

ALL OUT 10 NOVEMBER MARCH ON BIS

Defend pay, defend education: strike for the 'lost generation'

We are striking on 10 November to defend our pay call for £1 extra per hour for all and will call for FE to be funded properly. Further education is in a crisis. The leaders of our sector have no solution to austerity attacks on our colleges, except to pass on cuts to staff and students. We have to be the guardians of education and stand up for FE.

The employers' have recommended a pay offer of 0% - a pay freeze. Lecturers have lost as much as £500 per month in real terms. Further cuts to pay will only accelerate the decline of the sector. We are part of the solution and play a key role in transforming lives. When we are striking on pay it is part of the movement to save FE.

Martin Doel, AoC Chief, says that adult education will be extinct by 2020. We have lost 1 million adult places since the financial crisis as the adult budget was cut in half. 400,000 student places were lost this year because of the 24% cut to the adult learning budget. In the summer a £45m cut to ESOL is denying 16,000 the right to learn English, on top of a further 3.9% cut to the adult budget. It is a social injustice that adults who wish to return to education are being turned away.



Vote for Mandy Brown for UCU Vice President. Follow her @MandyAVPUCU

Post-16 area reviews and mergers are part of a new offensive on the sector. Adult education has been at the forefront of cuts but now the whole sector is in jeopardy. Colleges have lost on average 105 lecturers due to cuts since 2010. There could be many more job and course cuts as College mergers, as part of post-16 reviews, will see 300 colleges broken up to around 70.

The November spending review will announce more cuts of between 25-40%. The ESOL rally of parliament in October shows the potential to mobilise to resist these attacks. Now we urgently need to build a national campaign in defence of the whole of further and adult education.

Lost generation

When you look at the situation in FE you can see how society is going backwards and becoming more unequal. Young people in Britain are becoming a lost generation.

According to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) young people, those under 34, have suffered the brunt of austerity attacks on pay and employment. For 16-24 year olds unemployment has risen to 14.8%. It is a national scandal that 683,000 young people are unemployed.

The 10th of November strike coincides with the third reading of the Trade Union Bill. A government that was elected by just 24% of the electorate is trying to introduce the most

draconian anti-trade union legislation since Thatcher. The Tories know that it is the 6 million strong trade union movement who will put up the resistance that can defeat their agenda of dismantling the welfare state. That is why they are trying to introduce new legislation will make it virtually impossible to take strike action. The best way to defeat legislation to take away our right to strike — is to strike.



Mass ESOL lobby in October

March on BIS

At the head of this campaign to attack workers rights is the Minister for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), Sajid Javid. The BIS department is also responsible for implementing cuts to FE.

On the 10 November strike we will march on BIS. We will demand Further and adult education is funded. We will show the Minister that threats to workers rights and democracy will not be tolerated. We will speak up for the communities we serve who need their local college.

There is a growing movement opposed to austerity and the pay freeze that has gained momentum with the election of Jeremy Corbyn. We have seen it on the streets in the mass demonstration to Welcome refugees, the demonstration against the Tory party conference to take back Manchester and the junior doctors revolt over new contracts.

The money is there for education and welfare. It is a political choice to cut education and our pay. We demand a pay rise.

Events on the day

London rally and march on BIS

John McDonnell SHADOW CHANCELLOR

12:45pm Emmanuel Centre, Lower Hall,
9-23 Marsham Street London SW1P 3DW

Birmingham rally

Speakers: Liz Lawrence UCU PRESIDENT, Darrall Cozens UCU AND COVENTRY TUC, Doctor in dispute.

12pm Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street
Birmingham B3 3BS

Refreshments available

Join UCU Left: WWW.uculeft.org



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