

OUR RECORD IN STRUGGLE

Whenever workers are fighting back you will find the Socialist Party supporting them. We have a long and consistent record of helping to organise, assist and lead struggles – based on mass action – to defend and improve the lives of working class people. Here are some examples:

OUR HISTORY – LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL AND THE POLL TAX

The Socialist Party (then the Militant) played a key role in Liverpool City Council when it took on Maggie Thatcher's Tory government and forced them to give the city £60 million that they had cut from its funding. Liverpool City Council was able to build 5,000 council houses, 6 new nurseries and 6 leisure centres. Contrast that with the endless cuts and closures implemented by Labour councils today.

Militant also led the movement against the poll tax – a 'flat rate' local taxation system where everyone – from a billionaire to a bin worker – paid the same. Eighteen million people refused to pay the tax – and both it and its architect – Maggie Thatcher – were scrapped.

FIGHTING TO SAVE OUR NHS

The Socialist Party is central to many campaigns in defence of our NHS around the country. For example, Socialist Party members have been part of the leadership of the campaigns to save Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, Glenfield Children's Heart Centre and Chatsworth ward in Mansfield: all of which have successfully stopped the threatened closures.

As well as spearheading local campaigns we work in the health trade unions and as part of Health Campaigns Together to fight for national coordinated action to save our NHS.



NO EVICTIONS, NO GENTRIFICATION - FOR SECURE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Butterfields estate in Walthamstow, London was just one of countless estates where tenants were threatened with eviction so that the landlords could make a nice fat profit. With the help of the Socialist Party the tenants got organised and declared 'Butterfields won't Budge'. They faced ten months of threatened eviction but they stood firm – and won!

Now the Socialist Party in Walthamstow is – alongside others – leading the Save Our Square campaign to stop the Labour council concreting over the town square to build a 29-storey monster block of unaffordable housing.



FIGHTING RACISM

The Socialist Party has a proud record of fighting racism and all forms of discrimination. In the 1990s members of our predecessor, Militant, led the Youth Against Racism in Europe campaign which played a central role in shutting down the headquarters of the far-right BNP in Welling. We seek to build united working class movements against racism and discrimination and for jobs, homes and services for all.



YOUNG PEOPLE FIGHTING BACK

It is young people who are suffering most in this world of endless austerity. Today less than a quarter of parents expect their children to be better off than them. What greater indictment of capitalism is there than young people growing up burdened by debt, with few prospects of well-paid secure employment, never mind a permanent home. That is one of the reasons that the Socialist Party prioritises supporting young people fighting against oppression and for their rights. We play a leading role in Socialist Students (socialiststudents.org.uk), Youth Fight for Jobs (youthfightforjobs.com) and Young Socialists (generationsocialist.net)

WORKERS GETTING ORGANISED

The Socialist Party is also at the forefront of numerous strikes around the country. Socialist Party members have led several strikes that have forced back the bosses – including school staff striking against academisation and low-paid hospital workers fighting for a pay rise. We also participate in and support countless other strikes – including the victorious Birmingham bin workers – faced with pay cuts and sackings by a Labour council – and the heroic McDonalds strikers.

We have more than 15 members who are elected to the National Executives of trade unions. We stand for the transformation of the trade unions into fighting, democratic organisations that represent all workers – including the millions of young precarious workers who are, in the main, currently outside the trade union movement. We demand that full-time union officials to be regularly elected and receive no more than a worker's wage.

THIS LEAFLET PUTS THE CASE FOR YOU TO JOIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

For decades the lives of the big majority of people in Britain have been getting harder.

We've had the longest wage squeeze since records began, a severe housing crisis, hikes in our retirement age, and an astronomical increase in the costs of education. Public services, including the NHS, are being cut to the bone.

At the same time a tiny minority of people have dramatically increased their already unimaginably large fortunes. The Sunday Times 'Rich List' for 2018 showed the richest 1,000 people in Britain had a combined wealth of £724 billion, a 10% increase on the year before.

If you want to see an end to the huge inequality that exists under capitalism the best thing you can do is join the Socialist Party.

Of course there is much more to be said on why you should join us and the fight for a socialist alternative than can fit on a single leaflet. But if you like what you read,

please get in touch to find out more about Socialist Party meetings and events in your local area.

What does joining mean? We ask our members to be as involved and active as they can to promote socialist ideas, to help organise to fight austerity in their workplaces, trade unions, colleges and communities, and to build our party.

Our branches meet regularly and have political discussions on a wide range of topics - history, Marxism, international news, and analysing what's going on today and what needs to be done. We learn together. We also take time to discuss and democratically plan our campaigning work – the sort of campaigns you can read about in this leaflet.

