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SCOTT JONES

NEWHAM AND EAST LONDON SOCIALIST PARTY

ar and carnage continues apace and the only thing changing is the escalating chaos and number of people being killed. Horror in the news is now a daily sight.

government in Westminster is set to spend : £57.1 billion on 'defence' - aka military spending and funding war. That's 4.5% more than even the Tories spent the previous year.

Meanwhile, working-class people hit by the two-child benefit cap or pensioners affected by the cut to winter fuel payments are ignored and demonised. Public sector workers who ask for their pay to keep up with the cost of living are told no and schools, the NHS and other services are underfunded.

Wars are only spreading and governments claim they need to spend more to wage them. But when Keir Starmer and Joe Biden In its first financial year in power the Labour \vdots send ships and jets to the Middle East, they \vdots wealthier.

aren't concerned about ordinary people. They are concerned about protecting the strategic and profit interests of the bosses in their own countries. Capitalist competition only stokes division as well as hoarding and squandering resources, leaving us to fight over the scraps.

The world is increasingly chaotic and riven by conflict, and a section of the capitalist class profits from the destruction and devastation. Increased arms spending won't make the world any safer. The people of Gaza, Lebanon and elsewhere will still be bombed and killed, but it will make a few super-rich bosses

What all this money sloshing around does show is that there is money for the alternative. An alternative that meets the needs of all and building a world free from war and poverty. Big businesses and the banks that dominate the economy should be nationalised under democratic workers' control and management, the arms industry too. A democratic plan, drawn up by the working class, could ensure the needs of all are met, including protecting the environment.

We need to fight for a socialist world. Join the Socialist Party to get involved fighting for a socialist future.

NEWS the Socialist socialistparty.org.uk

Issue 1293

10-16 October 2024 DO YOU HAVE NEWS FOR US?

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

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

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Editorial

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

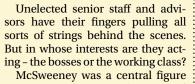
Gray's a goner

"I'm in control", said Keir Starmer back in September when it emerged his then chief of staff Sue Gray was being paid more than him.

Just weeks later, Gray has 'stood down'. Not that her departure will save Starmer from donations scandals, or working-class anger over support for Israeli state terror and attacks on pensioners. If you thought instability, scandal

and infighting were confined to the Tory party, you've got another think coming! Those tensions are part and parcel of attempting to govern Britain, with its ailing economy, in the interests of the capitalist bosses.

Starmer was elected with Labour receiving votes from just one in five people eligible to vote in the general election. Most people didn't vote for his party. In fact, no one voted for Sue Gray, and no one voted for her successor Morgan McSweeney.



in the Labour Together 'think tank' with the objective to do in Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader. It received a fine of £14,250 from the Electoral Commission in 2021 for 20 breaches of electoral law, £730,000 of funds it received were not reported correctly. Since, its biggest backers are a private equity firm bosses, and hedge fund managers.

Whose interests are these advisors acting in again?

Big-bucks breakfast

For £30,000 you would expect a very, very big breakfast. If not, then much more for your money than sausage, bacon and eggs. Labour had been offering the chance, for those willing to pay, to 'dine' with Business Secretary Jonathan Reyn-

olds: "A unique opportunity to become a commercial partner at our business policy round table

Workers' rights

Who will Labour ministers be dining with before drawing up the final draft of the Workers' Rights Bill, due to be tabled after the Socialist goes to press?

One business leader told the Financial Times: "I don't think we're seeing a lot of this before 2026... The mood is to use secondary legislation on anything contentious to give time for

consultation." To give time for big business to try to water things down further then. The mood of workers is to get things done now!

A workers' voice

Instead of parties and politicians

that take orders from unelected,

unaccountable advisors paid for by

the super-rich, we need a party that

fights in our interests, against those

of the bosses. One which has politi-

cians accountable to the working-

class communities they represent,

subject to recall and paid the aver-

age workers' wage - with no perks

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YOUR VIEW?





Big business exploits asylum system for profit

RHONDDA CYNON TAFF SOCIALIST PARTY

When I found out I would be working for Migrant Help, a charity supporting migrants. I was overloved that I would be helping vulnerable people in the UK asylum system, despite knowing virtually nothing about how it operated. Turns out, I was actually being em-

ployed by private company that provides call centre services to multiple major charities. The charity I worked at was contracted by the Home Office to provide support for millions of pounds, but then it outsourced its phonelines to another company! Despite the inconceivable amounts of money being passed around, I did mentally gruelling work in horrible conditions for just £12 an hour.

I soon learned that the entire UK asylum system is run for-profit. The Asylum Accommodation and Support Contract (AASC) costs the government an estimated £4 billion over its ten-year duration. The housing contracts are divided between 3 pri-

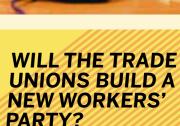
long histories of scandals and are well known for the awful conditions in their asylum accommodation.

The housing system for asylum seekers is a two-stage process. Asvlum seekers start in 'initial accommodation.' This is usually a hotel or hostel but has also included military barracks. What was initially intended to be a short-term solution often lasts a year or longer. After which, asylum seekers are moved to 'dispersal accommodation'. Complaints about everything from food (if provided), to maintenance issues and cleanliness are common. The AASC lists timeframes for maintenance issues to be completed within, which are so long that they are functionally worthless. Issues such as rat infestations and prolific mould have a 21-working day timeframe to begin the first treatment. During these waits, issues get so severe that houses can fall into

complete disrepair. Asylum seekers who were being housed in the Penally army camp: and build links to struggle alongside in Pembrokeshire, known for its aw-

aimed to "work democratically, transparently and fairly, to include and empower [residents] to meet their own needs and to benefit the wider area". Their work to oppose their conditions with mass action and the support of the local community led to the successful closure

UK, but their interests still align fundamentally with the working class and can be met with collective mass action. Asylum seekers are treated as cogs in an asylum system that, while failing on every humanitarian ground imaginable, is a massively successful capitalist project, with huge profits being made. Ultimately while the Home Office continues to see the needs of refugees as a money-making venture, the UK will just exist as another country it's unsafe



10-16 October 2024

SOCIALISM 2024

London, 9-10 November





REFUGEE RIGHTS C

of Penally camp. Stories like these point to how asylum seekers can get organised the wider trade union and socialful conditions, formed the union is ist movement. Asylum seekers are is for them to live in

"Camp Residents of Penally", which i all-but barred from working in the



Unite hospitality members celebrate fair tips law But workers' control needed

SMALLILW NHOL

UNITE HOSPITALITY MEMBER

1 October will no doubt become 'Fair Tips Day' for hospitality workers. Unite members are out campaigning, talking to hospitality workers about the new law on tips.

10-16 October 2024

Before 1 October, employers were under no legal obligation to allow their workers to keep all of their tips. The Employment (Fair Allocation of Tips) Act changes that. The new law states that workers must receive "100% of tips", "fairly distributed with a "clear policy" for customers and staff to see

This is a big issue in restaurants. where a service charge is common, and many customers give tips. I'm sure customers would have had something to say if they found out that not all of the tips went to the workers. The bosses certainly

This change in the law has been a long time coming, with Unite the Union campaigning on the issue for more than a decade. In 2018, Unite Hospitality members at TGI Fridays took historic strike action to win a fairer tips policy. In 2022, workers at Cameron House resort in Scotland won back £138,000 in unpaid tips and service charges, when it was discovered that the employer had not been transparent or fair with distribution

Unite estimates that this new law

will put an extra £300 million a year into the pockets of workers in one of the lowest-paid industries in the UK. However, the code of practice doesn't go far enough. What is 'fair' and how the tips are divided should be determined by the workers themselves, as Unite says, through democratically elected committees.

Legally, the bosses will still have

tip debt' to the company!

have to rely on tips. We have to fight the Labour government bans youth pay rates, zero-hour contracts, and fire and rehire.

SOCIALISM 2024

getting organised in a union will make a difference to collectively deciding what's fair. This could become an issue with places like Miller and Carter steakhouses for example, where it has been reported that workers have to hand over tips on the basis of sales not actual tips, meaning some of its workers have been in

We must also demand that workers are paid enough so that they don't for workers' rights and demand that

But precarious workers have little faith in Labour doing anything for us. If the government doesn't deliver on workers' rights, the Trades Union Congress has agreed to call a special conference. I'm looking forward to going to it with a bunch of hospitality

Winter fuel payment lobby shows anger at cruel cut

PAUL KERSHAW

socialistparty.org.uk

INITE HOUSING BRANCH AND SOCIALIST PARTY

ensioners' groups and unions, including the National Pensioners Convention, Scottish Pensioners Forum and Unite, rallied outside Parliament before lobbying MPs to oppose Starmer's abolition of the universal winter fuel payment.

Unite branches where the campaign has been raised have found big response from members and the lively crowd reflected the depth of feeling against this attack on

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham called on Labour MPs to listen to their constituents rather than the whips: "I do not understand how a Labour government can cut the winter fuel allowance for pensioners and leave the super-rich totally untouched," she said.

This is not what people voted for. t's the wrong decision and needs to be reversed. Labour. Shame on you. They seem to be able to tax workers, everyday people, in a matter of weeks, as soon as they start work. Why is wealth tax so different?

