

# Morning Star

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For peace & socialism

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## THE KNIVES COME OUT



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# SHOW OF UNITY

## Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales join forces to challenge George Osborne's 'devastating cuts'

by Paddy McGuffin  
Home Affairs Reporter

THE devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland joined forces yesterday to condemn savage Westminster proposed cuts to public spending.

In an unprecedented show of unity the First and Deputy First Ministers of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland signed a declaration demanding that Chancellor George Osborne scales back cuts to its budgets or risk destroying vital public services.

The plans to axe the budgets of the devolved administrations would lead to the loss of thousands of jobs and have a devastating impact on areas which already suffer some of the highest levels of deprivation.

The ministers stated that: "The devolved administrations believe that the proposed approach to public spending reductions by the UK government runs the risk of delivering significant economic and social harm and urge the UK government to reconsider its proposals."

They went on to say that, while they recognised the need for a "credible budget strategy," it is essential the recovery is not put at risk.  
Scottish First Minister

Alex Salmond said: "It is essential that we do all we can to ensure and support a strong economic recovery.

However the scale of the spending cuts proposed by the UK government risks jeopardising this work and causing significant harm to the economy at this critical period."

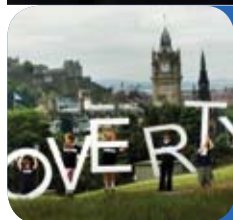
First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones said: "We have taken this unprecedented step because

we believe the scale and speed of cuts we have been led to expect will have devastating consequences for

the most vulnerable people in our devolved nations and the impact will be felt for generations to come."

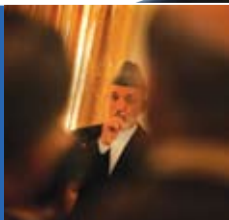
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**CHALLENGE:**  
George Osborne has been condemned by Carwyn Jones and Alex Salmond



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