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20 November YOUTH STRIKE FOR OUR FUTURE

Join international walkouts

Fight for our future, not their wars



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RALLY PHOTOS: NICK CLARE

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RALLY

N20 IS JUST THE BEGINNING: FIGHT FOR OUR FUTURE!

"Fight for our futures", Socialist Students national chair **Adam Powell-Davies** shouted under the lights on stage as the audience chanted back in unison "Not their wars", from the darkness of the hall to end a storming rally, the conclusion to a fantastic Socialism 2026 weekend in London.

Chairing an international line-up of youth and student fighters and representatives, Adam concluded the rally, hosted by Socialist Students: "Whatever the country, the problems facing the generation represented on this stage, more widely in this hall and at this event, are the same. It's war, it's climate crisis, crumbling education, low pay and unemployment, to name a few. Governments everywhere, representing the billionaires and big business, want to sacrifice our futures for their profit and their capitalist system. 20 November though, will be a step towards us showing that, as a generation, we are ready to organise alongside the wider working class to fight for our futures, not their wars."

What next?

The rally set the scene for the international youth strike on 20 November and Adam concluded by pointing the way forward:

"20 November has to be the beginning. Because on 21 November, capitalist bosses and their politicians will continue to fuel war and climate change, while whipping up racism and division to try to stop us from fighting back against their system.

"The capitalist class are organised through things like their own political parties and their own media organisations as mouthpieces for them. Well, our side - young people and the working class - have to do the same.

"For students, that means building student unions where we meet with our classmates and our coursemates, and can take action over the issues that affect us. Individually, we can be angry, but collectively we can make an impact. By coordinating with other students and getting organised across Britain and internationally, our campaign can have the biggest effect possible.

"Students also cannot do it alone. We're very pleased that on 20 November we will be joined by workers within the University and College Union, taking a day of action across post-16 education. The NEU and other unions have passed motions in support too.

"As a next step, we would call on those unions and others to mobilise a fightback of their members for the resources that we need for education and our public services.

"Internationally, Socialist Students is calling for the current network of student and youth organisations organising around 20 November to develop as an international socialist youth network. This would not just allow further coordinated dates of action going into the future, but also discussion between different organisations and between young people internationally on the way forward.

"Socialist Students, for example, at our conference earlier this year raised the idea of a mass workers' and youth demonstration in the streets of Manchester. This would march to Number 10 North on 27-28 November 2027, when the G20 grouping of world capitalist powers will be meeting in Manchester.

"20 November has to be the beginning. Because on 21 November, capitalist bosses and their politicians will continue to fuel war and climate change, while whipping up racism and division to try to stop us from fighting back against their system"

Events in France

"Given the pace of events, action may be needed before then on an international scale. There is a major presidential showdown taking place in France in April likely, with the left-wing candidate Mélenchon versus the far-right Le Pen. We would float this idea for the wider network: if Le Pen wins, why couldn't a socialist international youth network put out the call for an international day of walkouts and protests, in solidarity with French workers and youth, against racist division, austerity and capitalism?



"We hope that it won't reach that stage. Mélenchon's presidential stand would best have a chance of winning if La France Insoumise, Mélenchon's party, went out now and organised committees in every town and city in France, inviting delegates from student organisations, workplaces and trade unions to come together, discuss and form a plan of action.



"This could build the movement further, not just in the streets and workplaces, schools, lycées and universities, but also politically.

"Local committees linking up regionally and nationally could lay the basis for mass political organisation, which could mobilise on the ground to defend Mélenchon's programme should he win. It would also be a forum in which socialists could argue why the mass movement would have to go beyond Mélenchon's programme: to continue mobilising to take society's levers of power into its hands as a basis for a democratic socialist plan of the economy.

"Imagine the effect that a Mélenchon presidency, linked to the fight for a socialist government in France, would have on raising the confidence of working-class and young people across Europe and the world.

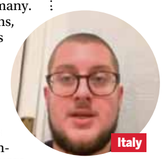
"Of course, if Le Pen did win, we would say the struggle wouldn't end there. The same goes for the elections in the Spanish state: the struggle will not end there. These right-wing and far-right populists will face opposition from day one. Look at the beating that Trump, Bolsonaro Junior and Vučić in Serbia have had in the last few weeks.

"We're in an era where no party, no rulers seeking to rule on behalf of this crisis-ridden system, can avoid resistance. But the key question is still how best we can strengthen that going forward. On 20 November, we have a chance to be a factor in the calculations of the ruling class and their governments all around the world."



International speakers

Speakers at the rally included **Jay Ewert** of the Left Youth and Sol (CWI Germany) from Berlin. "Almost a year ago, the school strikes against conscription began in Germany. Over the following months, the movement brought tens of thousands of students onto the streets over several terms."



Alessandro Di Miceli

"All of this - the school strikes, the Gen Z Takes Charge movement which has now emerged, and the upcoming youth strike - shows the urge of the youth to fight back against the deep crisis of capitalism they face every day. The 20 November, which both the school strike movement and the Gen Z Takes Charge movement are mobilising for, will surely be even bigger than the last protest. But it won't bring change by itself. It's not the end; it's the beginning.

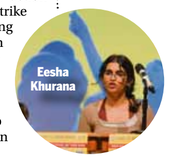
"The working class and the youth are clearly drawing conclusions about the system being rotten and the need for something new. And we know what that is: a socialist society."

Alice Cohen-Morzadec of Union Étudiante in France, took to the stage 'speaking right from the heat of battle.' Alice explained how "it has become impossible to live decently in France as a worker or as a young student" and how this is fuelling the movement by students and strikes by workers. 1.6 million workers took strike action on 5 November, and "by having concrete demands that speak to everyone's material needs: higher salaries, higher study grants, and better studying and living conditions" meant that the mobilisations have been massive, reported Alice. The plans for 20 November itself include "sit-ins in our universities, showing them that what we want for our future is not war. It is the right to study and to live decently."

Laura Spearey from Sindicato de Estudiantes in the Spanish state followed, again fresh from a major struggle, with workers there taking their first general for 14 years on 11 November: "In the Spanish state, we had a historic general strike with 4 million workers on strike and more than 2 million students taking to the streets.

"The general strike filled us with strength and confidence. That is why all the struggles going on are so important, such as the indefinite strike by education workers and teachers, especially in Madrid, with the students union fighting shoulder to shoulder with them and mobilising thousands of students."

Alessandro Di Miceli joined the rally via video from youth and student organisation Rete della Conoscenza in Italy, where recent strike action will continue with a general strike on 20 November, coinciding with the international youth strike. He said: "We are really trying to build something big, and the workers' movement is joining us which is wonderful. We can't wait to join you all on the streets on 20 November."



Youth organisations supporting N20 here

Like trade unions (see pages 10-11), youth organisations have thrown their support behind N20. This includes the National Union of Students, and its vice president for higher education in England, **Lewis Wilson**, addressed the rally saying: "I'm proud to be a part of the National Union of Students and a student of the University of Sussex Students' Union, able to come together and organise with students from around the country, to be part of something greater and to lead on 20 November. This is something that the National Union of Students hasn't been doing for a little bit of time, and it's time that we start doing so."



Another organisation is the Young Greens, the youth wing of the Green Party in England and Wales. The Young Greens co-chair **Jo Dowbor** also spoke, imploring people to join the strike:



"The future of our youth doesn't look promising. Those who have the luck of studying in the UK, whether for a bachelor's or a master's degree, have to pay immense tuition fees, which, until very recently, wasn't the case. Nor is it the case in many other countries. So I refuse, and we refuse, to believe that this is the only way to afford education. I want you to strike, and I want you to protest on 20 November. But this cannot be a one-off event. This must be the beginning of something bigger."

300 walkouts and rising

At the time of the rally there were 300 walkouts planned which Socialist Students were aware of, with more joining all the time. Adam Powell-Davies joked about how busy his phone is!

Speaking at the rally from Socialist Students was **Eesha Khurana**. Eesha talked about all the work that has gone into building N20: "It's insane to me to say that 20 November is less than a week away. In this room, there are months and months of hard work represented between us.

"We've all been on stalls at the crack of dawn, at schools and colleges up and down the country, building amongst the new generation of revolutionaries, increasingly politicised by events. We've got 15-year-olds wanting to build walkouts and parents reaching out of cars to get our leaflets."

And the reasons so many young people are angry and want to walk out: "Our schools are underfunded. I remember broken windows, whiteboard pens only available if the teachers themselves had chipped in to get them, and a pastoral team that was completely overstretched, leaving children falling through the gaps constantly.

"The price of a university education is going higher and higher, year on year. And the quality of a university education is going down, all while the job market looks dismal."

But 20 November only represents the beginning of the fightback: "On N20, we will be steeled by the activity and organisation we've all been taking part in for so long. We'll use it on the day to take our voices back. But also, beyond that, we've got to take the fight forward.

"We'll continue the links we've built with the trade unions and argue for setting up a mass workers' party, where we take political power into our own hands and stop asking politicians who obviously don't have our best interests at heart to put through the measures that we need."



● Read more about Socialism 2026 on pages 4-5
● See a full list of N20 walkouts, rallies and more details on pages 8-9



The student movement in France
PHOTO: PATXI BELTZAITZ & BERRIA EGUNKARIA/CC

Socialism 2026 Entering a new upturn of mass workers' and youth struggles

Set in the thick of historic world events, Socialism 2026 was an occasion like no other. Hundreds of young people, trade unionists and campaigners - many of them leaders of struggles locally and nationally - came together in London 14-15 November to discuss socialist ideas, and concretely how to apply them.

