



Say no to cuts and privatisation

Support the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition

Why we support TUSC

(all in a personal capacity)

Bob Crow, RMT General Secretary

“Labour, Tory, Lib Dems are all the same under their suits. They all support privatisations and anti-union laws. The political debate now is all about who is going to cut more from public spending. Brown and Blair just masqueraded as Labour and then put the knife into the unions. That is why I am pleased to be part of TUSC.”



April Ashley, Unison NEC

“While the banks are bailed out, public sector workers are being blamed for the crisis. As a public sector trade unionist I know that we are going to face an onslaught on our pay, pensions and conditions beyond the general election. That is why I am supporting TUSC - which offers a socialist alternative to both the big three establishment parties and the vile racism of the BNP.”



Councillor Dave Nellist, Socialist Party, former Labour MP

“Whatever the exact mix of MPs from the three main parties in the next House of Commons there will be an overlapping agenda which seeks to make ordinary people and their families pay the price for bailing out the bankers, their bonuses and their casino economic system. TUSC offers a real alternative - and the chance to build a new independent political voice rooted in the organisations and communities of the working class. Join us.”



In the forthcoming general election the three main parties are all going to be offering a diet of cuts in public services and attacks on pay, pensions and conditions. The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) has been founded in order to stand anti-cuts, pro-workers' rights candidates.

Trade unionists that have founded the coalition include the railway workers' union (RMT) general secretary Bob Crow, the general secretary of the Prison Officers Association, Brian Caton, the civil servants' union (PCS) assistant general secretary, Chris Baugh, and PCS vice president, John McNally (all in personal capacity). The coalition has grown out of the RMT-backed No2EU – Yes to Democracy challenge in last year's European elections.

The nightmare prospect of a Tory government will mean that some trade unionists feel that they have no choice but to vote for New Labour. However, there are no fundamental differences between Tory and New Labour policies. While a Tory government would be likely to wield the axe more brutally, both parties have made it clear that they would slash public spending.

None of the three establishment parties act in the interests of working or middle class people. For them it is the interests of the billionaires that come first. It is the absence of a genuine workers' party that has, in some areas, fuelled the growth of the far-right racist BNP.

TUSC has been founded to begin to offer a real alternative to both the pro-big business, pro-banker parties and the vile racism of the BNP. Working-class people need candidates that actually stand up in our interests. We need candidates who stand on a programme of no cuts in public services and for re-nationalisation of the privatised utilities. Candidates that fight for a living pension, a decent minimum wage and for free education, for all. Candidates that stand for the repeal of the anti-trade union laws.

We appeal to you to become a sponsor of TUSC, so that we can stand as widely as possible.

www.tusc.org.uk

electioncoalition@btinternet.com

What the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition stands for



The working class and peoples of Britain face a ruling class offensive which will intensify over the coming period.

It is an offensive against public services, incomes, living standards and trade union rights in order to boost monopoly profit. Not content with the banks receiving the biggest bail-out in the history of British capitalism, big business aims to make workers and their families pay to serve the interests, first and foremost, of the City of London's financial institutions.

It is also an offensive which will be stepped up regardless of which party wins the forthcoming general election. The likelihood is that a Tory government will make earlier and deeper cuts in

public spending than a New Labour one. A Labour government may also be more vulnerable to trade union pressure not to outlaw industrial action in 'essential' services.

But both main parties intend to prolong the imperialist occupation of Afghanistan and to maintain the expansion of nuclear power and a new generation of British nuclear weapons. Therefore this coalition is contesting the general election to show that there is a clear left-wing alternative to policies of public sector cuts, privatisation, militarism and environmental degradation.

We recognise that there will be Labour and non-Labour candidates standing in the general election who agree with

our policies, who share our socialist aspirations and who will be supported by left and labour movement organisations participating in our coalition.

We also recognise that there are different strategic views about the way forward for the left in Britain, whether the Labour Party can be reclaimed by the labour movement, or whether a new workers' party needs to be established.

