



JULY 2022

Johnson out- Tories take aim at cutting jobs and wages

Unions strike back: defend members- defend services

Johnson is out and leaves a legacy of misconduct in office, thousands of unnecessary deaths and the NHS in crisis. The NHS faces cuts of 2.2% and will have its budgets capped; put simply, 'No money, no treatment.'

The Tory leadership candidates have an agenda of tax cuts and modernisation. The tax cuts will squeeze public sector budgets leading to cuts in services, jobs and pay.

The summer and autumn period will see a range of unions organise and ballot members. The Tory modernisation agenda does not include the right for unions to organise an online ballot.

The Tories and right-wing media claim that the unions want to drag us back into the 1970s.

In the 1970s a house cost four times the average wage- today it is fifteen times the average wage. Many work in low paid jobs and on zero hours contracts with little hope of owning the average house, priced at £275,000[1].

In the 1970s university students received grants to help them study and graduated with £0 debt. Today the average student debt is £45,000.

In the 1970s there were ZERO foodbanks. Today we have millions of workers and families whose wages are so low that they claim tax credits. There are 1,200 food banks in operation in 2022[2] supplying 3 million emergency parcels.

In the 1970s the rich paid 83% income tax- today it's been halved to 40%. Businesses paid 40% tax on profits in the 1970s- today they pay 19%.

Profits are healthy, the rich are getting richer and they have never paid so little in tax. Services are being cut and privatised. The NHS suffers chronic underfunding with six million on hospital waiting lists - the Tories want 2.2% cuts in the health budget.

The 1970s terrify the wealthy- we had nationalised transport, energy, free education with public health and social care for all. Public services mean less profit for them.

Workers are right to organise and defend their jobs and services. Support the strikes!

Nick Jones (Principal Speaker, Left Unity)

Events

23/07/22 We All Just Want to Stop Oil protest- various rail stations, London, coaches organised from around the UK

31/07/22 Left Unity National Council, Zoom, 11.30-3.30

17/09/22 CND demo- Lakenheath RAF airfield 1.00pm

25/09/22 - 28/09/22 Labour Party Conference, Liverpool

02/10/22 - 05/10/22 Demonstrate at the Tory Party Conference, Birmingham

21/10/22- 23/10/22 European Forum, Athens, Greece

22/10/22 - 23/10/22 Labour for a Green New Deal: Worker-Climate Conference, Victoria Hall, Sheffield

The climate crisis, the NHS crisis and the cost of living crisis are one crisis!

While the Tories are voting against policies to tackle climate change, we are in the middle of a heatwave that is causing hardship and loss of life for working people around the globe.

Left Unity are an ecosocialist party because we recognise that if humankind is to survive, it has to establish a sustainable relationship with the rest of the natural world.

It is vital that we don't just discuss the climate emergency but act on it, and see it as integral to the fight for justice for all.

Ivola Dombay, Left Unity

[1] HOME PRICE TO INCOME RATIO (US & UK) - 75 YEAR CHART | LONGTERMTRENDS
[2] END OF YEAR STATS - THE TRUSSELL TRUST



NHS in crisis

Healthcare is broken, vandalised, robbed by privatisation and underfunding. Some brilliant services remain but with no security or certainty for the future, short or long term.

A new crisis is announced daily, a new crisis is experienced daily by ordinary folk.

Left Unity campaigns for healthcare as a state-funded, free at the point of need service provided as a national universal and comprehensive system. That is what we once had and now it is in tatters.

Modern life cannot function without a good healthcare system. Healthcare in the UK was once the best in the world. Years of underfunding, understaffing and privatisations have inflicted real damage. The Health and Care Act leaves it legally open to far more privatisation, on a huge scale. The ICS system introduced in England relies on rationing and denial of care. Our NHS was immensely valuable to the privatisers but their ideology has broken it.

Midwives and paramedics are leaving the service in droves, not because of the wages, though they are poor, but because of dangerous working conditions.

Elder care is largely privatised but cannot presently accommodate those people who need care in order to leave hospital. Seeing a GP is very difficult in some areas and this is an aspect of the NHS most vulnerable to privatisation.

Wales and Scotland have slightly different problems but underfunding, burnout and privatisation are still problems.

This is NOT because of Covid, it's because of years of neglect. The campaign to restore and repair the NHS is a big part of resistance to this Government and we would love to hear what's going on in your area.

We work with big campaigns and unions but having socialists prepared to speak up and organise is crucial.

Felicity Dowling, Left Unity



Support the Rail Workers' Strikes! Solidarity with the RMT! Resist new anti-union laws!

RMT members are currently in dispute over pay and impending cuts which threaten jobs and safety on the railways. Workers voted 81% in favour of the strikes on a 72% turnout, a testament to the anger workers feel at rail companies' attempts to boost profits at their expense, as well as passenger safety. Aslef drivers have also voted to strike at the end of the month.

The government and train operators want to close most ticket offices and cut safety-critical jobs; they have refused union request for job protection assurances. Employers have so far refused even to make a pay offer, yet Network rail and Train Operators paid out £10 million in Directors' earnings last year.

The Tories are threatening more anti-union laws, despite Britain already having the most restrictive anti-union laws in western Europe.

TUC General Secretary, Frances O'Grady said: "Ministers have spectacularly failed to deal with the cost of living crisis. Now they are trying to distract from their failure by picking a fight with unions."

Left Unity will do whatever we can to help build solidarity with all workers in struggle. We urge our members to get motions of support and solidarity through their union branches and visit local RMT picket lines. Everyone needs to get behind the rail workers. The Tories are threatening more anti-union laws precisely because they want to make it harder to strike and harder to resist their assault on our living standards.

Read Craig Lewis' full article here: <https://leftunity.org/support-the-rail-workers-strikes-solidarity-with-the-rmt-resist-new-anti-union-laws/>