

the alternative: anarcho-syndicalism

Anarcho-syndicalism is the idea that through solidarity and direct action, ordinary people have the power to improve our lives.

Our aim is to promote solidarity in our workplaces and outside them, encouraging workers to organise independently of bosses, bureaucrats and political parties to fight for our own interests as a class. Our ultimate goal is a stateless, classless society based on the principle of 'from each according to ability, to each according to need' – anarchist communism.

We see such a society based on our needs being created out of working class struggles to assert our needs in the here and now. Our activity is therefore aimed at promoting, assisting and developing such class struggles, which both benefit us all now and bring us closer to the society we want to create.

We do this according to the following three principles:

Solidarity: as individuals we are powerless in the face of bosses, bureaucrats and the state, but when we act collectively across all boundaries of race, gender, nationality the tables are turned.

Direct action: we do not make appeals to political or economic representatives to act on our behalf, but organise to get the things we want for ourselves.

Self-organisation: when we take control of our own struggles we both learn how to act without bosses or leaders and ensure we can't be sold out or demobilised from above.

As workers, we must take the mandate for change into our own hands. Don't vote – organise!

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this leaflet is produced by the Liverpool local of the Solidarity Federation, which is affiliated to the International Workers' Association (IWA), with affiliates and contacts across five continents.

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NO WAR BUT CLASS WAR!



Why only worker militancy and direct action can win the fightback against ruling class austerity

LIVERPOOL SOLIDARITY FEDERATION

With the new government's austerity measures starting to bite, people are worried about their future. The cuts agenda threatens all of us, and there is an urgent need to fight back.

But we can't kid ourselves that this can be done through reform measures – by pressuring this government or bringing a new one in. Marches and demonstrations won't stop the cuts, nor will petitions, Early Day Motions, or the moral outrage of the public.

This will be a long, hard fight, and in the end only direct action will get the goods. Because we are fighting a **CLASS WAR**.

CAPITALISM ISN'T IN CRISIS...



CAPITALISM IS THE CRISIS!

meet the new boss...

It is now clearer than ever that, whoever is in power, working class people face the same attacks.

Labour, in opposition, are on the warpath against "Tory cuts." But in power all they offered was a different timeframe. The Tories blame Labour for making the cuts necessary, but they're the ones implementing them – and this is not the first Tory government to do so.

Many people voted Liberal Democrat as the "nice" party, in contrast to Labour and the Tories. But even before the election they were a pro-business, anti-worker party.

In 2009, they were the first to argue for a public sector pay freeze. They support even tougher anti-strike laws than those implemented by Thatcher. Their councils are fond of using scab labour to break strikes, and their Welsh Assembly members condemned those who respected PCS's picket lines.

Looking across Europe, we can see that even greens and socialists – once in power – defend capitalism as ruthlessly as liberals and conservatives.

Party politics is a con. We need to send a message not only to this coalition government but to all political parties. The working class will not take these attacks on our livelihood lying down. We do not need anyone's permission to fight back, and we do not need politicians or bureaucrats to lead us.

We reject the notion that a different government will bring about a solution for us – the cuts will be defeated on the streets and on the picket lines, not at the ballot box.

against capitalism – it's not just the economy, stupid

Of course, we need to protect jobs. Every job lost to redundancy means a greater workload for those who remain. An injury to one really is an injury to all. We also need to stop the cuts that take away vital services, hard-won by generations of struggle. But we also want more.

This crisis is not the result of bad economic policies by any one government, or the greed of any particular corporate institution. Capitalism is not just an "economy" but an entire social order in which the wealth of the world is taken from those who create it for the parasitic ruling class that claim to "own" it and "rule" us.

That order cannot be made "nicer" and cannot be reformed away. We don't want exploitation made fairer. we want to end it. Our ultimate goal is to **DISMANTLE CAPITALISM.**

direct action gets the goods

As a class, our struggles are not just confined to the workplace. Our landlords are as exploitative as our bosses. Politicians are as vicious as big business. The welfare system is as demeaning as the wage system.

In all of these cases, we can only expect any concessions to our needs and interests if we are willing to stand up for ourselves. This means direct action.

Direct action takes many forms – strikes, occupations, work-to-rules, blockades, sabotage, and more – but the end goal is the same. We must become a disruption to those in power, if we are to force them to listen to us.

We cannot confine these tactics to single issues or isolated struggles. Solidarity as a class is the key to victory. By refusing to back down from wildcat action and supporting each others' disputes unreservedly, we can render the anti-trade union laws redundant.

Workers can only win serious concessions, in the workplace or beyond it, when direct action is used or when bosses fear it might be.

for rank-and-file control

The bureaucrats and "leaders" of the labour movement are our enemy.

Earning massive salaries, sitting around the table with politicians, business leaders, and top-level managers, they are detached from ordinary workers and their interests run contrary to our own.

Officials will refuse to fund unlawful solidarity action. Union bureaucrats use official backing and strike pay to turn action on and off like a tap.

They fear militancy, and will happily negotiate deals which mean a continual erosion of working conditions and job security.

Decisions should be made collectively. This means they are made by mass meetings, not by full-time officials in union offices.

By organising this way, we learn to act for ourselves, exercising our power without being led by union officials or political vanguards. This calls into question the way society is organised and prefiguring the world we want to create, without bosses or rulers.