

Scottish Socialist Party

Public Sector Workers Voice



UNITE & DEFY COALITION, SNP & LABOUR CUTS build united one-day public sector strike

As up to a million march, the Demolition Coalition will hope that's the end of the furious resistance to their butchery. In their dreams!

The trade unionists, students, pensioners and community activists who trek across the UK have no intention of just going home, lying down, and sleeping through the worst assault on their living standards in several generations.

The sleeping giant of the working class has begun to awaken; given a half-decent lead, we're a power that the smug assassins of Downing St cannot ignore or defeat. The biggest union-led march in decades will rattle the arrogant, millionaire-infested Cabinet, but as TUC general secretary Brendan Barber wrote this week, "One march, no matter how large, will not be enough to persuade the government to change track."

The only type of 'persuasion' that will get through to Cameron, Clegg - and indeed their weak-

willed Labour and SNP counterparts in the axe-wielding Scottish government and councils - is mass action that derails them.

This mass march is a tremendous boost to the fighting confidence of millions who want to resist the cuts, but live in fear.

But the thuggish, disproportionate assault on students occupying a building abandoned by Glasgow University authorities is a timely reminder, in microcosm, that more than just marches will be required to halt the bankers' and bosses' governments.

A movement of street protests, occupations of threatened facilities and especially of united, coordinated strike action, will be required to stop the cuts.

Mass withdrawal of workers' labour, bringing production and service provision to a halt across at least the entire, besieged public sector on the same day, would make a qualitatively

bigger impact on the butchers' and bankers' alliances than even a march of a million.

Past generations of Tories could testify to that! Alongside huge demos, it was widespread strikes, including one-day general strikes, that shipwrecked Tory (and Labour!) anti-union laws in the 1960s and 1970s; won the release of imprisoned strikers; toppled a Tory govt in 1974. Similar actions defeated wage-cuts by the 1974-9 Labour government. Regional one-day general strikes on Merseyside in the mid-1980s were instrumental in galvanising the wider population, defeating the hard-nosed Thatcher Tory government. A partial public sector strike forced the Blair Labour government to abandon most of their plans to rip up pension rights.

The onus is on the TUC, STUC and, at the very least, the public sector unions to transform the rousing speeches about "coordi-

nated strike action" at September's TUC into real deeds.

They should back the call, agreed unanimously by Scottish UNISON in December, for a coordinated one-day strike of all 600,000 Scottish public sector workers.

They should send back those on the TUC march to their workplaces, universities and communities Monday morning with the battle-cry "build for united strike action to stop the cuts" - preferably naming the day for a coordinated stoppage, with a Scottish mass demo over the next couple of months.

Numerous sections of workers have been on strike or are balloting. The simultaneous assault on pensions affects all. The union leaders should simultaneously ballot for simultaneous strikes on the same day - and call mass rallies on the day, which would enlist the support of communities and students - to beat back the butchers.

Unite - Defy - Defeat ALL cuts!

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

SSP PUBLIC MEETING

What next after mass march? Open forum on how to build united action to stop the cuts
MONDAY 28th March @ 7.30pm

Piper bar, George Sq, Glasgow

speakers: PETER MURRAY, NUJ president
JOHN DAVIDSON, PCS HMRC group exec
MARGARET BEAN, UNISON NHS

A LANARKSHIRE EIS rep
STUDENT from Free Hetherington anti-cuts occupation

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 £25,000. The richest 100 Scots alone would cough up £1.6bn!

■ 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; build that future. Vote SSP, for socialist MSPs on a worker's wage

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

workers' appeal

"It's time to get the gloves off. At September's TUC union leaders spoke of coordinated industrial action. When are they going to turn these defiant speeches into action? UNISON's Scottish Council voted unanimously to call for a coordinated one-day strike of Scottish public sector workers.

With the growing anger at the attacks on our pensions, the time is ripe for the STUC and individual public sector unions to give a lead. 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, N Ayrshire UNISON (personal cap)

"The onus is on the TUC to coordinate action between all those unions who have a dispute with the government."

JOHN JAMIESON, PCS NEC

"The TUC demo should be followed up by resistance to cuts in every workplace, combined with coordinated action against the government.

Already members of UCU, NUJ, PCS and many others have taken strike action. The main task now is coordination of strike action, for instance on pensions, to show we are against ALL cuts and for mass resistance."

PETER MURRAY, NUJ national president

VOTE SSP
 for workers' MSPs
 on a worker's wage

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