



# Defend Welfare

## Unemployment: the Tory policy



- £20bn of welfare cuts - at the same time as giving businesses £25bn in tax breaks.
- Over 2.5 million people unemployed and less than half a million jobs available.
- Another 1.9m people are in temporary or part-time work looking for more work.
- Youth unemployment is at its highest level on record and female unemployment has not been this high since 1988.
- Unemployment benefit is currently £67.50 per week - less than £10 per day (or £53.45 if you're under 25, less than £8 per day).

## Our Welfare State: time for Labour to fight for its greatest achievement

The welfare state was founded by the post-war Labour government. The welfare state gave people rights: to housing, to healthcare and to a dignified standard of living no matter whether they were out of work, ill, disabled or retired. Welfare was established as a right for all citizens.

Much has changed since the 1940s: the family, the labour market and social

attitudes. Much has changed for the better, but that doesn't mean we should abandon

the principles of that welfare state: collective social insurance.

The causes of poverty in the UK remain the same: unemployment, disability and old age, and so the need for the welfare state remains. In a civilised society that means the right to live in dignity no matter what your personal

circumstances. That right is today under threat.

The LRC campaigns for:

- ***Pensions and benefits that provide a decent living standard to all in need.***
- ***Mass council house-building***
- ***Universal free childcare***
- ***An end to welfare cuts and privatisation.***

Find out more by visiting:  
[www.l-r-c.org.uk](http://www.l-r-c.org.uk)

## Exposing the government's lies about benefit fraud

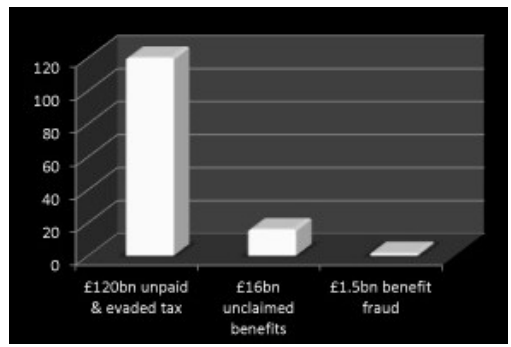
## They couldn't give ATOS about people with disabilities

While unemployment is rising, no jobs are being created and the UK has the lowest benefits in Europe, more and more of our welfare system is being privatised so that a few big companies can make profits.

Disability assessments are now carried out by private provider ATOS. The government has announced it wants one million fewer people on disability benefits. Despite the public sector outperforming both private and voluntary sector providers, the government's new workfare scheme, the Work Programme, will be entirely run by private providers.

**“The alternative to housing benefits cuts is to build council houses again, bring in rent controls, and compulsorily purchase empty properties”**

John McDonnell MP, LRC chair



## Don't let the ConDems demonise the poorest

- Unemployment means poverty and harassment, not an easy life
- Housing benefit is expensive because of private landlords
- Many disabled people could work if employers made reasonable adjustments, but they don't
- Many more people could work if we had free childcare
- The real fraud is committed by the super-rich and big business who avoid and evade their taxes.



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Please send a cheque for £10 (waged) or £5 unwaged payable to:

'Labour Representation Committee' to: LRC, PO Box, 2378, London, E5 9QU