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the Socialist

Issue 1345

20-26 November 2025

formerly **Militant**

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THE
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ALISTAIR TICE

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With socialist ideas, we can change the world – p4-5 **How can Your Party be a party of working-class struggle and socialism? – p6-7** And more! – p8-9



£61,896 raised!

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

Labour's NHS England chaos

TRADE UNION REP IN NHS ENGLAND

The top boss of NHS England says he is embarrassed by the mess that surrounds him. In a meeting with trade unions on 4 November, Sir Jim Mackey, NHS England Chief Exec, admitted that the lack of progress towards integrating NHS England with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) was embarrassing.

To deal with the redundancies that come with their vision for the reorganisation of the NHS, special dispensation has been granted by the Treasury to pay the bill. It is likely to be in the region of £1 billion. It's also important to note that this is not new money - it is merely a permission to overspend on existing NHS budgets! Senior leaders are unable to explain the benefits of spending this money on contract terminations.

Keir Starmer and Wes Streeting's plans cover both NHS England and Integrated Care Boards, which are both to be downsized by 50%. They announced a colossal programme of change without providing any way of paying for it!

The Socialist covered the announcement that NHS England was to be abolished in March, with functions being merged into the Department of Health (see 'Streeting abolishes NHS England: no job cuts!' at socialistparty.org.uk). It has been over eight months since this announcement, and yet senior leaders still cannot outline the structure of the new organisation, nor can they demonstrate how spending hundreds of millions on a restructure would deliver any benefits to the system!

The government said this would reduce duplication across the system, and yet, after eight months, the only tangible outputs are the creation of duplicated executive 'leadership' posts! These posts attract six-figure salaries of up to £210,000.

As our previous article explained, the Socialist Party (along with much of the trade union movement) opposed the creation of NHS England in

2012. In part, this is because the creation of NHS England meant significant decisions were moved away from elected office, and into the hands of unaccountable executives. But that it is Starmer's pro-big business Labour making these changes means they won't be in the interests of NHS workers, civil servants or patients. The restructure will lead to attacks on jobs - which will need a joint trade union fight to prevent compulsory redundancies.

To try and downsize on the cheap, NHS England attempted to launch a 'Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme'. This would see workers leave on a form of bogus redundancy, with much worse terms and a fraction of their contractual entitlement. Trade unions successfully pushed back on this, forcing NHS England into a U-turn. A complicating factor is that voluntary redundancy for NHS England staff is an appealing prospect for many - with over 3,000 expressions of interest before the scheme has even been launched. In part, this is due to the constant restructures at NHS England and previous bodies such as Health Education England and NHS Digital. Staff at these workplaces have been dealing with constant change for six years now.

Both Streeting and Starmer have used this abolition for political posturing: to appear tough on 'back office' workers and quangos. This Labour government has already created 20 new quangos since 2024; and this botched attempt at restructure is leading to more and more senior managers being announced with no increase in operational staff!

Streeting has also said that this move would lead to more democratic accountability. Real democracy would mean control and management by elected committees of workers at every level in the NHS, alongside NHS users. It would also mean bringing all associated health industries, such as pharmaceuticals, IT and private health providers under public control - and including them in a democratically run plan for health



MARY FINCH

to ensure that frontline services and associated functions are all adequately funded. For an immediate cash injection for public services, a tax on the super-rich would go a good way to funding it.

Socialist Party members in the NHS trade unions continue to argue for such policies - alongside the immediate aims of blocking compulsory redundancies, arguing for worker involvement in organisational designs, and protecting the key functions delivered by NHS England.

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If you would like to participate:

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HMRC covers for fat-cat tax dodgers

HMRC, the government department responsible for collecting tax, refused to release the official estimate for how much tax is lost to tax havens overseas after an MP lodged a request. These havens show the bosses' propensity for twisting the law for their own gain and finding ways to flout the laws that everyone else abides by.

Financial crimes are punished quite heavily when a working-class or middle-class person defrauds benefits or embezzles, but the super-rich can commit a level of crime that eclipses both previous kinds a thousand times over. The scale of tax avoided through these havens was revealed in 2017 when the 'Paradise Papers' were leaked online. These documents even showed that the late Queen Elizabeth II had investments in two offshore financial centres in the Cayman Islands and Bermuda.

HMRC's refusal to clarify the figures and release them is further proof that capitalism is not just ill equipped to handle large scale financial crime, in fact it is actively colluding and complicit.

HMRC refused to disclose the figure for 'offshore tax at risk' to the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, which sent its own FOI request. The reason for refusing? "It could prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs".

A perplexing response that seems to imply that this information could wreak havoc on HMRC's reputation. This withheld tax could be going to public services like our NHS, roads in deprived areas in dire need of repair, free or vastly cheaper childcare, and social programmes for families and children.

Jim Harra, the erstwhile CEO of HMRC, referred to a number released in 2024 when asked by Parliament's Public Accounts Committee.

This number was incomplete and based on self-assessment tax returns, not a reliable or unbiased account. This came to £0.3 billion but the committee believe the UK's actual 'tax gap' is nearly £50 billion.

Are we likely to see this £50 billion being collected by pro-big business Labour government, when Starmer's record in power has been to protect the fat cats?

The socialist reorganisation of society would unlock the wealth of society hidden away in tax havens or gambled on the financial markets. This withheld wealth must be seized from the super-rich bosses, owned and democratically controlled by the working class, for it to be used fairly and equitably to improve the lives of us all.

DES STOTT



Trump vs BBC shows crisis of capitalist media

JAMES IVENS
SOCIALIST PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Donald Trump is threatening to sue the BBC for up to \$5 billion. Its director-general and head of news have fallen on their swords. What does it all mean?

An October 2024 Panorama episode ran footage of Trump's speech after losing the 2020 election, spliced in a way that some argue suggests he openly supported the abortive 6 January 2021 putsch. It's widely accepted that he whipped up the rioters who entered Congress, and didn't call them off. One of his first acts on regaining the presidency was to pardon them.

However, a leaked memo from former BBC editorial advisor Michael Prescott has been manufactured into a storm. In effect, it criticised that documentary and coverage of the 2024 US elections, the onslaught on Palestine, and attacks on transgender rights, as insufficiently right wing.

Prescott is a lobbyist for Trump-allied US tech giant Oracle and former political editor of the Times, reportedly hired at the suggestion of Sir Robbie Gibb. Gibb is a former Tory press director appointed to the governing BBC Board by Boris Johnson.

The big picture here is that the whole capitalist system is deteriorating and has no solutions for the majority. Political polarisation as people search for alternatives is happening everywhere. Inevitably, that hits

institutions whose job is defending any aspect of the system.

Despite repeated obituaries of 'legacy media', Trump's multibillion-dollar legal threat shows that it still holds enormous importance to the boss class in trying to influence the bounds of public debate. When times are good, disputes over media influence between competing capitalists and their political trends carry on fairly politely.

Gibb, Prescott and the memo before are expressions of today's more naked attempts at factional control. Reports say Gibb intervenes openly in editorial decisions, contrary to convention, and last year was heard saying he would "blow the place up" if that strategy failed.

That's Trump's game too. Media solicitor Mark Stephens commented that "filing a lawsuit is easy. Winning one is, in this case, like trying to lasso a tornado". This isn't about winning in court. It's about disciplining capitalist media opponents.

Different court deadlines for claiming mean Trump can't sue in Britain but could in Florida. The law says he'd have to show that - within that jurisdiction - the BBC caused him real harm.

Not only did the documentary never air in the US, but it came after years of condemnation by rivals in the courts, Congress, and domestic and global media. Trump won in 2024 despite all that. If anything, attacks on certain issues - from within the same capitalist establishment, still presiding over attacks on the



[the establishment media] still holds enormous importance to the boss class in trying to influence the bounds of public debate

working class - helped burnish his false anti-establishment image.

Working-class anger

But today, outside of stock market magnates, Trump's approval ratings have plummeted to their lowest point since re-election. Top complaints are the very cost-of-living issues he'd appealed to working-class voters on - and of which 100,000 campaigners just helped left Democrat Zohran Mamdani win the New York mayoralty.

Add to that a record-breaking federal government shutdown and rising media discussion of Trump's possible implication in Jeffrey Epstein's child sex trafficking. Midterm elections are less than a year off.

Pre-trial proceedings, even for flimsy claims, are drawn-out and exorbitant. Trump has sued multiple US media outlets; lately, many have settled out of court to cut their losses. Either way, the message to media bosses is: can you afford to undermine me right now?

Neither the 'impartial' capitalist media nor the 'disinterested' capitalist courts can beat Trumpism. Steps towards a mass, working-class political force, fighting for an alternative, socialist system, are the way out.



PUBLIC DOMAIN AND ALEXANDER SVEINSSON/CC



LONDON SP

SEND services in crisis We need funding to stop the race to the bottom

ALEX SAMPSON
PLYMOUTH SOCIALIST PARTY

The Tory-led County Councils Network (CCN) has released a damning report into the shambolic state of SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) services across England, warning that councils stand on the edge of an £18 billion black hole of debt and mass bankruptcies if the system is not reformed soon. This is despite £30 billion more that has been spent on SEND services over the last decade.

Currently SEND services don't count as a part of the council budget that legally needs to be balanced (the so-called statutory override), a provision that was introduced in 2020 and has recently been extended until 2028. However, there is uncertainty about whether this override spending will eventually end up on councils' budget books. This is making councils hesitant about spending more on vital SEND services, despite the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children reaching an all-time high this year and predicted to increase by another 32% by 2028. To try and keep pace with increased demand for special needs placements, councils are relying more and more on expensive private school places, which currently cost around £3.2 billion a year.

The complex needs of our children are increasing while the Westminster government continues to impose austerity measures and local councils make cuts to already overstretched services. The CCN warns that, without reform, the SEND system will collapse entirely. As a first step, they are calling for the wiping out of all

debt relating to SEND spending before the end of the statutory override in 2028. Without this measure, more than half of local councils in England would be forced to effectively declare bankruptcy when the override ends.

More funding not cuts

The CCN also calls for a reduction in the use of EHCPs as a way to save councils more money, but this would just be yet another way that our most vulnerable children are abandoned by the system. Leaving children to struggle through a difficult and unsympathetic school system, which then leaves them with no hope of improving their future as adults, is not the answer. What is needed is more investment in SEND services: from initial diagnosis and rapid attainment of an appropriate care plan, to fully funded school places in council-run schools rather than a privatised system which makes profit from struggling children.

