

# UNITY IS STRENGTH

## Resist Tory austerity

## Defend union rights



Cameron and the Tories have launched into the biggest attack on the rights of trade unions since Thatcher. Our ability to organise collectively in the workplace represents a major obstacle to their attacks on our living standards. We must defend our ability to organise ourselves collectively and fight back.

**Get ready for the fight of our lives...**

## One rule for them...

The Tory Trade Unions Bill introduces high turnout thresholds in order to take strike action.

Why should trade unions be singled out in this way, when there are no democratic controls of big business?

- Boris Johnson was elected as London Mayor in 2012 on a turnout of only 38.1%
- The Police and Crime Commissioners created by the Tories were elected on an average turnout of just 15.1%.

If the Tories want to increase participation why don't they allow workplace or online balloting? They don't care about democracy – they just want to remove our ability to strike.

## We need a political voice

The Tories are also seeking to smash the political funds of trade unions, in order to destroy our ability to campaign politically.

By insisting that union members opt-in on an individual basis, they are trying to silence our collective voice.

Trade unionists, anti-austerity and climate change activists could be targeted by new snooping powers and measures to combat “extremism”.

But who are the real extremists here?



## Why trade unions?

- Strong trade unions are a key part of any democratic society where wealth and power are spread more fairly
- Unions exist to secure fairer pay, better pensions, safety and rights at work, and help to protect public services
- British society has never been so divided, with the rich getting even more obscenely wealthy at the top whilst desperately poor people turn to food banks
- Britain's anti-union laws are among the most restrictive anywhere in Europe.



## Annual Tolpuddle seminar

**6.30pm, Tuesday July 14, Jubilee Room, House of Commons (main entrance)**

The Tolpuddle Martyrs defied laws which made it illegal for workers to organise themselves into a trade union. Their heroic stance helped to deliver the union rights we enjoy today.

But the struggle continues, as the Tories try to break the unions to ram through more cuts and welfare attacks. Please come and join this important discussion.

### **SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

Mark Serwotka (PCS), Christine Blower (NUT), Michelle Stanistreet (NUJ), Steve Gillan (POA, Chair), John McDonnell MP, Natalie Bennett (Leader, Green Party), Dave Smith (Blacklist Support Group)

For more details email: [malonelp@parliament.uk](mailto:malonelp@parliament.uk) or phone: 020 7801 2732

## No mandate for austerity

- Fewer than 1 in 4 people (24%) voted Conservative at the general election
- How can they claim a mandate for waging further class warfare on millions of workers, disabled people, and low income families?
- This isn't about "balancing the books" – it's an all-out political attack on the very existence of the welfare state and public services
- The overwhelming majority of British voters did not sign up for this
- Cameron knows that the unions are at the frontline of the resistance to his plans. In the face of these Tory attacks, we must unite and fight back.

The TUCG currently comprises nine trade unions – BFAWU, FBU, NAPO, NUJ, NUT, PCS, POA, RMT, and URTU and represents just fewer than one million trade unionists throughout the UK.

The TUCG was established in 2008 to coordinate campaigning activities in Parliament and beyond on issues of common concern between member unions.

**tucg.org.uk and @TUCGinfo**



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