"Shame on you, for delivering cuts o over 1.5 million disabled pensioners. And shame on you for not listening and accepting that this decision is wrong. Labour, it's time to change course. To reverse these cuts before it is too late Refore our NHS is overrun with sick older people or pensioners die from the cold. This austerity cut to winter fuel needs to be scrapped." A Unite resolution was passed at

NEWS

Labour conference opposing the cur but there has been no sign of the government doing a U-turn. Sharon Graham spoke for millions but this shows unions such as Unite, despite being affiliated to the Labour Party, do not have a party that will fight fo our members. The government was forced to

publish a Department for Work and Pensions "equality analysis" of the cut's impact. It shows 90% of pensioners aged between 66 and 79, and eight out of ten over-80s, would lose their allowance

The official report also revealed that 1.6 million disabled people will lose entitlement to the allowance despite the fact they often have an extra need to heat their home.

John McDonnell, the Labour MP suspended for voting to scrap the two-child benefit cap, said: "I wasn't elected to impoverish our own con stituents but to protect them. That's what Labour MPs are supposed to do isn't it?" But the vast majority of Labour MPs have stuck to the govern

The Socialist Party says:

Reverse the winter fuel payment cut

to find out more about joining us today!

Decent pensions for all

Stop energy price hikes - nationalise the energy industry

We need a new mass workers' party that will make the super-rich pay and fight for socialist change



Jobs slaughter at TGI Fridays How can jobs be saved?

The sudden closure of 35 TGI Fri- : step in. The Socialist Party argues : about what happens to the differtember, has left 1,000 workers with

The company chief executive claims to be "doing everything possible to retain our team and support those impacted", while thanking "colleagues" (ie low-paid staff) for their "loyalty and contribution"

Unite the Union, which repre sents TGI Fridays workers, should fight now to save the jobs of all the workers affected. Workers at TGI Fridays in Unite have a history of taking action - not least in the fight over tips.

They should demand the bosses open the books' to trade union inspection. Show the workers what has happened to all the profits generated by their contribution!

Starmer's government

days restaurants, after the company for state subsidies, where genuwent into administration in Sep- i inely needed, for socially useful small businesses. But big companies should be taken into public ownership and decisions made by the workers, trade unions, the local community, and representatives

ent sites, the services provided and skills of staff. Restaurant sites can be preserved and improved in that way, but if particular sites are not needed, councils should guarantee alternative well-paid useful work and take over the buildings to run



MIDDLE EAST WAR 10-16 October 2024

One year of horror, escalation, and regional war brings hundreds of thousands to protest



The escalating war in the Middle East, and the prospect of a full-scale conflict in the region, meant that more protesters were at the national anti-war demonstration on 5 October in central London - some protesting for the first time. The march had hundreds of thousands of people on it, with coaches traveling from all over the country.

Socialist Party members participated in the demonstration, our Socialist paper, leaflets, and our new placards emblazoned with our slogan: "Build mass workers' action to stop the war, end Israeli

Socialist Party campaign stalls along the route were completely swamped with protesters who wanted to find out more about how to get involved, and to attend Socialist Party meetings in their area.

Many were especially interested in our campaign for a new mass workers' party, based on the trade unions. That could challenge Starmer and all the other pro-capitalist politicians, who continue to materially support the Israeli state, while hypocritically calling for a ceasefire, taking no concrete steps to make this a reality.

The fact that these anti-war demonstrations of working-class people across society have continued to be tens of thousands strong

that this was even bigger, shows just how far removed from widespread public opinion Starmer and his allies are. Socialist Students had a lively

contingent on the demonstration, with many students who have recently joined from the freshers' fairs joining the bloc on the march. A group of students travelled from Aberystwyth in mid Wales on a seven-hour coach down to London to join the demonstration. Many young people are now drawing the conclusion that capitalism is a system that breeds endless war and poverty, and are enthusiastically joining the fight for a socialist

Model trade union motion

This [union organisation] condemns the brutal assault by the Israeli government and military in Gaza, the West Bank and now Lebanon.

This is causing a humanitarian disaster, with over 40,000 killed in Gaza alone and at least 16,000 children dead. Many more tens of thousands have been injured and are missing.

It is estimated that up to 1.7 million people in Gaza have been displaced, out of a population of 2.23 million.

The bombardment of Lebanon, along with a and invasion, now brings war to that country with a rising death toll and 1.2 million displaced, and hreatens a wider regional war with many more

This [union organisation] notes the support be ng given to the right-wing Israeli regime by US mperialism and a number of Western capitalist owers, including the UK.

This [union organisation] condemns the packing given by Sir Keir Starmer's Labour government. This includes operation of military resources and the sale and supply of arms and

This [union organisation] believes that the cor inuing aggression of Netanyahu's government is a clear threat to the security and lives of millions of working-class and poor people throughout the Middle East, including in Israel.

In Israel, a general strike against the Netanyanu government took place on 2 September, callng for a ceasefire in Gaza and a deal to return sraeli hostages. This following a pre-war mass movement and general strike against the governnent's drive to curb the judiciary.

- This [union organisation] calls on our union to: demand that the Starmer-led Labour government immediately withdraws support, both military and otherwise, from the Netanyahu-led sraeli regime and halts the sale and supply of weapons, logistics and financial aid to it
- contacts the group of independent MPs con vened by Jeremy Corbyn and the seven suspended Labour MPs to discuss how to oppose the UK government's policy in the Middle East with the rest of the trade union movemer
- play a central role in the anti-war movement, including in the building of demonstrations
- convene a meeting of union reps in the arms and logistics sectors to discuss the war in the Middle East and support our members in the arms and logistics sectors who refuse to take part in work operations that are supplying the Israeli government
- demand the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Lebanon. For an independent, socialist Palestinian state, alongside a socialist Israel, with guaranteed rights for all minorities, as part of the struggle for a socialist Middle East

Socialist Party

the Socialist Party took part in the biggest anti-war demonstration since the first months of the onslaught on Gaza, marching on 10 Downing Street, the New Labour prime minister Keir Starmer's residence. The marchers' need to make their voices heard against the nightmarish events taking place in the Middle East had not been in anyway lessened because Britain now has a Labour government.

After a year of unimaginable horror meted out against the Palestinians, Lebanon is now also under ferocious assault, already resulting in over 2,000 deaths and 1.2 million people being forced from their homes.

Israeli prime minister Benjamir Netanyahu is increasingly hated by the majority of Israelis. A general strike took place against his government just last month. However, by claiming that the war on Lebanor will bring peace to northern Israel, he has been able to temporarily shore up his base and gain support for the escalation across much of Israeli society. It won't last. This latest horrific attack will do nothing to help the Israeli population to be able to live in peace and security. On the contrary, t has brought the whole region to the edge of a full-scale war. Even if this time the tinder box of the Middle East somehow avoids being entirely engulfed in flames, the current conflict will only prepare the ground for the next cycle of violence.

What way out? What power offers a way out of the

horror for the peoples of the Middle East? Certainly not US imperialism, still the strongest capitalist power on the planet, which continues to defend and arm Israel, even while pleading with Netanyahu to show restraint. Nor the Arab regimes which while paying lip-service to the Palestinians' plight, have in reality stood aside over the last year. They are interested only in maintaining their own rule and defending the wealth and power of their elites. Equally, the Iranian theocratic dictatorship cares only about preserving its own rule and prestige

In fact, the one thing that unites the opposing powers in this conflict is a deep-seated fear of awakening the currently sleeping giant that could bring them all down: the working class and poor. That is the one power capable of bringing peace to the region. Democratically elected workers' governments would be able to harness the wealth and resources of the region to meet the needs of all, and to negotiate solutions that would meet the national aspirations of all the peoples of the Middle East. The Arab and north African upris

ings fourteen years ago felled dictators and are seared into the memories of all the ruling elites and the imperialist powers. It's true that neither the theocratic regime in Iran nor Israel's government were directly affected by the 'Arab Spring', although it had an costs in Israel later in 2011 Howev-

er, both have since been repeatedly shaken by huge movements, graphi cally demonstrating the shallowness of the social bases they rest on.

nage, the masses of the Middle East

Capitalism offers no way forward for the peoples of the Middle East or internationally. Bloody wars and conflicts are an inevitable consequence of this increasingly barbarous system, which is driven by the lust for

What does this mean for the anti-

many of those who have taken to the streets against the onslaught on Gaza over the last year feel powerless, as: October were absolutely right to conthe nightmare facing the Palestinians continues, seemingly unendingly, There are no short-term easy anbuild an anti-war movement that can permanently end the horror of war means building a movement to overthrow capitalism and start to create a democratic socialist society.

Nonetheless, mass anti-war move-

hated Tories were finally booted out of office. Of course, marchers on 5 clude that nothing fundamental has changed with Labour in government. Like previous Tory governments. swers. Just, as in the Middle East, to : Starmer's Labour acts in the interests of British capitalism not the working class and poor - either in Britain or internationally

Still, under the pressure of the antiwar movement, a few of the crimes of Rishi Sunak's government have been reversed. Britain's threatened objection to the International Criminal Court's issuing an arrest warrant for Netanyahu was dropped, and funding for UNRWA (the UN relief agency for Palestinians) was reinstated At the same time, 30 out of 350 arms export licences for selling goods to condemned as "shameful" by Netanvahu. These are very minor measures. Nonetheless, Starmer would a result. Just four months ago, the : the power of the anti-war movement,

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But, in essence, Starmer's New Labour government is acting as a loyal sidekick to US imperialism, echoing Biden's position on all the major issues. Last month, when the UN General Assembly voted to call on Israel to "end its unlawful presence in the occupied territory", Britain abstained. Militarily, Britain is a bit-part player compared to the US summed up by the RAF's Typhoon jets scrambling to help intercept the Iranian missiles fired at Israel on 1 October, but being too slow and illequipped to play any role in bringing the barrage down. But while Britain is increasingly a third-rate power, it remains one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the sixth biggest economy and military force on the planet. It is very useful for US imperialism that Britain's government loyally toes its line.

and in particular the punishment

Labour received, primarily by voters from a Muslim background, at

the general election, resulting in the election of five anti-war independ-

ents, including Jeremy Corbyn.

