around 100 asylum seekers from various backgrounds.

Tensions escalated after an asylum seeker was sentenced to nine years in jail for raping a 15-year-old girl. This incident led to heightened emotions in the community.

A group called Save Our Future and Our Kids Future, supported by right-wing Reform councillor Claire Brown (elected as a Tory), organised a demonstration outside the hotel on 18 August. This prompted Stand Up to Racism (SUTR) and Falkirk Trades Union Council to call for a counter-demonstration at the same time.

In the lead-up to the demonstration, I looked for support within the trade union movement. We successfully secured backing from various trade unions, both at the Scottish level, including the Scottish TUC (STUC), and from local union branches.

From the outset, I emphasised the need for proper stewarding of the

event, recognising the high tensions in the area. This was not a typical demonstration with only a few attendees; the local community was significantly engaged with them.

Socialist Party Scotland members and local trade unionists warned that stewards needed to be present early on the day, but this advice was not heeded by SUTR. As a result, only members of Socialist Party Scotland, along with local trade unionists, arrived to find a number of the far right there, but we managed to hold the hotel car park before others joined.

The turnout on the anti-asylum seeker side was a surprise to many, with around 800 people on their side and about 200 anti-racists on the other.

The police were unprepared, with no barriers between the sides and only a handful of officers present. This was the most dangerous situation at a demonstration I had ever attended.

It was evident that there were neo-Nazis among the demonstrators, including members of Britain First, Homeland Party, Patriotic Alternative, and Advance UK. However, the demonstration was not solely composed of right-wing or far-right elements; indeed they were a small minority.

A significant portion consisted of

working-class families concerned about the area's situation. Years of cuts and recent major job losses, such as the 900 job cuts at Petroline in nearby Grangemouth and the threats over Alexander Dennis bus manufacturing plant, is having a devastating impact on the local economy.

We made it clear from the start that labelling all attendees as 'far right' was incorrect.

The demonstration had clear right-wing elements but also included a large part of the local area. On the day, while I was speaking, one of their supporters attempted to attack me, but stewards intervened. This incident was repeated at the third demonstration when a speaker on the all-women platform faced a similar threat.

This situation has been a wake-up call to the rise of racism, including the far right in Scotland. Hate crimes in the area have increased, with threats made against those leading the counter-demonstrations.

Two new groups, Falkirk For All and Forth Valley Trade Unions in the Community, have emerged in response. We have emphasised the importance of not only campaigning against racism but also fighting against austerity and advocating for real resources for the area.

This includes supporting organisations like Women's Aid and Rape Crisis Scotland, as well as fighting for jobs, homes and fully funded public services for all.

In recent weeks, the number of anti-refugee demonstrators has decreased, while the anti-racist side has grown. Many initial demonstrators have distanced themselves from the group, especially after known fascists were allowed to attend their protests, display banners, and speak at the events. The group also posted right-wing messages and attacked

the trade union movement.

At the same time, the far right are becoming more and more desperate. They have posted attacks on myself online making unfounded accusations, including threatening messages. But I won't be deterred.

## STUC

The Scottish TUC called a national roundtable meeting, which I attended. It was clear that a trade union response was needed, not just from SUTR, but from the entire trade union movement.

We need to address class issues, fight job losses, advocate for well-paid work, and push for massive social housing building projects to solve the housing crisis.

We have made it clear that we oppose all sexual crimes and want them thoroughly investigated. We need to support women in reporting crimes and provide safe places for those facing domestic violence. This requires significant funding, not more cuts.

Our goal is to make Falkirk a safe place for everyone. However, recent incidents, such as a brick being thrown through the hotel window and calls for the hotel to be burnt down, have increased the area's dangers.

Some individuals have claimed to be patrolling the area and sending 'non-British' people away.

This situation has arisen because the populist- and far-right has gained a foothold in the area due to a vacuum left by the lack of a party willing to fight for the working class.

There is an urgent need for a new workers' party, and the trade unions must be at the forefront in this process, as well as building resistance to the rise of racism and the far-right, including organised stewarding trained by the unions themselves.



