



# campaign for a new workers' party

## ***BROWN or CAMERON – WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?***

### **PCS MEMBERS NEED A POLITICAL VOICE!**

In 1997 many PCS members welcomed the election of New Labour, believing that they offered a radical alternative to the Tories. However, this illusion was quickly shattered when Blair and Brown launched their attacks on public servants' Jobs, Pensions, Pay and working conditions. PCS members no longer harbour such illusions in New Labour as they are able

to see that it is now nothing more than a party of big business. We are in a situation where the three main political parties are indistinguishable from each other. At the last election PCS members saw the amazing spectacle of New Labour, Tories and Lib Dems all involved in a bidding war over how many Civil Service jobs they could axe!

#### **PCS Members face continued attacks**

Following the U.S. sub-prime crisis, the British and World economies look to be sinking deeper into trouble.

We will almost certainly see further attacks on workers in general and public sector workers in particular. In an attempt to 'slimline' the Civil

Service, we are likely see an increased push towards privatisation and a continuation of a below inflation pay cap. This will mean that PCS members will face year on year attacks on their living standards unless we get organised politically and do something about it.

#### **Political solution required**

PCS is fortunate to have a fighting leadership which has successfully defended members against the worse excesses of these attacks but it is becoming clear to members that to make real advances in our working conditions a political solution is required. In 2007, PCS launched the Make Your Vote Count (MYVC) campaign raising the issues faced by members in the political arena. Before the 2007 local elections the majority of

candidates standing were contacted. They were asked to support the aims of our national campaign in defence of pay, jobs and working conditions. While we received sympathy and concern from many of those contacted, one year later we have seen little in respect of action. What MYVC has shown is that none of the mainstream parties are capable of defending the interests of our members.

#### **What is the alternative?**

PCS members are now in most cases left disenfranchised in local and national elections so we in the Campaign for a New Workers Party are campaigning for the establishment of a new mass workers' party in England and Wales. Such a formation would give PCS members and

other workers a genuine and independent voice on the political stage. It would be a forum where like-minded workers in struggle could meet and organise, linking into each-others' campaigns, democratically deciding the best way forward.

# The way forward – towards a new workers’ party!

We believe it would be wrong, at this early stage, to attempt to predetermine the structure or every aspect of a new party. That can only be decided on the basis of democratic debate leading to agreement amongst the forces involved.

## Open and democratic

However, if it is to be successful, it is crucial that a new party, and any pre-party formations, be open, democratic and welcoming to all those who want to work together against the neo-liberal onslaught on the working class.

This means that all groups and individuals, provided they are in agreement with the basic aims of the party, should have the right to democratically organise and argue for their point of view.

## Reaching out

This approach will help to ensure that the new formation is attractive to trade unionists, community and environmental campaigners, and anti-war activists.

Most importantly it will assist in reaching out to workers and to young people who are not yet active in struggle. In this way we can unite the strongest possible forces to build a powerful working-class party that is capable of effectively opposing the anti-union laws, cuts, privatisation, environmental degradation and war.

We believe that such a party would represent a fundamental break with the big business parties which currently dominate politics, giving workers the opportunity to resist the neo-liberal agenda and fight for a socialist programme.

**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 the 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 that people suffer due to their ethnic background, nationality, gender, sexuality, age, disabilities or health.
- For a living wage of 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 the 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 profits of a few.

## For the millions, not the millionaires!

**We are today faced with a situation unlike any other for the last century - there is no mass political voice for working class people. The Campaign for a New Workers’ Party seeks to change that - if you agree, you should join the campaign today!**

For a new party to win the support of those who are turned off by today’s party-political squabbling it would have to be clearly open and democratic. It needs to be a fighting, campaigning organisation offering practical support to workers and youth in struggle. Such a party would oppose cuts in hospital services, school closures, attacks on working conditions, reductions in pension rights, etc.

The Campaign for a New Workers’ Party aims to bring together workers, trade unionists, socialists, young people and environment and community activists. We aim to build a national platform to counter the bosses’ lies and slanders about workers - a focal point for working-class and young people coming into struggle.

**If you want to support the aims of this campaign then contact us:**

**[www.cnwp.org.uk](http://www.cnwp.org.uk), CNWP PO Box 858 London E11 1YG, or 020 8558 7947**