

Budget Day 15 March: The biggest day of coordinated action in the strike wave

ALL STRIKE TOGETHER

TO WIN INFLATION-PROOF PAY RISES AND FULL FUNDING

PREPARE FOR A 24HR GENERAL STRIKE

TORIES OUT

NO TRUST IN STARMER'S LABOUR: WE NEED A NEW WORKERS PARTY

Up to 600,000 workers striking together on Budget Day:

- Teachers in England, and teachers and support staff in Wales, in the NEU.
- Civil service workers in the PCS, following a rebalot that brought more into the action, and in Prospect.
- Junior doctors in the BMA, and members of the HCSA doctors' union
- UCU members in the universities, following a 'pause' for negotiations.
- London Underground workers in the RMT and Aslef
- NUJ members at BBC England
- Amazon workers in GMB in Coventry

"Teachers and support staff are fighting for a fully funded, inflation-proof pay rise. We stand in solidarity with the unions striking together on 15 March – and all workers in the public and private sector who are forced to fight. The excitement and enthusiasm seen on the giant 1 February strike was fantastic, and a real display of what national unions can mobilise when they take a lead. We need to escalate the action if there is no serious offer from the government. Union members need to push their leaders to be bold and to call action, unified with other unions where possible. Let's build a movement to win, and to kick out the Tories"

Sheila Caffrey, NEU NEC member

"I send solidarity to all strikers across the movement. The mass united strike action on Budget Day should send the message to the Tories that we will not stand for further pay misery. In PCS, we need to develop a serious escalating programme of national, targeted and selective strike action to maximise pressure on the government. The Tories' response to the cost-of-living crisis and the strikes is more anti-union legislation. The TUC must prepare the maximum coordinated industrial action, up to and including a 24-hour general strike, to defeat any new anti-union laws"

Marion Lloyd, Broad Left Network candidate for PCS president



JOIN THE SOCIALISTS!

The Socialist Party has supported the strike wave and offered our ideas for a way forward. We campaign in the unions for national action, coordination - to all strike together and argue the case for a new workers' party. Despite the cost of living crisis, there is enormous wealth in society – it's just not in our hands!

Join us to fight for a socialist society! Where the economy is owned and controlled and planned democratically in the interests of the vast majority, to end poverty, inequality, oppression and environmental destruction.

If you agree, get involved!
Text JOIN with your name & postcode to 07761818206
www.socialistparty.org.uk/join
f Socialist Party
@socialist_party
socialistpartyorguk



socialistparty.org.uk

Health workers strike for decent pay and to save the NHS

The NHS is in massive crisis – no wonder junior doctors in the BMA voted by 98% to strike. Nurses and ambulance workers have also been taking historic strike action. Health workers on the picket lines want to all strike together, and to maintain the fight till the government is forced to act.

Tories under pressure

The Tories have been reluctant to move an inch on pay for any group of workers, because they know that all other workers would demand a real pay rise too.

But Sunak has been forced by the titanic struggles in the growing strike wave to the negotiating table – something he ruled out a few months ago. The ‘MegaStrike’ of 1 February, the biggest strike in NHS history on 6 February, and now the mass strike on 15 March have all forced the Tories to start talking.

Within weeks, proposed pay deals, or ‘intensive talks’, have been offered to the FBU, UCU, NEU, RCN and now it seems other NHS workers.

If any of these were able to extract from the Tories a deal that broke the pay cap – certainly if it at least matched RPI inflation, which has been as high as 14% plus over the last year – it would signify a defeat for the Tories. That could embolden all workers to also fight. But such a deal hasn’t been offered to any of the unions, and there is a danger that the united front of unions’ action could splinter for pay offers well below what is needed.

Unions must meet

A real victory is absolutely possible. But to get it means maintaining and extending coordinated action. There have been no reports of the unions meeting together after the mass February strikes. Such a meeting could have hammered out a fighting strategy to build on those successful mass strike days. It could have seen the Budget Day strike reach even higher levels, perhaps of over a million workers if all those with strike mandates had come together.

The latest attacks on the right to strike must also be taken seriously by the unions. Union members must demand that the unions meet immediately to name the day for even greater coordinated action. A conference of members of union national executives should be called urgently, for the leading lay members across the unions to discuss where next in the struggle. It could call a further stepping up of action, up to and including a 24-hour general strike, to inflict a major defeat on the Tories.

We need a new workers’ party

The workers’ movement faces an incredibly weak and divided Tory government, beset by scandal, and exposed daily as agreeing on only one thing: how to making working class people pay for the failures of capitalism while enriching their big business cronies.

The strike movement could force the Tories out of office. Socialist Party members would be cheering that along with millions of workers, but it is clear that an incoming Starmer-led Labour government would be a replacement Tory party.

Keir Starmer has made it crystal clear that he intends to govern in the interests of the capitalists. During the 1 February mass strikes, tens of thousands of strikers flooded the streets surrounding parliament. Inside, Labour leader Keir Starmer failed to even mention them.

The majority of the capitalist class would now prefer a Starmer-led Labour government, because it would be more able to successfully oversee pay cuts and austerity than this broken Tory government.

The lack of a mass political voice for the workers’ movement is posed very starkly by Starmer’s annihilation of the left wing within Labour, including his declaration that Jeremy Corbyn will not be allowed to stand as a Labour MP.

Among both strikers and others, there is a growing recognition and need for the workers’ movement to build its own party. The Socialist Party campaigns for steps towards a new mass workers’ party, including fighting for the widest possible independent working-class challenge at the next general election, and in the local elections in May. The Socialist Party will be standing candidates in May as part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) – why not consider standing too?



NSSN Conference - all welcome!
Saturday 24th Jun, 11am-4.30pm
Conway Hall, London, WC1R 4RL