Socialist Party Scotland members campaigning for jobs and homes not racism in Falkirk  
PHOTO: SOCIALIST PARTY SCOTLAND

# France After the success of 18 September strike, let's strengthen the fight!



18 September in Paris  
PHOTO: GAUCHE RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE

The 18 September strike was a success, with nearly one million workers and young people taking to the streets. The demonstrations were very successful; we felt numerous and strong. Anger against president Macron and his policies that serve the capitalists is starting to be widely expressed. Let's continue to strengthen the movement!

## What is needed now is a massive and determined strike

The trade union leaderships wanted to present an offensive face with this ultimatum, which isn't really one given the vagueness of their threat: new prime minister Sébastien Lecornu will have until 24 September to present the outlines of a budget that meets expectations, otherwise the unions will call further strike action.

The reality is that the mobilised workers and young people don't expect anything from Lecornu; they want him out. And Macron with him! To take back everything they've stolen from us for 25 years and to finally see a policy that serves our social class. The statement of CGT union

confederation general secretary Sophie Binet, saying that "it's the streets that must write the budget" is a good stance to build on. If we want to make this possible, it means building a movement that allows workers to make the decisions.

Macron is definitely not going to give in right now. The union leaderships' statements must be used to allow us to continue building the struggle in workplaces, schools, and on the streets. Everywhere, we must discuss demands, strike together, and convince those who didn't strike on 10 and 18 September to join us. Let's call for the next step to be a national strike of three consecutive days to show that we are ready to raise our voices as much as necessary!

To put an end to Macron and his capitalist policies, we need a political programme that serves the majority of the population.

Workers and young people, all united for:

- A €300 wage increase for all! Lower prices and indexation of wages to the cost of living
- Jobs for all, with reduced working hours and no loss of pay. Zero job cuts. For the public ownership of the companies that lay off workers, under the control and management of workers
- For fully public, free, and high-quality services: repeal of privatisations and commissioning to the

private sector, massive hiring, and budgets that meet needs

- Decent housing for all, lower rents, requisition of empty homes
- For the expropriation of capitalists and the (re)nationalisation of the main sectors of the economy (banks, transport, energy, etc.) and their democratic management by workers
- Macron out! And all pro-capitalist policies with him. For a workers' government. Let's organise to remove Macron!

The question of how to remove Macron and what to replace him with is central. Gauche Révolutionnaire puts forward the need to fight for a workers' government that would serve the majority of the population, born out of, and supported by our struggle.

To build and expand the struggle, we need to organise, discuss, and act. Gauche Révolutionnaire is a party of workers and youth that is active in developing and strengthening the struggle, through putting forward demands and methods. We are fighting to get rid of Macron and for a society free of capitalism, exploitation, racism and wars. We are fighting for socialism, an egalitarian, democratic, and fraternal society where workers are in control of the economy and power.

• Gauche Révolutionnaire is the sister party of the Socialist Party, both are members of the CWI

## Sheffield Socialist Party holds 'What Next for a New Workers Party' meeting



SHEFFIELD SOCIALIST PARTY

On Thursday 11 September, Sheffield Socialist Party hosted a public meeting, introduced by Socialist Party general secretary Hannah Sell, Sheffield Socialist Party's Hollie Buisson and chaired by Isabelle France.

Spirits were high and debate was lively, with 60 in the room and 9 on Zoom. A layer of new faces, experienced members, people who'd not been at meetings for a while and a local journalist all came to hear us.

Hannah spoke about the challenges ahead for a new party, drawing from the experience of previous left-wing governments, as well as putting forward the case for a federal structure, with branches and delegates from campaign groups and trade unions.

From the floor, discussion ranged from Zack Polanski becoming the leader of the Greens and what that could mean under a federal

structure, to needs-based budgets, nationalising of the banks and learning the lessons from the Militant-led Liverpool council. (see pages 8-9)

Post meeting, many who attended came to the pub, giving a chance for people to discuss informally the points brought up in the meeting.