In 41 different workshops and two rallies, the experiences of workplace battles, of building for the youth strikes, of historic struggles of the working class, of the mass movements taking place worldwide and of fighting for the trade unions to lead the working-class struggle needed in Britain, were shared and absorbed. All vital preparation for a new generation of socialist fighters - which made up a big proportion of those in attendance - beginning to enter into the fray.

The Saturday evening rally heard youth organisers from Britain and France speak, as well as leading trade unionists who have been engaged in a battle for the unions to take action nationally in Britain – like in Europe, including in Ireland.

Tony Saunois, Secretary of the Committee for a Workers' International, the international socialist organisation the Socialist Party is a part of, concluded the rally explaining "the crucial need for a revolutionary socialist international to be built. One that draws upon all the historic experiences of the working class, which is able to intervene in the class struggles and upheavals that are taking place, with the correct programme, methods, and tactics, in order to ensure eventually we see socialist transformation internationally."



NICK CLARE



Socialism 2026 rally speakers (left to right) Hugo Pierre, Unison NEC (2015-25); John Williams, TUC General Council (pc); Reece Lawton, PCS NEC (pc); Sheila Caffrey, NEU Executive (pc); Ciaran McKenna SIPTU (Ireland) Executive (pc); Becca Bayman, Socialist Students; Hannah Sell, Socialist Party General Secretary; Tony Saunois, Secretary of the CWI; Elemaiah Beuriot, Gauche Révolutionnaire (CWI France); Berkay Kartav, Socialist Party National Committee NICK CLARE

*We publish extracts of the speech by **Hannah Sell, Socialist Party General Secretary.***

"The reasons to fight for a different, better, socialist world are so overwhelming, so many, it's impossible to know where to begin.

In Britain, average household costs – so mortgages or rent, plus bills – have gone up by £14,000 a year since 2021 alone.

War and conflict are on the rise globally.

The genocidal slaughter of the Palestinians continues. This week, one of the few remaining hospitals bombed to rubble, and medical staff killed.

Climate change is accelerating.

Capitalism has always been a system driven for profit. But today, it's a decaying system. It's a system ripe for overthrow.

You could have come to Socialism 2025 last year, or the year before, and heard speakers say all of those things. But what is different this year is that millions of workers and young people have entered struggle. Not just in one country, but in many.

20 November is a very important date in our calendar. It's when students in Britain are going to join the struggle, walking out in the International Youth Strike that will sweep 25 countries or more.

We pledge in the Socialist Party that we will continue to do all we can to assist Socialist Students in building the strongest possible day of strike action.

Friday 20 November is a beginning, not an end. We are entering a new upturn.

Young people and students are undoubtedly leading the way, many have adopted socialist ideas on a broad scale. At the same time, they are still at an early stage in getting organised and fighting for socialism.

Students and youth organise

The biggest success of N20 will be if Socialist Students' proposal to the other organisations involved in the network that called N20 is taken up, to build on the success of N20, and to create an international socialist youth and student network.

The victory here in Britain will be if it increases the level of fighting youth and student organisation, in preparation for the greater battles to come.

It's fantastic that young people are entering the field of battle. But, of course, the workers' movement also needs to join the struggle. Because the working class is the key force capable of overthrowing capitalism.

Our class's strength flows from being the one that makes the bosses' profits, that keeps society running. And has the power to bring society to a halt through collective action.

The collective character of our class, the collective character of its struggle, creates a collective consciousness. Which is preparation for building a new democratic, socialist, collective society.

The Socialist Party is at the forefront in fighting to ensure that there is action in the public sector trade unions. And that the day is named for a national mass Saturday demonstration against austerity. And if the Trades Union Congress (TUC) fails to do that, for those unions that are fighting for a demonstration to go ahead and to call it anyway.

But the excuse that is given by the trade union leaders nationally, for not calling action at this point, is we've got a new Prime Minister.

They are leaning on the inevitable, faint hopes that perhaps Burnham's going to be better than Starmer.

But what was Burnham's first major policy announcement? It was to break the triple lock on pensions – to steal £50 billion a year from the state pension by 2050.

In the main newspaper of the bosses in Britain, the Financial Times, there were 12 major articles demanding the breaking of the triple lock in the four months before Burnham became Prime Minister.

It's the same on youth unemployment, disability benefits, the NEET crisis. How on earth does cutting PIP - a benefit meant to enable people to live their lives, to go to work - help young people find employment?

We know youth unemployment is a real problem, and action should be taken. Not cutting benefits. There's no lack of work needs doing!

Just one example. Imagine Burnham did what he said he was going to do – and immediately reneged on – and had a mass council house building programme. How many jobs that would create?

When the Socialist Party's predecessor, Militant, led Liverpool Council in the 1980s, we built 5,000 council houses. And that created 16,000 jobs in just one city.

But measures like that would require taking the fight to the capitalist class. Instead, Burnham is representing their interests.

Like Starmer before him, he is going to attempt to make the working class, the young, the poor, and disabled people, pay the price of further austerity.

So the arguments of union leaders, that we don't need to fight because Burnham's on our side, are met with a high degree of scepticism now. They're going to be met with outright derision, all too soon!

When people say striking doesn't work, tell them about the French National Assembly. They just voted down the austerity budget, by 485 to 0. Nobody voted for it!

The capitalist politicians haven't changed their minds! But with an election looming, and the working class on the streets, they could not vote for that austerity budget.

Workers' parties

One of the most important tasks in Britain, and every country, is for the working class to begin to build our own parties.

No doubt, when a million Unite the Union members start discussing what their political representation should be, the Greens will feature in those discussions. But what is needed is not a discussion on which brand the workers' movement should support, should it switch from Labour to the Greens? The issue is our class, entering the political field independently, as its own force.

When the 'wait for Burnham' card doesn't work anymore, then some trade unions will say: 'You've got to vote Labour, otherwise you'll get Reform.' That approach is a tremendous gift to Reform.

Because yes, Reform support the capitalist system, they're up to their eyes in corruption, they're racist, they're divisive. But, they pose as being a party of the little people against the establishment.

And if our class, if the workers' movement doesn't begin to enter the electoral field, it is inevitable that workers will vote for Reform or their ilk, in order to punish the establishment parties.

Look at France – the epicentre of class struggle in Europe right now. The racist, populist, Le Pen leads in the polls for next year's presidential elections.

The candidates of the capitalist establishment parties are massively unpopular. To give one example, Glucksmann, the candidate of the centre-left, on less than 10% in the polls. He tried to go to the general strike, and he had to run away, because so many workers were shouting at him. People threw rice and flour at him out of their windows, shouting "Mélenchon, Mélenchon!" – the left candidate in the presidential elections.

A workers' party, fighting for the socialist transformation of society, democratic workers' control. Taking the levers of power out of the hands of the saboteurs, the billionaires.

Achieving that would require the working class and youth mobilising to defeat the capitalist sabotage. It would pose developing the workplace assemblies, creating the basis for working-class organisation capable of taking the power, and organising a new democratic, socialist society.

If Le Pen was to win, that would not be the end of the class struggle in France, but the start of a new, and even more ferocious, struggle.

In those circumstances, wouldn't building on N20, by calling a European-wide youth strike in solidarity with the French working class, be an important next step?

When right-wing racist politicians win elections, it's a defeat. But their lack of a social base, and the strength of the working class fighting against them, means that their weakness is revealed.

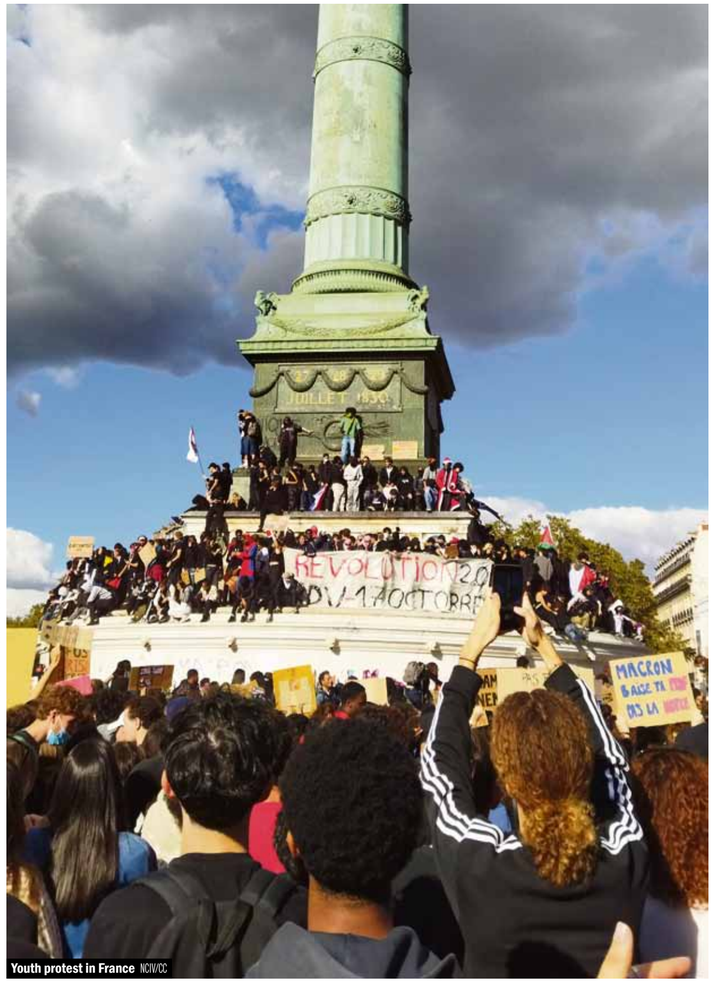
Look at the US midterms! Look at Serbia! Look at Brazil!

A wave of mass mobilisations, sweeping the right from power. That does not mean the threat of the right is gone.

We are preparing for big battles ahead. At every point, we aim to be the most determined fighters for every step forward for working-class and young people. To transform the unions. To create a workers' party. To build for N20 - and then to build on it.