EDITORIAL

For contrast, just imagine if Jeremy Corbyn had been the Labour prime minister. The determination of the capitalist class to remove him from the Labour leadership was because he could not be relied upon to act in their interests, at home or in foreign policy. For example, they feared he might have gone to the UN and attacked the warmongers and the elites, and that in turn would have inspired workers and young people in Britain and globally into action against them.

Unfortunately, the Corbynite wing of the Labour Party did not mobilise against the attacks of the pro-capitalists within Labour in the way they could and should have done, instead attempting to compromise with the right at each stage. The result was their defeat within Labour and the pro-capitalist Starmer as Labour prime minister.

There are many lessons of that experience that will be important for the tasks that the working class has ahead. One of the most important is to remember how frightened the capitalist class was by Corbynism. That wasn't because they feared the man himself, but rather they were terrified of the mass movement of workers and young people that he could have inspired - and which could have threatened their rule.

Their fear showed that the capital ist class understands the potential power of the working class to transform society. A first step to turning that potential power into a reality here as in the countries of the Middle East - is the building of a new workers' party. In the general election four months

ago, it was mainly voters from a Muslim background - furious at Starmer's stance on Gaza - who expressed their anger at the ballot box by voting for anti-war candidates. That is an important starting point, but for a new workers' party to start to successfully challenge the capitalist elite it will need to reach out to other sections of the working class. However Starmer's pro-capitalist austerity mark II policies are already angering every section of the working class The potential to start building a new party, based on the organised working-class, with a socialist programme against austerity, war and national oppression, is clear. If you agree - join

STARMER'S LABOUR BACKS WAR AND SLAUGHTER

Build the socialist opposition



Ethical pensions? Don't trust the profit-seeking bosses

ENFIFLD AND LEA VALLEY SOCIALIST PARTY

With Starmer's cuts to winter fuel payments, it's clear that the financial security of pensioners is at risk. It led me, in my thirties, to take more of an interest in my own retirement plans.

Despite our contributions to National Insurance, the reality is that the state pension alone (currently £221.20 a week) is unlikely to be sufficient for a comfortable retirement. Many of us will need to rely on additional government support or other pension schemes in order to retire. The issue of workplace pensions

creates a dilemma for someone looking to make sure investments are ethical. Many of us are actively fighting through our trade unions for fair wages and better pensions. However, many workplace pension schemes; that many would consider investing; panies to decide where and how to

tively work against working-class interests. For example, my employer offers

nearly 30 different pension schemes managed by a single asset management company. At first glance, several appear ethical, featuring labels like "Sustainable," "Low Carbon," or "Environmental Social Governance". However, a closer examination reveals that these funds often support projects like airport expansions, weapons manufacturers, fossil fuel suppliers, and even British tobacco.

This was concerning to say the least. According to the Financial Conduct Authority Financial Lives Survey in 2022, 81% of adults in the UK want their pension investments to have a positive impact as well as provide financial returns. It's hard to believe

are invested in companies that ac-: in union-busting corporations that: invest our pensions savings? undermine workers' rights, manufacture weapons or harm the environment as a positive contribution.

Pension funds are worth an estimated £3 trillion in the UK. It was reported earlier this summer that the UK's largest pension fund, the university 'USS' scheme sold off £80 million of its assets linked to Israel, under pressure from its members' anger, expressed by the university workers' union UCU, over the Israeli state's war on Gaza.

I raised the issue in my trade union branch to see if any other members had thought further about where our investments are going. Most people hadn't really thought about it. Why do we trust 'asset management com-

The USS scheme is also the largest investor in Thames Water which faces imminent government bailout. Hardly expert risk-free investment!

Instead, we should have control over where our pension wealth is invested, with the democratic involvement of our trade unions. That would mean taking the vast pensions wealth out of the hands of the capitalists and nationalising under democratic workers' control and management.

Then the working-class could democratically decide how and where to invest in the interests of all and the environment, not for profit. This would be an important step towards a fairer socialist society where the retirement age could be reduced to 55 and a genuine living state penRight now, amidst the current car-

have not yet made their strength felt, but they are certain to do so again. The Arab Spring will prove to be the prelude to even more powerful movements. To successfully end war, national oppression and pov erty will require the working class in the different countries creating their own parties, with a programme for the socialist transformation of

profit, not the needs of humanity.

war movement in Britain? Inevitably

ments in any one country can force that country's government to withdraw all support for the present Israeli regime's aggression, if they are built to a high enough level. The last vear has shown that we are not powerless, far from it. The attempts of: Israel were suspended, a measure the last Tory government to demonise the anti-war movement failed miserably, and then home secretary Suella Braverman was sacked as i not have sanctioned them without

RMT MEMBER ON WEST MIDLANDS TRAINS

union members at Train Operating Companies TOCs) have voted to accept the government's pay offer of 4.75% and 4.5% for 2023 and 2024 respectively, thus bringing the longest railway industrial dispute in our history to an end.

99% of members voted to accept on a turnout of 81%.

From the very beginning of the dispute in spring 2022, RMT members have engaged with the ballot process in big numbers. This was because it was clear that we faced wholesale attacks on terms and conditions alongside the closure of all but a handful of station ticket offices.

25 days of strike action later and we have now reached the end of the dispute. So what have we achieved? The below-inflation 5% (or £1,750

if greater) that we received for 2022, and 4.75% for 2023, still leaves us worse off in real terms than we were in 2021

But the Tory government's position on our pay rise (the Tory offer was 4% for 2023) was that they wanted it to be paid for through 'productivity', i.e. selling off hard-won terms and conditions. This has not happened and our jobs, terms and conditions have

Strike action gets results

RMT members should remember that the settlement was delivered as a result of rail unions taking strike action, not because of a supposedly worker-friendly Labour government. Rachel Reeves made it clear that it would simply be more expensive not to settle and to further drag out the disputes.

It is clear by the overwhelming vote to accept, on the recommendation of the leadership, that members feel that there is no more to be gained through strike action at this point.

This now opens up a new era for the RMT and the wider trade union movement. With Labour in office, some will hope that we might finally be leaving the dark period under the Tories behind. However, Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves have made it

with their austerity plans.

conditions – but must be prepared to fight further attacks

An additional threat is posed by the establishment of Great British Railways (GBR). Socialists fight for the whole railway system to be immediately nationalised and run under workers' control and management. GBR must not become a mechanism for the bosses to drive down the pay and conditions of workers under the pretext of rationalisation.

Furthermore, it is not yet clear that Labour has ruled out allowing private companies to run operations, despite nationalising the TOCs as the contracts expire. Their programme for local bus services clearly indicates that they are happy in principle to contract out bus operations to the same profiteering private firms as before, while routes and fares are set by local public transport bodies.

We have managed to stave off the attacks on our industry for now and we should be proud of ourselves and our campaign. However, we must

clear that they intend to press ahead: remain prepared to fight in defence of our interests as the new government begins to establish the new railway regime over the next few years.

If any proof was needed of our willingness to fight back, you only need to refer to the magnificent vote for action by London Underground members in defence of jobs, pay and

If we are going to be able to both protect jobs and correct our wages. which have been driven down by inflation over the last few years, it will require a militant struggle both industrially and politically.

The RMT must place clear demands on Labour, but should pose those demands to the independent and suspended MPs too - the RMT supported Jeremy Corbyn's reelection as an independent, and in putting our demands to those independents and the suspended Labour MPs we could speed up the development of a bloc of MPs that fights in

on London Underground

SECRETARY, LU TRAIN GRADES, PERSONAL CAPACITY

members on London Underground have voted overwhelmingly in favour of strike action in our ballot

96% of our members voted for strike action on an increased turnout. Significantly, RMT's membership on London Underground has increased by over 400 since we won an extra £30 million in the last pay round, following the threat of strike

This proves that when a strong combatative lead is given, workers will respond We have a Labour London may-

or, Sadig Khan, and a new Labour And yet London Underground's latest offer is 4% this year and 1.6%-2.0% next year, way short of our members' aspirations, and

Network Rail and the Train Operating Companies.

The company is also intent on implementing pay bands, or "pay families" in management speak!

The pay families would allow management to cap pay rises for whatever types of job they choose, meaning that annual pay rises in future would not apply to those members. This proposal from Transport for London and London Underground threatens the right of members to have their pay negotiated by RMT.

In addition, those already in banded pay grades would not get individual pay rises once they have reached the top of their respective pay band. RMT on London Underground

will continue to resist these attacks on our pay, terms and conditions, and ensure a fair deal for our members.

 As we go to press, a mass meeting of reps was taking place to discuss less than has been offered on the next steps.



Get all the latest union news

NSSN bulletin: shopstewards.net

DO THE TRADE **UNIONS NEED** TO FIGHT UNDER LABOUR?

SOCIALISM 2024

London, 9-10 November tickets and info at socialism.org.uk

Why we are striking at York microbiology services: 'We just can't give any more'

A STRIKING UNITE MEMBER AT YORK HOSPITAL

For as long as anyone within our department can remember, senior management have talked about moving the microbiology laboratory in Scarborough to York. Raac concrete was found in the roof at Scarborough and this sped up the closure. When the lab closed in October.

there was no plan for how the on-call and urgent sample service for microbiology in Scarborough would be managed

York staff were promised that 20

(BMSs), one of whom has never been provided with training so can't actually work within the laboratory!

