

campaign for a new workers' party

Break the link with New Labour -



Fight for a new workers' party!

Eleven years ago trade unionists breathed a sigh of relief when a Labour government was elected.

There were high hopes of reversing the regressive social policies of the Tories, the repeal of the anti-union laws and the end of the management offensive in the workplace.

Instead we've had pretty much more of the same. The wealth gap has got wider and privatisation has been accelerated. We've seen scandals on the railways and in our hospitals, thousands of jobs being exported to cheap labour countries while the government stands by and does nothing, our pensions attacked and proposed restrictions on the right to social housing. Many working class kids

now see both a university education and a house as being beyond their means.

There are those in this union who believe that the link with New Labour should be maintained because it's the best way to influence the government. We've failed to influence them on every important issue. We can influence MPs without giving money to the Labour Party. PCS, probably the most effective union in the country retains MP John McDonnell to speak up for them in parliament.

The government has been forced to make major concessions because of that union's fighting stance. The best way of influencing a political party is to let them know that there is an alternative

party we could support, not that they 'are the only show in town'

While Brown appoints employers as government ministers the majority of trade union leaders refuse to believe that Labour is now an employers' party and put their weight behind creating a new party that represents working people

If our influence counted for anything it would have been during the postal dispute last year. Our members faced a vicious employer who wanted to worsen working conditions and get rid of 40,000 jobs. Our General Secretary pleaded with Gordon Brown to intervene. When he said something it was to say that the strike wasn't justified. Some influence!

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Postal services continue to be attacked by the later and less reliable delivery times which are a result of the dreadful 'settlement' to last year's postal dispute and the threat to thousands of local Post Offices. These are business's priorities for our postal service and the government shows every intention of letting them get their own way.

Nearly all of our union's policies are well to the left of new Labour, if we had real influence why haven't the government embraced them.

While this union has been conducting a vigorous campaign to secure equal rights for agency workers, the Labour government have been leading moves in the

European Parliament to prevent legislation that would force British employers to grant this and also using parliamentary manoeuvres to prevent Private members Bills enacting such legislation in the UK

Businesses have far more influence with politicians of all parties than unions. All the main parties are committed to pro-business policies and attacks on working people and the services they rely on. **The employers have three parties, we have none!** We have given too much of our money to a party that has given us little in return. **This has to stop!** The unions need to sever all links with New Labour and help set up a new party that represents working people. Come along and hear how you can help in that campaign.

- The CNWP believes that some of the demands which will be central to the formation of a new party include:**
- Keep health and education public. Stop and reverse cuts in, and sell off of our public services.
 - For properly funded, democratically controlled public services for all.
 - For decent, affordable public housing for all who want it.
 - No to racism and discrimination! Oppose the divisive BNP. No to the specific oppression of people due to their ethnic background, nationality, gender, sexuality, age, disabilities or health.
 - For a living wage at least £8 an hour, and a living pension- restore the link with earnings now.
 - No to trident nuclear weapons! Spend the £76 billion on public services.
 - Ownership and planning of energy and transport, leading to massive investment and expansion of renewable energy and clean public transport.
 - Immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.
 - For a democratic republic - a radical extension of democracy including all representatives elected by proportional representation, subject to recall and paid the average wage.
 - No to the capitalist profit system. For a democratic socialist society, based on public ownership of the major corporations that dominate the economy, and run to meet the needs of all and to protect our environment for future generations, instead of the profit of the few.

CWU Conference Fringe Meeting
 The Baltic Fleet pub, 33 Wapping
 6:30pm Sunday 8 June
 Speaker: Paul Astbury Former Liverpool Labour Councillor

CNWP Conference 2008
 Sunday 29 June 10am - 5pm. South Camden Community School, Charrington Street, London NW1.
 (Nearest Rail/Tube stations - Kings Cross/St Pancras, Euston, Mornington Crescent)

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support the **campaign** for a **new workers' party** **www.cnwp.org.uk**

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