

Scottish Socialist Party

Public Sector Workers' Voice



BUILD UNITED DEFIANCE - stop ALL cuts

● TAX THE RICH - scrap the unfair Council Tax - raise £1.6bn a year MORE with Scottish Service Tax!

The Scottish Socialist Party applauds the trade union and community anti-cuts conference called by Scottish UNISON.

We desperately need **UNITY** to defeat the Twin Tories' butchery of jobs, services, pay, pensions and benefits. No body and no service is safe from Cameron and Clegg's Millionaire Cabinet. And they are out to whip up vicious division between different sections of public sector workers; staff and service users; workers and claimants; public and private sector.

They want to stick us all in a straitjacket of savage spending reductions and get us to cut each other's throats in competition for places on the scrapheapwhilst the bankers and billionaires laugh at us.

Those trade unionists and community campaigners who seek to stop the cuts face two key tasks:

- to expose the lies peddled by **ALL** the mainstream politicians that cuts are unavoidable, that we just don't have the money, and
- to build united action and events to show people they do not stand alone - in that sense, we really are "all in this together"!

The Scottish Socialist Party has persistently exposed the lie that cuts are **unavoidable**. There is more than enough wealth to protect and indeed improve every job, pay packet, public service, benefit and pension. But the wealth is in the hands of bankers and billionaires - squandered on profit, war, Trident weapons of mass destruction and the obscene accumulation of wealth of a tiny handful e.g. the richest 1,000 people increased their bounty by 70% last year to £355bn.

The SSP calls for **taxation levels on the rich and big corporations to be restored to their pre-Thatcher levels** (83% top tax on the richest individuals, 52% Corporation tax) - this alone would raise over £250bn a year extra. Even a modest 10% wealth tax on the richest 1,000 individuals would fund the creation of 1.4 million new jobs, on £25,000 a year.

And that's not even taking account of the £100bn wasted on Trident; the cost of bloody, unwinnable wars; or the fabulous resources available through democratic public ownership of the banks, oil, and major industries.

The Conference should agree **hard-hitting socialist arguments that the money is there to stop ALL cuts, if only it was in the hands of the people**. Equally important, though, is a plan of united action, **BEFORE** the Twin Tories **AND** the Scottish government finalise their Butchers' plans, as well as **AFTER** the 20 Oct Comprehensive Spending Review.

Unions and communities should mobilise for the **Street Rally in Glasgow on Sat 2nd October** initiated by several unions and community groups - as a Scottish contribution to European-wide anti-cuts protests - as a means of building the STUC march on 23 Oct into a mass event - and as the opening shots in a mass rebellion against cuts being imposed by a ConDem government with no mandate in Scotland. **And** to light bonfires beneath the SNP government and councils of all parties that are viciously swinging the axe instead of standing up for Scotland. Just like we beat the poll tax. **Socialist economic arguments and united, defiant action can stop the cuts.**



THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR ANY CUTS!

get more info & meet to discuss proposed Scottish Service Tax - to raise £1.6bn more!

The Council Tax freeze is adding to cuts. Jacking up Council Tax bills will hit low- and middle-income families hardest, cutting incomes. Neither is a solution. The SSP has campaigned for 12 years to scrap the unfair, regressive Council Tax - and put forward a progressive, re-distributive alternative that would also raise far more funds for jobs, pay and services - the income-based Scottish Service Tax.

New updated research shows this could raise an additional £1.6bn a year! Over 80% of Scots would be better off. It would mean vastly **IMPROVED** pay, job creation and service expansion, rather than cuts. All it takes is for the Scottish government to legislate.

The SSP does **NOT** want this alternative to remain our exclusive property! We want trade unions and community organisations - as well as politicians from other parties - to study, discuss and consider backing this radical alternative to cuts - which obliterates the argument that "cuts are unavoidable" - and join in a broad-based campaign to "Scrap the Council Tax - Tax the Rich - Save ALL jobs, services and pay".

Contact us for fuller details and research documents - and arrange a discussion - or invite a speaker to your organisation's next meeting.

Email: richieventon@hotmail.com

Ring: 07828 278 093 or 0141 221 7470

Write to: SSP, 93 Hope St (370), Glasgow G2 6LD

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

build street rallies and mass DEMOS - demand People's Budgets that defy Westminster & Holyrood cuts

A council worker's appeal

The 4 September conference offers a wonderful opportunity for trade unionists in the public sector to come together with their allies in the communities so that discussion can begin about how to fight plans at every level of government to decimate the public sector.