● **If you want to come to a Socialist Party meeting near you, head to [socialistparty.org.uk/events](http://socialistparty.org.uk/events) to find your nearest branch**

## Jobs Not Jail – more than 40 years since the Cammell Laird dispute

The Justice for Cammell Laird 37 Campaign which has the backing of the GMB union, is holding a fringe meeting during the Labour Party conference.

During Merseyside's 1984 unemployment crisis, workers at the Cammell Laird shipyard in Birkenhead went on strike to defend their jobs and resist the Thatcher government's privatisation plans. In a bold act of protest, they peacefully occupied a Naval Frigate and Gas

Rig after management threatened to shift work to France. 37 strikers were sentenced to 30 days in high-security Walton Prison, and two apprentices were sacked for refusing to cross the picket line.

In the early 1980s, Cammell Laird's workforce had been slashed to 2,000 as Thatcher's government drove through deindustrialisation. The 1983 privatisation of British Shipbuilders was industrial vandalism - part of a wider assault

on trade unions and manufacturing. The attack came amid the Miners' Strike and Liverpool Council's fight against cuts (see page 8-9).

When another 800 redundancies were announced in 1984, workers knew the yard faced closure. They responded with bold action: occupying an oil rig and blockading HMS Edinburgh. Their goal was simple, to defend jobs and livelihoods.

The occupation ended under threat of violent police assault, with water supplies cut off. 37 workers were arrested, jailed for a month, and punished for refusing to give up. The consequences for the workers were devastating: sacked, stripped of pensions and redundancy rights, and blacklisted.

Decades later, their convictions stand. That is why the campaign demands the Labour government reopen the case and deliver justice and compensation. At the same time, lawyers Paul Heron and barristers at Doughty Street Chambers are preparing to act because the Cammell Laird 37 remain victims of a grave miscarriage of justice.

Hear from some of the 37 shipyard workers jailed in 1984 for fighting for their jobs and supporters of their campaign for justice on Tuesday 30 September at 6pm at the Casa Bar, 29 Hope St, Liverpool L1 9BP



Workers at Cammell Laird walking out in a different dispute in 2018 SOCIALIST PARTY

## Socialists more busy than ever - donate to fund the fightback!

ISAI MARIJERLA  
SOCIALIST PARTY NATIONAL TREASURER

The Socialist Party has been tirelessly campaigning through the summer, fighting for socialist policies like a real pay rise for workers, rent control, and proper funding for our essential services like health and education - and for steps towards a new mass party of the working class to fight for it. We have been supporting workers taking action against the bosses, including those fighting against Labour council cuts, like the Birmingham bin workers (see page 13).

It has been a very busy summer, and we are going into an even busier autumn. Already our members have helped to organise hundreds of students to walk out of their schools and colleges in protest at Trump's visit to the UK (see page 4-6)

We have a long and proud record of defending the working class and young people's rights. We have also consistently been campaigning for a new democratic mass workers' party to fight for socialist change.

The 800,000 people who signed up to 'Your Party' show the huge enthusiasm for an alternative to the establishment policies and parties. The Socialist Party has organised well over 50 local public meetings to

discuss 'What next for Your Party?', what programme and structure we need.

The central point that we have been arguing and campaigning for is that the trade unions, the organised working class, have to be at the core and the main force in a new workers' party. With 6.5 million workers, they are the biggest and most powerful organisation and force in Britain. We have been taking part in 'Trade Unionists for a New Party' meetings organised by members of different trade unions such as Unite, NEU, UCU, Unison, CWU, Napo, Usdaw and PCS. In all of these, motions have been drawn up, to be taken into the unions to put pressure on the respective union leaderships to be involved in a new party.

The Socialist Party is proudly based on the working class and young people. All of our activities and campaigns are funded by our members and supporters. Every quarter, we have a fighting fund target of £25,000. This is so that we can carry on producing the materials, posters, placards, pay for meeting rooms, etc.

This quarter finishes on 30 September, and we still have £7,939 to raise to hit our target. Help us to reach the target by making a donation today. Every donation we receive will be used to fund the socialist alternative that we need.