If you agree with the need for socialist change, then we need you. Join the Socialist Party!



JOIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY

socialistparty.org.uk

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The Socialist Party is fighting for a fundamental change in society. We think the enormous wealth, the industry, the skills, science and knowledge which exists in Britain should be harnessed to meet the needs of all rather than, as it is at the moment, to increase the wealth of a few: the capitalist class. A few of the things we fight for are the immediate introduction of a £10 an hour minimum wage with no exemptions, for

a mass council house building programme, for rent controls, for free education and for a massive expansion of high-quality public services.

We support every step towards making these and other measures which would improve the lives of the majority in society a reality. That is why we have supported and campaigned for the election and re-election of Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader. Prior to his election the Labour Party leadership was clearly pro-austerity, pro-privatisation and pro-capitalist. It is an important step forward that we now have a Labour leader who puts forward an anti-austerity programme.

But, if you want to see such a programme become a reality it is not enough to sit back and wait for a Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government. The best thing you can do is join the Socialist Party.



WHY THE SOCIALIST PARTY IS NEEDED

We live in a capitalist world. Capitalism is a system that puts the production of profit for the few – the millionaire and billionaire capitalist owners of industry and the resources of society – before the social needs of the majority – the multi-billion poor and working class throughout the world. Capitalism is a crisis-ridden economic system which has the pursuit of profit and the exploitation of the working class at its heart.

For many decades governments in Britain – Tory and Labour – have enthusiastically implemented policies that have benefited the capitalist elite and impoverished the rest of us. Jeremy Corbyn pledges to be different, but it would be very naïve to imagine that the capitalist class will simply stand aside and allow him to take wealth and power from them in order to build a society for the many not the few.

On the contrary 'the few' will do all they can to sabotage a Corbyn-led government. They have enormous power in their hands to try and do so: they own the major corporations and banks that dominate the economy, and the whole framework of society is designed to defend their interests. Look at the way Corbyn has been treated in opposition, with the right wing press hysterically attacking him, investment groups advising their clients to leave Britain in case of a Corbyn government, the intelligence services refusing to brief him, and – of course – the pro-capitalist wing of his own party are endlessly trying to undermine him. This is as nothing to the attacks that will rain down on him if he is elected and attempts to implement a radical anti-austerity programme.

STRIKE AGAINST AUSTERITY!

Do we mean that we can never see anti-austerity policies implemented in Britain? Not at all! Jeremy Corbyn's programme and much more can be carried out. To achieve this, however, will mean mobilising the working class majority - a potentially far more powerful force than the capitalist elite - to actively demand the implementation of an anti-austerity programme.

There are over six million people currently organised in trade unions in Britain – and the potential for far more. When they strike together they can bring Britain to a halt. The Socialist Party has consistently campaigned for coordinated strike action against Tory austerity, and would campaign for coordinated strike action, and mass protests, to oppose any attempts to sabotage the implementation of anti-austerity policies by a Corbyn-led government.

At the moment the structures of the Labour Party remain much the same as they were under previous right-wing leaders, which help the pro-capitalist Blairites to retain their grip on much of the party. Some of the key measures that are needed are the re-introduction of mandatory reselection of MPs, and the democratisation of the selection of Labour councillors. The restoration of trade union rights within the Labour Party, under the democratic control of trade union members is vital. It would be part of returning the Labour Party to a modern version of its founding federal structures. This would enable all socialist and working-class forces – including the Socialist Party – to come together to build a powerful, 100% anti-austerity party.

DEMOCRATISE THE LABOUR PARTY KICK OUT THE BLAIRITES!

We also campaign for the Labour Party to be transformed into an anti-austerity party in words and deeds both nationally and locally. Labour councils around the country are currently implementing austerity – we say they should set no-cuts budgets and refuse to continue doing the Tories bidding.



FIGHTING FOR SOCIALISM WORLDWIDE

Capitalism is an international system. That is why the Socialist Party is part of a worldwide struggle for socialism. We are affiliated to the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI) which organises in more than 40

countries across every continent. Our co-thinkers include Socialist Alternative in the US, who have won the first socialist councillor in Seattle for 100 years – Kshama Sawant – and have spearheaded the campaign for a \$15 an hour minimum wage. In Ireland three MPs (TDs) are members of our sister organisation, the Socialist Party. They have played an important role in the mass movement for abortion rights. In South Africa CWI members played a key part in the miners' strikes after the Marikana massacre, and in the fight for a workers' party that has taken place since.

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