

Scottish Socialist Party

**EIS
Members'
Voice**



make the rich pay - not our kids!
bail out education & all services - not bankers' profits
20's plenty in any class - give our kids a chance

PUBLIC MEETING

TODAY! - Sat 6th March - TODAY!
straight after EIS strike rally
in **CITY INN**, opposite SECC (200m across at waterfront)

speakers:

a primary teacher

a secondary teachers' EIS rep

a school student & a parent fighting school closures

Richie Venton (Save Our Schools Campaign organiser)

ALL WELCOME - exchange experiences in fighting cuts



The Scottish Socialist Party applauds and fully supports the EIS campaign against education budget cuts.

Education at every level - from nursery right through primary and secondary to FE and HE - is being battered by under-funding, with the excuse that the recession dictates prudence.

Try telling that to the bankers! Since their £1.3trillion bail-out from the public purse, they are still wallowing in gross profits, obscene bonuses of over £1m each - and are totally unaccountable to the public who rescued them from collapse.

Local councils - whether Labour, SNP, Lib Dem or Tory controlled - are wielding the axe to education and every other vital service, with nightmare predictions of 32,000 job losses (1 job in 8) by 2014.

They are closing schools, forcing kids into bigger classes, in schools further from home, often along dangerous routes.

Meantime teachers can't get permanent jobs and stress levels amongst remaining staff rocket.

None of these councils have found the collective backbone to stand up for jobs and services, launch a fight alongside the unions and communities, and demand funding off the Edinburgh government.

In turn, the SNP in Holyrood are rapidly retreating on every major manifesto promise, such as universal free school lunches and classes of 18 for all P1-3. Again, they

plead poverty, lack of funding from Westminster, the recession.

The Scottish Socialist Party, both within and outwith EIS and other public sector trade unions, is campaigning for united action to save education and every service from the cuts. We demand that the councils stand up to Holyrood, and that the SNP government should stand up for Scotland, by refusing to implement cuts, waging a massive campaign for funding off Labour in Westminster.

Unity across unions is critical. UNISON is calling a Scottish Demo in Glasgow on 10th April - the EIS leadership needs to help make this a mass, united march of the entire public sector against ALL cuts.

It is a dirty lie, a massive myth, to say cuts are necessary and unavoidable because of the recession.

Public sector cuts will ADD to the recession! Slashing young people's education is hardly the way to invest in the future!

And there is plenty of money - but it's in the wrong hands, too few people's hands.

The SSP calls for taxation of the rich - as an initial step, restore income tax and Corporation Tax to the levels before Margaret Thatcher (and then New Labour) made this country a haven for the tax-dodging rich. £130bn tax on the rich and big business went unpaid last year - imagine how that could boost services and jobs!

The £75bn wasted on son-of-Trident, and the £billions squandered on bloody, futile wars in Iraq and Afghanistan should be channeled into education and other public services instead.

Build the campaign by teachers, students and parents to save education. Unite with other public sector unions against the cuts. And join the SSP for a Scotland that puts kids before cash - a socialist Scotland.

**VOTE
SSP
TAX
THE
RICH**

for more material on community and trade union struggles - and socialist policies to combat mass unemployment, low pay, rent rises, public service cuts, privatisation, and the attempts to make workers pay for the bosses' crisis, visit:

www.scottishsocialistparty.org

bail out jobs & services - not bankers' profits!

teachers speak out

“While the government finds billions for the bankers’ bailout and its futile bloody war in Afghanistan, education faces the most savage cuts in living memory.

The impact of the cuts so far has been shocking:

- Behaviour Support posts slashed – when we have increasing numbers of children with behavioural needs in the mainstream;
- Specialist provision – from music instructors to SEN specialists to classroom assistants and support staff to niche classes such as Advanced Highers – cut back when we are told to focus on the individual needs and talents of each child;
- Management Time reduced – impacting on the quality of leadership and ethos in schools;
- A Resources famine – teachers forced to buy their own classroom supplies; parents forking out for textbooks to cover up under-funding;
- CPD budgets to train teachers for ACfE run dry.

