

Scottish Socialist Party

Public
Sector
Workers
Voice



UNITE & DEFY COALITION, SNP & LABOUR CUTS build a march of a million on 26th March build united one-day public sector strike

Westminster's Twin Tory butchers have declared all-out war on jobs, services, benefits, pensions and pay. They are robbing £18bn off the poorest in benefits, to pay for bailing out the richest - the bankers, who are robbing a further £7bn in bonuses off us. They are slaughtering jobs, services, education, schools, pay and pensions - hitting the poorest 15 times harder than the richest.

And there is absolutely no excuse for ANY cuts: the money is there to defend every job, service and salary - but it is in the hands of the bankers, billionaires and big business. Instead of defying the Demolition Coalition by setting a No-Cuts Budget and leading a mass rebellion of the Scottish people around the battle-cry "give us back our stolen £billions", the Spineless National Party government

meekly implemented the £1.3bn Westminster cuts. In turn, an array of Labour, SNP, Tory and LibDem councillors have issued a bloodcurdling menu of cuts in all 32 councils. Universities, NHS and other bosses are swinging the axe too.

Defiance in the streets, workplaces, communities and universities is now required to beat back the butchers.

The eruption of student protests has shaken the authorities. Mass local rallies - such as the 1,200 parents and teachers in Paisley recently - show the mounting resistance.

Every effort should be made to put a million marchers on the streets on the 26th March TUC demo.. The bigger the mass, the more hesitant the government butchers will be - and the more confident the crowd when they return to their

workplaces, communities and colleges, to take up the cudgels against cuts.

But the TUC demo must not be the end of the resistance; rather, a platform to mount the coordinated industrial action pledged in rousing speeches at September's TUC conference. Words now need to become deeds!

UCU members are voting to strike against attacks on their pensions. PCS members are likely to follow suit. **Scottish UNISON unanimously agreed to call for a one-day public sector strike in Scotland** at its December meeting of branch delegates.

Several other union leaders - such as Mark Serwotka (PCS), Len McLuskey (UNITE), Bob Crow (RMT) - have issued similar calls.

The time has arrived for such words to be acted upon - and a one-day strike built amongst Scotland's 630,000 public sector workers.

The STUC and public sector unions should name the day for a Scottish public sector strike and use the TUC march to build mass support for it. Rallies on such a day of mass defiance would also enlist the support of students and communities - and beat back the butchers. **UNITE AND DEFY!**

BUILD & DEMAND DEFIANCE

"Any council or Scottish government worth its salt would have defied the cuts imposed by Westminster.

They would have set People's Budgets - No-Cuts budgets - and mobilised a rebellion of the Scottish people alongside trade unions, pensioners', students' and community groups - demanding the necessary funding off Westminster and Holyrood to save every job, service and salary..

When I presented the SSP's No-Cuts Budget, backed by the four local council workers' unions, and numerous tenants' and community groups, it was voted down by every other party - SNP and Labour included.

And if the SNP government was serious about stopping the ConDem cuts, they would introduce an emergency Bill to abolish the Council Tax and replace it with a Scottish Service Tax, based on ability to pay, with sliding scales of tax according to income. The SSP's latest research proves this would raise an extra £1.6bn a year - removing all excuses for cuts.

Trade unionists and community activists need to build resistance on the ground to ConDem, Labour and SNP cuts - defiance on the streets, in communities and through coordinated industrial action."

JIM BOLLAN, Scottish Socialist Party councillor, West Dunbartonshire

COMPARE the council tax



Labour:
Higher council tax, more cuts & poorer services

SNP:
Same council tax, more cuts & poorer services

Scottish Socialist Party:
Under SSP proposals for a Scottish Service Tax, 70% pay less & the well-off pay their fair share, creating a £1.5bn surplus = no cuts, & better services for all. Simple!

www.comparethecounciltax.com

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

www.scottishsocialistparty.org & www.comparethecounciltax.com

DEFY ALL CUTS - demand a united Scottish one-day strike against Westminster, Holyrood and council butchery - give us back our stolen £billions

The butchers' Coalition - with 23 millionaires and 4 ex-bankers in a Cabinet of 29 - spew out the monstrous lie that cuts are "unavoidable and necessary".

The public debt is mainly the result of the £1.3trillion bankers' bailout, mass unemployment, loss of taxes. But it is still only 70% of GDP - whereas it never fell below 100% of GDP from 1918 'til 1961. Job cuts will massively add to the debt.

There are numerous "better ways" - without a penny cut in pay, benefits, pensions, or the loss of a single job or service - with vast scope to improve the shoddy system we endure already:

■ scrapping the unfair, regressive Council Tax and replacing it with a Scottish Service Tax based on income would raise an extra £1.6bn next year - more than Osborne has slashed off the Scottish budget!

■ £120bn A YEAR in taxes on the rich and big business are avoided, evaded or uncollected - that's 75% of the 2009 deficit!

■ a modest 10% wealth tax on the richest 1,000 fatcats would raise £35bn a year - enough to create 1.4 million jobs on a £25,000 wage.

■ restoration of tax on the richest elite and Corporations to pre-

Thatcher levels (a policy the SSP shares with the PCS union) would raise up to £250bn a year extra.

■ scrapping Trident (whilst guaranteeing Faslane workers' jobs through diversification into peaceful, socially useful work) would save £100bn.

■ full and democratic public ownership of the banks would give us access to £560bn in liquid cash and £5trillion in assets.

There is nothing unavoidable or necessary about this Coalition's butchery. The cuts are driven by ideological hatred of public services, a ruthless intent to reverse the gains made by past working class struggles - a mission to use the whip of mass unemployment and starvation-level benefits to drive wages down even further, boosting profits even higher.

The ultimate 'better way' is a socialist Scotland, independent of the Westminster butchers, with democratic public ownership and control of the vast wealth and resources; an end to war and Trident; and a plan of clean, green production and services, based on people not profit.

Join Scotland's genuine socialist alternative, the SSP, to build that future.

HOW TO AVOID ALL CUTS
www.comparethecounciltax.com

examples of what YOU would pay under the SSP's income-based Scottish Service Tax

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>YEARLY BILL</u>
under £10,000	ZERO!
£15,000	£225
£20,000	£450
£25,000	£675
£32,000	£1,100
£57,521 [an MSP!!]	£4,028

SUM TOTAL: £3.4bn for next year's council budgets - an EXTRA £1.6bn - by taxing the rich ...cancelling out Osborne's cuts to block grant.



JOIN the SSP: the only party that has fought all cuts by all parties since 1998

WHY SHOULD WE PAY FOR THE BANKERS' BAILOUT?
 there IS a better way - socialism
 - not service cuts

A council worker's appeal

"It's time to get the gloves off and turn the defiant words at September's TUC into action.

Union leaders spoke of coordinated industrial action against the cuts. When are they going to turn these speeches into action?

I am proud to say the Scottish Council of UNISON in December backed councillors setting No-Cuts needs budgets.

Equally important, that meeting of UNISON branch delegates from across Scotland unanimously agreed to call for a coordinated one-day strike of Scottish public sector workers.

With the growing anger at the attacks on our pensions - vastly

increased contributions being demanded of workers alongside pay cuts - the time is ripe for the STUC and individual public sector unions to give a lead. Building the TUC Demo should be just the start of coordinated action. **We need the STUC, UNISON and other unions to name the day for a united shut-down.** Over 600,000 Scottish public sector workers united in action would shake Westminster, Holyrood and local employers to their roots, and boost the fighting confidence of workers and communities to defy the cuts."

COLIN TURBETT,
 Chairperson, North Ayrshire UNISON
(personal capacity)

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