Socialist Party members campaigning in Cardiff SOCIALIST PARTY

AREA	£ RECEIVED	£ TARGET	Q3: JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025	DEADLINE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2025
South West	2,315	2,100		110%
Northern	860	800		108%
North West	1,175	1,200		98%
London	3,490	5,000	70%	
Yorkshire	1,765	2,650	67%	
Wales	1,510	2,400	63%	
East Midlands	1,134	2,050	55%	
Eastern	660	1,300	51%	
Southern and SE	1,199	2,400	50%	
West Midlands	1,194	2,700	44%	
Other	1,647	2,400	69%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,950</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>68%</b>	

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## Anger, resilience, and public support: Birmingham bin strikers on the march

ANMOPREET BAJWA  
BIRMINGHAM SOCIALIST PARTY

On Saturday 20 September, Unite the Union held a national rally in support of the striking Birmingham bin workers. Taking place in Birmingham city centre, over 1,000 gathered outside the Unite offices before marching to the council house in Victoria Square.

This came after the strikers' second reballot, which saw a resounding 99.5% vote in favour of continued strike action.

The energetic march directly aimed anger and frustration at the Labour council. Speeches, chants, and performances highlighted the depth of the workers' grievances.

A common theme expressed by those striking was the shock and disappointment at the stark difference between the Labour Party of today and the Labour Party of the past. Many cannot fathom how far removed the party has become from its working-class roots.

Only 5% of residents are intending to vote for Labour in next year's local elections, according to polling by Unite, as Brummies have become increasingly disillusioned with the council's poor handling of the bin strike and with cuts to public services.

These workers have shown great



BIRMINGHAM SOCIALIST PARTY

resilience - it takes great strength to picket every single day and attend rallies such as this, while having been ignored by the council for several months.

This ongoing bin strike has been one of the longest in Birmingham's recent history. Although the refuse

workers were thrust into the limelight and celebrated during the Covid pandemic as key workers, the council is intentionally not negotiating with them. The workers have voted to extend the strike mandate past Christmas and into spring 2026.

Besides the strong feelings of

anger, however, the bin workers were massively encouraged by the public support they've received. Socialist Party members from across the UK joined the event, travelling from as far north as Glasgow and as down south as London.

As victimised bin rep Mike Masters

says: "This city wasn't built on suits and ties, it was built on the blood, sweat, and tears of working-class people", a sentiment that resonated strongly throughout the day and serves as a reminder of the struggle that continues.

### The National Shop Stewards Network (NSSN) says:

"The NSSN proudly marched with the striking bin workers, their friends, families and supporters.

The Birmingham bin workers were delighted to see that their Unite comrades from the Sheffield Veolia struggle had made the journey down to offer full support. The rally speakers included Unite general secretary Sharon Graham, bin worker shop stewards, and Unite Executive Committee member Kathy Smith.

The workers have been on indefinite strike since March after being threatened with pay cuts of up to £8,000 a year, and are facing brutal strike-breaking measures by the Labour council, backed by Starmer's Labour government. Solidarity is even more essential as the council effectively threatens to 'fire and re-hire' the workers."

## Build for national strike action in further education

DAVID KAPLAN  
WM COLLEGE UCU, PERSONAL CAPACITY

On 17 September, the University and College Union (UCU), along with other further education (FE) unions, met with the employers' representative, the Association of Colleges (AoC). And although the AoC made a pay recommendation of 4% for those colleges 'that can afford it', there is no obligation on employers to implement the rise because there is no national pay bargaining. The recommendation is not binding.

As a result, UCU is planning to organise national strike action, fighting for national pay bargaining and a guaranteed, fully funded, above-inflation pay rise.

UCU recognises that terms and conditions of its members fall well short of workers in schools and sixth-form colleges. It is calling for salaries for FE teachers to start at £30,000, for a 10% or £3,000 pay rise, whichever is the greater, and for parity with schoolteachers.

I held a meeting of UCU members at my own college on 11 September, to vote on whether or not to take part in the national ballot. There was an overwhelming vote in favour of taking part, with some members abstaining rather than voting against.