York's workload has doubled and we have lost a large number of trained team members. Recruitment is underway, but we don't have enough fully trained staff left at any grade to provide training quickly and without skimping, leaving partially trained people to work alone. It takes a minimum of 12 months to get someone ready for on-call work if all training is in place.

The BMS team has been running staff members would move to York. an on-call service that should have We got two medical lab assistants : 16 people with eight, and are dan-

part-time biomedical scientists: management gave the MLA team: for more than a few weeks. Scarborless than one week's notice that they would begin working extended days, and there were insufficient staff to man the roster at a sensible frequency. None of the MLA team have fully completed their training.

Shifts have been covered by volunteers on goodwill for the last three years, but the goodwill has run dry as the team is exhausted and there is no end in sight. We have serious concerns about patient safety - an : hausted and have no trust in the senexhausted team will begin to make : jor management team. The staff just errors as they rush through work to try and keep the service afloat.

Scarborough microbiology is currently being run by three scientists. : • Strike action has taken place on This should never have continued: 30 September, 7 and 11 October

ough blood sciences teams are being asked to learn how to process and re port microbiology samples, outside of their usual scope of practice. No additional staffing has been provided to support this, and training has still not been completed a year after the Scarborough lab closed.

The microbiology service is being led from one crisis to the next. It's all a huge mess. Staff are upset, excan't give any more.

University workers need to fight 'paltry' pay offer

Demand full public funding

10-16 October 2024



UNISON REP. PERSONAL CAPACITY

Higher education workers have been offered another paltry pay increase of just £1,200. The pay offer is being imposed - but it is reported that as many as 20 universities are 'deferring' the payment!

In a consultation, 79.6% of Unison members voted to reject the offer, so now we will be balloted for strike action.

Unison represents workers in professional services - everything from admissions and administration to cleaning and security. Together with the University and College Union (UCU), we have the power to completely shut universities. In 2022, Unison held its first na-

tional strike for around a decade, coordinated with UCU. Unison branches at just 16 universities took action (because the ballot was disaggregated by university and most areas didn't make it over the Tory anti-union ballot threshold), but this was a massive boost to members' confidence and won a better pay increase. Members were offered 3% well below inflation, but double the previous year's rise of 1.5%.

Bold and coordinated strike action can achieve further gains on pay, and other issues such as workload and pay gaps. Unison nationally could campaign to recruit new members and galvanise existing branches, bringing more universities out on strike. The sector is in crisis, and the only

solution so far offered by the bosses and Starmer's Labour is punishing students with higher tuition fees. The unions can offer a way forward for workers and students by fighting for free, publicly funded and democratically run education.

In UCU there will be a consultative

action over pay. The Union's Higher Education Committee has rejected the pay award, but accepted the nonpay elements of the offer, agreeing to enter further talks on casualisation and workload.

the **Socialist**

/ote 'yes'

Delivering a resounding 'yes' vote is possible. Members know the offer is not enough and we will not be able to get more without a fight. But at a recent branch delegates meeting, there were also reservations voiced about whether more can be won. These reservations are partly a response to the university fund ing crisis, which at the sharp end is contributing to job losses. Members are also affected by the experience of recent disputes being mishandled by the UCU leadership.

That means that campaigning for a 'yes' vote must be linked to a serious industrial and political strategy - putting demands on Starmer's Labour for full public funding - in which members have democratic control of the dispute at every stage.

Join the fightback

Socialist Party members campaig for fighting, democratic trade unions, wherever possible working alongside others, to campaign for the industrial and political strategies workers need

or call **020 8988 8777**or text your name and postcode to **07761 818 206**

and health workers. The offer of £1,290 (less for partstrike vote in its indicative ballot. timers) will mean less than 5% for many thousands of Unison, Unite and GMB claim that the NEU has council workers and as low as 2.5% for some. breached the decision of the TUC last year, effectively The LGA has admitted that for the lowest paid - who claiming that because the NEU is not a recognised unwill see pay awards of between 5% and 7% - it still ion on the National Joint Council (NJC) that it does not means that their pay will 30% below the Trades Unhave the right to ballot and fight for its members. The ion Congress (TUC)'s call for £15-an-hour minimum logic of that position is that Unison and Unite would

SUPPORT STAFF UNIONS: WE NEED

MAXIMUM UNITY, NOT DIVISION

This statement has been published by Unison and National Education Union (NEU) executive

he Labour-led Local Government Association: a complaint to the TUC against the NEU, threatening

the unity needed.

ing the action.

In light of this, we welcome the decision of Unison, Unite and NEU to ballot their members for strike action to win a just pay rise that is properly funded.

wage. Not only does the pay award not match the pay

awards given to others, it does nothing to address the

massive loss of pay over the last decade of over 20%.

(LGA) has refused to move on its pay offer to

over a million council workers and school

support staff, despite the new Labour govern-

ment offering higher pay awards to teachers

socialistparty.org.uk

What is clear is that for the action to be effective. we need maximum unity and coordination between the unions to ensure that the action is as strong as

It will therefore come as a shock to many Unison. Unite and NEU members that, instead of promoting the unity of all local authority workers, Unison,

complaint to the TUC and support the NEU's wish to ioin the action in pursuit of the joint pay claim. We appeal to all unions that a joint meeting of Unison, Unite and NEU national and sectoral executives Unite and GMB have instead again chosen to lodge be urgently set up to resolve the issue. Signed, in a personal capacity April Ashley, Unison National Executive Council

> Hugo Pierre, Unison Local Government Service Group Sheila Caffrey, National Education Union National

TRADE UNIONS

Why? Because the NEU wishes to discuss collabo-

ration, and ballot its school support staff members

alongside Unison and Unite, having won a massive

rather have NEU support staff members working on

Instead of taking measures against the NEU, Unison

and Unite members would want to see a major joint

campaign of action, not only for the pay rise but also

Therefore, we call on Unison and Unite to drop their

to demand the funding to pay for it.

We need maximum unity not division.

days that Unison and Unite are on strike, undermin

Louise Cuffaro, National Education Union National

 Members of unions that organise support staff can scan here to add your name



The ballots for action of Unison and Unite members in local government - including school support staff - run



ALISTAID TICE SHEFFIELD SOCIALIST PARTY

After seven weeks of solid strike action. Unite members at Veolia refuse depot in Sheffield are confident of winning union recognition. Their solidarity and determination, with 30-40 on the picket line every day. combined with Unite's leverage campaign, has forced Veolia national nanagement to the table.

Unite organisers took their banners to the Paris headquarters of ; the GMB union members working

and parked their giant inflatable rat outside the house of one of the company's directors!

Veolia, a multinational company,

Unite has suspended its leverage campaign and protests to facilitate negotiations, which began last week. But the strike continues into its eighth week, with members currently reballoting for another six-month strike mandate, if required.

The GMB union currently has sole recognition. We know that many of

recognition, which hopefully will reunite the workforce and put the trade unions in a stronger position to take on what is a very bullying and victimising local management.

in the depot support Unite's right to

Socialist Party members, who have supported the strikers since day one, argue that the outsourced waste management contract should be taken back in-house by Sheffield City Council, and run democratically by the workers and **CLIMATE CHANGE**

socialistparty.org.uk

10-16 October 2024

10-16 October 2024

CHANGE

Socialists students

transition to

green energy

of climate

change. It

that would slow

the devastation

would start with

nationalisation

industry under

workers' control

democratic

of the entire

energy

WILL STARMER'S LABOUR GOVERNMENT MEET ITS CLIMATE PLEDGES?

STEVE SCORE AND ALFX GILLHAM

e climate crisis is worsening, and measures to tackle it both in Britain and internationally are failing to reach targets. At the same time, the energy price crisis has massively hiked up the cost of living for millions.

The 2016 Paris Agreement, signed by 196 nations, outlined that global greenhouse gas emissions must de cline by 43% by 2030 to limit catastrophic global warming. In response to an escalating crisis, Labour has promised "zero-carbon electricity" by 2030 in its "change" manifesto, under the headline "Make Britain a clean energy superpower".

The manifesto promises to cut bills, achieve energy independence, create 650,000 new high-quality jobs in the green energy sector, enable warmer homes to slash fuel poverty and force water companies to clean up rivers.

Already, less than 100 days into the Labour government, energy companies have been given permission to raise our bills and more than 2.000 jobs have been cut at Tata Steel in Port Talbot, cynically using climate as a cover for offshoring steel production. More jobs are under threat at Scunthorpe steelworks, and at the Grangemouth petrochemical plant in Less than

Energy profits

One of the key planks of Labour's plan is to set up a new public energy company, Great British Energy, which will focus on clean energy generation. Created to invest in solar, wind and hydropower technology, Labour is promising an £8.3 billion investment over five years for the project. It will in fact be tiny (£1.66 billion a year) compared to the overall size of the

UK Energy, the trade association for the UK energy industry, says £149 billion in economic activity annually is generated through the energy sector and supply chain. BP alone made £11 billion in profit in 2023. It made double that at the height of the energy crisis in 2022. Shell made £22.3 billion in 2023. Those profits and the oil giants' huge capital largely untouched, GB Energy is definitely not nationalisation of the energy industry! Narratives woven by both the then

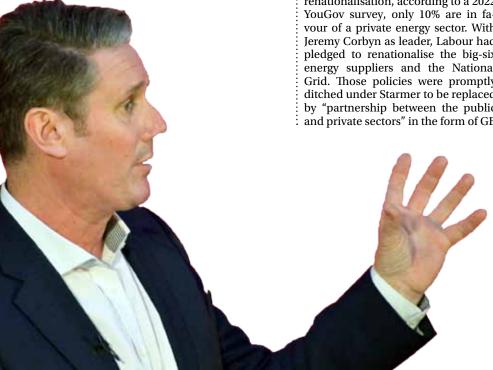
Tory government and the mainstream capitalist media blamed the energy crisis squarely on the Ukraine-Russia war which broke out in February 2022. While the conflict did see an extreme, short-term impact on energy bills with the closing of the Nord Stream pipelines, the cost of heating homes continues to rise two and a half years later, with energy price cap increases in October 2024 and expected in January 2025. At the same time, Labour is taking away heating allowance from pensioners, other than those on pension credit.