In those struggles, we raise the need for socialism and we urge others: join us in the Socialist Party. Join us in building support for the ideas, the programme, that can enable the working class and young people to overthrow this rotten capitalist order. And build a world where, instead of society being driven by the profits of a few, technology is harnessed to look after our planet, and to create a world where humanity can reach its potential.

If you agree. If you want to fight for that. Join us in the Socialist Party.



Youth protest in France NCIV/CC

At every point, we aim to be the most determined fighters for every step forward for working-class and young people. To transform the unions. To create a workers' party. To build for N20 - and then to build on it.

£49,648 raised to fund the struggle for socialism!

This year's Socialism financial appeal raised a fantastic total of £49,648 in pledges, more than half of which has already been paid, showing the support for our ideas and the enthusiasm to fight for them in the struggles ahead.

The appeal remains open till the end of the year, so there is still the chance to help us get to the £50,000 target just within reach, by donating and appealing to those who have not yet done so to contribute. Pledges to be redeemed by 31 December.

Thank you to all those who donated!

Watch the rally online at youtube.com/SocialistPartyCWI

WHY WE'RE WALKING OUT

We are fighting for our futures, not their wars. We demand a future in which we can thrive, are not expected to live in damp, expensive houses, work countless hours in a dead-end job (if you're lucky!), or have to deal with a world in which once-in-a-lifetime natural disasters happen every other month. We are demanding change and are fighting back to address all the issues we face.



MARY FINCH

Education

MOLLIE NIXON
CARLISLE SOCIALIST PARTY

74% of schools in England have less funding in real terms than in 2010. Over 70% of teachers say funding no longer meets pupils' basic needs. Class sizes in the UK are climbing amongst the highest in Europe, while teachers' pay has fallen.

After we face an obscene number of exams, we then leave school only to find a shortage of opportunities for skilled placements, pushing many of us towards university as the only option.

Since 1998, tuition fees have shifted the cost of higher education from the state onto students. Maintenance loans haven't matched inflation, leaving students with a £467 monthly shortfall. Unsurprisingly, 46% have considered dropping out due to financial pressures, while almost two-thirds have skipped meals to save money.

After graduating, students will be spat out with almost £50,000 of debt that will never be repaid, and interest of top of that which comes out of our pay every month.

Now that students are paying for education, where is the money going? Educators' pay has failed to match inflation for 15 years, while Russell Group Vice-Chancellors' salaries have risen to 6.6 times the pay of the average teaching professional in higher education. Meanwhile, staff face excessive workloads and insecure contracts, fuelling a retention crisis that means students are lumped with less support, fewer courses and declining teaching quality.

Socialist Students thinks that educators and students know best what our education system needs - not the ruling class, which treats education as a cost to minimise rather than an investment into our futures. That's why we're walking out on 20 November.

We demand:

- Proper funding for education, with adequate resources for every subject, fair pay for teachers and education staff, flexible curricula, pastoral care, manageable class sizes and fully funded SEND facilities
- Education should be free, with the resources needed to provide it coming from the wealth hoarded by the super-rich
- Student debt should be cancelled, and non-repayable living grants should be re-introduced for everyone
- Redirect the £300 billion allocated to defence spending back into our public services

Jobs

AYSHA BURTON
TOWER HAMLETS SOCIALIST PARTY

We have a growing youth unemployment crisis. And the Labour Party's response? Attacking the measly benefit payments young people just about get by on. The Labour government is trying to blame us for a jobs crisis, as if we aren't all trying to find decent jobs. The unemployment rate for 16 to 24-year-olds currently sits at 15.6%.

Ths system is in crisis, and young workers are feeling the brunt of it. We send out countless applications only to hear nothing. We pay the price for the waves of restructures and redundancies, where the last in is the first out, and progression towards greater job security is effectively non-existent.

Alan Milburn, former Labour health secretary, has been brought in to reduce unemployment for 16 to 24-year-olds. His solution? Prevent them from receiving Personal Independence Payments (PIP) - a provision given to help with the additional cost of being disabled or living with long-term physical or mental health conditions - and only giving access to the basic rate of Universal Credit. A nonsense move that affects those who are most vulnerable during this unemployment crisis, particularly as PIP is available to those both in and out of work, and is a lifeline to many disabled young people.

Young people are expected to front up the bill for capitalism in crisis. But there is a real alternative, a fight that can secure us the future we deserve. We need a £15-an-hour minimum wage and no youth rates for work as just a start. This can be achieved by trade union campaigning, to fight for the pay we deserve.

We demand:

- End low pay. Abolish youth rates and pay us what we deserve
- For a socially useful job creation programme. Share out the work and invest in the infrastructure we need
- Utilise advances in new technology to provide us all with a decent standard of living instead of maximising profits for a few

Housing

ADAM TYAS
LEICESTER SOCIALIST PARTY

Private landlords and large housing corporations dominate the housing market, extracting as much profit as possible from the rest of us. Private rents rose by 34.8% over the last five years, and our wages have not kept up. England's council house waiting lists are in the millions with nowhere near enough council housing being built to meet demand.

Tory prime minister Margaret Thatcher's disastrous 'Right to Buy' policy transferred huge amounts of council housing into private hands, leaving generations without affordable homes. Even Andy Burnham, who promised to 'end 40 years of neoliberalism' and introduce a mass council house building programme, similar to that of post-war Labour governments, has already abandoned this pledge.

The situation for students is dire. University accommodation and private student flats are increasingly unaffordable, with landlords and accommodation providers prioritising profits over students' needs. Average student rent reached £551 a month in 2026, while maintenance loans average around £679, leaving students with just £128 for everything else every month, including food, travel and study supplies.

After their first year, students face poorly maintained properties and extortionate rents. Graduating offers little relief, as low wages, insecure working hours and rising rents make saving for a mortgage deposit almost impossible.

We need rent controls, with rents determined democratically by local communities, and tenants' needs put before landlords' profits. And we need a massive national programme of council house building, similar to what Liverpool's Militant-led council did in the 1980s. This would provide affordable, energy-efficient, well-insulated homes, create thousands of jobs and give working-class people the security and stability we deserve.

Student accommodation should be brought into public ownership and placed under the democratic control of student unions and students themselves. And, if necessary, building new, genuinely affordable and high-quality halls of residence.



We demand:

- Rent controls now. Bring down our rents and build high-quality council homes
- Take student halls out of private hands and kick profit out of the housing system

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Climate

BEN MATTHEWS
WEST LONDON SOCIALIST PARTY

N20 coincides with the end of the 31st COP conference, on paper meant to agree the kind of global action necessary to avert the swiftly approaching climate catastrophe. But, as per usual, the conference draws to a close with nothing to show for it but a load of hot air. Politicians representing their own super-rich bosses will split their time between fighting to make sure their billionaires don't have to foot the bill for environmental action, and schmoozing with lobbyists and CEOs from the polluting industries.

But we're not going to accept their inaction which is taking our future away from us. Many of us walking out on N20 were out on the streets during the 'Fridays for a Future' walk-outs. Then we said we need system change not climate change.

The system that is responsible can't be dealt with just by replacing bad politicians or swapping out villainous billionaires for 'good' ones. What is at fault is the capitalist system at root that places profit above our livelihoods, and is based on competing nation states desperate to make sure they get the lion's share of those profits.

That's why we're walking out to fight for an alternative – a socialist alternative – that can take the action required to avert climate catastrophe. We say make the bosses pay for the climate crisis not us! Take the big polluting industries out of the hands of the bosses, alongside the big banks and businesses, and democratically nationalise them, with compensation only paid on the basis of proven need. Then we could draw up a plan of production across the planet that guarantees a decent standard of living, transitions away from polluting fossil fuels, and secures us a future safe to live in.

We demand:

- Socialist change to avert climate catastrophe. A democratic plan to transition away from polluting fossil fuels
- Investment into environmentally friendly production. Insulate our homes and public buildings. Run a free, high-quality public transport system. End capitalist waste and obsolescence



Students walking out against climate change in 2019 MARY FINCH

Working-class fightback can cut across racist division

ROBBIE DAVIDSON
MANCHESTER SOCIALIST STUDENTS

Costs skyrocket while wages lag behind. Secure housing, decent education and reliable health care are a pipe dream to the vast majority of us. Parties of every persuasion have been determined to make us pay for their system's crisis and have become deeply unpopular as a result.

Traditional party loyalty is gone, and the far-right has preyed on the vacuum by offering the empty solution of racist division and anti-migrant rhetoric. The National Rally in France, the AfD in Germany, Farage's Reform in Britain and many more have surged in popularity - creating a tangible fear amongst huge sections of society of what a government of the right may look like, or indeed what it may do to their community.

The tiny minority of super-rich bosses who hoard incredible wealth and resources, just a fraction of which could transform the lives of the working class worldwide, benefit by diving the working class using racist and anti-migrant scapegoating.

On 20 November, Socialist Students isn't just fighting to end the sharp rises in military spending, but to win all the wealth needed to offer decent housing, free education, well-paid jobs and properly funded public services for all.

We think a party launched by and for working people, with such an approach along with our biggest and strongest organisations - the trade unions - at its heart, would go some distance in convincing working-class and young people of the need for us to fight together rather than spiral into division along racial or other lines. This was shown by the up to one million voters who dropped Nigel Farage's UKIP to support Jeremy Corbyn's anti-austerity programme in 2017.

We demand:

- Jobs, homes and services for all, no to racist division. The trade unions should campaign for these demands and use their position in society to fight for them
- A new mass party that represents the working-class majority, armed with a socialist programme, to cut across the rise of the populist and divisive right

SOCIALISM TODAY
Monthly magazine of the Socialist Party
November issue includes...
- Europe rises up
- Burnham and the unions
- Is the UK on the road to break up?