Councillors should set no-cuts, needs-based budgets and work to build a mass working-class movement to force the government to provide the resources for the services we need.

The resources exist to provide all children the education they deserve. Nationalising the commanding heights of the economy and taking the wealth out of the hands of the super-wealthy would more than provide what is needed to ensure that no child is left behind because helping them reach their potential is not profitable. We need socialist change or we doom tens of thousands of children to a life of hardship and struggle. Our children deserve better. Join the fight for a socialist future.

Join the fightback JOIN THE SOCIALISTS
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SOCIALISM 2025

ARMED WITH SOCIALIST IDEAS, WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!

A large proportion of the nearly 1,000 socialists at Socialism 2025 were young workers and students, many attending for the first time. The Socialism 2025 weekend, 15-16 November, brought together working-class campaigners, students and socialists to discuss how the crisis and chaos of the capitalist system can be ended and replaced by a socialist society based on democratic planning and cooperation.

41 different workshops and two rallies offered a chance to discuss the momentous events developing in this new era of capitalist crisis. World events have been marked in the last year by mass uprisings against capitalist regimes, military coups, and political polarisation.

Socialism 2025 helped to politically clarify the significance and meaning of these events, as well as to assess the opportunities opening up for socialists.

The confident and defiant Saturday night rally discussed 'How can Your Party be a party of working-class struggle and socialism?' A record £61,895.50 was pledged to fund the fight for socialist change, a huge vote of confidence in the ideas being discussed.

THEO SHARIEFF

SOCIALIST PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SOCIALISM 2025 ORGANISER



Hannah Sell, Socialist Party General Secretary

character of modern capitalism, and we are here to discuss how it can be put out of its misery and a new democratic socialist world built.

There is a force that has the power to change the world - to end poverty, to end hunger. And that is the working class.

In Britain, we are the overwhelming majority of society - we are people that make the profits for the bosses and keep society running. Collectively, we have the power to change it.

Zarah Sultana was told on Question Time this week, that socialism can't work. But that argument is not washing. In New York, the second richest city in world, a self-declared socialist has just been elected as Mayor.

Your Party potential

Here in Britain, when Your Party was first announced, not only did 800,000 say they wanted to join, that party was polling first among 18 to 24-year-olds. That shows the potential to build a powerful new party of the working class in Britain.

Since then, there has been some frustration at the top-down approach and the fact that Your Party is clearly not meeting its potential.

The 50,000 who have actually joined, 6% of the original 800,000, is a clear indication of that. Some, frustrated by the crisis at the top of Your Party, have joined the Green Party, seeing the election of Zack Polanski as leader.

His election is another indication of the number of young people especially, searching for an alternative to the left. But the majority of the 800,000 have not joined either party. They are watching and waiting.

They are frustrated, and we share their frustration - because the need for a new party is so clear.

Budget is that that the OBR downgraded its productivity predictions to only 1% a year for the next decade. Actually, for British capitalism that's wildly optimistic.

Labour ripping itself apart

Even if the economy carries on as it is, and it won't, capitalism has never recovered from the 2008 financial crash and its consequences. It's clear now that the overvaluation, the bubbles, in the global finance markets are now so gargantuan that capitalists are terrified that another crash is looming. That would destroy this Labour government which, as we can all see, is already ripping itself apart.

The social base of the establishment parties has shattered. As a result, we have enormous electoral instability.

That reflects the ailing, decrepit



Whatever its complications, the struggle for a new party has begun and the genie will not be put back into the bottle.

Polanski's Greens

The Greens are not that. The fundamental problem with them is that they accept the constraints of the capitalist system. The fact Zack has argued Green councils have no choice but to implement cuts is a very small example of the consequences of that starting point.

Every time Greens have been in government - from Scotland to Germany - they have ended up attacking the working class and failing to take any significant steps against climate change.

We would add that the Greens are not a workers' party, because the organised working class - 6.5 million organised in trade unions - has no say whatsoever in its decision making.

But we also have to say, unfortunately, Your Party, at least in its beginnings, is also not going to be a workers' party.

Socialist Party members have joined Your Party, we are fighting for it to develop towards being a democratic workers' party, with a socialist programme, that is open to all socialist organisations to affiliate. Where public representatives are held to account, subject to recall and, like Dave Nellist in the past, only take a workers' wage.

It's never going to be easy for the working class to build its own

political party - facing inevitable opposition of the capitalist class, their politicians and media.

But whatever its complications, the struggle for a new party has begun and the genie will not be put back into the bottle.

Trade union role

It's clear that, with a few honourable exceptions, most of the national trade union leaders are desperate to avoid this issue. They either defend the Labour link, or they argue trade unions should stay out of politics.

The underlying reason is that they cannot conceive of the working class taking power and beginning to build a new society. It terrifies them.

We have to say, unfortunately, the Your Party leadership have made it easier for the union leaders to avoid this issue. Because there is no room for trade union affiliation to the new party. It's going to be thought about in the next twelve months, but it's not there now.

Many in Your Party are arguing against trade union affiliation, with the idea we don't want right-wing leaders as part of the party. And the right-wing leaders are ecstatic about that, because they don't want pressure put on them by their members!

In our view, Your Party should be helping to pile that pressure on - joining a struggle to transform the

trade unions, approaching trade union executives and saying 'we want to discuss how our MPs can represent your interests in parliament, and how together we can start to build a party in which your union's members have a collective voice.'

Despite the undoubted mistakes by the leadership of Your Party, the union leaders are not going to be let off the hook. And that's because of the pressure from below, combined with our role.

Dave Nellist talked about the decision of Unite conference, representing more than a million workers, which backed almost unanimously a motion reassessing the union's relationship with Labour, in solidarity with the Birmingham bin workers.

We will continue to fight for the trade union movement to take steps into politics as an independent force. We will be told: 'You can't do that, you've got to back Labour or you'll let Reform in.' If the trade union leaders stick with that approach, they are rolling out the red carpet for Reform.

Imagine if, as we are fighting for, Your Party was to stand across the country in the local elections next year, on a clear, anti-austerity platform, saying: 'We're not going to put up council tax, we're going to build council houses, we're going to open youth clubs, we're going to introduce



There is a concerted attempt to turn back the clock of history, to go back to the blatant racism that existed in the past. But it's not so easy for the racists

rent controls'. How that would generate enormous enthusiasm.

Of course, it would put Your Party on a collision course with New Labour. They would have to mobilise a mass movement, like we did in the 1980s in Liverpool, to take on and defeat the Labour government and demand the money that has been stolen from councils over the last 14 years.

We won £60 million, £200 million in today's money, from Thatcher, the Iron Lady. And Starmer ain't no Iron Man!

If councils organised a struggle against austerity, they would show they were different to all of the pro-capitalist parties, including Reform, not just in words but in deeds.

Reform and depth of reaction

The central reason that Reform are ahead in the polls right now is because of a desire to protest against the capitalist parties. They pick up and whip up every prejudice, every wrong idea that capitalism has fostered and deeply ingrained. The dominant theme at the moment is anti-migrant, and in doing that, Reform are only continuing the anti-migrant poison that was whipped up by the Tories and is now being whipped up by Labour.

There is no question that the endless drumbeat of anti-migrant propaganda is giving the racists a bit of confidence. It is essential that the workers' movement fights against racist division, defends the right to asylum, says we want to stop the bosses using workers from other countries to drive down wages, and that's why we're fighting for every worker to have the right pay for the job.

But I would also say we have to be very confident about the potential to win overwhelming support for that programme.

There is a concerted attempt to turn back the clock of history, to go back to the blatant racism that existed in the past. But it's not so easy for the racists.

In the 1990s, we led a movement that forced the closure of the Nazi BNP's headquarters. There'd been a whole series of brutal racist murders. Today, Stephen Lawrence is the most well-known.

We also played a central role in Tower Hamlets in East London, where the local, predominantly Bangladeshi, community were facing violent Nazi thugs, and we aided the local community in fighting back. After that campaign, the BNP had to retreat from Tower Hamlets, where they'd been intimidating the local population over decades.

Today it's a different situation. When the far right threatened to come to Tower Hamlets a couple of weeks ago, the police banned them before they'd even stepped foot in the borough.

That was not a change in the nature of the police. That is a change in the strength, the confidence, of the Asian community, who said: 'We are not having you here and we're going to turn out in our tens of thousands.'

Today, the size, the confidence, of the Black and Asian communities, their involvement in the workers' movement, that makes it much harder for the racists to whip up division.

That is not an argument for complacency. Revolution and counter-revolution go hand in hand. As our movement gains strength, so will the



Capitalism is rotten to the core, its parties and institutions are in deep crisis. We are going to have opportunities to put it out of its misery

capitalists' attempts to cut across our unity with divide and rule tactics. They will try to do everything to sabotage a government that is trying to act in the interests of the working class.

Political struggle

They will do it from the outside and they will do it from the inside. If Your Party takes off, then the 'moderate', 'reasonable' voices who want to step back from confrontation with the bosses will be given every encouragement by the media and by the capitalist class. That struggle is under way on a citywide basis in New York at the moment.

And here in Britain, that's why it's so important that the Socialist Party and others are allowed to organise in a new party. The capitalists will organise in it to sabotage it. We have to be there to do what Marx and Engels talked about in the Communist Manifesto: to be in the movement of the present, the people who represent and take care of the future of that movement.

That means being ready for the inevitable attempts to defeat any workers' government, and to respond not by bowing the knee, but by removing the levers of power from the capitalist class. Starting by nationalising, under democratic workers' control, the banks and the major corporations that dominate our economy. Provided we have the active support of the majority of the working class, they would be powerless to stop us.

We could begin to build a new socialist order, not just sharing out the wealth, but harnessing the productive forces that capitalism cannot harness in order to meet the needs of all.

You can't build socialism in one country, but look at the electrifying effect that one mayor calling himself socialist has had. And imagine what the response would be around the world if a socialist government came to power and said: 'We're building a society in the interest of the majority, and we want you to follow our lead.' Those are the tasks that are ahead for this generation.

Capitalism is rotten to the core, its parties and institutions are in deep crisis.

