

The Tories' attacks on benefits and the bedroom tax are driving families into poverty and opening up the threat of eviction. The cuts and sell offs in education and our NHS and now the attempt to privatise Royal Mail are at the heart of David Cameron's agenda.

Meanwhile they try to divide us, scapegoating migrants and demonising benefit claimants.

Across the world austerity means that we pay for an economic mess we didn't create.

Once again there is the growth of resistance here, showing the potential power to beat back the attacks we all face.



Cityclean strikers in Brighton. Photo by Julie Sherry

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# Unite the Resistance conference

Build the protests, build the strikes, build the unions...

# Organising to win



Hovis strikers in Wigan

**The Unite the Resistance conference on 19 October comes at a time when the Tory assault on working people is gathering pace.**

This conference is a unique opportunity for both those new to organising in the workplace as well as those who have experience in the trade unions and campaigns. We can come together and discuss how we can organise to win.

We need a strategy to

build bigger and more effective trade unions.

Across the public and private sector protests, campaigns and strikes are being planned for this autumn.

## Strategy

This conference will address how we build as much support as possible for these and provide an alternative to austerity that can give hope to all those resisting the government's

## Unite the Resistance Conference

Saturday  
19 October,  
12noon-5pm  
@Bloomsbury Baptist Church  
235 Shaftesbury Ave,  
London WC2H 8EP

Speakers include:

**Billy Hayes**  
CWU general secretary

**Liz Lawrence**  
UCU vice-president

**Ronnie Draper**  
BFAWU general secretary

**Jeremy Corbyn MP**

**Jane Aitchison PCS**

**Phil Jackson**  
EIS national president

**Frank Morris**  
Crossrail dispute

**Sean Vernell**  
Unite the Resistance

Plus speakers from disputes at Hovis, One Housing, Glasgow social care workers, Barclays Bike, Whipps Cross hospital, Lewisham hospital campaign, ISS East Coast Mainline cleaners and many more...

# Model motion

## This union branch/committee/region notes

- 1) The Tories' continued austerity drive with huge cuts to public spending, attacks on wages and more job cuts.
- 2) The People's Assembly met on 22 June and saw 4,000 activists debate the way to build the anti-austerity movement.
- 3) Thousands joined the mass protest against austerity at the Tory Party conference on 29 September in Manchester called by Unite, Unison and the GMB, and backed by the TUC and other unions.
- 4) The powerful strikes by 2.5 million workers on 30 November 2011.
- 5) That the FBU, NUT, NASUWT, CWU, PCS and UCU, Unison & Unite in Higher education, are all taking or balloting for national strike action.

## This union branch/committee/region believes

- 1) That we can't simply wait for a Labour government to end austerity, particularly after Ed Miliband signed up to Tory spending plans.
- 2) That we should support the call for the creation of local People's Assemblies.
- 3) There is an urgent need to build up the strength of trade union organisation across the public and private sector.

## This union branch/committee/region resolves

- 1) Support the People's Assembly day of direct action on 5 November and the TUC day of action against the blacklist on 20 November.
- 2) To support the call, raised again at this year's TUC Congress, for a general strike. To back the call at the TUC for a national day of action against austerity, including coordinated strike action.
- 3) To affiliate to Unite the Resistance and send ..... delegates to the Organising to Win conference on 19 October.

assault on working people's lives.

This year's TUC conference reaffirmed support for coordinated strikes, a mid-week day of action, and continued consideration of a general strike.

Teachers are holding regional strikes on 1 and 17 October, and plan national action later this year to defend education and their pay, pensions and conditions. Postal workers

are voting on action in the face of the sell off of Royal Mail and firefighters announced national strikes in September to save their pensions and protect safety. Civil service workers, members of the PCS, have been consulting on the next steps in the union's industrial action strategy.

We've seen victories in the private sector with Unite winning the reinstatement



Mid Yorks Health Trust admin workers on strike. Photo by Guy Smallman

of union rep Frank Morris on the huge Crossrail project. At Hovis in Wigan workers won a victory against the use of zero hours contracts, a growing scourge that's leaving workers across Britain without guaranteed hours, sick pay or holidays.

And there have been important fightbacks by ISS cleaners on the East Coast mainline, GMB bin workers in Brighton and Unite members at One Housing.

People want to see resistance.

The national People's Assembly in the summer saw 4,000 activists come together to debate a way forward in the fight against austerity and since then there have been big meetings in a number of towns and cities.

Unison, Unite and the GMB initiated the protest against austerity at the Tory Party conference in Manchester on 29 September and the TUC is set to call another mass protest next year.

Alongside protests, civil disobedience (a day of civil disobedience has been called by the People's Assembly for 5 November and backed by the TUC) we need the power of organised workers' action – strikes – if we are to stop Cameron and Co now.

All across the world we've seen the central role that organised workers can play in the battle against austerity. We saw that potential here on 30 November 2011, when 2.5 million people struck over pensions.

The words about coordinated action and a general strike have to be turned into action now. Trade unions are one of the most powerful weapons working

## Workshops

There will be workshops introduced by trade unionists, campaigners and activists at the cutting edge of the struggle against austerity:

- Organising the unorganised, fighting zero hours contracts
- Solidarity forever: The rough guide to building workplace organisation
- Trade unions, community campaigns and resistance
- Learning from the international experience
- Unity forever: Fighting oppression in the workplace
- Fighting the blacklist, taking on anti-union laws
- How do we save our NHS?

people have to protect themselves from the government and employers' attacks. They are even more important with Labour signing up to Tory spending plans.

Our unions need to be stronger. In 1979 around 13 million people were in trade unions. Today 6.5 million are in unions affiliated to the TUC. But trade union membership grows where there is sustained resistance.

Let's build networks or solidarity for the fights that are happening, spread them wider, demand action from our union leaders – and organise.