

A young girl with blonde hair, wearing a bright pink jacket with a green lining, is smiling broadly. She is holding a dark grey sign with white, hand-painted text. The background shows a blurred crowd of people, suggesting an outdoor public event.

For
Education
VOTE LEAVE

For Education
LEAVE THE EU

TUA  **EU**

Trade Unionists Against the EU

For education

VOTE LEAVE

Britain's schools, colleges and universities, adult education, youth and childrens' and other educational support services need a new lease of life, dedicated public funding, a new commitment to professional autonomy, less internal competition and more encouragement to train and support a population active at all levels in civic affairs.

There are great public institutions still in public hands. The NHS, the BBC, central and local government departments, schools, colleges and universities.

All are now under the intense pressures of break up and privatisation.

Yes the Conservatives are ideologically committed to this fragmentation and sell off and removal of more and more areas of important

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human activity from public and democratic accountability. They also think tests form a curriculum and individual competition rather than co-operation is how you raise standards.

Yet also, this agenda is the over-riding agenda of the EU. Academies suit the EU just fine.

The Maastricht Treaty introduced spending limits on all member states and penalties if they broke them. This put the downward pressure on all public spending.

EU top secrecy

The secret talks between the EU and the US about a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) show them keen to 'liberalise' all remaining public services and put the power of corporations above that of governments.

Whether an individual government likes it or not, its spending decisions and priorities are determined by the four great constitutional pillars of the European Union the freedom of capital, goods, services and labour to move as they see fit.

We cannot invest as a nation as we might want into our own economy and cannot

plan sensibly for manufacturing investment, skills development and a reversal of the austerity agenda inside the EU. This means that education becomes marketised also, it becomes over tested, underfunded and un co-ordinated.

Cuts and transformation

Cuts to FE have been disproportionate partly reflecting the lack of a vocational and industrial investment plan for Britain. Universities have become more like businesses and the student loan system has compounded the idea that education is a privilege not a right and a commodity not an essential part of civilised life for us all.

The amount cut by all government departments between 2010 and 2015 was £35 billion and over the same period the net payment into the EU was £46.4 billion. In other words none of the cuts were financially necessary and had we not made the EU payments, we could have preserved and enhanced all of our public services and reinvested in education.

Education should prepare a population for gainful and enjoyable employment and be sufficiently resourced to be creative and powerful in itself.



Education for unemployment

Since inception the EU has managed mass unemployment of around 10% each year. Currently this stands at 23 million people unemployed. This is the equivalent of the entire populations of Belgium and the Netherlands without work. In many areas of the EU there is youth unemployment of between 20% and 50%. Tragically for many young people it is a swift transition from school to dole queue. 600,000 black and minority ethnic young people in Britain are unemployed.

Education in Britain was a pioneering cradle to the grave experience. Key elements of this whether adult education, youth services or childrens' services are now fatally depleted and a range of support services like education psychology, or peripatetic music education are having to consider alternative forms of funding and delivery outside local authorities.

Special needs provision will become virtually privatised, bringing more insecurity into the lives of children who need security most.

Education and active citizenship

Throughout the educational journey we try to instil a sense of active citizenship and active engagement in social and political affairs. The EU is the most undemocratic bureaucracy in the world. Members of the European Parliament represent on average around 500,000 'constituents' which is probably why so few of us vote for them, or know their names. They can't deliver for us. They and their overpowering

secretariat have to serve the demands of political and economic union and the hidden hand of the market.

MEPS themselves have no law initiating powers in the toothless EU Parliament which is subject to the unelected domination of the six other instruments of EU power, mainly the EU Commission, the Council of Ministers and the European Central Bank. And now there's a revitalised additional player, the shadow sovereign, the US, long the EU's greatest fan.

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We know little about the EU decision makers, they hold most of their discussions in secret, so we cannot influence them. Even our own government has lost 72 of their 72 attempts to change serious EU proposals. What we do know is that the vast majority of MEPs and bureaucrats are drawn from Parties equivalent to our Tories and often much worse.

More significantly, although 10,000 of the bureaucrats in Brussels earn more than the British Prime Minister and therefore must be seen to be doing something in the office, so the EU resembles the US Congress in that its ears remain most sensitive to the legions of lobbyists from the large corporations who dictate the direction, Directives and Treaties of the EU.

Corporate takeover

The Roundtable of Industrialists is historically the most organised central lobby group for the corporations. The loudest, most numerous corporate lobbyists are from the health sector and many from education and are increasingly US backed. TTIP and an EU equivalent are very much alive thanks to them. The reports of TTIP's death are much exaggerated. The EU has its own Plan B ISDS anyway.

The corporate take-over of nations, the hollowing out of accountable, democratic public structures and forms of public ownership are the hallmark of the recent neoliberal episode of our history. Everything is 'economised', everything is depoliticised. All human interactions are reduced and determined by the money exchange. Social relations are costed, not valued.

Organised, integrated and essential elements of our social and economic life like education require planning, collective bargaining, skills development and continuous professional development. In general terms, the EU has encouraged the renewed round of attacks on workers' rights throughout the continent, which is dramatically effecting French, Belgian, Greek and Italian educationalists at the moment.

Social Europe – long dead

The EU's commitments to a social Europe agenda is long dead. The gloves are off and no European Court, even if you or your union could afford to take a case there, will protect those terms and conditions and professional standards which teachers, head teachers and lecturers find so important. The zero hours contract which plagues higher education is the favoured EU model of employment.

For a new Europe – Out of the EU

Years of austerity, decades of what is known as neoliberalism, constant political interference in the educational curricula, the importation of endless testing, paperwork and competitive frames of mind into the education process have taken their toll.

We need a new deal, a Britain independent of outside domination refocussing on the value that education can play in renewal with our wealth and resources invested in our own economy.



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Please contact us on www.tuae.co.uk

Campaign Against Euro Federalism

www.caef.org.uk

Peoples Movement (Ireland)

www.people.ie

Scottish Left Leave

www.euleftleave.scot

Labour leave

www.labourleave.org

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