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Against war

RHYS
SWANSEA SOCIALIST PARTY

In the wake of increased militarism, warmongering, austerity and even proposed conscription by some governments, young people and workers are taking a stand across Europe by walking out, marching and striking.

It should come as no surprise that young people have no faith in our governments and hold such disgust at their militaries when they look at the news and see genocides, wars, wanton bombings and the brutal murder of civilians.

How can politicians expect young people to support a government that labels peaceful protesters 'terrorists' while supporting the genocidal actions of the Israeli state?

But in many of the poorer areas across Britain and Europe, young people are pushed into military service. Where I live in south Wales, poverty and unemployment from the deindustrialisation of the 1980s are still a blight on our communities.

Economic conscription

Military recruiters are in every single jobs fair, school, college, university and even events like Pride. They prey on the lack of work and opportunities by promising jobs, training, a career and the prospect of travelling away from the destitution of their hometowns. But of course, the poverty of these areas is directly the government's fault, and it is within the government's power to permanently fix all these issues. But instead, their military comes in selling the solution, pretending they're doing us a service by being here.

A sixth-form student recently told me he believes it is disgraceful that the military is allowed into school to prey on his poor and vulnerable classmates. He quit the Army Cadets a year before due to not wanting any involvement in the government's actions. And this is not an isolated opinion – it's shown in the mass youth uprisings across the world where young people took a clear stand against their governments, despite police repression.

This is one of the many reasons we're walking out on 20 November and taking a stand against militarism, austerity and, ultimately, capitalism itself. Young people have had enough of being attacked by our governments with rampant austerity and cuts in order to fuel their war machine.

We demand:

- An end to war and militarisation. It's the bosses and their governments that make us unsafe
- Use the resources earmarked to invest in our services. Give us real jobs and pay, not economic conscription



the Socialist
formerly Militant
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19-25 November 2026

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

Northern

- Darlington College
- Durham University
- Gateshead College
- Grace College, Gateshead
- Heworth Grange School, Gateshead
- Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy, Gateshead
- Newcastle College
- Newcastle University
- Northumbria University, Newcastle
- Teesside University, Middlesbrough
- University of Cumbria, Carlisle

North West

- Archbishop Temple School, Preston
- Cardinal Newman College, Preston
- University of Chester
- Childwall Sports and Science Academy, Liverpool
- The City of Liverpool College
- Colne Park High School
- Didsbury High School, Manchester
- Edge Hill University, Ormskirk
- Gateacre School, Liverpool
- University of Greater Manchester, Bolton
- Haslingden High School
- Holy Cross College, Bury
- Ladybridge High School, Bolton
- University of Lancashire (UCLan), Preston
- University of Liverpool
- Liverpool Hope University
- Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU)
- LMA (Liverpool Media Academy)
- Loreto College, Manchester
- University of Manchester
- The Manchester College
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Rare School of Fashion, Liverpool
- Runshaw College, Leyland
- University of Salford
- Spirit Studios, Manchester
- St Ambrose Barlow RC High School, Salford
- Stretford Grammar School, Manchester
- Trinity Sixth Form, Carlisle
- Turton School, Bolton
- University Academy 92 (UA92), Manchester
- Walton-le-Dale High School, Bamber Bridge
- Xaverian College, Manchester

Yorkshire and Humber

- Askham Bryan College, York
- Barnsley College
- Beckfoot Oakbank, Keighley
- Doncaster College
- Franklin Sixth Form College, Grimsby
- Grimsby Institute
- Hall Cross Academy, Doncaster
- Hessle High School
- High Storrs School, Sheffield
- Horizon Community College, Barnsley
- Hull College
- King Edward VII School, Sheffield
- University of Leeds
- Leeds Arts University
- Leeds Beckett University
- Leeds City College
- Leeds Conservatoire
- Melior Community Academy, Scunthorpe
- New College Doncaster
- New College Pontefract
- Notre Dame Sixth Form, Leeds
- Oasis Academy Wintringham, Grimsby
- Ridgewood School, Doncaster
- Rodillian Academy, Wakefield
- Roundhay School, Leeds
- University of Sheffield
- The Sheffield College, City Campus
- The Sheffield College, Hillsborough Campus
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Wakefield College
- Woldgate School, Pocklington
- Wyke Sixth Form College, Hull
- University of York
- York College
- York St John University

East Midlands

- Caistor Grammar School
- Chesterfield College
- Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies, Nottingham
- De Montfort University (DMU), Leicester
- Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School
- High Pavement Sixth Form (Nottingham College)
- Kingsthorpe College, Northampton
- Lady Manners School, Bakewell
- University of Leicester
- Leicester College
- University of Lincoln
- Lincoln College
- Malcolm Arnold Academy, Northampton
- Northampton College
- University of Nottingham
- Nottingham Trent University
- Prince William School, Oundle
- South Nottinghamshire Academy, Radcliffe-on-Trent
- West Notts College, Mansfield
- WQE College, Leicester

West Midlands

- University of Birmingham
- Birmingham City University (BCU)
- Bishop Challoner Catholic College, Birmingham
- BOA Sixth Form, Birmingham
- Cadbury Sixth Form College, Birmingham
- Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, Coventry
- City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College
- Colmers School, Birmingham
- Coventry College
- Coventry University
- Halesowen College
- Heart of Worcestershire College
- Hereford Sixth Form College
- Holyhead School, Birmingham
- Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College, Birmingham
- Keele University
- King Edward VI College, Nuneaton
- King Edward VI High School, Stafford
- Lode Heath School, Solihull
- Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (NSCG), Newcastle-under-Lyme
- North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College (Nuneaton)
- Paget High School and Burton and South Derbyshire College, Burton upon Trent
- Saint John Henry Newman Catholic School, Coventry
- Shrewsbury Colleges Group
- Solihull Sixth Form College
- South and City College, Longbridge, Birmingham
- St Edmund Campion Catholic School, Birmingham
- Stafford Manor High School
- University of Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent
- Swanshurst School, Birmingham
- The Telford Park School
- University College Birmingham Sixth Form
- University of Warwick, Coventry
- Warwickshire College University Centre (WCUC), Leamington Spa
- University of Wolverhampton
- University of Worcester

Eastern

- Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford
- Barclay Academy Sixth Form, Stevenage
- University of Bedfordshire, Luton
- University of Cambridge
- Chancellor's School, Brookmans Park, Hatfield
- Chelmer Valley High School, Chelmsford
- City College Norwich
- Dame Alice Owen's School, Potters Bar
- Harlow College
- The Hemel Hempstead School
- University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield
- Hills Road Sixth Form, Cambridge
- Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge
- Longdean School, Hemel Hempstead
- Palmer's College, Grays
- Peterborough College
- USP College, Benfleet

London

- Ada, the National College for Digital Skills,
- AIM Academy North London
- Ark Academy, Wembley
- Ark John Keats Academy
- University of the Arts London (UAL)
- Birkbeck University
- Blackfen School for Girls
- Brunel University
- Camden School for Girls
- Capel Manor College
- Capital City College Enfield (CONEL)
- Christ's College Finchley
- The Courtyard Islington
- Crest Academy
- Croydon College
- University of East London (UEL)
- Eltham Hill School
- Enfield County Upper School
- Fortismere School
- Goldsmiths, University of London
- University of Greenwich
- The Grey Coat Hospital
- Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- Hatcham College
- Hewens College
- Highams Park School
- Highgate Wood School
- Hornsey School for Girls
- Inns of Court College of Advocacy
- Kingston College
- Kingston University
- King's College London (KCL)
- Lambeth College
- Langley Park School for Girls
- LaSWAP Sixth Form
- Latymer School
- Latymer Upper School
- University of Law (ULaw), Moorgate and Bloomsbury
- London Metropolitan University
- London School of Economics (LSE)
- New City College Hackney (BSix, Clapton)
- New City College Tower Hamlets (Poplar)
- Newham Sixth Form College (NewVIc)
- The Norwood School
- Oak Wood School, Hillingdon
- Oaklands School
- Oasis Academy Shirley Park Sixth Form
- Queen Mary University of London
- Ravensbourne University London
- SOAS University of London
- South Bank Colleges
- Space Studio West London
- Stoke Newington School
- Streatham and Clapham High School
- Swanlea School
- Tiffin School
- University College London (UCL)
- Uxbridge College
- Waltham Forest College
- University of West London (UWL)
- University of Westminster
- William Morris Sixth Form, Hammersmith

Southern

- Barton Peverill Sixth Form College, Eastleigh
- University of Brighton
- Brighton Metropolitan College (sixth form)
- Canterbury Christ Church University
- Collingwood College, Camberley
- Edgbarrow School, Crowthorne
- Esher Sixth Form College
- Fulston Manor School, Sittingbourne
- Hadlow Rural Community School
- Haywards Heath College
- Ifield Community College, Crawley
- The Judd School, Tonbridge
- King's School, Hove
- University of Law, Reading
- Milton Keynes College
- Norton Knatchbull School, Ashford
- Oakmoor School, Bordon
- University of Oxford
- University of Portsmouth
- Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke
- University of Reading
- Richard Taunton Sixth Form College, Southampton
- Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham
- Solent University, Southampton
- University of Southampton
- Southampton City College
- University of Surrey, Guildford
- University of Sussex, Brighton
- University for the Creative Arts (UCA), Farnham
- Valley Park School, Maidstone
- Varndean School, Brighton
- The Willink School, Burghfield
- University of Winchester
- Woking College