The truth is that blame for the longterm energy crisis does not fall totally at Putin's feet. Both the Tory and now Labour governments are avoiding the blame for their reliance on the failing private sector for energy. A lack of regulation around the energy market has led to outrageous price gouging, which has seen a total lack of government intervention. Over 6 million households in the UK now live in fuel poverty, where workers and pensioners must make the devastating deci-

Great British Energy

Prior to the manifesto, Labour had

55% of Brits are in favour of energy renationalisation, according to a 2022



100 days into

the Lahour

government.

companies

have been given

permission to

raise our bills

and more than

2.000 iobs have

been cut at Tata

sion to 'heat or eat'.

promised a £28 billion investment into a "green prosperity plan". They later reneged on this, apparently not wanting to look like they were somehow going on a spending spree. The promised amount of state funding into GB Energy is a fraction of the original pledge. Government spending restrictions are being prioritised over clean energy, better air quality

YouGov survey, only 10% are in favour of a private energy sector. With Jeremy Corbyn as leader, Labour had pledged to renationalise the big-six energy suppliers and the National Grid. Those policies were promptly ditched under Starmer to be replaced by "partnership between the public and private sectors" in the form of GB

Energy, which will compete alongside Labour has also added, to much private energy providers. fanfare, a pledged £21.7 billion Labour will also create a new £7.3 planned investment in carbon capbillion 'National Wealth Fund' which will aim to encourage private investment in green projects. This was announced with the vague expectation that they will get £3 of private money for every £1 of state investment.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves is quoted as saying that the fund would act as a "concierge service for investors and businesses that want to invest in Britain". This is meant to be directed to ports, gigafactories (industrial units using renewable electricity), steel and hydrogen

There is in fact already a similar institution brought into existence by the Tories called the UK Infrastructure Bank that was meant to "tackle climate change and support regional and local economic growth". Given In the run-up to the budget, there the low levels of private investment that exist, lower than in any other G7 country as a percentage of GDP, how is that investment going to start : from the Tories. Not in terms of day-

ture and storage technology (CCS). something big fossil fuel companies have been lobbying for. This is still a modest sum in relation to the levels of investment in green energy needed, and even more modest when considered that this is spread over 20 years. The last Tory government had promised £20 billion in March 2023. The planned CCS investment is re-

ally an acknowledgment that carbon generating electricity production will continue, only that the new, not very widely tested technology will pump CO₂ emissions into empty oil and gas wells under the North Sea rather than

has been speculation that the government will rewrite the fiscal rules, which it enthusiastically adopted to-day spending on services, which

they still plan to cut, but in terms of long-term capital investment. In the face of government debt now at 100% of GDP - the highest level since the 1960s - they may use accounting sleight of hand, such as moving the National Wealth Fund and GB Energy off the government books, or excluding the Bank of England's losses over its reversal of quantitative easing. Either way, on the basis of the government's approach, there still will not be sufficient investment to solve the environmental crisis.

SOCIALIST

CHANGE

The scale of investment needed to combat climate change is huge, with vast investment in solar, wind, geothermal and hydropower required. Not only is green energy cleaner, but also much cheaper, so companies have little incentive to invest in green energy for profit.

Only a socialist programme can provide a real transition to green energy that would slow the devastation of climate change. It would start with nationalisation of the entire energy industry under democratic workers': factor in a green energy transition

control and should include the producers, suppliers and distribution such as the National Grid. This nationalisation has to be without compensation to the main super-rich owners, but with compensation only on the basis of proven need to small shareholders.

The existing wealth the current super-rich industry owners have amassed over many years of price gouging could be used to both hold down prices and invest in a rapid transition to carbon-free energy that both safeguards and creates new jobs within the sector. But it would need to go further and take the key industries out of private hands to prioritise environmentally sound methods, and allow planning to be democratically controlled by the working class as a

Transport and housing

Transport is also only vaguely alluded to in the energy section of the Labour manifesto despite being a huge

Road travel accounts for 91% of all : guarantee of alternative jobs for anyprogramme can tion of the railways. provide a real

Bus travel is also a key factor in public transport, and a massively expanded, free-to-use electric bus network is needed to help us rely less on cars for transport. Again, this requires the full renationalisation of nublic transport. Not only is a huge house building programme needed, but construc-

tion must be done with sustainability in mind. The private construction sector is currently shockingly wasteful, generating 62% of total UK waste. This can be tackled by focusing on 'deconstruction' methods which salvage valuable materials from demolished builds, a focus on low-carbon building materials, and worker-led project planning that doesn't focus on for-profit costcutting and creates high-quality social housing built to last, and to the maximum environmental and safety standards.

One key issue of contention, particuwill maintain existing licences.

Sharon Graham, general secretary of Unite the Union, compares what might happen in communities dependant on North Sea oil and gas jobs to what happened to mining communities after the mass closure of coal mines in the 1980s. She says: "You cessfully dealing with the climate cannot offset people's concerns with : crisis, because competing compa some vague reference to job creation". Many workers will not trust the government's promises of future green iterm needs of society and the climate. jobs. Unite calls for "no ban without a plan".

What is needed is a cast-iron socialist change.

domestic transport emissions. Huge, centrally planned investment would be required to upgrade and build rail travel, alongside a real renationalisa-

larly with the trade unions, is that of jobs. For example, Labour has said that it would not issue new licences : cost. for exploration of more oil and gas reserves in the North Sea, although it

of the shift to renewable energy and a green economy, and jobs that are at least on the same terms and conditions as now. But that can only be guaranteed by public ownership. The : parallel exists now with Tata Steel which is shifting its steel production away from the UK using the guise of a 'green transition'. The alternative proposals of Unite have been rejected by a company only interested in profit. That's why the Socialist Party has called for nationalisation to preserve jobs while carrying out that

Many workers fear that the cost of green policies in general will be billed to them, with some justification. For example, the various schemes to charge car users introduced in many areas, supposedly to discourage car use, but more as a fundraising exercise. At the same time, public transport is in crisis and faces cuts.

When energy prices are rising, everyone has been aware of vast profits being made by energy suppliers. While control of these things is in the hands of those big companies, it's no wonder many don't believe they wouldn't end up shouldering the

Unprepared to seriously challenge the oil and gas giants' profits and domination over the energy industry Labour will not be able to meet its cli mate pledges, themselves insufficient to stop and reverse catastrophic climate change.

In Britain, and on an international basis, capitalism is incapable of sucnies and nation states will always put short-term profits ahead of the long-The fight to oppose climate change cannot be separated from the fight for

CLIMATE CATASTROPHE: WHAT KIND OF ACTIONS **CAN END IT?**

WHY SOCIALISTS FIGHT FOR NATIONALISATION

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Hull unions mobilise to stop far right

Jobs and homes, not racism

HULL SOCIALIST PARTY

n August, far-right activists organised a rally, looting, and rioting in Hull, directing people against migrants staying at the Royal Hotel and the main immigrant area of Hull, around Spring Bank. The far right played on anger about the removal of pensioners' heating allowance and poverty, mixed with their lies that all the problems people face come from illegal migrants struggling to cross the Channel.

Hull and District Trades Union Council responded by starting a campaign under the banner 'Jobs and homes, not racism.' This was to target the seedbed of racism, which is poverty.

We recognised that it was not good enough just to wag our finger at people with far-right ideas. Rather, we had to put forward a political programme of hope, based on improving the conditions of workers of all communities.

A section of the far right were emboldened by the August riots, and called a follow up rally in Hull for 5 October. The trades council called a counter-rally, and succeeded in preventing the far right from repeating their carnage.

It was not a complete victory, however. The far right had set up nearly four hours before their rally. And the police, under the guise of 'neutrality', argued that they had a democratic right to protest.

We outnumbered the far right, and were able to use a more powerful : sound system to mostly drown them :

out. We were able to set up on the steps of the plinth, which the far right wanted to use.

Far right demoralised

There is no doubt at the end that the far right were demoralised. Whereas those attending our rally felt buoyed by the protest.

The organisers and speakers, including many Socialist Party members, deserve a huge round of applause.

Some were worried that attending the anti-racist protest could lead to violence, court appearances, and prison. The trades council did a brilliant job stewarding our demonstration to protect it from far-right provocation.

Demonstrators going home commented that they felt safe. We also made sure that protestors were not left on their own to go home, where they could have been attacked by farright activists.

One or two protesters thought that we could have used our larger size to run the far right off the plinth. Had it been just us and them, this could have happened.

However, there was a huge police presence, which stood between us and the far right. Had we attempted to push the far right, the police would have intervened, and there would have been arrests. We had to weigh up what we would have gained, with what we would have lost.

This will not be the last time the far right attempt to pollute the streets of Hull. We need to be ready for them. Our campaign needs to be stepped up in our trade unions and workingclass communities.



