

**PCS  
INDEPENDENT LEFT**

**Annual Delegate Conference  
2011**

**THURSDAY 19 MAY 2011**

## **All in this together**

Today Conference will debate many worthy “social and economic” motions and we will do so at a critical point in history, as Governments around the world seek to pile the crisis on the backs of workers: The “age of austerity” for the great majority is the age of luxury for those who own and control the means of production.

The Sunday Times Rich List has revealed the total wealth of Britain's richest 1,000 people to have grown 20% in a year. The combined wealth of the richest 1,000 now equals £360bn, rapidly returning to the historic high of £413 billion in 2008.

In the meantime, down here on Planet Hard Up, life is a matter of job loss, falling living standards, rising student fees, benefit reduction, and slashed services. Welcome to “we are all in it together Britain”, which bears an uncanny resemblance to “we’re all in it together” Ireland, America, the world!

On Wednesday 11 May the 'Hardest Hit' demonstration saw thousands of disabled people and their supporters march to parliament demanding an end to the attacks that are threatening the basic dignity of disabled people, their very ability to attain any minimally decent quality of life.

The lecturers' union UCU already has a ballot mandate to strike over pensions. On Tuesday 17 May members of the NUT began balloting on strikes against the government's attacks on their pensions. Another teachers' union, ATL, will start balloting on 20 May. The National Association of Head Teachers has voted to ballot, but in the autumn. There is the basis for a serious cross union fight back.

**Club Caucus 2011**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 8 'til late**

**The Globe, 78, Middle St., turn left out of  
Conference Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> left**

**See any Independent Left member for tickets**

PCS activists need to work with activists in other unions to pile the pressure on the Unison leadership to play its role. We need to reach out to private sector workers whose pensions have been smashed by the same bosses and politicians who now scapegoat public sector workers. We have to seek the maximum trade union unity whilst ensuring that we fight on the key PCS issues. We have to fight as seriously over jobs as we will over pensions and we need to develop the strategy to fight and win alone if need be. PCS needs to go on a war footing. The NEC should collect a levy to build its fighting fund (it should have started doing that years ago) and draw up detailed plans to combine selective action with national action, to keep the pressure on the employer and keep the action moving.

And we need politics! A Tax Justice campaign is fine as far as it goes but we need far more - **a reassertion of the old Labour Movement striving for a fundamental shift in wealth and power**. In a grotesquely unequal Britain the fight for equality, including the fight to place the burden of the fiscal crisis on the rich, is a critical element in renovating the British Labour Movement. Unfortunately the NEC did nothing on the key PCS Independent Left equality motion passed at the 2009 Conference and has done precious little on last year's key equality motion, again moved by IL supporters and which instructed the NEC to tie all membership equality issues into a cohesive, national, campaign that has the need for social equality at its core, that draws out the connection between workplace and wider society inequalities, and places equality at the heart of all PCS's campaigns.

With a cross public sector strike looming, now is the time for the NEC to launch a campaign for social equality as we reach out to students, the retired, the service users, the unemployed and private sector workers.

**For an effective union – join Independent Left**

<p><b>WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT PCS INDEPENDENT LEFT?</b></p> <p>If you are tired of the spin and same old strategy of Left Unit. If you are opposed to deals that offer new members worse terms on entry. You should join the <b>Independent Left</b> – a new socialist voice for members in the Union. To find out more simply fill in this form and send to:</p> <p>10 Maitland Avenue Chorlton Manchester M21 7WB</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____ _____</p> <p>Branch: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>
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