

UNITY

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SUPPORT THE STRIKE ON 30th NOVEMBER 2011

Build on Workers Solidarity

MILLIONS of people are walking out on strike on this Wednesday in defence of public pensions, jobs and services.

It is the last resort that any worker wants to take, but Con-Dem policies leave no alternative.

Trade union activists have held meetings all over Northern Ireland and the UK to galvanise support and to plan the day of action.

Peter Bunting, ICTU Assistant General Secretary, speaking at an activist meeting in Unison HQ said, "There are over 110,000 unemployed people chasing 5,000 job vacancies", **he gave details of the way that education, benefits and the health service are under attack.**

He also spoke of the massive pensions that bankers and business directors receive.

Brian Campfield, of N.I Public Service Alliance noted that the *Irish News* editorial criticised the workers for voting to strike saying that it would hurt the people.

"But I don't see them criticising Cameron for the policies that the Government are putting into place - these hurt the people even more."

He followed on by saying that "these policies are about trying to Americanise our society that is what is at the centre of this issue.

Workers who are ill are now being told that they have to go to an independent "examiner" instead of their own GP."

One American commentator Michael Parenti, who has written extensively about American imperialism states that the goal of -

Lynda Walker

"US reactionary rulers is the Third Worldization of the entire world including Europe and North America" In that respect they have willing allies in the Con-Dem government.

Indeed that is what is at their heart of the policy. Private health care that was almost negligible in Northern Ireland and the UK, has now grown into big business.

As the Accident and Emergency unit closed down at the City Hospital, a spanking new Kingsbridge Private hospital has opened on the Lisburn Road.

It boasts of having 16 bedrooms, but before you get into one, the initial consultancy fee is £90.

On the other hand, there is free car parking with 40+ spaces, so they have their priority right there!

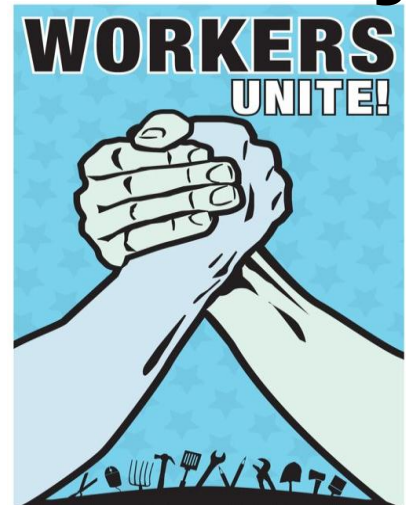
In Britain, Hinchingbrook in Cambridgeshire is the first NHS hospital to be privatised.

The private health company Circle has been given the task of combating Hinchingbrooke's £39 million debt. Circle itself recorded £27.4m losses in 2010!

At the activist meeting, Patricia McKeown of Unison drew attention to the fact that many workers were making labour history by going out on strike.

She pointed out that not only had the workers given a mandate to strike but they had also agreed to further industrial action.

Last week Unite general secretary Len McCluskey said, "Ministers who can retire on tens of thousands a year are slashing the pensions of workers who



stand to get a few thousand a year and then have the nerve to call them gold-plated," he said.

"Unite supports good pensions for all workers including MPs, what we don't support are a Cabinet of millionaires attacking the very modest pensions of the men and women who care for our sick, teach our children and keep our streets safe."

In Britain, Bob Crow hit back at UK Treasurer Chief Secretary Danny Alexander who launched a campaign against millions of public sector workers. Crow said if he thinks that "nurses, teachers, and our members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary are the enemy he needs to take a look at the hackers, blaggers, and the banking greed merchants who have been dragging us through the sewer for years."

On this strike day, *Unity* congratulates all who have come out to defend workers conditions and services and also the several thousand trade unionists and community organisations who demonstrated against "austerity" in Dublin last weekend.

Time to Organise Youth!

Kerry Fleck



**SUPPORT YOUR FUTURE!
RALLY FOR PEOPLE,
JOBS & SERVICES**
1pm WEDNESDAY 30th
NOVEMBER 2011

BELFAST CITY HALL 1pm

Feeder parades from:
Royal Victoria Hospital (Crosvenor Road)
Belfast City Hospital (Ulster Road)
Mater Hospital (Crumlin Road)
Central Train Station (East Bridge Street)
Ulster Art College, Donagall Street
(Assemble at all points from 11:45)



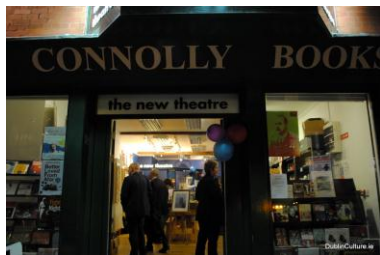
DERRY PEACE BRIDGE 1pm

NEWRY CITY HALL 1pm

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with Congress of Trade Unions
Northern Ireland Congress



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WITH the endless list of issues affecting working class youth you may find it surprising that we do not have mass protests and demonstrations of young people taking to the street to demand better.

Young people are hamstrung by years of neo-liberalism encouraging them to think as individuals - individual consumers, individual employees.

Most have no experience of Trade union organisation and no knowledge of the strength of collectivisation.

They are hamstrung by an inefficient education system that doesn't teach them to have a critical mind and to question what they are being told.

But young people are capable, intelligent and energetic.

Many young people are alienated from society and apathetic to issues around them, but there are growing numbers taking an interest in politics and beginning to look around them for a way to organise a fight back.

It is absolutely crucial that, in its current battles against Austerity measures, the Trade Union movement takes up the challenge to assist young people overcome these barriers to action.

The Trade Unions must teach young people how to organise, it must provide them with a political education and it must involve them in agitation on all levels.

It is only by involving and organising youth that trade unions can strengthen themselves and build a real and lasting fight back for workers.

On 30th November thousands of Young Trade Union members will be taking strike action for the first time, they will be taking part in the biggest mobilization of workers in the UK since the 1926 General Strike and they will be taking part in a key moment of working class history.

Those young workers should recognise that they are not only making a stand for their own employment rights but that they are making a stand for the millions of unemployed youth and the millions of unorganised,

un-unionised youth who have yet to find a voice.

The unions to which they belong have a duty to ensure that this is not their only involvement in the Trade Union Movement, they need to keep these young people active in the union and help them become involved in an ongoing campaign of resistance.

If the Trade Union movement is serious about a fight back it must mobilize all workers in a broad based campaign, it must create class conscious union activists who can lead and organise the fight back.

Harnessing the growing numbers of politically conscious young people, and developing them into class conscious trade union activists will be key to its success and the future of the movement.

**It is time for the unions to take the
question of youth seriously and it is time
for young workers who are already
organised to make a stand, join the fight
back and lead the way.**