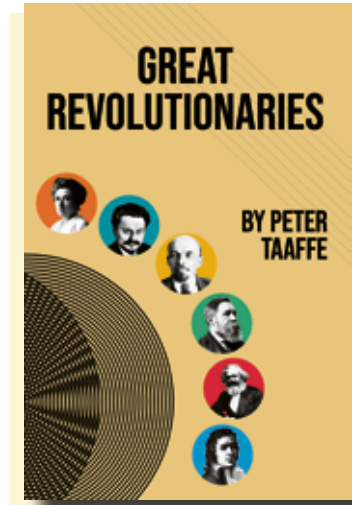
We are going to have opportunities to put it out of its misery, and we have to fight to build party that can ensure our class takes those opportunities.

Join us!

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- to find out more today!*





Great Revolutionaries by Peter Taaffe

As Hannah Sell said in her speech to the rally: "This is the first Socialism event since we lost Peter Taaffe. He was the general secretary of our party when we led mass struggles in Liverpool and against the poll tax, when we defeated Thatcher."

"He was a workers' leader in every sense. He studied Marxism deeply - but always in order to answer the question 'what needs to be done?'"

"We are not interested - and Peter definitely wasn't interested - in idolising individuals, no matter how great their role."

"We are producing this book, and we will produce more books of Peter's writings because the lessons are invaluable for the struggles that are coming ahead."

The rally saw a standing ovation for Peter.

The book is available to buy for £10 at leftbooks.co.uk



Was the most lovely experience, loved every bit of time spent there. Zatoon Bibi Khan

HOW CAN YOUR PARTY BE A PARTY OF WORKING-CLASS STRUGGLE AND SOCIALISM?



ALL PHOTOS MARY FINCH

Ian Hodson - 'a party of our class'

Ian Hodson is President of the Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union, which four years ago voted to disaffiliate from the Labour Party.

Ian explained how the union 'disaffiliated because we knew this Labour Party wasn't going to represent the interests



of our members, of our class."

On Your Party, Ian said: "We were promised a party that would belong to us... So why is it I keep reading about these factions who have now taken control of Your Party, that are going to hand down to us how we will organise, how the party will look, what the documents are that we can take part in discussing and how the votes are going to take place?"

He added: "I do agree, we need a workers' mass party that represents our class, organised by us, representing us, and making demands of people that want to represent our interests, that say if you want to go to parliament you are accountable to us as a class, and in the party that be reflective of us as people."

Leila Messaoudi - lessons from La France Insoumise

Leila Messaoudi, General Secretary of the Gauche Révolutionnaire, the French section of the Committee for Workers' International, addressed the rally by video.

Leila described the role of La France Insoumise (LFI), the left-wing electoral formation led by Jean-Luc Mélenchon. "LFI could play a decisive role, as it did on 10 September when it called for mo-



nature of 10 September was decisive in forcing the then Prime Minister Bayrou to resign, even before the day of the strike."

She explained how "LFI itself limits this potential. LFI weakens this potential due to its weak structure and its programme. First of all, it's not a party. It's a mobilisation alongside the Block Everything movement and alongside militant trade unionists. The militant

elections, local activity can be very limited in some regions.

"The possibility of organising, making collective decisions together and producing local materials is therefore also very limited. The other major problem with this model of organisation is that LFI does not claim to be a working-class organisation. It prefers to talk about 'the people' and not the working class. In its programme, it's very weak. And LFI does not seek to have an organised presence in the working class or in the trade unions."

She went on: "In a way, LFI is already playing the role of a new party. But, as Gauche Révolutionnaire, we think it should call for the creation of such a political tool. A tool for our workers, for youth, a workers' party for socialism, the party of those who have only their work to live on. And that's the discussion we are continuing in and around LFI, and of course around trade unionist activists who want to fight back against Macron and who want to overthrow capitalism."

Dave Nellist - fight for the power of the organised working class to be at the heart of Your Party

The Socialist Party has consistently and constantly explained that without a political party under its control, the working class is fighting with one hand tied behind our backs. So we welcomed the launch of Your Party, as did the 800,000 initially enthusiastic in signing up, and we're working as hard as we can to make it an independent socialist voice for the organised working class.

This year, after the May elections, TUSC launched a new initiative called 'time for trade unions to take the lead in forming a new working-class party'. And we invited the then 1,500 signatories to that campaign to a national Zoom meeting in July. Over 1,000 union reps and activists attended. Jeremy, Zara and Ian, were among the speakers.

Since then we've organised follow-up meetings of activists in 11 different unions to discuss how to take preparatory steps to develop a political alternative. And that's getting an echo. That work must go on.

Here, this weekend, we have the socialist activists who are most consistently raising in the trade union movement the need for an independent and socialist voice for the organised working class. That's the unique contribution the Socialist Party is making.

All those here know that, in a union, it's not your union card alone that equals up the relationship between the employer and the employed. It's that the employer knows if she or he doesn't deal fairly with workers, can all act together to change the employer's mind. They can take industrial action. Like the bin workers in Birmingham, the



phlebotomists in Gloucester, the Velia strikers in Sheffield, or the registered doctors.

Politics is the same. It's not the individual views that we hold that give us strength. It's the political organisation of our numbers. The working class is 90% of the population. And 6.5 million who are in work are organised in trade unions. We need to put them, their resources, their members, their structures, their power at the heart of this new party.

Next May's elections are a crucial stage in the fight to win mass support for a socialist alternative. Your Party should prioritise and plan urgently for the local elections next year. And bring your party members, anti-cuts campaigners, trade unions together locally to discuss a people's budget from which we can draw local manifestos. The red line should be, all your party candidates must be pledged, if elected, to vote against cuts and fight to show there is an alternative to continued austerity.



I thought it was one of the best Saturday evening Socialism rallies ever. I always come away from these events more determined to build the Socialist Party and its influence. This one was no exception.

Sean McCauley



If you want to help build socialism, but don't know where to start, there's no better guide or motivator than Socialism (2025).

Hannah Chapman

April Ashley - Trade unions must lead the fight against racist division

April Ashley, an elected Black Members' rep on Unison's National Executive Committee, spoke in a personal capacity.

"We've seen the continued rise of racism this year with attacks on migrant workers' hotels and on mosques, as well as anti-immigration protests - the 100,000 strong Unite the Kingdom rally and the threat of the far right marching in Whitechapel, east London."

April explained how, in Whitechapel "the youth came out to defend the community... And we have seen thousands of people coming out to defend their communities against the far right and against fascists..."

"This community stand is necessary... We stand for the unity of the working class... In order to stop the far right, we must link the fight against racism to the fight against austerity. The trade unions must play the leading role."

"Trade unions can unite workers from all backgrounds to stand together, as we do in the workplace. When we fight against the bosses and employers on the picket line, we're uniting workers together and that's what we must do."

April added that "we need a political alternative to challenge Labour's austerity and the racist Reform and the far right, and that's what Your



Party could potentially do. We must remember that Labour under Jeremy Corbyn, when he had an anti-austerity programme, won over 1 million voters from UKIP in the 2017 election, and this is the role that Your Party could play..."

"I think it's important that we link that fight against austerity to the fight against racism, but also to the fight against capitalism. So it's really important that Your Party, as I said, an anti-capitalist party and a socialist party needs to be a mass workers' party."



All sessions very youthful, full of ideas, and older members raised our ideas too. £61,000 raised in the collection - WOW! - showing real confidence in our party and the tasks ahead.

Nick Chaffey



Zarah Sultana - politicians who 'don't vote for cuts, but fight them'

Zarah Sultana MP addressed the rally by video. Her contribution said of Your Party: "It genuinely has to be a socialist party led by members that is democratic to its core. And that's what I've been fighting for, maximum member democracy."

Some of the demands Zarah called for included "conference decisions that are binding on all elected representatives" and "elections for the Executive Committee by the end of this year". She added that, in her view, "It's our job to unite the left. That's



why I'm supporting calls for dual membership". She also called for Your Party to set up "a formal youth section, with real power and representation". Zarah added: "Wherever there's a site of struggle in our communities, our members and elected representatives have to be there. Because branches shouldn't be seen as call centres for elections. If we get this right, they should be the centres of working

class organisation..."

"My motivation has always been very simple, to strengthen our collective power, to put members in control and to build the radically democratic socialist party that this country urgently needs. And I will continue to fight for grassroots power because without it we are nothing more than just another hollow political machine just like the rest of them out there."

"We cannot build socialism without democracy and decisions must be made by those who do the work. Where MPs and councillors are accountable to our members, where they don't vote for cuts, but fight them."

£61,895.50 raised!

Thank you to all who contributed to the record high Socialism appeal. What a vote of confidence in our political ideas! £61,895.50 was pledged during the rally, so far £20,408 has been paid in. £10,000 of what was raised will go to the Committee for a Workers' International. Please redeem your pledges by the end of the year, to pay in online visit socialistparty.org.uk/socialism-2025/





PHOTO: MARY FINCH

Sofia Pandolfi – Organise youth to fight for socialist change

Young people today have grown up in a world of crisis. We've seen governments increase university tuition fees, cut our youth services, attempt to strip away disability benefits for young people, and propose a future which gives us no hope.

Internationally, we've watched our government support the brutal genocide in Palestine, claiming it has no money to invest in our education and services.

Living under a system devoid of opportunities, and dependent on international exploitation, has fuelled anger and frustration.

But if we young people are to have a real future to look forward to, we need to transform our anger into action - by getting organised for a socialist alternative to capitalism, and the war, exploitation and oppression that this system produces.

That is what Socialist Students did when Donald Trump, an embodiment of capitalism in crisis, came to visit the UK on the invitation of Keir

Starmer in September.

Socialist Students organised a campaign of youth walkouts against Trump to get young people organised against Trump and Starmer's politics of war and division. To build for the walkouts in London, I helped to give out hundreds of leaflets, put up posters, and met with students to share ideas on how to protest against Trump's visit.

Hundreds of students across the country, standing up to Trump and the brutal system he represents, walked out of their schools, colleges, and universities on the 17 September - the day Trump was in Windsor Castle feasting on a state banquet with Starmer, the King, and a guest list of billionaire tech CEOs.

It wasn't easy. At one school in South London, we watched the headteacher rip leaflets out of students' hands. At another school in East London, the management called the police to intimidate students into not protesting.

The youth walkouts against Trump were a chance to show that young people can fight back when we get

organised. Socialist Students is now following up the walkouts with a campaign to get students in schools, sixth forms and colleges building our own students' unions, as a way for young people to have an organised voice. Not just for one day, but always.

By getting organised as students, we can more effectively link up with the workers who keep our education and society running and build a united movement for the socialist change that we all need.

For that, young people also need a political voice through which we can fight alongside the organised working class. Your Party is an opportunity to do that.

