

How does the strike affect:

- Private sector workers?
- Claimants?
- Disabled people?



# Why should I care about public sector pensions?

With hundreds of thousands of teachers and civil servants out on strike today a lot of people are asking themselves this question. All the commentary in the media and by politicians seems to be marking out clear lines of division, not between different classes but between the public and private sectors. We are told that the private sector is productive and creates wealth, whereas the public sector is unproductive and is a drain on that wealth.

This is a deliberate tactic to divide workers against each other while the ruling class – politicians, investors, CEOs, managers of hedge funds and pension funds – use the economic ‘crisis’ as a way of grabbing more wealth and power for themselves.

The vast majority of public sector workers will get a modest pension payout at retirement. But if they have to pay more for their pensions and receive less when they retire most of them will opt out, which

means the schemes will collapse. This will not make the savings the government talks about because they will still need to be supported in their retirement by the state, through state pensions, pension credits and other benefits. They will join the 70% of private sector workers who won’t even get a pension because their occupational schemes have been destroyed by successive governments who thought they swallowed up too much company profit.

So, why should you care about public sector pensions? Because the attack on pensions is part of a larger programme to make all workers more vulnerable and to worsen our living conditions. But an injury to one is an injury to all: everyone loses out when schools become worse through funding cuts and attack on teachers’ conditions; there is downward pressure on everyone’s wages when wage freezes and pay cuts are forced

through; those with a job have to work harder when there are redundancies; and the list goes on...

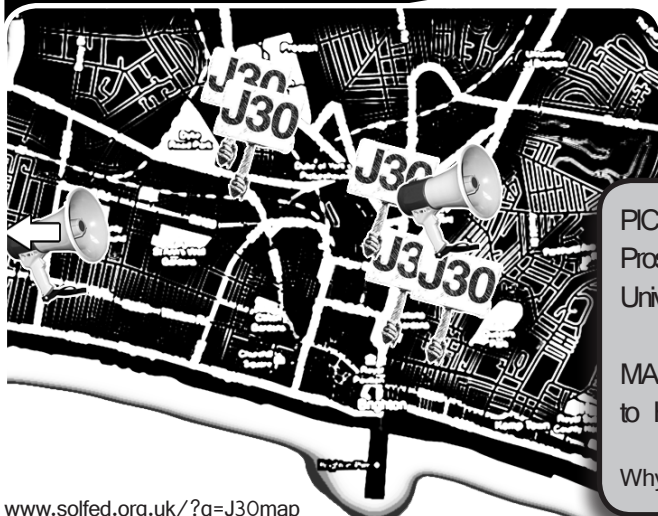
If through sustained collective resistance we can stop these attacks on pensions others will start to feel that they can fight back too.



The Solidarity Federation has members on strike today as public sector workers but we reject the false distinction between public and private. To us, the divide is on class lines – workers (whatever their job) against bosses, managers, politicians, etc. We support all workers in their struggle to improve their lives. We had a recent victory supporting a temporary worker in dispute with his agency (for details see [www.solfed.org.uk](http://www.solfed.org.uk) and click on the link to Office Angels). If you need support in your workplace, get in touch (contact details below).



# strike bulletin **June 30** #J30



PICKET LINES: BHASVIC College, Dyke Road // Crown Prosecution Service, Dyke Road // City College, Cheapside // University of Brighton, Grand Parade // Job Centre, Edward St

MARCH AND RALLY: Assemble 10:30am at the Level, march to Hove Town Hall.

Why not visit at least one other picket before you finish today?

[www.solfed.org.uk/?q=J30map](http://www.solfed.org.uk/?q=J30map)

## Claimants: Today is a strike day

Job Centre workers in the PCS union are on strike today to defend their pensions, but this is our fight too. The government's attacks on job centre workers go hand-in-hand with their attacks on claimants. On the one hand they lower the terms and conditions of job centre staff, on the other they force claimants onto privately-run workfare schemes like the Flexible New Deal, through for-profit companies like Maximus, Skills Training and Careers Development Group. Meanwhile they force ill and disabled people off the sick (ESA) and onto Jobseekers Allowance (JSA).

This is all part of a wider attack by the government and bosses on workers and claimants across the country, Europe and beyond. It's going to take broad resistance to beat these cuts – by standing together now we can build the solidarity we'll need in the struggles ahead. Since you're here – why not join the picket line, or at least have a chat with pickets to show your support?

Solidarity Federation – Unwaged Workers Network  
[solfedunwaged@gmail.com](mailto:solfedunwaged@gmail.com)  
<http://www.solfed.org.uk/?q=network/unwaged-workers>

## Disabled people answer June 30 strike call

Activists in the disabled community have agreed that June 30 is the day that they and their allies start the fight back against government attacks on the most vulnerable in society. People with disabilities will be joining picket lines and town hall protests across the country in the spirit of solidarity with striking workers.

The attitude of the ruling class towards people in receipt of disability benefits can be summed up by last week's comment in parliament from tory mp Phillip Davies:

'Given that some of those people with a learning disability cannot be as productive in their work as somebody

who has not got a disability of that nature, then it was inevitable that the employer were going to take on the person who was going to be more productive. My view is that for some people the national minimum wage may be more of a hindrance than a help.'

Davies is arguing that bosses treat the disabled as a subordinate, servile class and pay them lower than minimum wage. This comes at a time when disabled people are being denied incapacity benefits in favour of being made 'fit for work' at the notorious 'work capability assessments' delivered by poverty pimps ATOS, a company that has already been

subject to several investigations into its working practices.

Furthermore, Davies' boss David Cameron has acted on his threat to 'reverse the bias towards inclusion' for children with disabilities or who need extra support at school. According to one organiser for Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) this 'will push back all the progress for which disabled people have struggled over the last 20 years'.

The state's message is clear – force disabled people into low-paid wage slavery and exclude disabled children from their schools. This is why disabled people are fighting back!

For more information please visit: [BrightonDisabledPeopleAgainstCuts@groups.facebook.com](mailto:BrightonDisabledPeopleAgainstCuts@groups.facebook.com)



[www.brightonsolfed.org.uk](http://www.brightonsolfed.org.uk)



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