AFTER THE RIOTS: THE CASE FOR A TRADE UNION COMMUNITY

SOCIALISM 2024

London, 9-10 November tickets and info at socialism.org.uk

DEFENCE STEWARDS ORGANISTION

Stop St Mungo's no-fault evictions

ST MUNGO'S WORKER

"The number of people falling into homelessness continues to rise... we hope these statistics will galvanise policy action to bring in the Renters Reform Bill and abolish Section 21 evictions: a detrimental clause which currently allows landlords to evict tenants without reason" -Emma Haddad, CEO of St Mungo's homelessness charity and housing association.

Commonly called 'no-fault eviction, a Section 21 notice instructs tenants to leave the property. No reason is required, and very little notice, as little as two months. 92,000 eviction notices like this have been issued since 2019. Over 28,000 were actually evicted - a major cause of homelessness

What the CEO did not say is that St Mungo's itself uses Section 21 notices! Unite the Union reps have challenged management about this practice on behalf of staff, but were brushed off.

Management said that they did not

terms and conditions. But that is : exactly the response given when the union initially warned that St Mungo's close cooperation with Home Office forced deportation was unethical, probably unlawful, and would prove damaging to its reputation.

Management do not even know how many Section 21s St Mungo's has used. St Mungo's management has created new high-paid 'transformation management' posts to drive through a 'transformation programme.' The organisation's leadership seems focused on corporate money-saving goals, to the detriment of its social aims.

Profiting from housing crisis

Housing lawyer Nick Bano says one of his clients faced eviction from her studio flat, which had been without heating for two years, and in which she was not allowed to have her children stay overnight. The landlord was St Mungo's!

"Even a homeless charity does wish to discuss matters other than : not see the irony in operating as a

real-estate profiteer during a housing crisis."

Damaging corporatisation

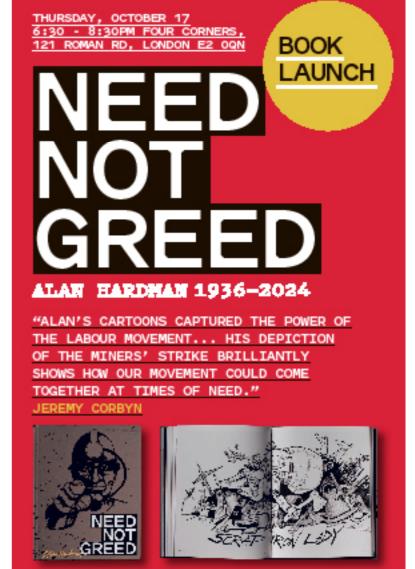
St Mungo's management repeatedly undermines the hard work of its staff. with a shortsighted focus on narrow financial priorities. Management should stop these evictions, engage with Unite, and halt damaging corporatisation initiatives, such as the transformation programme.

Join the fightback

- Visit socialistpartv.org.uk/ioir or call 020 8988 8777
- or text your name and postcode to **07761 818 206**

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CAMPAIGNS the **Socialist** socialistparty.org.uk 10-16 October 2024



MICK SUTER

SHEFFIFI D AND SOUTH YORKSHIRE SAVE OUR NHS

We gathered outside Rotherham Hospital to demand that the eviction of 76 medical staff from the three onsite accommodation blocks is stopped. The hospital trust wants to see everyone out by the end of January.

The residents feel betrayed. Many are international students and workers who came to Rotherham because of the offer of accommodation.

The trust says that it cannot afford

to do repairs after a fire safety report. This is a smokescreen.

It had the report on 29 July, and sent eviction letters out the next day. No consultation, no meeting of the board.

ITV Calendar News, Radio Sheffield, and the Rotherham Advertiser were all reporting on the lively well-attended protest on 7 October. Rotherham local government Unison, Royal College of Nursing South Yorkshire, the branch secretary of PCS union digital health, alongside Socialist Party members and Sheffield Save Our NHS, all sent people to demand an end to these evictions

The report calls for new safety doors, and the clearance of the exit ways. It does not say anything about any major repairs. We say do the repairs, and keep the blocks open!

Don't add to the homelessness in Rotherham, Don't add to the 7,000plus on the council waiting list.

The campaign will continue to build pressure on the board to stop the evictions.

• Read what we've said before -'Rotherham NHS Trust plans over 80 evictions of health workers' at socialistparty.org.uk

Waltham Forest – Save Markhouse Centre for disabled adults from Labour cuts

WALTHAM FOREST SOCIALIST PARTY

Pretty soon now, the only publicly owned buildings will be town halls, where the councillors decide on all these cuts.

The temptation must be immense. For instance, there's the Markhouse Centre in Walthamstow in east London. It serves adults with special

Is it vital for the wellbeing of vulnerable adults, who would otherwise have to fend for themselves? Yes.

But does it make a profit? No.

Can the Waltham Forest Labour council make money by selling the land, and boast to the electorate that it is not going bust like other authorities? Yes.

The Socialist Party and the trade unions in Waltham Forest Trades Council have lent our support to the campaign to prevent the closure of this specially equipped centre.

The Labour council claim that the complete refurbishment of the centre would cost £1.2 million and, therefore, this is a reason not to do any repairs at all. This approach does not really seem logical or fair.

Quite apart from its immensely practical support, the centre is a source of community for people who would otherwise be isolated. Have we really become a society that does not want to deal with those amongst us who are less fortunate?

The proposed closure date has already been pushed back a month. We are aiming to cause further delay and hopefully halt the process altogether.

The Labour council should demand the funding we need from the Labour government, and join with us to campaign for it.

Public meeting hosted by trades council

- Thursday 24 October, 7pm, William Morris Community Centre, 8 Greenleaf Road, E17 6QQ
- Lobby the council cabinet
- Tuesday 3 December, 1pm, town hall steps

WHAT WILL LIFE BE LIKE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE **UNDER STARMER?**

Come and discuss at

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Caerphilly Labour council doubles down with 600 job cuts

SOCIALIST PARTY WALES

Labour-run Caerphilly council has doubled down on its cuts agenda by announcing 600 job losses. This follows threats to close meals on wheels, Blackwood Miners' Institute, and Llancaiach Fawr house.

At its latest meeting, Labour gave in to pressure not to close meals on wheels, although it has increased charges to service users. In effect, this is another tax on the elderly, following the Labour government cutting winter fuel allowance.

Neither heating or eating

The Labour government is cutting their heating, and the Labour council is cutting their food!

Labour politicians have bemoaned the 2,000 devastating job cuts at Tata Steel in Port Talbot. But now they are carrying out nearly one third of Tata's cuts at Caerphilly!

And, of course, with those 600 jobs, go the vital services those workers provide the local community.

This isn't out of financial necessity but on the advice of private consultancy firm Perago, which profits from cutting services. The council is paying it £1.7 million for 'help' with restructuring.

We have a Labour UK government,



Labour council. Labour is in charge at all levels of government, and yet the cuts continue.

The council has already agreed £20 million cuts, and plans £45 million more. Caerphilly council must vote down these cuts.

If there is a shortfall then it must work together with other Welsh couna Labour Welsh government, and a : cils, and build a mass campaign to demand that the UK and Welsh governments provide sufficient funding to restore our services.

Where's the money?

In the meantime, it can draw on its reserves to plug the gap. All Caerphilly council departments underspent last

Council reserves stand at £192

million. £90 million is "unallocated", ready to be used in any way the council sees fit.

Another £73 million of reserves has been allocated for "specific projects" by the council. What is more important than basic council services? More white elephants?

Who should pay for this crisis in public funding - working people who

have kept this country going, or the very wealthy who have accumulated enormous wealth? And some of those profits drip into freebies for Labour politicians.

Labour is not Labour anymore. It puts forward watered-down Tory policies, instead of fighting for the working class.

We need our unions to stop funding Keir Starmer's Labour, and instead form a new workers' party that will stand up and fight to defend our services.

CAERPHILLY SOCIALIST PARTY SAYS:

Stop the cuts. Save 600 jobs! Dip into the council's £184 million reserves as a temporary measure

 Build a mass campaign of communities and trade unions to defend all council services and jobs

- Campaign with other councils to demand adequate funding from Welsh Labour Senedd and UK Westminster governments
- For workers' candidates to replace the councillors who are trying to cut our services
- Make the rich pay for the Tory mess, not our pensioners
- For a new mass workers' party
- Read what we've said before -'Save services - No cuts! Make the super-rich pay' at socialistparty.org.

STUDENTS socialistparty.org.uk the **Socialist** 10-16 October 2024

Why I joined Socialist Students and Socialist Party Bite your tongue, or shout and be heard?

FRANK HAMMOND

COVENTRY SOCIALIST PARTY

alling all students, have you heard of the Socialist Students society? Joining Coventry University in September, and not coming from anywhere near. I was eager to look around me and see what this small city could possibly offer.

Being a disabled working-class lad, it's been easy for me to see the injustice in the world, like many others. It's a damn crime, and unfortunately we live in a world where it's plain to

So instead of shutting my eyes and plugging my ears, fulfilling the capitalist system's needs, when it came time to looking for student societies, one immediately caught my eye - the Socialist Students society

I spoke with the Socialist Students and Socialist Party members running the campaign stall to gain an

understanding of the surrounding area's social and political climate, the members' individual beliefs, and where they were hoping to take these ideas.

Pleasantly surprised to meet people with strong-willed, determined, and empathetic attitudes, I've chosen to sign up and get actively involved, accepting a formal invite to a meeting to further discuss our intentions and desires to create a better life for people, and how we can

Coming from an area where people are constantly misguided by the media, or purposefully distracted from the injustice, I have felt nothing but pride and gratitude to have been introduced to my optimistic community with open arms and an opportunity to have a say.

After gathering locally with our members, it's refreshing to drink in the pure passion I've witnessed, and to be educated on the change that



is happening in Coventry and surrounding areas right now.