Your Party could give a voice to young people's anger by demanding fully funded free education, mass building of council houses and rent controls, as part of a socialist programme to transform the lives of working-class and young people.

Why not take that first step by having Zarah Sultana, Jeremy Corbyn, and other Your Party MPs in the Independent Alliance proposing an amendment to the upcoming budget - instead of Labour's plans for more tuition fee rises, calling for the total abolition of fees, as well as the cancellation of student debt, and the immediate reintroduction of maintenance grants for all students?

Socialist Students members have joined Your Party and are fighting for socialism and working-class struggle to be at the heart of it.

In universities across the country, we've organised dozens of meetings discussing how Your Party can be a democratic voice for students. As a next step to building the party we need on campus, we will be inviting Zarah Sultana, Jeremy Corbyn and the other Independent Alliance MPs to be part of a Your Party speaking tour of universities and colleges.

If you want to help build a political voice which can help unite students and young people with the powerful struggles of the working class, then join Socialist Students at your school, college or university to help build the fightback.

The struggle for socialism worldwide

Socialism 2025 closed on Sunday with an international rally, chaired by Socialist Party National Committee member Deji Olayinka. Tony Saunio, Secretary of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), outlined the deep crises facing capitalism - economic, social and environmental. And the devastating effects these have on the lives of the working class and poor masses worldwide, through war, poverty, exploitation and disease.

Tony explained how the era we are now in is unprecedented in our lifetime, with the levels of economic and political volatility and polarisation. He explained how this is a period of both revolution and counter-revolution.

Chiara Stenger, a young socialist and member of SOL (CWI Germany), described the whole series of 'Gen Z revolutions' worldwide - uprisings against inequality and government corruption. Also how, in reaction to the surge in support electorally for the populist right AfD in Germany, the left-wing Die Linke increased its votes in elections earlier this year, particularly amongst young people.

Padraig Mulholland, Deputy General Secretary of NIPSA, the biggest trade union in the north of Ireland, representing public sector workers, is also a member of Militant Left (CWI Ireland). He explained how the union



PHOTO: HANNAH PONTING

has led struggles, uniting workers across the sectarian divide - in defence of working-class communities under attack from far-right thugs, and in taking strike action to demand a pay rise. He detailed one strike of outsourced workers winning a double-digit pay rise.

Bob Labi, CWI secretariat, closed the rally. He explained how the task of Marxists is to participate in the

struggles of the working class, linking demands for jobs, decent housing, access to health services, democratic rights - to the need for the socialist transformation of society. That we face the task of strengthening and rebuilding the workers' movement - the trade unions and independent mass workers' parties - that need to have a programme of socialist revolution to succeed.



Best event of this kind I've been to for some time. Both due to the quality of the meetings and the optimism of the mood, with many young comrades participating.

Greg Randall



There was a wide choice of discussions, and two amazing powerful rallies to help us focus on the tasks ahead, and on what needs to be done.

Melanie Dent



As a Socialist Party member for over 40 years, it was heartening to see that the rallies were dominated by young people looking for, or already fighting for, a socialist alternative.

Barbara Clare

MATT REID, UNITE CONVENOR FOR BIRMINGHAM BINS

In Birmingham, the bin workers face an £8,000 pay cut, that's 20% of their annual wage. A loss like that will have drastic effects on their lives, from mortgage and rent payments to just buying food and clothes for their families, in the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation.

This has been unbearable financial, emotional pressure to striking workers and their families.

And it is all due to a Labour council that, instead of standing firmly with working people, has decided to use union-busting tactics and legislation like Section 14 public order injunctions to worsen our pay, terms and conditions, using fire and rehire. They are trying to make industrial action and protest as ineffective as possible.

All while being supported by a Labour government which has, at every opportunity, told striking workers to end the strike and just accept the pay cuts. That is not why the Labour Party was created. It was actually created to stop employers from getting away with that kind of treatment of workers.

When the Labour government came to power, we were excited because [the Tories] had sent commissioners into Birmingham. So we thought: 'A Labour government, thank God, things will change.'

When the Labour government came to power, they promised change. They promised an Employment Rights Act that would be game-changing for working people. But the reality is far from that. The proposed amendments would still allow fire and rehire in the public sector, and local authorities like Birmingham would be able to tear up contracts and fire and rehire care workers, teaching assistants, refuse collectors and many other job roles. All they would have to do is show financial difficulty which, after years of austerity, is not a difficult ask.

Despite all of this disgraceful behaviour from a Labour council and government, we're still standing strong, eleven months into our industrial action.

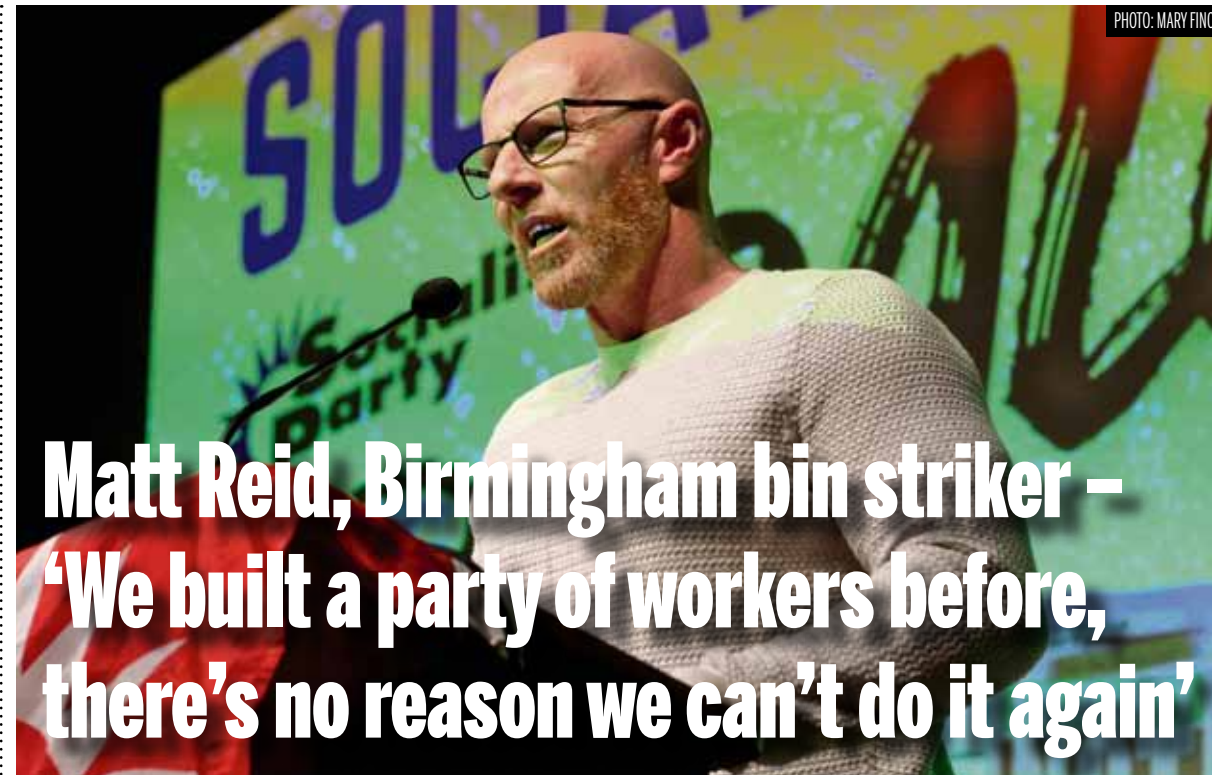


PHOTO: MARY FINCH

Matt Reid, Birmingham bin striker – 'We built a party of workers before, there's no reason we can't do it again'

We have the full support of our union and Sharon Graham, our general secretary, and we have the full support of our regional secretary. We've also received messages of solidarity from all around the country and so many generous donations to our strike fund.

Our movement has really shown us that we are not alone. We have the backing of organisers, activists, sister trade unions and all working people who understand the massive sacrifices that striking bin workers in Birmingham are making, to make a positive change for their own situation and by extension other public sector workers as well.

We know that Birmingham is just a blueprint. Every other council will be facing the same sort of situation. They'll see how it works in Birmingham and they'll push forward: 'We're struggling financially. We need to fire and rehire this workforce.'

We're now at a historic moment, where we are balloting our agency staff for the first time. This is the

agency staff who were brought in to replace us in December.

I used to call them 'scabs', but now I've changed my tune quite drastically! They're showing amazing strength and they've been treated so badly, on zero-hour contracts. If they're late, they're sacked. If they don't complete their rounds, they're sacked.

The ballot result is due Monday, but a lot of them have come out already, over 40 so far.

If Labour no longer stands with working people, we can no longer put our heads in the sand and ignore it. It's time to rebuild. We built a party based on workers' rights, equality, fairness and true solidarity before.

There is no reason we can't do it again. A truly democratic, socialist party that is based around making material change and bettering people's lives in this country. For the people, by the people, that focuses on what unites us, not what divides us. And together we can hold the right wing back and make a fair, inclusive society that we

can all be proud of, with unions and normal working people at the core. Because when we're all together, we can be absolutely unstoppable.



Great choices of sessions, speakers, and the rallies. Wonderful to be together with so many comrades, talking about socialist change.

Alison Champagne



Emphasis on the need to fight, and be confident. That was what I got from the rally and workshops.

Rosie Douglas-Brown



WHAT WE STAND FOR

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

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

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

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

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

WORK, PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

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

to pay a real living wage. State subsidies, where genuinely needed, for socially-useful small businesses.

- For trade unions independent of the capitalist state, with members having democratic control over their own policies, constitutions and democratic procedures. For all trade union officials to be regularly elected, subject to recall by their members and paid a worker's wage.
- Reduce the state retirement and pension age to 55. For decent living pensions.
- Replace universal credit and the punitive benefit system with living benefits for all who need them.

PUBLIC SERVICES

- A massive expansion of public services including the NHS and council services. Reverse all the cuts, kick out the privateers. Bring private social care and childcare facilities into public ownership under democratic control, in order to provide free, high-quality services for all who need them. Expand services for all women suffering violence.
- For local councillors who are

committed to opposing austerity and all cuts to local services, jobs, pay and conditions.