But our coalition is united on the need for mass resistance to the ruling class offensive, and for an alternative programme of left-wing policies to help inspire and direct such resistance. These are the policies which we therefore propose to put before the people:

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP, NOT PRIVATISED PROFIT

- Stop all privatisation, including the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), and the immoral privatisation of prisons. Bring privatised public services and utilities back into public ownership under democratic control.

JOB, NOT HANDOUTS TO BANKERS & BILLIONAIRES

- Bring banks and finance institutions into genuine public ownership under democratic control, instead of giving huge handouts to the very capitalists who caused the crisis.
- Tax the rich. For progressive tax on rich corporations and individuals, with a crackdown on tax avoidance.
- For massive investment in environmental projects.

NO CUTS - QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES

- Take rail back into public ownership and build an integrated, low-pollution public transport system.
- For a high-quality, free National Health Service under democratic public ownership and control.
- Stop council estate sell-offs and build eco-friendly, affordable public housing.
- Good, free education for all, under democratic local authority control; student grants not fees.
- Keep Royal Mail as a publicly-owned service, not a privatised cash cow.

EMPLOYMENT & TRADE UNION RIGHTS

- Repeal the anti-trade union laws.
- A minimum wage set at half average adult male earnings, with no exemptions.
- Invest to create and protect jobs, including for young people.
- Solidarity with workers taking action to defend jobs, conditions, pensions, public services and trade unions. Reinstate full trade union rights to prison officers.

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT - STOP GLOBAL WARMING

- Deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions - otherwise climate change, caused by capitalism, will destroy us.
- Invest in publicly-owned and controlled renewable energy.
- Move to sustainable, low-pollution industry and farming - stop the pollution that is destroying our environment.
- Recognise that many of our planet's resources are limited and that capitalism fritters them away for profit.
- Produce for need, not profit, and design goods for reuse and recycling.

DECENT PENSIONS & BENEFITS

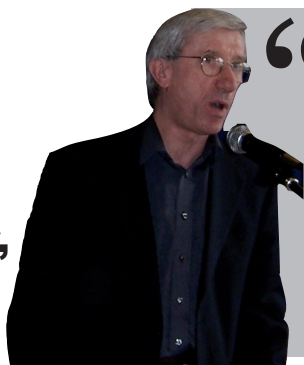
- Restore the pre-Thatcher real value of pensions. Reinstate the link with average earnings.
- Protect entitlement to benefits; for living benefits; end child poverty.

DEMOCRACY, DIVERSITY & JUSTICE

- Welcome diversity and oppose racism, fascism and discrimination. Defend the right to asylum.
- Ensure women have genuinely equal rights and pay.
- Defend our liberties and make police and security democratically accountable.



**John McNally,
PCS Vice
President**



“It is astonishing that the whole debate in this country is now focused on the so-called ‘unaffordability’ of public spending and the need for yet more cuts and privatisation. Rather than closing 200 tax offices with the loss of many thousands of skilled tax workers the government should be expanding such services to collect the £130 billion in tax evaded and avoided by the rich. I am proud to be associated with the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition.”

SOLIDARITY NOT WAR

- Bring home all British troops from Afghanistan immediately - no more wars for resources.
- No more spending on a new generation of nuclear weapons, huge aircraft carriers or irrelevant eurofighters - convert arms spending into socially useful products and services.
- An independent foreign policy, based on international solidarity – no more being a US poodle, no moves towards a capitalist, militarist United States of Europe, no Lisbon Treaty.

SOCIALISM

- For a democratic socialist society run in the interests of the people not the millionaires. For democratic public ownership of the major companies and banks that dominate the economy, so that production and services can be planned to meet the needs of all and to protect the environment.