South West

- Abbeyfield School, Chippenham
- Access Creative College, Bristol
- Archway School, Stroud
- Arts University Bournemouth and Bournemouth University
- University of Bath
- Bournemouth School for Girls
- Bridgwater College Academy
- University of Bristol
- Brixham College
- Cirencester College
- City of Bristol College
- Commonweal School, Swindon
- Crispin School, Street
- E-ACT Montpelier High School, Bristol
- University of Exeter
- Exeter College
- Gillingham School, Dorset
- University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham
- Gloucestershire College
- The Gryphon School, Sherborne
- Hardenhuish School, Chippenham
- Hartpury University, Gloucester
- Hayle (school students)
- Holmleigh Park High School, Gloucester
- King Edward VI Community College, Totnes
- Launceston College
- Oldfield School, Bath
- Penryn Campus (Falmouth University and University of Exeter)
- University of Plymouth
- Plymouth Marjon University
- St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School, Bristol
- Truro and Penwith College
- UWE Bristol
- Wiltshire College

Scotland

- University of Aberdeen
- Airdrie Academy
- University of Dundee
- St Luke's High School, Barrhead
- University of the West of Scotland (Paisley campus)

Wales

- Aberystwyth University
- Bishop Vaughan Catholic School, Swansea
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Cardiff University
- Carmarthen School of Art (Coleg Sir Gâr)
- Coleg Gwent, Crosskeys Campus
- Coleg y Cymoedd, Nantgarw, Caerphilly
- Gower College Swansea (Gorseinon)
- Llangatwg Community School, Neath
- NPTC Group, Neath College
- University of South Wales (Cardiff campus)
- University of South Wales (Treforest campus), Pontypridd
- Stanwell School, Penarth
- Swansea University
- Tonyrefail Community School
- Ysgol Llanhari, Llanharry
- Ysgol Maesydderwen, Ystradgynlais

N20 central rally points

- **Central London: 12pm, Parliament Square**

Local meeting points (then travel together to Parliament Square):

- **Canary Wharf (east and south-east London): 12pm, Eden Dock (Canary Wharf Jubilee line entrance)**
- **Croydon: 11am, Croydon College**
- **Enfield: meet from 8am, Little Park Gardens car park, Chapel Street (behind Enfield County Upper School), then the 9am Enfield Town march**
- **Hackney: 10:30am, Hackney Town Hall**
- **Kingston: 11am, Kingston University, Town House building**
- **Law students bloc (law students): 12pm, outside the Red Lion pub, Parliament St**
- **Muswell Hill: 9am, East Finchley station**
- **Queen Mary University of London: 11am, Library Square**
- **SOAS: 11:30am, Malet Street Gates**
- **Surbiton (Esher Sixth Form College): 11am, Surbiton Station ticket hall**
- **Tower Hamlets: 11:30am, outside Tower Hamlets Town Hall, Whitechapel**
- **UAL: 12pm, Chelsea College of Arts courtyard**
- **Waltham Forest: 10am, Walthamstow Town Square (near Walthamstow Central)**
- **Hillingdon: details to be announced**

Outside London

- **Bath: 11:30am, University of Bath Students' Union**
- **Birmingham: UoB demo: 12pm, Green Heart and City demo: 2:30pm, Birmingham High Street (outside Waterstones)**
- **Brighton: 12:30pm, St Peter's Square, Richmond Place**
- **Bristol: 1pm, College Green**
- **Caerphilly: 10am, Coleg y Cymoedd Nantgarw, outside the Training School**
- **Cambridge: 4pm, outside King's Parade, CB2 1ST**
- **Cardiff: 11am, Cardiff University Students' Union, Park Place**
- **Carlisle: 12pm, Market Cross, CA3 8JA**
- **Chelmsford: 4:30pm, The Vineyards, Great Baddow**
- **Cheltenham: 12pm, Imperial Gardens**
- **Coventry: 12pm, outside Coventry Cathedral, Priory Street, CV1 5AB**
- **Doncaster: 12pm to 1:30pm, outside Doncaster railway station**
- **Durham: 1pm, Palace Green**
- **Exeter: 11:30am, The Forum, University of Exeter**
- **Glasgow: 2:30pm, Buchanan Steps**
- **Grimsby: 1pm, St James Square, DN31 1EP**
- **Guildford: 12:30pm, Philip Marchant Building, University of Surrey, GU2 7XH**
- **Harlow: 12:30pm, Velizy Avenue, at the pedestrian crossing into Harlow College**
- **Hatfield: 11am, The Forum, University of Hertfordshire**
- **Hull: 12:30pm, Queen's Gardens**
- **Leeds: 12pm, Parkinson Steps, Cavendish Road**
- **Leicester: 1:30pm, the Clock Tower**
- **Liverpool: 1pm, University Square, L69 7ZX**
- **Manchester: 12pm, Whitworth Arch (Queen's Arch), then march to Lincoln Square, behind No10 North**
- **Newcastle: 12pm, Civic Centre Gardens, next to St Thomas's Church**
- **Northampton: 12:30pm, outside All Saints Church**
- **Nottingham: 12:30pm, Nottingham Trent Students' Union**
- **Paisley: From 11am, UWS Paisley Campus Library**
- **Plymouth: 12pm, the Sundial, Armada Way, PL1 1RJ**
- **Pontypridd: 12pm, outside G Block, University of South Wales, Treforest Campus**
- **Preston: 12pm, outside the University of Lancashire Student Centre, Fylde Road, PR1 2HE**
- **Reading: 12pm, Forbury Gardens, RG1 3EJ**
- **Sheffield: 1pm, City Hall, Barker's Pool**
- **Southampton: 12pm, Guildhall Square**
- **Stoke-on-Trent: 12pm, Ember Square, ST4 2DE**
- **Swansea: 12pm, Swansea University, Singleton Campus, Fulton House Green and 12pm, Gower College, Gorseinon Campus, College Gates**
- **Wolverhampton: 12pm, Wulfruna Street, outside the University of Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE**
- **Worcester: 3pm, Sabrina Bridge**
- **York: 2pm, St Helen's Square**



After N20

Students get organised!

Come to Socialist Students conference in Manchester, 5 December 2026

On Friday 20 November, students and young people are walking out alongside hundreds of thousands of others across Europe as part of the International Youth Strike. The main slogan of the strike is: 'Fight for our futures, not their wars'. This slogan was put forward by the Socialist Students delegation to the founding anti-war assembly in Cologne in June; the various groups in the youth strike network agreed to adopt it.

Socialist Students has played a leading role in building N20 in Britain and internationally. Our activists have played a leading role in organising student strikes at well over 200 institutions in Britain.

For Socialist Students, we understand that the underlying issues which have mobilised thousands of young people for N20 will still exist on 21 November. Therefore, young people have to keep organising against the capitalist system which offers no future for us.

It is on this basis that we have organised our annual Socialist Students conference just two weeks after N20 - on Saturday 5 December in Manchester. It will be a day of discussion on the youth eruptions in Europe, the role of the working class in the struggle, and crucially how students can organise and fightback beyond N20.

If you have walked out, or are inspired by those who have, come to Socialist Students conference and bring others too!

JOE WOOLFALL, SOCIALIST STUDENTS TREASURER

- **Register online: socialiststudents.org.uk/socialist-students-conference-2026-27**

SOLIDARITY FROM LEADING SOCIALIST TRADE UNIONISTS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH STRIKE

Dave Semple, PCS deputy president, on behalf of Socialist Party members on the PCS civil service union National Executive Committee (NEC)

Socialists on the PCS union executive send solidarity to all students and young people striking and protesting against militarism, oppression, the climate crisis and the cost of living.

Our union, representing 200,000 civil and public servants, is balloting for strike action on pay, pensions, jobs and working conditions.

Vote yes/yes!
The PCS ballot for strike action and for action short of strike runs till 1 December

Millions of workers know the cuts to our pay, the bonfire of jobs, the attacks on pensions and worsening of working conditions comes from the same place as everything you are protesting against. It comes from capitalism, and its endless agenda of austerity, racism and war.

We call on all young people to join with the trade union and socialist movement, to fight this blight on our lives and on our world, and to demand a socialist world, - a democratic planned economy of welfare and freedom for all, not profits for a few and chains for the many!



Sheila Caffrey, on behalf of Socialist Party members on the National Education Union National Executive

As elected National Executive members in the National Education Union (NEU), we express full solidarity with students and young people making the decision to take part in N20. A world full of war, poverty and discrimination is not the future we want to share with the young people we work with in schools and colleges. It is inspiring that you are taking action to create a world with a decent future for you and future generations, and that is why we requested the whole of the NEU pledged support for N20. Even if NEU members are not able to join you in this action, we will be able to support if there are any in-school repercussions for any students for taking action, so get in touch if you need support. Solidarity and onwards to a socialist world free from war and misery.



Suzanne Muna, on behalf of Socialist Party members on the Unite Executive Council

We are proud to report that the Unite education sector conference on Tuesday 10 November unanimously agreed to participate in the N20 Youth Strike across the UK.



As Socialist Party members on the Unite Executive Council, we send solidarity to all young people and workers participating in this vital day of action.

The youth fight for a sustainable future here and across Europe is inseparable from the daily struggles of workers in schools, colleges and universities. Education opportunities have been stifled, and too many young people leave college or university unjustly crippled by a lifetime of debt.

Years of relentless underfunding for staff, students and buildings has left our education infrastructure crumbling, and with it our ability to offer a decent education. The fight for justice inextricably binds our demands together. We must unite youth protests with organised trade union action to build a powerful movement capable of challenging austerity and winning a system that puts people and the planet before profit.

Marco Tesei, on behalf of Socialist Party members on the University and College Union NEC

On 20 November, thousands of students and youth across Britain will take to the streets in protest against a system that is robbing them of a future. Their cries for an end to austerity, to climate devastation, and to militarisation will add themselves to the rage of youth and workers that is already sweeping across Europe and internationally.

