

DEFEND PUBLIC SERVICES SUPPORT STRIKING WORKERS

Public sector workers are striking to defend public services against the Con Dem government's austerity agenda. The effect of this government's cuts will be to completely dismantle the welfare state.

The Tories claim that cuts to public services, and attacks on pay, pensions and conditions are necessary due to the economic crisis, and claim public sector workers are overpaid. But it was not workers who caused the economic crisis, but the bankers. Public sector workers are not overpaid, half a million of them earn less than the living wage. Since 2009 some have seen a 20% drop in real wages.

The workers striking today are not just fighting for their own pay and conditions—everyone has an interest in defending public services. Cuts disproportionately affect disabled people, women, LGBTQ people, those from poorer backgrounds and black and minority ethnic groups.

It is important we fight back, not just to defend the public sector, but to bring down the Con Dem government which is attacking all working class people—victimising the unemployed, homeless people



and immigrants, criminalising young people and attacking trade unions. The cuts to the public sector are part of an all out attack on the working class.

Strikes are the most important way workers can fight back against these attacks. Through united, ongoing strike action, both in the public and private sector, we can bring about real change.

We need an alternative to the cuts and poverty pay being offered by the Tories and Lib Dems. However, Labour has

failed to provide this alternative. Labour has been cutting in councils they control, and Labour will not pledge either to halt the cuts once they are in power. Six anti-union laws were passed by Thatcher's government—and the subsequent Labour governments upheld them and even used them. Labour routinely condemns strikes and backs employers.

We need an alternative which will promise free services and full employment for all, and will support striking workers rather than condemn them.

Photo: Nick Efford/Flickr

LEFT UNITY STANDS FOR:

- Reversal of the cuts, an expansion of public spending and full employment.
- End to all privatisation.
- Abolition of all the anti-trade union legislation.
- A living wage for all.
- Democratic ownership and control of the economy and a progressive redistribution of wealth.

JOIN US AT WWW.LEFTUNITY.ORG