College staff who aren't already in the union, seeing the UCU standing up to Starmer's government, will want to join in the action; branch secretaries and workplace reps should see this as an opportunity to build the union and strengthen the national industrial action.

The National Education Union (NEU) grew its membership in schools on the basis of national action to defend the health and safety of students and staff in schools during the Covid pandemic in January 2021. And in early 2023, their membership increased again, because of national action around the demand of a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise.

UCU members in over 100 FE colleges in England, including adult education colleges like mine, will receive a postal ballot. Branch secretaries and workplace reps need to build the turnout, to give the union the biggest possible mandate for industrial action.

### Get all the latest union news

**nationalshop**  
**stewardsnetwork**  
with the NSSN bulletin  
[shopstewards.net](http://shopstewards.net)

## Rail workers and prison officers face deportation: Unions fight back



ROB WILLIAMS

Socialist Party members have joined union-organised protests in solidarity with up to 300 London Underground staff at risk of being deported.

Transport union RMT has held demonstrations outside the Home Office against the Labour government's work visa rules, which threaten rail workers, including on London's tube.

The government has removed several categories of jobs from the Skilled Worker Visa scheme - without consultation, imposed within weeks - in a move described by the RMT as "reckless" and by RMT members as racist.

RMT general secretary Eddie Dempsey said: "Our members joined the rail industry in good faith, with the clear understanding that they could build careers and futures here. The government's sudden rule changes have torn that up, putting dedicated transport staff at risk of losing their jobs and creating gaps in the workforce."

Prison officers have also been removed from the Skilled Worker scheme, resulting in a threat to as many as 1,000 prison officers.

The Prison Officers Association said it was "scandalous", accusing Labour of political posturing and pandering to Reform. "We urgently need these staff... This will inevitably lead to harder-to-manage prisons, plummeting morale, and the loss of dedicated professionals."

## Bristol bus strike: 'Unite against a big corporation'

TOM BALDWIN  
BRISTOL SOCIALIST PARTY

From 16-19 September, Bristol bus workers in Unite the Union went on strike for better pay from First Bus. About 70 people at a time were on each of the two picket lines, from 3am to 10pm. Spirits were high and workers were determined to get a result.

Unite steward Rob Carroll said: "We're striking for better pay and better conditions all round. We've gone through an exhaustive process with the employer. They dragged it out deliberately, so they could hold back elements of back pay. They admitted to us in conversations, that it's a ploy they use against the workers - it's an absolute disgrace. The branch has voted to reject their offer."

Most buses weren't running during the strike, despite the employer resorting to agency workers and bribery to get people to cross the picket line. Scabs were getting a £50 bonus each day that they worked and free food laid on - their '30 pieces of silver'.

Rob said: "I've been a socialist my whole life. This is Unite the Union against a big corporation."

It's a corporation that could afford the pay rise. Parent company First Group increased shareholder payouts by 45% last year. But privately run bus services mean profits come before the workers who keep the service running, and the passengers that rely upon it.

The Socialist Party and other trade unionists will keep on supporting Unite members as they fight back against that. Bring the bus services back in-house!

● More strike days are planned for October if needed



# 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 the local education authorities, school staff, parents and student organisations.
- The right to a safe secure home for all. For the mass building of genuinely affordable, high-quality, carbon-neutral council housing. For rent controls that cap the level of rent. Fair rent decisions should be made by elected bodies of tenants, housing workers and representatives of trade unions. For cheap low-interest mortgages for home buyers. Nationalise the privately owned large building companies, land banks and estates.

### ENVIRONMENT

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

are set by consumers, small farmers, and all workers involved in the production, processing, distribution and retail of food.

### DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

- For united working-class struggle to end discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexuality, age, and all other forms of prejudice and oppression.
- Repeal the anti-trade union laws and all others that trample over civil liberties. For the right to protest and to strike! End police harassment. For the police to be accountable to local committees, made up of democratically elected representatives of trade unions, local community organisations and local authorities.
- For the right to choose when and whether to have children – for the right to access abortion, contraception and fertility treatment for all who need it.
- For the right to asylum – with democratic community control and oversight of emergency funding resources. No to racist immigration laws.
- Expand democracy. For the abolition of the monarchy and the House of Lords. For all MPs to be subject to the right of recall by their constituents at any time, and to only receive a worker's wage. For proportional representation and the right to vote at 16.
- For the right of nations to self-determination. For an independent socialist Scotland and for a socialist Wales, both part of a voluntary socialist confederation of Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland.
- Oppose the dictatorship of the billionaire owners of the media. For the nationalisation of newspaper printing facilities, radio, TV and social media platforms. Access to these facilities should be under democratic control, with political parties' coverage being allocated in proportion to the popular vote at elections.
- For a new mass workers' party, based on the trade unions, and drawing together workers, young people and activists from workplaces, and community, environmental, anti-racist and anti-cuts campaigns, to provide a fighting, socialist political alternative to the pro-big business parties.

### SOCIALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM

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

Do you agree? Join the fightback!

## JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

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PHOTO: PETER BARR/CC

# Hillsborough Law introduced

## • Starmer's Labour no friend of working-class people

JOE WOOLFALL  
SOUTH LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST PARTY

The Public Office (Accountability) Bill - commonly known as the Hillsborough Law - was finally introduced after a decade-long struggle by campaigners on 15 September. The legislation brings in a new legal 'duty of candour', requiring public officials to act with honesty and integrity at all times, with criminal sanctions for serious breaches.

It also delivers the largest expansion of legal aid in a decade for bereaved families, offering non-means-tested support at inquests. In addition, it creates a new criminal offence of misleading the public, with sanctions for the most serious cases involving those in public office.

At Labour conference last year, Keir Starmer promised the Hillsborough Law would be in place by the 36th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster, which killed 97 Liverpool fans. (See 'Hillsborough verdict – a magnificent testimony to courage and fortitude' on [socialistparty.org.uk](http://socialistparty.org.uk)). That deadline was missed amid concerns that Labour was watering down the proposals.

Campaigners for Justice for the 97 and Hillsborough survivors have welcomed the bill's introduction to parliament. But with 36 years of broken promises and delays, many remain cautious. As they point out, nothing is guaranteed until the legislation passes through parliament without being weakened.

It is shameful that it has taken so long for such a law to reach this stage. Since Hillsborough, Britain has faced multiple scandals - including Grenfell and the Post Office Horizon affair - where victims were ignored, blamed, and denied justice. Yet, this bill does not seek to

prevent such tragedies; its focus is on providing 'justice' only after they occur. Would it have stopped the police negligence and outdated, unsafe stadium conditions that killed the 97?

In reality, the law is designed to give the impression that Labour is on the side of ordinary working-class people while attacks on the working class rain down. While the proposals are welcome, they do nowhere near enough to actually stop another Hillsborough, Grenfell, or infected blood scandal from happening. As written, the bill makes cover-ups harder - but whether vested interests succeed in watering it down remains to be seen. Considering Labour's record of defending the bosses over the last year, Hillsborough campaigners are right to be concerned.

The determination and fight of campaigners to force Labour to act is to be commended. To prevent tragedies like Hillsborough from ever happening again, we need a system where decisions aren't made in the interests of profit and big business, but a genuinely democratic society where the working class has a direct say over the decisions that affect our lives - ensuring such avoidable tragedies can never happen again.

**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

• [editors@socialistparty.org.uk](mailto:editors@socialistparty.org.uk)

or, if you're not online, write to the Socialist Inbox, PO Box 1398, Enfield EN1 9GT

# Building Socialist Students at freshers 2025

## Queen Mary, east London – cost of living

MIHAELA IVANOVA  
QUEEN MARY SOCIALIST STUDENTS

Thousands of students have begun university with tuition fees rising for the first time in over a decade, increased by a Labour government. While a financial crisis is sweeping universities, Keir Starmer rolled out the red carpet for big-in-chief Donald Trump.

Young people need a political voice more than ever. Socialist Students spoke to hundreds of students at Queen Mary about what role young people can play in fighting back the attacks on education, climate change, housing, and the war on Gaza.

