

**VOTE  
PCS INDEPENDENT LEFT**

**GEC Elections  
2012**

## **Why you should nominate our candidates**

### **The leadership we need**

DWP members need a GEC that:

- defends jobs (thousands gone over the last year and many thousands more set to go);
- defends living standards (slashed over recent years – some 14% off EO max – and the Tory led coalition again set to squeeze hard under its 1% average increase pay policy)
- puts equality at the heart of all it does;
- links members up in a common defence rather than isolated to be picked off office by office, member by member;
- advocates a membership led group rather than one local reps and members have no idea what the GEC is up to from one month to the next as all negotiations are conducted in confidence with management.

The Independent Left seeks your nomination as the champion of such policies.

### **The GEC we have now**

In the DWP the LU leadership has fallen out amongst themselves, with one section blaming the current Group President and another leading (NEC) LU member for leaving members in different offices isolated in the face of management attacks instead of co-ordinating members and linking all of the attacks we face - office closures, redundancies, misuse of FTA's, understaffing, increasing outsourcing and so on.

The Independent Left agrees that the GEC has fundamentally failed in these ways but cannot agree that just one or two people, rather than the whole GEC, are to blame. We note that the GEC members who are now saying that they were unhappy with the way the President was running the Group never put a motion to the GEC criticising this and proposing an alternative – they were united in failing the members over the past year.

At the time of writing there are two candidates in the internal DWP Left Unity elections for president, Fran Heathcote and Jane Aitchison. Just as people now blame Jane for the failings of the GEC and seek to remove her as the LU candidate so Jane now describes Fran as, 'weak, untried and untested' when she has hitherto supported Fran's election year after year as Group Organiser. This sort of attempt to explain away collective failings by disproportionate attacks is typical of the LU leadership's culture but is not an answer to the critical issues facing members and is an attempt to escape collective accountability.

### **Politics, not friendships**

If you were to examine the GEC voting records of both candidates it would be astonishing if they had ever voted differently on *any* issue, let alone those in dispute. What all of this shows is that it's not about voting for the nicest person or the one supposedly least to blame. It's about having a Group President, along with a GEC, that has the ideas, strategy and determination to start winning with members in DWP. For that members need a different leadership with different, imaginative and bold, policies. Please do not indulge the internal LU scapegoating of each other; nominate and vote for the Independent Left.

# For a better Union nominate Independent Left

## ***President***

Christine Hulme, Berkshire

## ***Vice President***

Marjorie Browne, East London

Bev Laidlaw, Sheffield

## ***Assistant Secretaries***

Nick Bird, Norfolk & Suffolk

Declan Power, West London

Tony Reay, South East London

## ***Organiser***

Charlie McDonald, East London

## ***Treasurer***

Nigel Prendergast, East London

## ***Journal Editor***

Nick Diamantis, South London

## ***GEC***

Nick Bird, Norfolk & Suffolk

Marjorie Browne, East London

Trish Doran, Brent, Harrow & Hillingdon

Gerry Hyde, East Sussex

Bev Laidlaw, Sheffield

John Mahoney, Lambeth & Southwark

Declan Power, West London

Jenny Richardson, Bucks & Oxon

Tom Bishell, Sheffield

Sue Catten, East London

Christine Hulme, Berkshire

Rosie Huzzard, Sheffield

Jackie Lederer, East Hants & Isle of Wight

Charlie McDonald, East London

Tony Reay, South East London

### **We stand for:**

- No secrecy in negotiations. We will not sign up to 'in confidence' negotiations. All information to be published to branches and members, including minutes of the GEC meetings.
- An industrial action strategy that is effective. We will use industrial action to win things not as an end in itself. We will use paid selective action, rolling action, overtime bans as well as national action. Nothing will be ruled in and nothing ruled out. We will start a much needed national levy to fund paid action.
- Equality must be at the heart of everything we do, not just left to advisory committees or added on to the end of an agenda.
- Supporting our commercial sector colleagues. Increasingly more and more of our work will be privatised, through government policies such as the Work Programme and we need to make sure that PCS is effectively organised in these areas.
- Challenging the government's welfare reform agenda. We need to start to break down the 'us and them' attitude that management try to encourage between workers and claimants. We will campaign against the so-called Stricter Benefit Regime.
- Linking up all of the fights. We are being attacked in a number of areas such as pay, pensions, staffing, office closures, redundancies, attendance management, discipline etc, etc. The GEC's job is to link up all of these fights and give members the confidence to fight back, not to leave individual groups of members fighting on their own, whether it be office closures or working conditions in contact centres.
- More legal support to branches and members fighting individual cases.

**Visit our website at [www.pcsindependentleft.co.uk](http://www.pcsindependentleft.co.uk)**