N20 is also a UCU Day of Action for education workers in universities, colleges and prisons. We too have had enough of the billionaires' system that is destroying post-16 education as well as leading to more war. The youth's fight for a future, including for the survival of education, is our fight also! We will be protesting against the post-16 funding crisis on campuses across the country during our breaks and also joining our students in solidarity in the squares. Educators and students, unite!



Jim McFarlane, Unison NEC member

I send full support and solidarity to the thousands of young people taking part in the N20 walkouts and protests here and internationally. Unison, along with other trade unions, supports the plans for N20.

Never accept the argument that there is no money for a better future for young people and the wider working class. Unison members across every sector in which they work are organising to fight for decent jobs, pay and services. Industrial action can force governments and employers to retreat on their austerity plans.

Let's organise together for a future for young people and trade unionists, for a socialist society to end wars, decent jobs, affordable housing and public services.



Adam Harmsworth, Napo National Vice-Chair

My absolute solidarity and support to the 20 November walkouts and the youth fighting for their future. From my perspective, I couldn't think of better timing for this youth campaign to begin, just before probation workers in my union begin industrial action over pay and workloads (see facing page).

Napo's Young Members Network got a motion passed at our AGM focused on the horrendous housing and living costs for young workers. The future is getting worse for this generation, and we need to do something about it.

With youth and workers fighting together as they have begun to in France and Spain, we can demand the money being tossed at the war machine instead goes back to our services which, let's be clear, in many places are at breaking point.





Ben Eaton, chair Nipsa Youth Committee and a Militant Left activist

I send my solidarity to everyone taking part in the N20 Youth Strike.

At a time when governments find billions for war, weapons and militarisation, young people are rightly asking: 'Why there is never enough money for education, housing, healthcare and public services?'

As a trade unionist, I fully support young people refusing to stay silent. Working-class people have no interest in wars that divide us while those at the top profit.

Our future must be built on peace, international solidarity and investment in our communities, not an arms race or the politics of fear.

● ***Public sector union Nipsa, the largest trade union in Northern Ireland, supports the N20 youth strike***

PHOTOS: SOCIALIST PARTY, PAUL MATTSSON, NIPSA

contributors in a personal capacity

Cwm Taf Morgannwg health visitors win huge victory

DAVE REID
SECRETARY CARDIFF GENERAL UNITE BRANCH

100 health visitors, members of Unite working for Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, have won a huge victory after nine months on strike.

Cwm Taf Morgannwg bosses have caved in and finally agreed to move all Band 6 health visitors to Band 7, finally recognising the skill and expertise of the women workforce and paying them the correct rate. The victory sets the standard for all health visitors in Wales and will set a precedent for health visitors in England too.

Health visitors play a vital role in supporting the parents of newborn babies and ensuring children have a good start to life.

Unite reps Kerry Parry and Jo Penny started fighting in 2021. Health board bosses signed an internal job grading which matched them as Band 7, acknowledging a Masters qualification. But the board ignored their own job description, costing many of the workers £9,000 a year. So after being stonewalled for five years, the health visitors started strike action on 23 February.

The workers showed enormous resilience, never wavering. In fact, more were on strike at the end of the dispute than when it started. First the Labour Welsh government then the Plaid Cymru government refused to intervene and instruct the health board to pay the rate for the job. As union rep Gemma Emmanuel said in September: "We have been out in winter coats, T-shirts and now raincoats, but we're not giving in."

They didn't give in, and they won – a victory for health workers across the UK.



SOCIALIST PARTY WALES

NEU sixth forms to ballot over pay

SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBERS ON THE NEU EXECUTIVE

In the National Education Union (NEU) indicative ballot of sixth form college teachers, 84% voted for strike action on a 70% turnout. Members reject the Sixth Form College Association (SFCA) 2026-27 pay offer of 3.5%.

The joint union pay claim is for a rise above RPI inflation and "a meaningful step towards real-terms pay restoration", as well as for reduced workload.

Daniel Kebede, NEU general secretary, said: "This is an emphatic rejection of the pay offer. We have been clear that the SFCA must meet our key demands across pay restoration and workload." The union will now move to a ballot for action.

Socialist Party members on the NEU Executive will give all our backing to strong action in sixth forms.

School workers want to fight too

But we also will remind the general secretary that teachers and support staff in schools in England also demanded more than 3.5% and a national fight for better overall funding in indicative ballots this year, which is why we opposed the decision of Daniel Kebede and the 'NEU Left' majority on the Executive to "pause" plans for a ballot in schools.

NEU members have just been informed of new research which shows that "teacher pay is falling behind comparable graduate professions". We need a serious national fightback on pay, funding and workload for teachers and support staff across the whole of NEU!

- **Members of the University and College Union in further education colleges will be balloting for strike action from early December**

Napo 'historic' probation vote to strike on pay and workloads Industrial action begins

ADAM HARMSWORTH
NAPO NATIONAL VICE-CHAIR, PERSONAL CAPACITY

Probation members of Napo have voted overwhelmingly for strike action and for action short of strike on both pay and workloads.

The pay ballot had a turnout of 74.82% and coincidentally had the same percentage vote to strike, with 85.84% voting for action short of strike.

The workloads ballot returned a 70.7% turnout, with 75.84% voting to strike and 87.4% for action short of strike.

Napo will be the first union to take national industrial action against the Burnham government.

On 13 November, the day the results were received, Napo's Probation Negotiating Committee agreed to serve notice on HMPPS (the prison and probation service) that Napo members would begin working to contracted hours from 23 November.

Napo's membership has increased rapidly since announcing the ballot, having increased significantly beforehand from around 5,000 in 2020 to likely over 8,000 today.

Much of the newer membership signed up because they want to fight. That is shown not only by the ballot results, but also by the participation of hundreds of members at a time in online meetings, and the increase in activists in branches.

This rise is not only an indication of the success of Napo's campaigning, but also a condemnation of both Keir Starmer's and Andy Burnham's Labour governments for utterly failing probation.

On 19 November at midday, Napo is holding another online all-members meeting. All members should try and attend and make this another massive online rally in support of industrial action.

There are urgent questions being asked if working to contracted hours will be effective on its own without beginning strike action as well. Most members have shown they are prepared to strike already. Members should raise the question in the Thursday meeting, and through branches.



Napo successfully fought to bring probation back into public ownership in 2014 PAUL MATTSSON

Napo may be the first, but other public sector unions are also balloting for national action: PCS in the civil service (including members in courts), and the University and College Union in further education. Napo supported PCS motion 34 at TUC Congress calling for coordination.

Napo has said this is "probably the most historic ballot result in Napo's 114-year history". Even with questions over tactics, the ballot and move to industrial action is a significant and positive step forward.

London tube RMT strike against attacks on terms and conditions

SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBERS IN RMT ON LONDON UNDERGROUND

Train operators on London Underground (LU) in the RMT union have announced eight days of strike action over the Christmas and New Year period due to the imposition of a compressed four-day week.

The ongoing dispute is due to the company's insistence that any reduction in the working week should be 'cost neutral'. LU is cynically using its implementation to attack the terms and conditions of train operators.

These attacks include longer driving parameters, extension of the working day, loss of annual leave, and potential job losses that could run into hundreds.

In a referendum, RMT members voted by 90% to reject these proposals, but the company is ploughing ahead regardless.

For a number of years RMT has had a four-day week as an aspiration, but this should not come with a wholesale dismantling of our terms and conditions.

RMT will not accept new terms and conditions that dismantle protections on duty lengths, driving time, notice of duties and transfer rights. LU must improve its proposals on these crucial protections for drivers. There must also be real guarantees for any driver who wants to retain their current terms and conditions.

An increasing number of Aslef union members are also dissatisfied with the imposition of compressed hours. We call on them to support the RMT action and to reopen the debate in their union so that Aslef can join the action.

In 2018, the then-Tory government cut central government funding to LU by £700 million a year, leaving it as the only public transport system in the world relying solely on fares and other revenue streams for funding.

This issue lies at the heart of the ongoing funding crisis.

Restore funding!

The recent Budget announcement from Andy Burnham's Labour government has done nothing to address this crisis in LU and the wider transport network.

Billions of pounds can be found to line the pockets of arms manufacturers with increased military spending, while ordinary workers face job losses and insecurity.

Events around Europe, with trade unions calling 24-hour general strikes, are a precursor of things to come in Britain.

Solidarity with LU train operators!



- **A series of 24-hour strikes begin at midday: 26 November, 17 and 19 December, 4 and 6 January, and 17, 23 and 25 February**

RMT says: 'No to DOO!'

NICK HART
BIRMINGHAM SOCIALIST PARTY

Train operating companies might be coming under public ownership, but there's been no end to the attacks on staffing and safety that began under privatisation.

RMT members at Chiltern Railways have taken three days of strike action, opposing plans to begin the new East West Rail services between Oxford and Milton Keynes without a guard on the train – driver-only operation (DOO).

The mood on the picket of Chiltern guards outside Birmingham Moor Street has been buoyant energy coupled with a determination to defeat this latest attempt to water down safety on the railway.

Socialist Party members turned up to offer support and discuss the need for not just full public ownership of the rail network but democratic control by workers and passengers.

This should come with the funding to expand properly staffed services to meet the needs of the travelling public.

Socialist Students, hosted by the Socialist

To assist with its drive to build the biggest possible youth walkouts on 20 November, the Socialist has invited Socialist Students to have regular space in its pages. The invitation is initially open until the Socialist Students national conference on 5 December.

‘There’s no money for our futures, but there’s always money for war’

Socialist Students received an email during its campaigning for 20 November, we think in response to an article in the Sunday Times reporting on the walkout. In it, the author says: “Defence spending is at its lowest level and the planned increase is due to Europe facing serious security threats.