- For a socialist NHS to provide for everyone's health needs, including dental and eye care - free at the point of use and under democratic control. Kick out the private companies! Nationalise the pharmaceutical industry under democratic workers' control and management.
- Renationalise privatised utilities - including rail, mail, water, telecoms and power - under democratic workers' control and management.
- Free, publicly funded and democratically run, good-quality education, available to all at any age. Abolish university tuition fees and write off student debt, end marketisation, and introduce a living grant. No to academisation. For all schools to be under the genuine democratic control of local education authorities, school staff, parents and student organisations.
- The right to a safe secure home for all. For the mass building of genuinely affordable, high-quality, carbon-neutral

council housing. For rent controls that cap the level of rent. Fair rent decisions should be made by elected bodies of tenants, housing workers and representatives of trade unions. For cheap low-interest mortgages for home buyers. Nationalise the privately owned large building companies, land banks and estates.

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

Do you agree? Join the fightback!

JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

- Visit socialistparty.org.uk/join
- or call 020 8988 8777
- or text your name and postcode to 07761 818 206 to find out more today!



Leonardo aerospace workers strike

Over 3,000 Leonardo aerospace workers in Unite the Union are striking at sites around the UK, in Edinburgh, Yeovil, Basildon, Newcastle and Luton.

The workers are demanding a fair pay increase from a company that made 18 billion euros last year, with profits over 1.5 billion euros. Leonardo is one of the biggest defence companies in the world, yet it offered its workers just 3.2%. Workers have rejected the latest offer of 3.6%.

Eleanor Donne reports from Basildon. "Pickets told us that this is the first strike at the company for 40 years. No one on the picket line had ever been on strike before! One picket told us: 'We just want a decent pay rise. What we are being offered is a pay cut. The company can afford it. Their profits are up and the top directors got a 31% rise.' We brought solidarity from Essex Socialist Party,

and Basildon and Thurrock Trades Council."

Tom Baldwin adds from Yeovil: "The pickets were all in good spirits and thought very few members were going in." From visiting the picket line at Luton, Helen Kerr reports "an upbeat and positive picket, with most people entering the site taking a leaflet from the strikers".

Jimmy Haddow reports that the first day of the strike in Edinburgh involved as many as 200 workers in rolling numbers from 5am to 12 noon.

"The picket covered all the entrances into two sites. The pickets made a point of stopping vehicles and goods going in and talking to the drivers, and vehicles were turning around, to great cheers from the pickets. Non-union workers who arrived for work were signed up to Unite and did not go in. All the pickets I spoke to said it was their first strike."

Socialist nationalisation

The Socialist Party Scotland leaflet pointed out that Leonardo is based in Italy, where September and October saw inspiring general strike action by the trade unions in ports, docks and railways to prevent support for the Israeli war machine. The leaflet explained the need for a "trade union-led transition in the defence and fossil fuels industries. This would be based on socialist nationalisation that would utilise the highly skilled workforce for socially useful production and technology development. Workers must be guaranteed jobs, and better terms and conditions, as well as safety."

- Unite in BAE Systems in Lancashire were taken to court by the bosses to try to prevent strike action over a poor pay offer. Unite won in court, and selective strike action is planned from 26 November to 17 December



Luton



Whitefield school strike ELLEN KEWON PEERS



Cardiff Telecare workers strike SOCIALIST PARTY WALES

Walthamstow SEND school workers fight unsafe environments and inadequate staffing

JACK SEDGWICK
WALTHAM FOREST SOCIALIST PARTY

Hopes and energy were high from the outset on 10 November at the picket line at Whitefield school for SEND students (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

Socialist Party members brought our solidarity to the approximately 30 teachers and support staff on the picket line. They were committing to three days of strike action against changes they all felt had compromised the safety of the children.

Negotiations had been brought forward to try to win demands and enable further action if necessary. Morale was high. During the first morning, members experienced solidarity from local parents, as well as two delivery drivers, who were easily convinced to turn around without making a drop-off to the school.

Grievances centred around the school's unilateral decision to reshuffle classes, without meaningfully responding to staff concerns that this would represent a danger for the students and an increased burden on the staff. In the reorganisation, students with different needs are now sharing the same classrooms, which staff believe causes student distress and disruption, and safety risks - with students fearing being tripped or trampled.

Strikers said that they were not supported in this transition with appropriate time to prepare for new workload pressures, nor with higher numbers of staff in each classroom to manage the increased demand for individual support.

While staff numbers have not increased, the number of unqualified, untrained agency staff has. Successive budget cuts have reduced the number of permanent positions for experienced staff. Strikers reported that the agency workers are not supported sufficiently, and that classroom assistants take on more work. This shows the impact of thoughtless, repeated cuts to services: students

are improperly assisted, and staff are overworked. Only an end to cuts, and a pledge to maintain and bolster SEND budgets, with democratic control over how the money is spent, can resolve these issues.

Camden Unison school strike

Camden Unison members at Richard Cobden school are taking their second four-day block of strike action against low pay and staffing cuts. The strike has grown as more support staff are determined to fight for the pay that goes with the increase in duties the school imposed on them after making cuts. The measures have made classrooms and lunchtime less safe for staff and children, even though management claim they have made a health and safety risk assessment - which they've not shared with Unison or Camden council's health and safety advisors.

Members are more determined than ever to fight for increased pay and proper, safe working arrangements.

HUGO PIERRE

Cardiff council emergency care workers demand safe working

DAVE REID
CARDIFF SOCIALIST PARTY

Unite members working for Cardiff Labour council's Telecare department, supported by other council workers and Cardiff Trades Council, have lobbied the council against the dangerous situations management are putting them in.

Telecare workers are dedicated professionals who provide a vital 24-hour emergency response service for 5,000 vulnerable people across Cardiff. The workers attend service users' homes to help them and check they are ok. They used to work in pairs, but since 2019 the council management has insisted that, with a rising workload, they go alone.

That means sometimes going into dangerous and traumatic situations alone, often into situations that police officers attend in pairs. They can face violence, substance misuse, and mental health crises. Workers have been threatened with guns.

Workers lobbying the council reported that, with mental health issues and substance misuse on the rise, risk levels have been rising. Management has been ignoring their concerns - they have had enough. "It's only a matter of time before there is a serious violent incident".

Lone working breaches Cardiff council's own health and safety standards and the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, which requires employers to eliminate or control risks. And they are refused annual leave when requested and are told to find their own cover, breaching the council's work-life balance policy.

- Unite calls on Cardiff council to:
 - Reinstate two-person working
 - Reinstate a fair annual leave policy
 - Honour their own health and safety and work-life balance commitment

If workload has increased, that should be met with increased staffing, not dangerous working. Fight for full funding!

Socialists building support for Mining Museum strike

IAIN DALTON
SOCIALIST PARTY YORKSHIRE SECRETARY

After over 60 days of strike action at the National Coal Mining Museum, Wakefield Socialist Party held a public meeting to discuss how further solidarity could be built with the striking Unison members.

We were joined by Unison branch secretary Sam and striking worker Alan. They explained how management at the museum had withdrawn a pay proposal which the union had been prepared to recommend to the workforce, and since then made two more lesser offers.

Management has spent many times more than the cost of settling the dispute (an estimated £8,000 gap) on security guards and other measures to try to break the strike. Injunctions have been threatened to stop picketing.

Alan and Sam were part of a delegation that recently visited 'The Big Pit' in Wales, a similar museum run by the Welsh government. PCS members who work there are paid much better for similar work.

The strikers have launched a petition demanding the resignation of the senior managers and trustees of the museum, given their strike-breaking conduct. One trustee has resigned in the last few weeks.

With the vast bulk of the museum's funding coming from central government, this poses the question of what would come next if the trustees resign. The meeting discussed what Socialist Party members had put forward in our previous article, of Wakefield council taking over the museum and demanding full funding from the government. How there could be democratic control by the workforce in running the museum was discussed.

- National demonstration in support of National Coal Mining Museum strikers: Saturday 6 December, assemble 12.30pm outside Wakefield Cathedral

Resident doctors strike: Situation in NHS 'terrifying'

A RESIDENT DOCTOR IN SHEFFIELD

The media has been vociferous in their anger at the BMA, as resident doctors (formerly known as junior doctors) undertook a week of strike action.

The Guardian released an editorial on the eve of the strike asking Labour health secretary Wes Streeting to stay firm. Streeting has stated: the BMA "threatens the future of the NHS".

This strike action came soon after a deal was struck that gave us a 'pay rise'. The cost-of-living crisis is worsening and many people are feeling this harder than resident doctors. Some colleagues, who I respect, have told me they 'don't know why we're striking this time' and the BMA are not 'reading the room'.

Given this political climate and the actual climate - grey, cold, teeming with rain - as I walked to the grass bank outside the Sheffield Royal Hallamshire Hospital, the BMA picket line location, I was expecting to find no colleagues and hostile passers-by.

Thankfully, this wasn't the case. Approximately 30 resident doctors, plus Socialist Party members who

came out to support, were on the bank by the time the picket ended. More surprisingly, not only did no one come up to criticise the strike, but multiple people beeped their horns in support.

Maybe the public understands something the government has missed.

Despite legitimate questions about the BMA's strategy, the fact remains that the previous deal does not achieve pay restoration - resident doctors are still 21% off the 2008-09 wage, when adjusted for inflation.

Crucially, this is not the only pillar of the strike. The major issue facing resident doctors is specialty training numbers.

On the picket line, one of my striking FY1 colleagues (ie in the first year as a doctor) described the situation as "terrifying". According to a BMA survey, 52% of FY2s don't have substantive regular work lined up for when their foundation programme ends.

After five years at university, resident doctors complete two years of foundation training before re-applying for broad specialty training. That training lasts two to three years and

then the vast majority need to apply again for specialty training. This lasts for generally five years and they then apply for a consultant post.

At every stage, jobs are no longer guaranteed and the competition ratios are spiralling, leaving thousands without posts, looking for ad-hoc shifts. The country's most educated, most wasted, zero-hour contract workers! These should be our future consultants. If Streeting truly cares about the future of the NHS, he must listen to the resident doctors who will help make it.



Jobs are no longer guaranteed and competition is spiralling - we're the country's most educated zero-hour contract workers!



Leeds YORKSHIRE SOCIALIST PARTY

TOM BALDWIN REPORTS FROM BRISTOL

A chorus of honking cars and applauding pedestrians showed the doctors they still had significant public support, despite the aggressive denunciations from the government and press.

Streeting claimed that they were threatening the future of the NHS but pickets were clear it's the other way round. "It's all the money he's giving to private health companies that's

threatening the future of the NHS. It's hard to believe this is coming from a Labour government."