This will not happen just by bringing people together; it will require the type of political leadership that sprung up on the left of Scotland's political landscape at the time of the Tory's hated Poll Tax 20 years ago.

Just now the government thinks they have us on the run: the cynical maneuvering of Scotland's Council leaders to cut the pay of council workers gives the lie to any sympathy we might have expected from Scotland's main Labour and SNP politicians.

They plan to cut the pay of council workers at the same time as they threaten thousands of jobs in obedience to their coalition paymas-

ters in Westminster. We will remember their treachery when they ask for our votes for Holyrood in May 2011 and for the Councils in May 2012.

How then can we fight? No doubt we will hear at the UNISON conference of the very real alternatives there are to the austerity budget: about how fairer taxation and prioritised spending (ditching Trident and unwinnable foreign wars) could enrich us all without any need for cuts. That's all fine, but will cut little ice with government department chiefs, council chiefs, or the bureaucrats who run what's left of public sector utilities in Scotland.

The likelihood of them agreeing to set illegal defiance budgets are slim unless they know that there is a fire beneath them that will leave them with no choice other than to stand up for the people they claim to serve.

Any action we take will effectively be in

dispute with our employers and local Councils even though they will argue that it is the Westminster government who make the real decisions.

We therefore have to build confidence that they are the right targets because they do have a choice.

Trade unionists in the public sector and the people who use their services can stand together and win - it happened in Poplar and the Vale of Leven in the 1920s and it happened in Liverpool in the 1980s. Those prepared to make a stand then were isolated, but today we must ensure that the fight-back is general. Those frightened of losing their jobs can be persuaded to stand up for themselves and their fellow workers - but only if they believe they can win.

Colin Turbett
Chairperson, North Ayrshire UNISON
(personal capacity)

BUILD & DEMAND DEFIANCE

Any council or Scottish government worth its salt would defy the cuts being imposed by a Westminster junta without a mandate in Scotland. They would set People's Budgets - No Cuts budgets - and mobilise a rebellion of the Scottish people alongside trade unions, pensioners', students' and community groups - demanding the necessary funding off Westminster and Holyrood to save every job, service and salary.

On top of that, if the SNP government was serious about stopping the ConDem cuts, they would introduce an emergency Bill to abolish the Council Tax and replace it with a Scottish Service Tax, based on ability to pay, with sliding scales of tax according to income. The SSP's latest research proves this would raise an additional £1.6bn a year - removing all excuses for cuts.

Trade unionists and community activists at this conference need to build resistance on the ground to pressurise the Labour and SNP politicians into turning fine words of criticism of Westminster's butchery into real action.

- Build the Unite Against Cuts Street Rally on Sat 2nd Oct, 12noon, Buchanan St, Glasgow.
- Build the STUC demo on 23rd October.
- Invite a speaker on the proposed Scottish Service Tax.
- Demand the councils and Holyrood government set No Cuts budgets and fight for the funding to stop ALL cuts.

JOIN the SSP: the only party that has fought all cuts by all parties since 1998



SSP STANDS UP FOR SCOTLAND

The Scottish Socialist Party stands up for working class people. As part of our battle for a democratic, nuclear-free, poverty-free, independent socialist Scotland, we demand:

- no cuts to jobs and services - demand the funds off Holyrood and Westminster - tax the rich to bail out services, not bankers' profits
- for free, quality child-care provision, round the clock
- cut class sizes - not schools and education - 20's plenty in any class - save our schools and communities
- increase pensions and benefits £50 a week as an immediate emergency step towards a living income for all
- for an £8 national minimum wage for all workers and trainees over 16 - end age wage discrimination - equal pay for women
- cuts hours - not jobs or pay - for a 35hour maximum working week without loss of earnings
- scrap Trident - invest in homes, hospitals and schools - not weapons of mass destruction - with jobs guaranteed through peaceful alternative work for all at Faslane
- reverse Tory and Labour privatisation - for democratic public ownership and control of services, banks, transport, construction, major industries, N Sea oil - for people not profit
- for an independent socialist Scotland - as part of a socialist Europe

JOIN THE SSP TODAY - the party of workers' unity, public ownership and socialism

name..... email.....
address.....
phone(s) union.....

return this form to: SSP, 93 Hope St (suite 370), Glasgow G2 6LD

ring 0141 221 7470 or 07828 278 093

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