“Europe is being forced to divert funds to defence spending due to the actions of the United States. Not only are they feeding global insecurity but they are actively forcing Europe to rearm.

“Therefore, wouldn’t your protests be better suited in or toward the United States? Or is it the case that your socialist beliefs align you more with Putin’s Russia?”

Mihaela Ivanova, a Socialist Students organiser in London, responds



PHOTO: NICK CLARE

Britain’s defence budget is set to increase to nearly £80 billion by 2030. In his Autumn Budget, Chancellor John Healy acknowledged a £5 billion spending gap in his plans – and pointed to how it will be covered by cuts from government departments such as transport and education.

Meanwhile, the same Budget made no comment on removing the predatory ‘Plan 2’ student loan repayment scheme which charges interest so high - of inflation plus 3% - that huge numbers of graduates’ debts grow, even when they are trying to pay it off.

If Burnham hadn’t made it clear that he’s backtracked on his pledge to end ‘40 years of neoliberalism’, his Budget set in stone Labour’s superseding priority: to defend the interests and profits of the bosses at all costs. Grinding austerity will continue.

A Joseph Rowntree Foundation study, published in July, found that over 7 million households were unable to afford essential items in the last six months, with an increase in those having to go without meals since July 2024. The triple lock attack on pensioners is worth up to £50 billion by 2050, and now young people’s benefits are being attacked too.

That’s why Socialist Students is quoted in the Sunday Times as saying: “There is no money for young people’s futures, but there is always money for war”.

The slogan for the 20 November walkouts is ‘fight for our future, not their wars’. The event is inspired by German school students striking against plans for military conscription. But the protests that have exploded around Europe are over a wide array of issues. The housing crisis in Spain, corruption in Albania and Serbia, underfunding of education in France, for example.

The student blockades and now mass strikes in France have found a resounding echo among workers and young people in Britain. An 2024 OECD report found that the UK has the highest pupil-to-teacher ratios in the industrialised world, even greater than that in France! This is among other issues such as the rising number of schools unequipped to deal with the growing effects of the climate crisis, alongside the 30,000 jobs cut in post-16 education in the past year.

A generation of young people, the first to be worse off than their parents, have looked on at the absurd amount of wealth and resources that have been wasted to benefit a tiny handful in society, while the rest of us are squeezed even further.

This is the capitalist system we live in, one fuelled by the profit interests of the bosses and defended by capitalist politicians of the establishment. The competition for more resources and wealth between capitalists and different capitalist nation states causes wars, death and destruction of millions of people and our planet. That’s why Socialist Students is organising these walkouts, pointing to the need for a socialist transformation of society.

The author of the email suggests a target of protests to be the United States. In fact, last year, when Starmer and the King invited Donald Trump for a state visit, Socialist Students organised walkouts. Not against the United States, but against the reactionary, bigoted representative of the billionaires – and in solidarity with workers and young people struggling in the US.

Importantly, when we walk out on 20 November, we will be doing so with young people across Europe and internationally. Working-class and young people internationally will be taking part in solidarity action together – fighting to defend our futures from the attacks of the capitalists internationally. That includes gangster capitalist Putin in Russia!

The author of the email is, like many people, understandably concerned about war in Europe. Unfortunately, the capitalist politicians can’t be trusted to defend us or our futures. In France for example, the government has ordered repressive police crackdowns and teargassed innocent students. In Britain, the Labour government is using repressive policing too - arresting and imprisoning peaceful protesters expressing support for Palestine Action.

Students and the working class need to get organised to defend ourselves. In Britain, over 6 million workers are already organised in trade unions. The power of their collective action was shown during the strike wave, defending themselves against the cost-of-living crisis imposed by the capitalist bosses and governments.

Students need to organise too. A key demand Socialist Students is fighting for on 20 November and beyond is to build and strengthen student organisation, including by building school students unions and Socialist Students groups everywhere we can.

The capitalists and their governments make decisions about wars and military spending based on what they think is needed to defend their interests – a continuation of the capitalist system and to maximise their profits. Our interests are different. We demand free education, decent affordable council homes, fully funded services, investment in renewable energy, and for solidarity with other workers and young people internationally. And Socialist Students puts forward the need for a new mass party of the working class, bringing together young people and students in struggle, fighting for socialist change.

Join us!

Join the student fightback: join...

- Visit **socialiststudents.org.uk/join**
- or text **07403 057 140**

socialist students

Burnham's social care pretence for triple lock austerity attack exposed

MORGAN
STEVENAGE SOCIALIST PARTY

Andy Burnham announced his plan for a National Care Service at the Labour Party conference in September. We don't know much about it yet, but Burnham led people to believe the price to pay would be the ending of the pensions triple lock, a cut worth up to £50 billion a year by 2040.

That has been exposed as a lie by Labour pensions minister Torsten Bell, when he accused Tory opposition to the triple lock attack as 'fiscally irresponsible,' threatening that to keep the triple lock would mean raising the retirement age to 70.

Well, which is it? Is £50 billion a year being pinched from future pensioners' pockets to avoid a hike in retirement age or to afford social care reform?

Austerity attack

The reality is that it is a major austerity attack in service to the capitalist bosses.

The social care plans are already underwhelming and undermined by the lack of funding. Burnham has admitted there may be a shortfall, so we can only anticipate them being watered down.

Under the plans, the vast majority of care homes in England would remain privately owned and run. A service funded by the state but still partly delivered by profiteering providers does not end the exploitative bills that wipe out the life savings of working-class people.

A national care service also can't be defined by age. Local authorities spend similar amounts on social care for older people and for working-age adults with disabilities, yet adults with disabilities and long-term conditions are missing from the plan. They are already facing care assessment delays and attacks on Personal Independence Payment.

Burnham promises a 'person-centred' approach, but his focus on free personal care for older people in the community does not go far enough to tackle the struggle families face, for both working-age and elderly people in care accommodation. You can't put people at the centre of care while profit sits at the centre of that very system. Only care that is run by its workers and shaped by service users would actually be person-centred in practice.

If Burnham wants a National Care Service worthy of the name, all forms of social care must come into public ownership, with the funding coming from the profits of big business.



Unions took part in a 24-hour public sector general strike in 2011 against Tory pension attacks SENAN

INTERNATIONAL PROTEST AND STRIKE MOVEMENT
NOVEMBER 20 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH STRIKE
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Ireland: After 14 October mass strikes, workers consider pay offer

A second day of public sector-wide strike action in Ireland, due to take place on 12 November, was suspended after a pay offer from the government which will now be put before union members. **Ciaran McKenna**, a SIPTU NEC member (personal capacity), addressed the Saturday rally at Socialism 2026



Ciaran McKenna (left) and 14 October pickets NICK CLARE AND MILITANT LEFT

I'm a member of Militant Left, which is the Irish section of the CWI, and a member of the National Executive Council of SIPTU, which is the largest trade union in Ireland, representing over 150,000 members.

The 14 October strike in Ireland was a massive and momentous occasion. It was the first major mobilisation of the organised working class in over 40 years.

What is the issue that led to this strike? Well, in simple terms, it's pay, the demand for a pay rise to meet the growing cost-of-living crisis, the growing housing crisis.

At the moment, there's a wage standstill. In the Southern economy, 90% of workers are just basically breaking even. 10% of workers are just about getting ahead in terms of real pay.

What the 14 October strike shows to growing layers of workers is that the capitalist state is no friend of the working class, and has no intention of bettering the living standards of the working class. And it's also no good faith social partner for the trade union movement. We need to put that idea to bed.

The capitalist class in the south of Ireland extracts 300 billion euros in profits every year. 56,000 euros for every man, woman, and child.

The Irish government, unlike most governments in Europe, returns huge budget surpluses every year, mainly because we are a tax haven.

And yet the same government fights its workers for a measly pay raise to meet the cost of living.

So at the moment, there is an offer, which works out at 10.75% [over two years and nine months].

It came about as a result of the 14 October strike; workers still have to assess whether this meets their needs.

14 October gave workers a glimpse of our collective power. There were hundreds of picket lines all across the country. What was noticeable was the mass public support for the picket lines.

There are huge battles coming across Europe. And Ireland will not escape those. 14 October was just the first tremor.

I'll end with the quote from the great Irish socialist, the founder of our union, Jim Larkin: "The great only appear great because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"

And the working class in Ireland is rising!

Spanish state: 5 million workers in general strike

Up to 5 million workers took part in a 24-hour general strike in the Spanish state on 11 November, the first general strike action there for 14 years. Students walked out alongside workers too.

The strike comes in the wake of mass protests over the eviction and subsequent death of 87-year-old Maricarmen. And less than two weeks before a snap general election, called by prime minister Pedro Sanchez. After eight years in office, it wasn't until his government was shaken by mass protests that it moved to press for limited restriction on evictions, which was blocked by the right. The day after the general strike, the interim government voted for their implementation.

Whatever the outcome of the 29 November general election - which could see a right-wing bloc elected which includes the right-wing nationalist Vox, or a return of a Sanchez-led PSOE (Socialist Party) government – mass struggles and strikes will stay on the agenda.



THEKLAN/CC

Socialist Party

WHAT WE STAND FOR

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

The Socialist Party organises working-class people to fight against the attacks from this rotten system on our lives and livelihoods, and for a socialist alternative: a society which takes the wealth out of the hands of the super-rich and is democratically run by working-class people to meet the needs of all not the profits of a few.

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

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

WORK, PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

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

Do you agree? Join the fightback!

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Brand convicted, Walliams accused

Organise to fight the sexist system



PHOTO: HELEN PATTISON

BEA GARDNER
SOCIALIST PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Days after Russell Brand was convicted of rape and sexual assault, David Walliams was finally revealed as the celebrity who failed to secure an injunction to prevent reporting on allegations of sexual misconduct coming to light.