Students were particularly concerned with the cost of living. Prices have gone above and beyond the maintenance loans that students get. Over 50% of students also work other jobs to survive.

Many students and staff agreed with our demands for free, fully funded education, as well as the need for students to play a role in forming a new mass workers' party.

Last year, Queen Mary Socialist Students fought and won two campaigns - gender neutral changing rooms at the university gym, and a housing campaign which fought back the abuse tactics of a private landlord. We showed that students have the power to have our demands heard, and fight against the marketisation of our education.

We had 83 sign-ups at freshers, and have already held two successful meetings - discussing what we stand for, and what campaigns we should focus on.

If you want to fight for a future that provides for the needs of all, rather than for the profits of a tiny few, you should join Socialist Students. We fight for every issue facing students - for free and democratic control of our education, and the end of oppression and exploitation for all on campus, and beyond.

## York – new party enthusiasm

JACOB HARDING, YORK SOCIALIST STUDENTS, AND IAIN DALTON, YORKSHIRE SOCIALIST PARTY

100 students signed up. This is a record, and an indication that the new generation is becoming more and more interested in socialism.

We sold 19 Socialist newspapers, seven Socialist Student magazines, a variety of Marxist pamphlets, and political badges, raising £18.50 fighting fund on top.

To draw people in, we put up posters about the concrete issues Socialist Students fights for - free education, ending austerity, Palestine - as part of the working-class struggle.

Leading with 'Your Party' on our Socialist Students leaflets went down really well. There was disappointment in the days after infighting between Jeremy and Zarah burst into the open. Several said they had decided to join the Greens. But we raised that the clash in Your Party showed the need for collective mass working-class organisations, like trade unions, to be involved. This went down well.

We were handing out the leaflets, saying "join the Socialists - help build Corbyn and Sultana's new party on campus".

The other lesson is - print more leaflets! We had 600, and ran out after three and a half hours. So, for the last two and a half hours, we were just leading offering people the chance to buy the Socialist. It's more leaflets than we've ever given out at York uni.

## Liverpool – 60+ socialists

HANNAH PONTING  
LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST STUDENTS

For two weeks, Socialist Students held several campaign activities everyday across both University of Liverpool and Liverpool City College campuses. We spoke to hundreds of students interested in socialism, particularly now that students are feeling Labour's rise in tuition fees. On 19 September, we held five campaign stalls across the University of Liverpool campus.



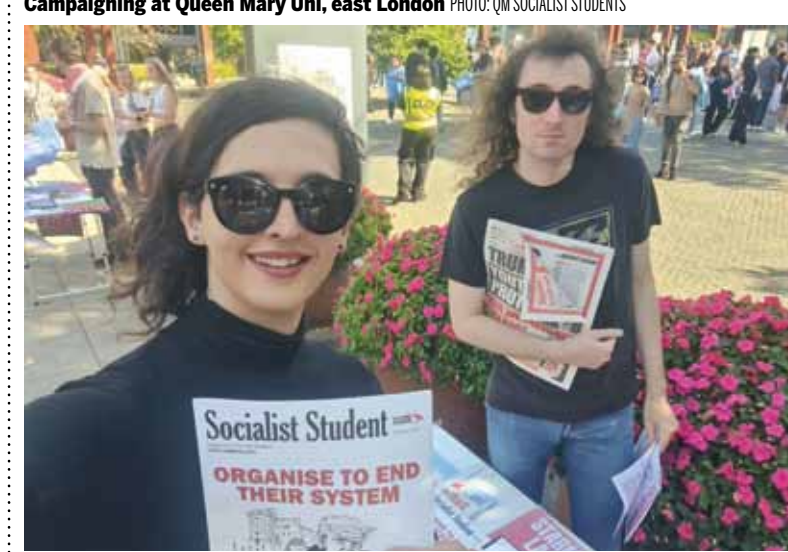
York PHOTO: YORK SOCIALIST STUDENTS



Over 60 attended the first meeting in Liverpool PHOTO: LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST STUDENTS



Campaigning at Queen Mary Uni, east London PHOTO: QM SOCIALIST STUDENTS



Oxford Brookes PHOTO: RACHEL COX

Freshers' week coincided with Donald Trump's visit to the UK. In Liverpool, we led a march of 75 people, with speakers including Socialist Students, Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC), and Merseyside Pensioners Association.