Pickets described how doctors weren't able to find full-time work and so were driving for Uber or picking up shifts at Tesco to make ends meet.

One said: "I never expected I'd be a trade unionist, none of us want to be doing this, but when negotiations don't work you need to be prepared to strike."



I never expected I'd be a trade unionist - but when negotiations don't work, you need to be prepared to strike

College lecturers stand up to Starmer

We need an agreed left slate for the UCU NEC elections to win a fighting leadership



IAN PATTISON

DUNCAN MOORE
UCU NEC MEMBER, STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

The University and College Union (UCU) 'New Deal for FE' ballot closed on 17 November. 90% voted to strike in the disaggregated ballot.

Further Education (FE) staff pay has fallen by 40% in real terms since 2010. If our pay had kept up with inflation, we could all be working a three-day week now and earn the same money!

Heavier workloads, bigger class sizes and cuts to vital support staff are driving teachers out of the sector. 25% of lecturers quit within a year, and 50% within three.

A united fight across the whole of the FE sector is needed, to show the government that FE staff won't put up with this and that we are prepared to fight for proper, national bargaining arrangements, and steps towards parity with school teachers.

The strike can take place in 32 colleges - an almost identical number as reached the threshold in the last ballot two years ago. UCU reps made herculean efforts to get their branches over the 50% minimum turnout and 40% 'yes' vote of all eligible members, still required by law despite the Labour government's promise to scrap the anti-union thresholds. UCU leaders should authorise branches to conduct re-ballots in order to be able to join action in the new year.

Higher Education workers in four unions are also balloting, with the result due on 28 November. There is therefore the chance of significant and effective post-16 strike action against Starmer's austerity government.

In May, UCU congress reflected the mood of members, as the FE Special Conference passed several motions calling for a disaggregated ballot to begin at the beginning of term in September.

Delegates argued that this would be the best time, before individual colleges had a chance to put the squeeze on branches to settle their local claim and pull out of the national ballot. Taking action before the 'Autumn census', when colleges are enrolling students and funding allocations are yet to be finalised,

would maximise pressure on college principals.

But after a consultative ballot with a turnout lower than would be legally required for a statutory ballot, on the advice of the union's senior officials, the FEC voted narrowly to delay the official strike ballot.

Socialist Party members and our allies on the FEC argued that a serious campaign would overcome this, but the 'UCU Commons' faction, the grouping around the general secretary Jo Grady, has a narrow majority on the FEC.

The consequence of this, as we warned at the time, has been that many branches have settled with their college employer and pulled out of the England-wide dispute. Also, the ballot timeframe included the half-term break, losing time when reps could speak to members to get the vote out.

We need a fighting national leadership that matches the determination of reps and members, with a strategy to win better pay, conditions and sectoral bargaining.

Fighting leadership needed

The right on the executive and the grouping around Jo Grady hold back national strike action, claiming that UCU members are not up for a fight. They fail to prepare members, and then hide behind lack of preparation as a reason to delay.

Socialist Party members are arguing for a single left slate of candidates for the NEC elections that will take place in January, including those who have consistently backed escalating and coordinating action in our sector. We are trying to achieve this through discussion with the independent lefts and the 'UCU Left' grouping that is led by the Socialist Workers Party.

As a minimum, we are calling on UCU Left not to stand a candidate against myself, a sitting NEC member with a record of campaigning for serious action. Another Socialist Party member, Scott Hunter, also has sufficient nominations to be able to stand as part of an agreed slate. It would be a setback for the union if those who do not have confidence in our members, and who try to pull back from a serious struggle, are strengthened on the executive.

Your Party meetings

Torbay agrees no-cuts budget

Over 15 years of austerity, both Tories and Lib Dems in Torbay Council have slashed hundreds of jobs. Street cleaning, building maintenance, and funding for community groups have been reduced.

Your Party supporters met in Paignton on 13 November. Torbay is one of the country's most cash-strapped councils. The effects of austerity are plain to see - it is wrecked by low wages, high rents, and vitiated public services.

Socialist Party member Michelle Goodman - who was previously a

member of the executive of public sector union Unison - tabled the needs-based budget from Cornwall Trades Union Council. It was agreed unanimously to put a motion for needs budgets for local councils at the Your Party conference, and that the local Your Party group would contest future local elections on this basis.

A local PCS union rep chaired the meeting. They put forward a motion calling for electoral agreements with other parties, including the Greens, Lib Dems, and Labour to prevent Reform from winning council seats.

The motion passed unanimously. But only after an amendment put by Michelle Goodman, seconded by myself, that Torbay Your Party would only make electoral agreements with parties that agreed with a minimum set of policies, including

voting against all cuts and council tax rises.

We also agreed to work with the Torbay Trades Union Council in the campaign to save the local hospital's cardiac unit from closure, and to financially support any member randomly selected to attend the Your Party conference in Liverpool.

DUNCAN MOORE
UCU UNION EXEC (PERSONAL CAPACITY) AND
DEVON SOCIALIST PARTY

Leicester morale boost

Over 230 attendees. Socialist Party members set up two campaign stalls outside, handing out leaflets, and chatting with anyone showing interest. The mood was hopeful and excited.

Jeremy Corbyn walked into the hall to loud applause. Claudia Webb, former Labour MP for Leicester East, chaired the meeting. She talked about "people having to choose between eating and heating", that this was "capitalism working as intended", and what people need is "revolution and not resignation".

The local co-chair of the University and College Union (UCU), Caren Frosch, spoke on the current strike action at Leicester uni, after management pledged to reduce spending by £11 million through cutting and merging different departments.

Disability activist Abi Broomfield spoke about Labour's villainization of disabled individuals, and cutting back on support for vulnerable communities.

Corbyn emphasised that education should be free "from cradle to grave", and pledging to pay for this

through a wealth tax on the richest 1%. Corbyn advocated for building up green energy industries, Palestine, oppressed communities, and demilitarisation.

While his speech raised cheers, it failed to address concerns about Your Party's democracy and public fighting. Corbyn advocated for the party to be "democratic, accountable and involved".

Despite this, he still promoted 'sortition' (lottery), not allowing members to elect accountable delegates. The inclusion of trade unions in 'Your Party' was also not discussed.

The question-and-answer session at the end was not conducive to proper consideration, let alone open discussion. The rally did serve as a morale boost, with attendees yearning for more from Your Party.

IKRA REHMAN
LEICESTER SOCIALIST PARTY

Herts students challenge uni and SU inaction on sexism

MORGAN TRITTON
HERTS SOCIALIST STUDENTS

Hertfordshire Socialist Students is campaigning for action and funding from university management and the student union to end sexism and violence against women on campus.

In April, Student Council passed a motion unanimously, mandating Herts Students' Union to pressure the university to improve incident-reporting systems, introduce prevention and education campaigns, provide consent and anti-harassment training for all students, and consult students and staff on these changes.

But since launching the campaign, Socialist Students has faced delays, silence, and contradictory statements from both the student union and university, especially over the rollout of mandatory consent and anti-harassment training.

The national Office for Students introduced new requirements in August. Despite repeated assurances from the Dean of Students at Herts that training had been delivered, evidence gathered by Socialist Students showed inconsistent implementation, poor-quality material, and

many students who had not received any training.

After months of ignored emails, minimal communication to staff, and attempts by the university to evade responsibility, students are escalating pressure. Socialist Students has collected evidence of inaction, raised the issue in every available forum, and run mass email and social media campaigns, with other societies.

This pressure has now forced the university to commit to holding an open student forum in December. The Dean of Students and senior management will attend to answer for the failed rollout of training, and wider inaction.

Who stands up for us?

Once the highest democratic student body passes a motion, students should be able to trust that those elected and employed to represent their interests will lobby the university to make urgent changes to defend student safety. Instead, this struggle has exposed how compromised Herts Students' Union, beholden to university management, and reliant on maintaining the institution's public image, is often unwilling to fight for students' interests, when those interests do not align with management priorities. Socialist Students

has been working to re-politicise Herts Students' Union, pushing it to become a fighting, democratic body, unafraid to challenge cuts, closures, and managerial overreach.

Socialist Students has also communicated our campaign's concerns to staff and members of the University and College Union (UCU), who share frustrations over the university's failure to protect students. We will continue building a united movement of students and workers to hold the uni accountable, especially since the Student Council's democratic mandate has been ignored. Backed by staff, Student Council, and requirements set by the regulator, Socialist Students demands an overhaul of the uni's approach to sexual harassment and misconduct.

Our campaign is part of a wider struggle for a socialist alternative to the capitalist system that fuels sexism and misogyny, and for free, fully funded education - starting with building a strong democratic student union that promotes a political voice for students.

Join the student fightback
JOIN socialist students
socialiststudents.org.uk/join



Herts Socialist Students



Emily (left) campaigning for the Socialist Party

EMILY LYNDON
CAMDEN AND HARINGEY SOCIALIST PARTY

As capitalist crisis deepens across the globe, many of us are asking: 'What can be done?'

In a capitalist society, individualism is everywhere we turn. From competitive job markets, to education, the housing crisis and worsening living standards.

We are told time and time again that we are responsible for the desperate conditions that we live in. We're told this so that we don't question the capitalist system that profits from our work and the dire conditions that come from wealth hoarding and the destruction of the planet.

Joining the Socialist Party gives you space to question and deconstruct the status quo, gives you an opportunity to develop ideas and understanding of how we got here, and also how we can challenge and change the way that society runs.

In the Socialist Party we have weekly local branch meetings, where we discuss socialist ideas in depth, and plan how

we organise in our communities and workplaces. When campaigning locally, we discuss our ideas with people while developing a socialist programme that offers an alternative to the rotten capitalist system.

As Socialist Party members we attend local and national protests that challenge austerity and war. We are active trade union members. We fight to put socialist ideas forward that challenge the capitalists and ensure better conditions for workers.

We attend, organise, and build for strike action to support workers. We struggle to transform the trade unions into fighting, democratic organisations.

In doing all this we aim to help the working class to see its potential collective power and build the Socialist Party as a vital part of the struggle for the socialist transformation of society.

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



Amnon and two of the Socialist Party's new members...

AMNON COHEN
CAMDEN AND HARINGEY SOCIALIST PARTY

We started selling the Socialist at East Finchley station a few weeks ago. This was a bit of experiment. It is a short walk from home, so easy to do.

We did not bother with a campaign stall table or petitions. We just held up the Socialist paper, and asked people who came past if they wanted to buy it.

Most people did not. The majority of people just want to get to work.