The biggest scandal though is the failure to fund new teachers:

- there are 2,500 fewer teachers in post than 2 years ago;
- hundreds of newly qualified teachers chasing each vacancy;
- teacher training places slashed;
- temporary teachers dismissed by local authorities just before they gain full employment rights;
- increasing numbers of schools declaring teachers surplus;
- class sizes rising across the board.

The consequence is clear: MORE KIDS in BIGGER CLASSES!

All kids will pay the price but particularly those who rely on individual teacher interaction.

The EIS has pursued maximum class sizes relentlessly and won hard-earned victories. But those gains are now under threat!

Unless an immediate fightback begins, it is hard to see how teacher numbers and the security of teacher posts can be maintained even at this level with the forecast level of future cuts!

All this would be terrible at any time; but we are on the threshold of the biggest change to Scottish education in generations. ACfE remains vague and under-resourced. But what chance has it of succeeding in a climate of expanding class sizes, scant material resources, declining specialist provision and stressed, over-worked teachers in insecure jobs?

It’s supposed to be excellence; but it’s a recipe for mediocrity!”
by a Secondary School teacher and EIS rep



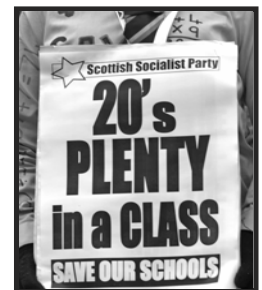
SSP on the march to stop racist/fascist BNP/SDL. UNITE!

The Scottish Socialist Party has a long track record of fighting to defend our children’s education. Since our formation in 1998 we have campaigned for maximum class sizes of 20, in keeping with EIS policy, and united with other parents against a succession of school closures, carried out to cut costs at kids’ expense.

In Glasgow last year, for instance, we led the Save Our Schools Campaign, uniting thousands across the city around the policies of “Twenty’s Plenty in any class - cut class sizes, not schools and kids’ education.” We argued, marched, lobbied and met with the SNP government, demanding investment in smaller, localised, community-based schools, where smaller classes and more staff would enrich children’s learning.

In the forthcoming General election, the SSP will highlight this policy, demanding that the rich minority are made to pay for decent education and other services.

We stand for full public ownership - but with democratic public control - of all the banks, big industries, N Sea oil, so the fabulous wealth of Scotland can be utilised for the benefit of all - in a clean, green, socialist Scotland - a Scotland that puts kids before cash, public need before private greed, people before profit. JOIN US!



SSP STANDS UP FOR SCOTLAND

The Scottish Socialist Party stands up for working class people. As part of our battle for a democratic, nuclear-free, poverty-free, independent socialist Scotland, we demand:

- no cuts to jobs and services - demand the funds off Holyrood and Westminster - tax the rich instead of punishing the poor
- for free, quality child-care provision, round the clock
- cut class sizes - not schools and education - 20’s plenty in any class - save our schools and communities
- increase pensions and benefits £50 a week as an immediate emergency step towards a living income for all
- for an £8 national minimum wage for all workers and trainees over 16 - end age wage discrimination - equal pay for women
- cuts hours - not jobs or pay - for a 35hour maximum working week without loss of earnings
- scrap Trident - invest in homes, hospitals and schools - not weapons of mass destruction - with jobs guaranteed through peaceful alternative work for all at Faslane
- reverse Tory and Labour privatisation - for democratic public ownership and control of services, banks, transport, construction, major industries, N Sea oil - for people not profit
- for an independent socialist Scotland - as part of a socialist Europe

JOIN THE SSP TODAY - the party of workers’ unity, public ownership and socialism

name..... email.....
address.....
phone(s) union.....

return this form to: SSP, 93 Hope St (suite 308), Glasgow G2 6LD
ring 0141 221 7470 or 07828 278 093 email: richieventon@hotmail.com
www.scottishsocialistparty.org EIS Voice 6 March 2010