Our first Socialist Students meeting of term had 67 attending, most had never been to a Socialist Students meeting before. Those at the meeting were eager to ask questions, contribute to the discussion, and learn more about socialism.

This fantastic start sets a great precedent for the year ahead. We hope to hold many more successful meetings, demos, and discussions throughout the year.

## Oxford Brookes – reasons to fight back

RAE COX  
OXFORD SOCIALIST PARTY

On the question of a new party, it was the first time a lot of the students had heard from a group with a plan about what to do to make it a working-class party. Coming straight off Trump's visit on 17 September, and with a Socialist Students campaign stall inside and outside, we met many students at freshers, enthused that we had organised national walkouts against the US President.

Many sign-ups were keen not just to be a discussion group, but asked us about campaigns, marches, and future walkouts. Given more attacks loom on the horizon for students and workers, our task is to mobilise those we've met. Whether it's campaigning for 'Funding not Fees', the call for a national trade union demo against Starmer's cuts, cutting across the rise of the far right, we're not short of reasons to fight back.

With a new society on campus affiliated to Socialist Students, we're in a strong position going into term. And freshers showed there's no shortage of people looking for answers and a socialist future.

## Salford – Trump walkouts

NURSING STUDENT

I am part of a group of students trying to form a Socialist Students society.

We also did a walkout against Trump's visit. We don't agree with his values or what he represents, and wanted to make a stand against the red carpet being rolled out for him by our elected leaders. It was great to be a part of.

Our initial group had 12 Socialist Students supporters helping out at freshers, and we signed up loads more who are interested in being part of future events and campaigns. We were speaking on the megaphone, and encouraging students who were interested to come over to the stand to speak to us. Over four pages of names and contact details were collected.

## Surrey – socialist alternative

JOHN REID  
GUILDFORD AND SURREY SOCIALIST PARTY

Very good response from students looking for a socialist alternative. 28 signed up to join Socialist Students. They bought 20 Socialist papers, four student magazine, and donated £19 to the fighting fund on top.

One student apologised for not making the anti-Trump demo, but will be coming to our Socialist Students meetings.

Students were upset at the shenanigans going on with 'Your Party'. But they wanted to join a group on campus - Socialist Students - with a proven record of fighting racism and deportations, and fighting for free education and socialism.

Join the student fightback

**JOIN socialist students**

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socialistparty.org.uk



# the Socialist

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25 September - 1 October 2025

formerly **Militant**

# YOUTH GET ORGANISED!



PHOTO: PAUL MATTSOON

# JOIN SOCIALIST STUDENTS

**W**hat kind of future do Trump, Starmer, and the rest of the capitalist bosses and politicians offer young people?

An education system in financial ruin, that students still have to go into mountains of debt to study in. Low-paid, insecure jobs with bullying bosses. Sky-high rents to share a flat or a room with mould and rats. And a world heading for deeper climate disaster in which war and genocidal slaughter continues unabated.

Those things and more motivated hundreds of students to walkout of their lessons in protest when Donald Trump visited the UK on 17 September (see page 4). Thousands have joined mass demonstrations against Israeli state terror and thousands of

young people have signed up to Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana's 'Your Party', stating their intention to get organised and fight for an alternative.

Socialist Students is helping students who walked out against Trump to take the next steps and build students unions in their schools and colleges - to fight collectively for the things students need. On over 50 university campuses, Socialist Students is hosting meetings to discuss what next for 'Your Party', and how it can be built into a mass democratic party of workers and young people that fights for socialist change.

If you are at school, college or uni, get organised to fight for our futures. Join Socialist Students and fight for socialist change!

**Come and discuss:**

## Fight for free education - Can student struggle ignite the fightback?

Hosted by Socialist Students

15th and 16th November 2025

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Socialism.org.uk

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