And it's bigger than we think. Because each and every one of us have

It's just our choice to bite our tongue, or shout and be heard. What choice will you make?

Join Socialist Students and the Socialist Party today, and be active in the quest for change.

Join the fightback **JOIN THE**

- or call **020 8988 8777**
- or text your name and postcode to 07761 818 206

to find out more today!

Cardiff students angry about fees and war

ARIS PREVOST AND JOE FATHALLAH

CARDIFF SOCIALIST STUDENTS AND

Socialist Students was at freshers to meet and discuss with all those looking for an alternative to rising tuition fees, marketisation of higher education, slum housing, and universities investing in arms manufacturers responsible for death and destruction in the Middle East.

Keir Starmer's Labour government is threatening to raise the tuition fees cap to £10,500 within five years, putting another nail in the coffin of accessible education for working-class students.

Last year, an encampment for Gaza was set up at the university, and succeeded in forcing management to conduct a review of investments into companies supplying arms to the Israeli military. Many of those students are back this year, and ready to fight

Socialist Students activists, with some help from Socialist Party members who booked time off work to assist, got an excellent response with our demands for ending of student fees, and fully publicly funded education, under the democratic control of staff. students, and the wider community.

We had two stalls at each end, and had great discussions on topics that people brought up. Students could see that we are a serious campaigning organisation.



People were against the potential rise in university fees, against the Labour government more, and against the war in Gaza and Lebanon. 18 people turned up to our first meeting - which was on 'What is Socialism?' interested in building an active, campaigning Socialist Students society for the coming year.

Many also wanted to find out more about the Socialist Party. We now have weekly Socialist Students campaign stalls to keep the momentum

Join the student fightback: join...



- Visit socialiststudents.org.uk/join
- or call **020 8988 8761**
- or text your name and school, college or uni to 07749 379 010

Bring halls back, build council houses and control the rent

JONATHAN OSAKO

BIRMINGHAM SOCIALIST STUDENTS

Student rent has increased by an average of 14.73% between 2022 and 2023, according to research from NatWest. In some places by as much as 20%, in 2024, the average monthly rent is now £689.43!

And it's not just the rent going up. In fact the only thing that's not skyrocketing is the money we get to live on! These increases have changed the lifestyle of many students. More than half, 56% of students, are spending less on social activities - with a negative impact on their social lives and wellbeing.

Rip-off rent

Meanwhile, to make ends meet, many students have to find a parttime job while being a full-time student, impacting on their ability to study. No one should be coerced to sacrifice their entire social life for work in order to survive. The opportunity for students to socialise and :

connect is what allows the youth to organise many of the social movements we see today.

This recent shift of student life reflects how capitalism causes alienation. By suppressing the wage to the minimum possible, workers are exhausted by working all hours in order to sustain themselves. This leaves little time or energy to socialise or have a life outside the career. This is an attempt to stop workers from being able to organise effective movements to fight back.

Likewise, many students spend all their time on studying and their parttime job with little time socialising with others, hoping to have a wellpaid job upon graduation.

Socialist Students fights for halls to be brought into public ownership, not in the hands of profit-making vultures. They should be invested in so they're safe for students to live in. We also call for the building of council houses, and rent controls so that we all have an affordable, comfortable place to live.

editors@socialistparty.org.uk

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

13 SOCIALISM

THE WORKSHOPS AT

PART OF A WEEKEND OF DISCUSSION ON SOCIALIST IDEAS

SATURDAY

9 NOVEMBER

2-4PM

WORKSHOP THEME

SMASH

RACISM

PERSPECTIVES

FOR CLASS

STRUGGLE

GRASSROOTS

POWER

TROTSKYISM

TODAY

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 11AM - 1PM

sociALIS)

Saturday 9 Nov

Origins of the

Labour Party: a

Marxist approach

young people to

Post 2007-08: what

parties?

happened to the 'new left'

socialism

How to win workers and

014180449

5.30-7.30pm

You can't have capitalism without racism

After the riots: the case for a trade union community defence stewards organisation

> Could AI and a green new deal give capitalism a new lease of life?

SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 10AM - 12NOON

After the Austrian

the struggle for

socialism in

Britain

elections: is the rise of the far right inevitable

SUNDAY

10 NOVEMBER

1-2.45PM

Do we face an authoritarian world?

Phone 020 8988 8777 or email socialism@socialistparty.org.uk o tell us what you need

organisation: the route to a new party?

Community

Climate catastrophe: what kind of action can end it?

Historical materialism:

progress

austerity?

elections

how Marxists understand

the entire weekend and one nigh in a London hostel: £35 unwaged or low waged; £60 waged; £80 solidarity

Golden tickets include entry to

Marxist philosophy: using dialectical materialism

INTRODUCTION TO MARXISM

Marxism and the state: the role of the

Marxist economics: understanding capitalism to change the world

Where now for

the Iranian

revolution?

The Cass

Review and

the culture

Students v

battle on

campus

Starmer: the

wars

What role could the Green 📕 Will the trade unions build Party play in the fight against Starmer's

after the presidential

Class struggle in the USA

IEEE

Capitalism and

Islamophobia

a new workers' party?

Revolution and counter-

What is the role of

the Israeli working

revolution

in

class?

A POLITICAL VOICE FOR THE WORKING CLASS

OPPRESSION

Sri Lanka: new A WORLD president, same IN CRISIS struggle for survival

MIDDLE EAST: Palestinian **FAILED BY** CAPITALISM achievable?

END

Is society becoming more misogynist? STOP

BUILD THE FIGHTBACK UNDER STARMER

TRADE UNIONISM TODAY CB

MARXISM IN ACTION DISCOUNT ON

TICKETS UNTIL 5PM ON 8 NOVEMBER

Scotland & Starmer: where next for Scottish independence?

PCS: the Preparing the fight for the trade unions to future of the fight under Labour?

60 years of Militant and the Socialist: a Marxist paper and its role in the fightback

Free creche: a free creche runs throughout the event - highly recommended by kids and parents alike. To book your place, email socialism@socialistparty.org.uk or phone Oscar on 020 8988 8777 by 5pm 4 November.

Tickets and info: socialism.org.uk

回途回 or scan here:

What will life be

like for disabled

Why socialists

nationalisation

people under

Starmer?

fight for

SEE ONLINE AT WWW.SOCIALISM.ORG.UK FOR UPDATES, INFO AND

TICKETS

to war, racism, austerity. Starmer and, the capitalist system he defends

Main rally for socialism. **Saturday 9 November** 5.30-7.30pm Logan Hall,

Institute of Education. WC1H OAL

Taking place on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 November, the Socialism 2024 weekend will arm you with the ideas to fight back under the Starmer government against the capitalist system it defends.

Socialism 2024 will come only days after Labour's autumn budget in which Starmer and Reeves plan to make the working class pay for the crisis of the capitalist system - while the rich get richer.

Join hundreds of trade unionists, students, community campaigners, and those who want to find out about socialist ideas, to discuss and debate how we fight back and ideas to change the world.

The workshops are listed inside, but the centrepiece of the event will be the main rally on the Saturday evening where you will hear from leading socialists.

GETTING A TICKET

The best way to get tickets is online or through Socialist Party members you know. You can also phone 02089888777 There is a 10% discount on tickets until 5pm on 8 November. Tickets: www.socialism.org.uk

Weekend tickets:



Golden tickets (includes a night in a hostel):



Saturday or Sunday only: £12.50-£50 Saturday rally only: £7.50-£30 solidarity

ridden system based on the exploitation of the majority of the world's population by a small, superrich 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 workingclass 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 workingclass 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 £15-an-hour minimum wage for all, 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

services including the NHS and council services. Reverse all the cuts, kick out the privateers. Bring private social care and childcare facilities into public

processing, distribution and retail of food

- 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
- 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.
- democratic community control and oversight of emergency funding resources. No to racist immigration laws
- 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
- For the right of nations to selfdetermination. For an independent socialist Scotland and for a socialist Wales, both part of a voluntary socialist
- 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
- based on the trade unions, and and activists from workplaces, and community, environmental, anti-racist and anti-cuts campaigns, to provide a fighting, socialist political alternative to

- No to imperialist wars and occupations!
- 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 Compensation to be paid only on the
- A democratic socialist plan of overwhelming majority of people, and in a way that safeguards the environment.
- a campaign with European socialists and workers' organisations to use the the EU pro-capitalist rules. For a real collaboration of the peoples of Europe on a socialist basis as a step towards a

unionist released **Drop charges, and release protesters still held** DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (CWI

Nigeria: Socialists and trade

We of the Democratic Socialist Movement formally announce the release of Adaramove Michael Lenin and Mosiu Sodio after almost two months in the captivity of Bola Tinubu's government. Also freed today is Eleojo Opaluwa, a regional officer of the National Union of Electricity

Michael Lenin and Sodiq were abducted in the wee hours of 5 August by the operatives of the National Intelligence Agency in Abuja. Their abduction and subsequent detention were part of the vicious clampdown on the #EndBadGovernance protests across the country, especially in Abuia and the northern part of the country.

Michael Lenin, National Coordinator of the Youth Right Campaign and a member of the Democratic Socialist Movement, was one of the organisers of the #EndBadGovernance protests. Since their arrest. Michael and ten others have been on trial on charges of treason, which carries a death penalty

They were granted bail from 11 September following a strident local and international campaign for their release. But the stringent conditions of the bail meant that they spent three more weeks in prison. Just three out of the original ten charged with treason had been previously freed - Abayomi Adevemi, Angel Loveth and Nuradeen Khamis.

Still in detention are Daniel Akande, Bashir Bello, Suleiman Yakubu and Abdulsalam Zubairu.