Candidates

Candidates selected so far include the former RMT executive member Mick Tosh, standing in Portsmouth North, and Keith Gibson, a leader of last year's Lindsey Oil Refinery construction workers' unofficial strike committee, challenging cabinet member Alan Johnson in Hull West. Other candidates

endorsed include the Socialist Party councillor and former Labour MP Dave Nellist, standing against Defence Secretary Bob Ainsworth in Coventry North East, and a former Labour parliamentary candidate, Dave Hill, in Brighton Kemptown. For a full up-to-date list go to www.tusc.org.uk

Sponsors so far include

RMT: Bob Crow general secretary, Craig Johnston national executive – Manchester and the North West of England, Pat Collins national executive – Midlands, Gary Hassell national executive - South East, Micky Thompson national executive - North East, Owen Herbert national executive - South Wales & West, Pete March national executive – Yorkshire, Micky Thompson – National Executive - North East England and North Yorkshire, Pat Collins – National Executive - Midlands, Stan Herschall - North East Regional Organiser, Richard Howard Portsmouth Branch Secretary and Wessex Regional Council Secretary, John Reid - Rep, Edgware Group LU, Sean Hoyle - Portsmouth Branch Chair. **PCS:** Chris Baugh assistant general secretary, Janice Godrich president, John McNally vice president, Kevin Greenway national executive, Marion Lloyd national executive, Mark Baker national executive, Emily Kelly national executive, Rob Williams national executive, Katrine Williams DWP Group Vice President, Sam Buckley Branch Secretary of DWP CSA Hastings, Jimmy Gill Chair Cardiff DWP Branch, Joe Foster Chair, OFWAT branch, Nick Parker East Midlands DWP Young Members Officer, Dave Lunn Land Registry Group vice president, Martin Hickman Branch organiser of Sheffield DWP HQ Yorkshire Branch, and Assistant Secretary of DWP Yorks & Humber Region. **Trades Councils:** Kenny Cunningham Chair Chester Trades Council, Steve Glennon Secretary Stevenage Trades Council, Andrew Price Secretary Cardiff Trades Council. **Other:** Brian Caton general secretary POA, Gary Jones CWU national executive, Bernard Roome CWU national executive, Dave Salt CWU Secretary Birmingham & Black Country, Judy Griffiths CWU Branch Secretary Coventry, Campaign for a New Workers' Party, David Beddoes GMB Senior Shop Steward BAE Systems Barrow, Jackie Grunsell Huddersfield Save our NHS councillor, Christian Bunke NUJ Vice Chair Manchester, Nina Franklin NUT Senior Vice-President Elect, Martin Powell-Davies NUT Secretary Lewisham branch, Tony Greenstein Secretary Brighton & Hove Unemployed Workers Centre, Rob Windsor and Dave Nellist Socialist Party Councillors Coventry City Council, Ian Page and Chris Flood Lewisham Socialist Party councillors, Socialist Alliance, Socialist Party, Socialist Resistance, Socialist Workers' Party, Sasha Callaghan UCU Immediate Past President, Roger Bannister UNISON national executive, Hannah Walter UNISON national executive, Vicky Perrin UNISON national executive, Glenn Kelly UNISON national executive, April Ashley UNISON national executive, Jean Thorpe UNISON national executive, Len Hockey UNISON Health Service Group Executive, Steve Bell UNISON - Secretary Bucks Health Branch, Brian Smith UNISON - Secretary Glasgow City, David Read UNISON - Secretary Manweb Branch, Paul Couchman UNISON Secretary Surrey County, Roger Davey UNISON chair Wiltshire health branch, Jason Jones UNITE Acting Secretary Avery Weigh-Tronix Branch, Rob Williams UNITE convenor Linamar Swansea, Kevin Parslow UNITE – Secretary LE 1/128 Branch, Tim Sandle UNITE Branch Secretary North West London Health, Dave Church Walsall Democratic Labour Party and former council leader, Walsall Democratic Labour Party councillor Peter Smith, Ben Robinson chair Youth fight for Jobs.

(All individuals in a personal capacity)

I wish to add my support to the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition election challenge
We would like a TUSC speaker at our trade union branch on (please include date and details)

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

EmailAddress _____

Phone number _____

Trade Union (and position if any) _____

I/we would like to donate £_____ to TUSC (cheques made payable to Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition and sent to address below)

Return the slip to TUSC, 17 Colebert House, Colebert Avenue, London E1 4JP
or e-mail electioncoalition@btinternet.com