Joint reporting by ITV and the Guardian uncovered allegations against Walliams involving grooming teenage girls and abusing his power and celebrity. It looks highly likely that more names will follow in what some are describing as the UK's #MeToo moment.

Yet again, it appears that instead of acting on the concerns raised, Brand and Walliams' behaviour was ignored.

It took a 2023 Channel 4 Dispatches documentary for Brand's sexual violence to finally be made public. That gave confidence for women to come forward and approach the police, acting as a catalyst for his prosecution. Now a similar process is unfolding, with Walliams under criminal investigation.

Hundreds of entertainment industry figures have since signed an open letter demanding an end to the "culture of open secrets", highlighting that Brand is not a one-off and "the next documentary is already in pre-production".

Clearly, reporting systems within the arts and entertainment industries are not fit for purpose. Whistleblowing to journalists should not be the only option for workers or fans to have their complaints heard or taken seriously.

Lucy Beaumont, one of the whistleblowers in the investigation into Walliams, has said she was struck that there was no route for raising concerns. She has also shared she was afraid of never working in TV again, explaining, "the reason high-profile people are not saying anything is because they lose work".

Trade union organising

The trade unions could play a crucial role. It is harder to report or challenge harassment and abuse as an individual, especially if you are worried speaking out will mean losing hours or work altogether. But collective organising can change that balance of power.

The Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union has been running a campaign against exploitative conditions at McDonald's, including failures to tackle workplace sexual harassment, arguing this is a health and safety at work issue.

Unite the Union has signed a landmark sexual harassment policy at London's Heathrow Airport. Key parts of the policy include mandatory training on sexual harassment, as well as regular risk assessments and a commitment to the employer taking swift and effective action when sexual harassment is reported. The policy also includes clear procedures in cases where an individual is disciplined or dismissed following a finding of sexual harassment.

The next step is making sure these policies are implemented and, when needed, collective action is taken to ensure they are.

The reason why the entertainment industry consistently fails to take issues of sexual misconduct seriously is the same as in all other industries: bosses are more motivated to protect profits and reputation than to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those working for them.

These latest revelations are yet another reason for women to organise and fight back against a capitalist system that perpetuates sexist attitudes and behaviours.





Left: David Walliams SRIYA SARKAR/CC
Right: Russell Brand GAGE SKIDMORE/CC

Fight for our future – against sexist division!

ISIS SMYTH
LIVERPOOL SOUTH SOCIALIST PARTY

Young people - men and women - have a lot to be angry about. The cost-of-living crisis, housing crisis, and growing unemployment crisis compound to create unbearable living conditions for many. Many of those 'lucky enough' to have a job are trapped in precarious zero-hour contracts. On top of all of this, young women are concerned about the rising misogyny they see on and offline, and the rolling back of women's rights in many countries, such as the 2022 overturing of Roe v. Wade in the USA, which allowed states to place heavy restrictions on access to abortions.

Teachers report hearing and experiencing growing sexism from young boys, using language pulled straight from 'manosphere' talking points. The polarised reaction to the recent 'Cornell Seven' case – a case at Cornell University, New York, involving a woman accusing multiple peers of drugging and raping her – will also be on many people's minds.

All of these can contribute to the sense that there is a growing divide between genders. Importantly, it is also motivating young women in particular to fight for society to change.

Speaking to students during the recent freshers period, we found many young women were concerned with the growth of right-wing political societies and speakers on campus, as well as combative 'pro-life' societies. The 2021 murder of Sarah Everard by a police officer nicknamed by his colleagues as "The Rapist", and the violent response to protesters, remains fresh in people's minds.

Given this, it is no wonder that statistics show young women overwhelmingly vote for parties on the left of the political spectrum – twice as many young women as young men voted Green in the 2024 General Election for example. With statistics showing that 97% of young women experience rape, sexual assault, or sexual harassment, it isn't just fear which can explain why women vote left, but concrete issues and experiences of living in a sexist capitalist system.

On the other side, young men are also bearing the brunt of British capitalism's ailing economy. It is argued a growing number of them are looking disproportionately to right-wing politics. One researcher went as far as to refer to politics as an "increasing battle of the sexes", linked to the manosphere and sexist attitudes. The British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey reports discuss the growth of a gender gap when it comes to political party support. Prior to the 2000s, there is not strong evidence of this, but recent studies suggest that there is a widening gap between Gen Z men and women's voting behaviours.

Some in the capitalist media have painted young men as increasingly more sexist and right-wing than previous generations. In fact, the opposite is true. Young men vote more left-wing than their older counterparts, and are more progressive on a range of social attitudes. In the 2024 general election, twice as many young men as young women voted Reform. However, the same percentage of young men voted Green. This year, polling has found a 72% dissatisfaction rate for Farage among men aged 18-34; higher than any other age group or gender!

So, in part, the gaps between Gen Z men and women come from the impulse of so many Gen Z women to vote left, and not from a large rightward shift of young men.

That is not to say that there are not some young men who are sucked into sexist ideas, and emboldened by right-wing 'manfluencers' such as Andrew Tate. There are some young men voting for right-wing politics who do so based on sexist attitudes, and they do so at a higher rate than older men. For example, a BSA statistical model attributed 10-13% of the voting gap as being because of this greater level of sexism of young men.

In Britain in 2026, many of the battles for gender equality in law have been won, although we still have to fight for these rights to be implemented in practice. We have the right to vote alongside men, the right to equal pay and education, and legal protection from discrimination in the workplace. So why do sexist attitudes persist so strongly, particularly amongst a generation who were born decades after the implementation of gender equality laws in the 1970s?

Capitalism's divide and rule

Social attitudes aren't static, but progressive change is held off due to capitalism in crisis encouraging divide and rule and constantly reinforcing sexist ideas about women's roles and bodies, all while reducing living standards.

It is no coincidence young men and women are becoming polarised when we've grown up under almost two decades of austerity.

We know many young men are initially attracted to the manosphere because it promises confidence and well-being instead of the low self-esteem and loneliness many young people struggle with. Fully funded youth services, including mental health services which prioritise early intervention can prevent right-wing radicalisation.



PHOTO: SOCIALIST PARTY

> **Only a working-class, socialist approach to women's oppression and gender divides is capable of creating this change on a lasting basis**

We need to build a serious working-class alternative to right-wing 'answers' to the issues young people face today. This is why members of the Socialist Party, via Socialist Students, have organised and are participating in the international youth strike on 20 November - to fight for our futures, and not their wars!

What fight do we need?

This fight doesn't end at stopping militarisation, but in struggling against austerity. We need councils to adopt no-cuts needs-based budgets. A mass workers' party, taking a working-class, no-cuts approach, and prioritising working-class democratic control, would be able to cut across support for right-wing ideas among young people.

However, while sexist attitudes are amplified by manosphere commentators, they do not produce them. Sexist ideas and attitudes are deeply ingrained in capitalist society as a whole. One reason is because capitalism profits off of the misogynistic commodification of women's bodies. We are constantly bombarded with adverts and TV shows objectifying women. These ideas become so ingrained that it can be hard to imagine an alternate society where women are not oppressed, and there is no gender divide. Indeed, the Socialist Party agrees that this is not feasible to fully eradicate such ideas in a capitalist society built on the exploitation of the working class, where women's oppression is baked into the system.

But powerful changes in gender attitudes and relations are possible even under capitalism. United movements can erode support for reactionary ideas, for example when men and women workers strike against their exploitative bosses alongside each other. Similarly young people standing united to demand a future can have a positive effect today.

A new mass workers' party could take up these issues in a serious fightback against sexist ideas. However, only a working-class, socialist approach to women's oppression and gender divides is capable of creating this change on a lasting basis. It would require a full socialist transformation of society to see real, long-lasting change. If you're passionate about fighting sexism in all its forms, join the Socialist Party!

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YOUTH STRIKERS JOIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY!



PAUL MATTSSON

'Gen Z has got this' was the strapline for mass protests in Germany last month. On 20 November in Britain, thousands of young people will be taking matters into their hands by walking out, joining the wave of protests and strikes across Europe.

In France, 'Gen Z' is rising up: students have blockaded their schools in protest, and they have found support from workers and their trade unions. In the Spanish state, school strikes have taken place alongside a mass protest movement and general strike on 11 November. And in Britain, trade unions have backed the youth strikes.

The rotten capitalist system that forces us into crumbling overcrowded schools, which lumps us with a lifetime of debt for going to uni, and which blames us for being unable to find a job, is the same system which demands attacks on pensions, which squeezes pay, and which hikes rents.

The 'Gen Z' fight for our future is part of the struggles of the working class as a whole.

It really is just a tiny minority at the top that hold onto the wealth and power in society, and they will do whatever it takes to try to hold on to their privileged position and defend their system.

The protests and strikes this autumn show the way towards what is needed. We need action by young people and workers, and with that we need organisation. So that if headteachers try to pick out youth strike leaders for punishment, we can act collectively in defence. So that when the bosses try to hold workers' pay down to boost their profits, workers can strike back together.

That's why the Socialist Party has been working alongside Socialist Students to build for the youth strike. To help build and develop youth organisation – Socialist Students groups and students unions. Our members fight to strengthen and build the trade unions too. We fight for a new mass party of the working class to politically represent us too - a real alternative to Labour, Tories, Reform and the rest.

We need to take the wealth and power out of the hands of the super-rich capitalist elite, nationalising the banks and big business so that we - the working class and young people - collectively own and control it democratically. Then a plan could be drawn up to deal with climate change, offer free education, guarantee everyone a decent home and a job – a future!

Socialist Party members are among the most determined fighters in the movements of workers and young people. Above all, we are clear about what is needed to bring about the socialist transformation of society and we are organised to fight for it.

Join us!



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

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