Daniel, who was arrested on 2 September, was charged to court on 27 September, However, 103 are still languishing in detention in Abuja without charge and trial. Also, Khaleed Aminu and seven others remain in detention in Kaduna. In Kano and elsewhere there are several activists, journalists and whistleblowers still being held. Therefore, it is not yet fi-

We demand immediate freedom for everyone still detained in connection with the #EndBadGovernanceInNigeria protest. Despite being out of prison, Michael Lenin and others remain on trial for treason. We hereby demand the dropping of all trumped-up charges against them. We also demand the unfreezing of bank accounts of activists and organisations which have been barred in connection with #EndBadGovernance protests.

We say kudos to socialists, trade unions and other organisations and activists locally and internationally for their various solidarity actions.

We call on working people and youth to sustain the struggle against anti-poor capitalist policies and attacks on democratic rights by the

Scan for Nigeria Solidarity **UK campign**





Austria elections: Far-right FPÖ wins most votes

socialistparty.org.uk

SOZIALISTISCHE OFFENSIVE (CWI AUSTRIA)

n the Austrian general elections on 29 September the far-right Freedom party (FPÖ), led by Herpert Kickl, emerged victorious with 28.8%, 1.4 million votes, its highest ever. Strikingly, this vote was nearly double its poor 2019 result, showing again that the FPÖ will not simply vanish after a single bad election result. The FPÖ's result is a new high point in a long political development of popular alienation from the established parties and an expression of increasing polarisation.

The outgoing chancellor's party, the Peoples Party (ÖVP), only managed 26.3%, over 500,000 votes down on 2019. The Social Democrats, led by the left-wing figure Andreas Babler, saw its percentage stagnate around a weak 21.1%, gaining just 20,000 more votes. The ÖVP's small coalition partner, the Greens, was punished and ended up in fifth place with 8.2%, behind the neoliberal NEOS A number of small lists secured votes below the 4% hurdle necessary to get into parliament, including the Communist Party (KPÖ), which was, however, able to increase its EU election result last June in absolute numbers from 105,000 to 116,000 votes (2.4%).

'All parties against Kickl'

At the time of writing, all parliamentary parties are still against cooperation with the FPÖ. The 'solution' on offer is a three-party coalition between the ÖVP and SPÖ plus Neos or the Greens. However, any new government will face an Austrian economy in recession. The demands of business representatives are: reduction of labour costs, reduction of corporate taxes, government subsidies for companies, raising of the retirement age. All this is to be paid for

by increased work pressure, longer working hours, falling wages, salaries and pensions, and cuts to the welfare state. The capitalists therefore have no problem with the FPÖ's programme, only with its unpredictability. However, the longer the government negotiations last, the greater the pressure towards an FPÖ-ÖVP coalition. The last two times they governed in coalition they have, among other things, massively worsened the pension system and extended the maximum working hours to 12 hours a day.

But the plague cannot be fought 'marginalising' the FPÖ while at the same time continuing attacks on the rights and living standards of the working class, plus adopting the FPÖ's racist demands, prepares the ground for even greater FPÖ successes in the future

In 2000, there was a huge - but ultimately unsuccessful - resistance movement against the first ÖVP-FPÖ coalition. What finally shook that government was not the months



but the major strikes

against the pension

reform as well as rail-

way strikes, both in 2003.

In 2018, the protests against

the 12-hour working day also put the

second ÖVP-FPÖ coalition govern-

In both cases, the hesitant atti-

tude of the trade union leadership

saved the government because it

undermined the protests instead of

toppling the government and its poli-

cies. That is why the key question in

the coming months will be how the

trade union leadership positions it-

self towards a future government

- whether it will remain relatively

passive again or finally organise the

necessary class resistance, also un-

The FPÖ has been in the national

government twice and each time

it has stumbled over scandals. But

the fact that it has always recovered

shows that right-wing populism will

der pressure from below.

ment in a tight spot.

not simply disappear as long as the Herbert Kickl basis on which it is built - capitalist crisis, class antagonisms, social problems and discontent - continues to exist and there is no socialist alternative. The central weapons in the fight against right-wing extremism are therefore a socialist programme, class struggle and a new workers'

A new workers' party

For more than a year now, the SPÖ has had a left-wing leader in Andi Babler. The KPÖ has the mayor of Graz, the second largest city, and was in the run-off for the same office in Salzburg. But in this election, both Babler and his relatively leftwing programme, as well as the KPÖ, failed to make inroads into the working class. Babler did not make a real break with the capitalist politics of the SPÖ and its apparatus.

With over 116,000 votes, the KPÖ

compared to 2019 - a considerable increase, but below expectations. It imited itself to the issue of hous ing in the election campaign. On the one hand, this is a continuation of its 'social work' approach and, on the other, an expression of its failure to present an alternative to capitalism and its logic. Both Babler and the KPÖ tried to present themselves as 'respectable', not too radical. The focus on the electoral level and the illusion of achieving change through parliament became a problem as they were seen as working within the 'system' when many are alienated by the 'system'. They have once again left the field for (supposed) anti-establishment politics to the FPÖ. At the end of the campaign, its slogan was: "On election Sunday, we will bring down the

INTERNATIONAL

A fighting programme

It is quite possible that with a more offensive programme for the working class and a clear focus on movement and mobilising rather than just on the electoral level, the absolute number of votes could have been lower. But such an election campaign would have been the basis for building a genuine activist base with which a militant campaign could have been waged for the demands put forward and against the attacks of the future government. And this would have been a decisive step forward in building a genuine militant party for workers and young people This was not done during the election campaign - and is now urgently needed: In the coming collective bargaining rounds, where it is also important to build a militant trade union opposition, in movements for more resources for health and education, in protests against racist and sexist policies, and against possible attacks by a new government. Rebuilding the trade unions as

democratically run campaigning organisations, and the creation of a new political party for the working class and youth are necessary to challenge both the inevitable attacks of the ruling class and also the FPÖ which defends the fundamentals of this system. Creating such forces is a first step but they would need a programme which answers the immediate needs of the working class and argues for a socialist alternative to capitalism. In this way, the FPÖ's support can really be undermined, workers can be won back from it, and the capitalist system, which generates right-wing populism and needs it in times of crisis, can be

AFTER THE AUSTRIAN ELECTIONS: IS THE RISE OF THE FAR **RIGHT INEVITABLE**

Come and discuss at **SOCIALISM** 2024

London, 9-10 November tickets and info at socialism.org.uk

A massive expansion of public

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 For a socialist NHS to provide for

everyone's health needs, including dental and eve 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.

in order to provide free, high-quality

 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

- 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 are set by consumers, small farmers, and : socialist world.

Do you agree? Join the fightback!

Visit socialistparty.org.uk/join

or call **020 8988 8777**

postcode to **07761 818 206**

Help fund the fightback!

or text your name and

to find out more today.

JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

all workers involved in the production

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

For united working-class struggle to

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 asylum – with

Expand democracy. For the abolition

right to vote at 16.

confederation of Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland. Oppose the dictatorship of the

For a new mass workers' party, drawing together workers, young people

the pro-big business parties.

SOCIALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM

Take the wealth off the super-rich! working-class control and management.

basis of proven need, not to the fat cats production based on the interests of the

No to the EU bosses' club. Organise talks on post-Brexit relations to tear up information



the Social St

Issue 1293 10-16 October 2024 formerly Military

MOGERIA SESSIBLE SESS



Make the super-rich pay for free education

ROBBIE DAVIDSON

: MANCHESTER SOCIALIST STUDENTS

fter fifteen years of Tory austerity attacking our jobs, homes and services, Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves have made clear to the bosses their government won't be a radical departure. And, hearing about difficult decisions to be made on things including education funding, students are preparing for the worst.

Already, the university cost of living is at

Already, the university cost of living is at an all-time high. And the money we need to live on – once maintenance grants now transformed into loans – has not risen with inflation.

And its not just students. Lecturers and university staff are being exploited ever more – with low pay and longer hours. They have organised in their unions against poor pay and conditions during the strike wave and against redundancies now.

Students at this point in time, however, do not have the same level of organisation to match our growing frustration. For most of us, the students union is nothing more than a cafe and bar. Socialist Students members in freshers' weeks across the country have raised the need to fill that void with democratic fighting student organisations.

Free education should be a right for all, and this can only be achieved by taking it back into our hands. We've been told to tighten our belts by the six-figure salary bosses at the core of the marketised system. But its time the super-rich bosses and corporations are made to pay

The University and College Union (UCU) has called for an education levy on big business to pay for an end to tuition fees. We believe students and workers should have a democratic say over how university funding is spent and our universities are run. At our public meetings and stalls we found that our programme for free education chimes with students.

When they tripled tuition fees in 2010, the ensuing outrage lacked the organisation to sustain a proper movement against them. We will be prepared this time! Join Socialist Students today to get involved in the fightback.

Socialist Students says:

- No to further fee increases get organised on campus to fight for free education! Cancel student debt, replace student loans with living grants tied to the rate of inflation. Make the super-rich pay!
- No cuts and no closures! Build democratic student organisations to link up with campus trade unions and the wider working class to fight for the funding our universities need
 Kick big business off campus! End
- marketisation of our education. Open up university finances to democratic oversight and control including by elected students' representatives and campus trade unions, with the power to terminate all contracts and research tied to war, profiteering and exploitation, while guaranteeing jobs and funding
- Students need a political voice build a new mass workers' party that will stand up for students and workers and fight for socialism
- Fight for socialist change for democratic public ownership of the banks, monopolies and major industry to provide us with a future