But the idea was to allow the people who are looking for a way to fight for socialist change to find us. But the small minority who are right now looking for socialist ideas was enough.

We don't do anything special. There are people looking for our ideas. So the Socialist paper basically sells itself.

If anyone gives me a £5 or £10 donation for a paper, I ask them if they want to get involved in the fight for a socialist future, if they want to become a member of the Socialist Party.

If they do, I get them to fill out a join form, sell them a copy of the Socialist Party's 'What We Stand For' pamphlet, and organise a discussion in a nearby cafe.

These discussions sometimes reveal basic disagreements about what is necessary. But, so far, two of these discussions reached political and organisational agreement. And,

as a result, Rosy and Sofia have now joined the Socialist Party.

They both now join the station Socialist sale on their way to work. And both came to Socialism 2025, and brought other people along with them.

There are people out there looking for a way to get involved in the struggle against the Keir Starmer's Labour government, and the brutal reality of capitalism in 2025. We just need to be out there, giving them a chance to find us.

Like what you've read?
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Sheffield Socialist Students supports UCU strikes

JOSEPH MCHALE
SHEFFIELD SOCIALIST STUDENTS

17 November was the first day of joint strike action by the University and College Union (UCU) at both the University of Sheffield (UoS) and Sheffield Hallam University. Hallam had also gone on strike a week earlier.

After a busy first morning of picketing - at least ten buildings at UoS - UCU members and supporters converged outside the City Hall for a joint union rally. Socialist Students members were in the crowd supporting the speakers.

The UCU strike action is happening due to the shocking cuts both universities are aggressively pursuing. UoS

has over £200 million in reserves but is pursuing £50.7 million in cuts for the 2025-26 year!

Socialist Students at UoS has worked with the university's anti-cuts coalition to make students aware of strike action, petitioning over the last three weeks. We continued our support on the picket lines.

The rally included speeches from both UoS and Hallam staff and a student, all highlighting the dire conditions that have forced staff to take this action.

Many of those speeches mirrored the Socialist Party's demands for fully funded and free education that is democratically run. This is imperative to improving the experience for both staff and students, which was well received at the rally.

The failed experiment of marketisation of our universities is acknowledged in the UCU bulletin. These cuts treat students as customers and staff as service providers, rather than

appreciating the true value that they bring to education.

We need a fully publicly funded and democratically run university system, putting both the staff and students at the heart of it rather than soulless management and business interests. This is what Socialist Students will continue to fight for.

Fighting course closures and redundancies at Leicester uni

ALANAH CAREY PEACHER
LEICESTER SOCIALIST PARTY

At the beginning of the summer, University of Leicester (UoL) management announced that they would be slashing the staffing budget at the university by £11 million. Several courses, including Environmental Sciences and Chemistry, are under threat as well as many jobs.

Since then, the university bosses have revealed phase one of their cruel redundancy programme. Modern Languages is being shut down, and a whole series of departments are being merged, which will threaten further courses. A total of 160 redundancies are planned.

On 12 November, the University and College Union (UCU) held a rally in the city in protest at the cuts. Over 300 staff, students and UCU members from around the country, as well as Unite members and other trade unionists and supporters, marched up to the university campus to hear speeches from staff and students affected by the cuts.



Leicester JON DALE

Staff members from Geography expressed their heartbreak upon hearing the news and their concern for the current and future students.

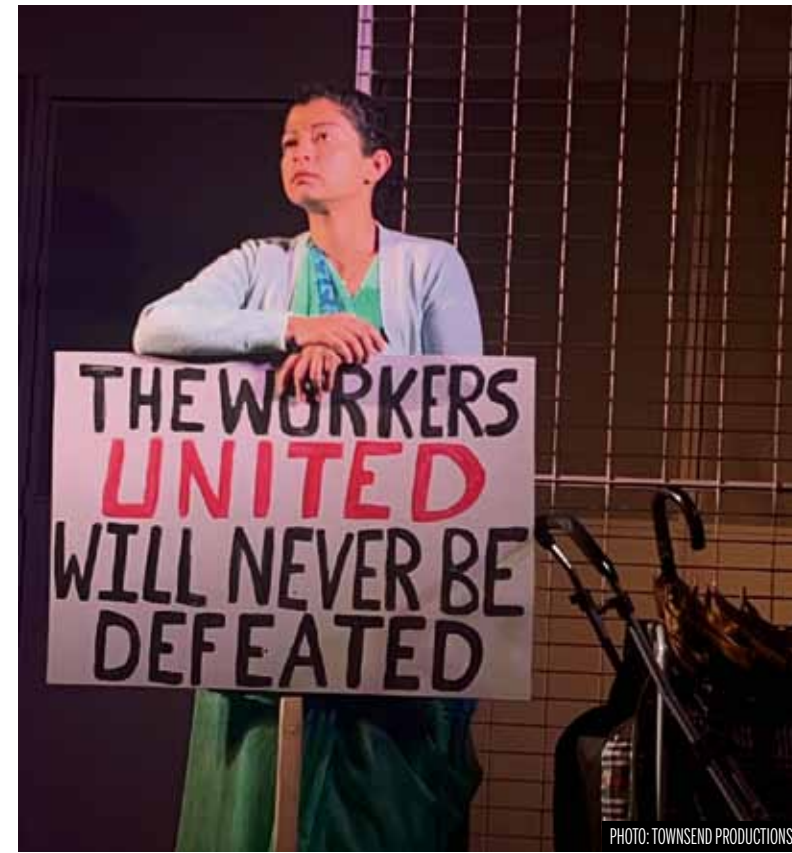
The chair of UoL UCU explained that there is no transparency about the cuts. The university has the funds to create a campus in Dubai but not

to fund the education of students in the city where the university was founded!

Members asked all in attendance to vote no confidence in the governance of the university. Socialist Student members will continue to build solidarity.

Theatre review: We Are The Lions, Mr Manager!

'Powerful, thought-provoking, and emotionally significant'



JANE NELLIST
COVENTRY SOCIALIST PARTY

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Grunwick Strike, Townsend Productions are touring their magnificent production of 'We Are The Lions, Mr Manager!' I was fortunate to see it in Coventry to a packed house.

Written by Neil Gore and directed by Louise Townsend, the play tells the story of the extraordinary courage of Jayaben Desai who led a strike at the Grunwick film processing factory in London from 1976 to 1978. The strike was over the treatment of workers by management and, among other things, the refusal to pay for overtime worked.

Jayaben is played by Rukmini Sircar who embodies the character of the leader of this strike. It was spellbinding to hear her recount the story and experiences of Jayaben, having to leave and resettle in Britain from Uganda. Thousands of Indian workers who had settled in Uganda and other African countries, and had a good lifestyle and jobs, were forced to leave with little money and possessions.

Neil Gore skilfully morphs into multiple characters - from the abrasive manager to the supportive union secretary and even right-wing antagonists. Interspersed are protest songs of the time and projected images of historical film of the strike.



Jayaben Desai is played by Rukmini Sircar who embodies the leader of this strike. It was spellbinding to hear her recount the story

It's far more than just a historical account of this strike, it points out the failures of the trade union leadership, despite the massive support of ordinary rank-and-file union members who stood side by side with the workers facing the full force of the state. They were viciously beaten back by police, which we saw with

other strikes, especially the miners' strike. Tory MPs and the right-wing 'National Association for Freedom' campaigned for the owners.

For the 40th anniversary of the Grunwick's strike, delegates of Coventry TUC, who attended the huge pickets, recounted their memories of the picket lines and the brutality of the police.

I liked the fact that the evening included local choirs and South Indian dancers to add to the experience.

When a manager dismissively likened the workers to chattering monkeys, Jayaben delivers the now iconic line that gives the play its title: "What you are running here is not a factory, it is a zoo... We are the lions, Mr Manager!"

The play is a powerful, thought-provoking, and emotionally significant piece of theatre that recognises a genuine 'lion' of the labour movement and ensures her roar is heard by a new generation.

• **'We Are The Lions, Mr Manager!' by Townsend Productions is on tour until 6 December. For a date near you, visit townsendproductions.org.uk**

Film review: Springsteen: Deliver me from Nowhere

'Sir, there's just a meanness in this world'

ANDY TULLIS
SOUTH WEST LONDON SOCIALIST PARTY

Since the disappointment of 'Great Balls of Fire', the film biopic of 1950s rock 'n' roller Jerry Lee Lewis, arguably one of the worst films ever made, my expectations of films about recording stars and bands aren't high.

'Deliver Me from Nowhere', the recent film biopic of Bruce Springsteen, focuses on a very pivotal point in his career. It is the story of how he made the 1982 album Nebraska, which continued his politically leftward trajectory and reputation as a voice of blue-collar America, while at the same time he was also working on songs for the career and era defining epic, 'Born in the USA!'

After hit albums like 'Born to Run' and 'The River', his record company expect him to follow up in the same vein. But Springsteen starts reflecting on memories of his childhood at his parents' New Jersey home. Fortunately the flashback scenes, shot in obligatory black and

white, about his abusive father are restrained and don't descend into exploitive voyeurism about domestic violence.

A perennial problem with film biopics like this is how exactly to capture the creative process, the interplay and collaborative efforts of artists and musicians and how to convey their genius, and as ever the best bits of the film are where they try to show insight into the musical process itself.

Influenced by the classic Americana movie 'Badlands', from which much of the tone and feel of the film is derived, he sets about recording highly personal songs in his bedroom on a primitive four-track device. But when they try to work up the demos in the big studio, it doesn't work out.

The dark essence of the music is being buried under too many layers. In sets the realisation that they have to somehow translate the songs in their most raw form straight from a single cassette tape directly onto vinyl pressings, and

then convince a sceptical record company to release them.

The record company was worried the fans wouldn't understand a 'folk' album. They needn't have. It got to number three in the album charts.

The last part of the film deals with Springsteen's long battle with depression. Finding it hard to reconcile the reality that fame and success mean his old life is gone forever, he says goodbye to his 'Jersey girl' Faye, and heads off to California. An analogy of Springsteen's tendency to run away from emotional conflict, which he more recently opened up about on the excellent documentary film about the making of 'Western Stars'.

Deliver Me from Nowhere is a well-crafted, superbly cast and acted film all round. Springsteen is sensitively played by Jeremy Allen White and particularly touching right from the start is the portrayal of the relationship with his manager and loyal friend Jon Landau, brilliantly played by Jeremy Strong.

I still don't recommend people get their musical references from film biopics, far better to just listen to lots of records (especially Nebraska) and go see live bands. But, in my totally unbiased opinion as a Bruce fan, yeah I enjoyed it.

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



Jeremy Allen White as Springsteen in Deliver Me from Nowhere and Bruce Springsteen (left)
PHOTOS: MACALL POLAN/20TH CENTURY STUDIO AND BILL EBBSSEN/CC

USA: Stop the raids, abolish ICE!

No deportations, no disappearances!

INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST GROUP
(CWI CO-THINKERS)

The Trump regime's mass deployment of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents into working-class neighbourhoods across the country is terrorising communities, schools, hospitals, stores, and workplaces. Backed by National Guard troops and militarised federal and local police, ICE is emboldened to abduct, detain, and disappear innocent working people, regardless of immigration or residency status.

Families have been torn apart by ICE and children left abandoned. ICE has thrown people into private prisons, where they're made to endure inhumane conditions. There's often a lack of medical care, food, and clean water. Victims have been deported, at times to places other than their native countries. Some have been killed by ICE during raids, others have died in detention centres. Many immigrants fear going to work or being out in public, and some feel they have to 'self-deport' to be safe and to keep their families together.

The Trump administration relies on a divide-and-conquer strategy to implement its wholesale attack on working people. It's carrying out kidnappings and deportations, while at the same time imposing deep cuts to healthcare and SNAP benefits (food stamps), implementing mass layoffs of federal workers, and eliminating many rights won in past struggles, including trans rights, union rights, and civil rights.

In Chicago and elsewhere across the country, strong opposition by community members has sometimes successfully stopped ICE. But most of the time, ICE and other federal police forces get away with their

violent assaults and kidnappings. It's difficult for working people to mobilise at a moment's notice, and difficult for us to be everywhere at all times. Immigrant rights groups, progressive groups, left organisations, and unions can unite in organising even larger mass protests and rallies against ICE. These should also include workplace walkouts, occupations, and strikes on a city-wide, regional, and national scale.

Anti-immigrant policies

The so-called resistance of the corporate Democratic Party has not stopped Trump and the Republicans. Lawyers and lawsuits have not been enough to prevent ICE's armed thugs from carrying out Trump's right-wing agenda. The Democrats have helped lay the groundwork for the ICE raids by increasing funding to ICE when they were in power and including anti-immigrant propaganda and policies in their campaigns in 2024.

In 2020, Joe Biden ran on closing the border camps and ending funding for the border wall, yet once in office, continued both, more than doubling the number of ICE detainees from 14,000 to 39,000. Barack Obama's administration carried out 3.1 million deportations, more than any previous president. Even Bernie Sanders - a Democrat in every way but name - praised Trump in late October, saying: "Trump did a better job. I don't like Trump, but we should have a secure border. It ain't that hard to do. Biden didn't do it."

The working class can't rely on either corporate political party to stop ICE. We need our own political party independent of any corporate funding or influence. Corporations are the ones exploiting immigrant labour, including using undocumented children in poultry processing factories,



Independent Socialist Group attending an anti-ICE protest in Waltham, Massachusetts on 8 November PHOTO: ISG

sawmills, and other dangerous jobs, and exposing many immigrant workers to dangerous conditions while using their immigration status as leverage to ignore labour and minimum wage laws. But union workers are in the schools, hospitals, and communities that ICE targets. Unions can play a greater role in fighting against the exploitation of immigrants. Union leaders and activists can use the tactics of the 2006 'Day Without an Immigrant' strikes and protests to help to stop ICE. The capitalist system hyper-exploits immigrants for their labour and tries to divide

workers across borders. A crucial part of the fightback against Trump and for immigrant rights is to put pressure on the profits of the corporations and the billionaires.

The Independent Socialist Group stands for escalating the fight against ICE.

We call for:

- An end to ICE raids, stop the deportations, and release detainees.
- Abolish ICE!
- No one is "illegal"! Amnesty for all undocumented immigrants
- "An injury to one is an injury

to all!" Unions to organise active solidarity with immigrants, including mass rallies, walkouts, and strikes

- Mass union drives to help organize and defend immigrant workers

- Independent progressive and left candidates to run for office as part of organising a workers' party that can oppose the two corporate parties and fight for immigrant and workers' rights

- Organise a mass socialist movement for international working-class solidarity across borders

15,000 Iranian oil workers on strike

JOE WOOLFALL

At the start of November, 15,000 Iranian oil workers went on strike at the South Pars field, an important gas field for the Iranian economy.

The dispute, led by the Association of Gas Industry Workers' Unions of Bushehr Province, is due to poor working conditions, pay, and inadequate leave time. The workers' demands also point to violations of labour laws by the Iranian government and private contractors, who often employ workers through exploitative temporary contracts.

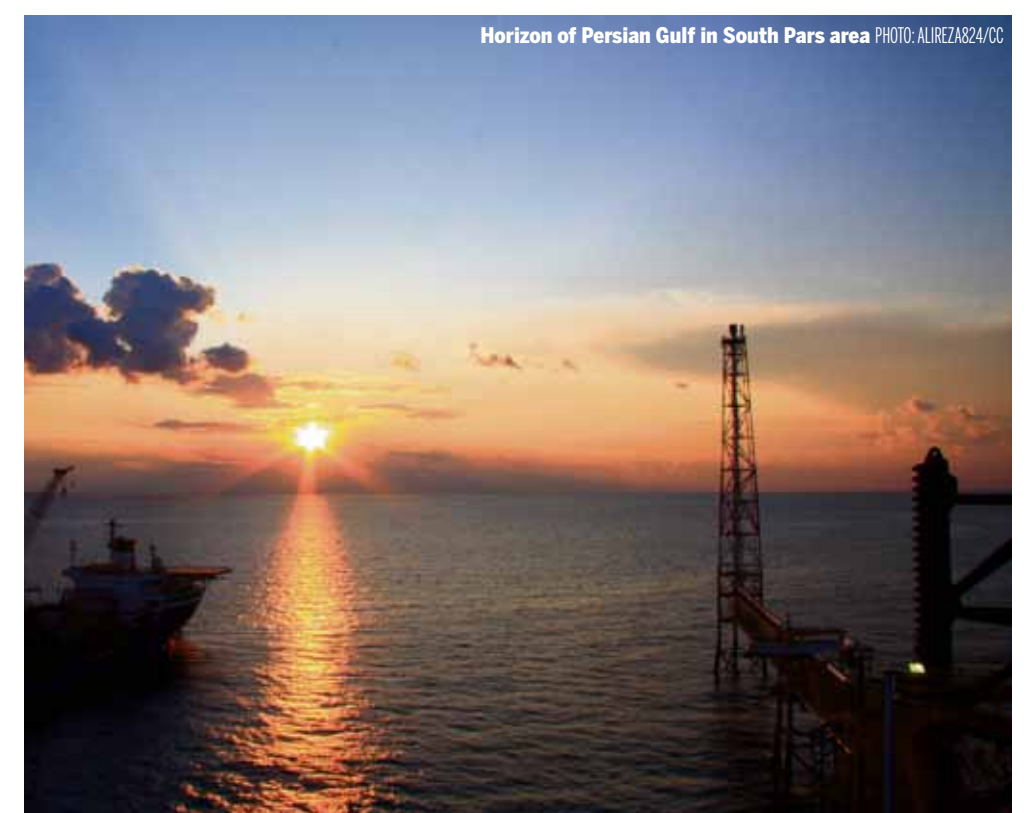
South Pars produces 40% of Iran's income and 70% of the nation's energy. This means that the workers here potentially have a lot of power through withdrawing their labour. This strike demonstrates who ultimately has power within society: the workers who keep everything running.

Despite the repression carried out by the Iranian regime, strikes have been on the rise in recent years. Oil and gas workers, in particular, have led strikes in various provinces in Iran. 2021 saw refinery workers unite under the 'Campaign 1400' banner, when thousands went on strike to protest poor wages and conditions.

Continuation of action

The 15,000 on strike most recently stopped work on 11 November in a continuation of action from the start of the month. The workers wrote in a letter to the Iranian authorities: "We will continue to organise, to educate, and to stand in solidarity with workers both within and beyond Iran's borders, recognising that the struggle for justice is neither fleeting nor confined - it is the living pulse of a people resolved to uphold integrity, sovereignty."

70%
South Pars
produces
70% of
Iran's
energy



Horizon of Persian Gulf in South Pars area PHOTO: ALIREZA24/CC



The Committee for a Workers' International (CWI) is the international socialist organisation which the Socialist Party is affiliated to. The CWI is organised in many countries. We work to unite the working class and oppressed peoples against capitalism, and to fight for a socialist world.
socialistworld.net

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the Socialist

Issue 1345

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formerly **Militant**

Students: BACK STRIKES FIGHT FEES BEAT CUTS

ODUN

LEICESTER SOCIALIST STUDENTS

Keir Starmer's Labour government is raising tuition fees. But Socialist Students is mobilising a fightback.

Labour has promised that tuition fees will rise by inflation every year. And they are enshrining that it into law.

Labour's tuition cost rise this year is the biggest tuition rise since the Tory-Lib Dem coalition trebled fees in 2010, provoking hundreds of thousands of students to protest, occupy, and walk out.

What do we get for this fee rise?

Job cuts across universities - 10,000 already. And maintenance loans that Labour has said will still not match the cost of living - currently £502 a month short.

Feeling the anger of students and workers, Labour has promised the return of some maintenance grants. Do we expect these to cover the cost of living?

Socialist Students is fighting for maintenance grants for all, at a level that gives all students a decent standard of living. We demand fully funded free education, defending jobs of staff - paid for by the super-rich.

Leicester uni staff are striking again to defend 160 jobs from £11 million cuts. 300 demonstrated on 12 November. Socialist Students is supporting the picket lines (see pages 12-13).

Leicester Socialist Students is organising campaign stalls. On one stall, we distributed close to 200 leaflets. Students indicated interest in fighting back.

We're campaigning for students to join the struggle to halt the tuition fee rise, course closures, and demand full funding and democratic running of universities.

Students and staff need to unite to build a movement and political alternative to demand the wealth be taken off the 1% to guarantee free education, maintenance grants for all students, and full funding of education and other public services.

Leicester Socialist Students march with striking uni workers PHOTOS: STEVE SCORE



WHAT WE STAND FOR: THE SOCIALIST PARTY'S MAIN DEMANDS >>> see column on page 8-9

