

UNITE AND ESCALATE

Inflation is higher than for the last 40 years. Since 2008, wages had already fallen in real terms even before the latest price rises. Almost all of us see our quality of life declining. More people are driven into poverty, with serious impacts on physical and mental health.

We are told we have to accept higher energy costs because of Russia's indefensible invasion of Ukraine, while energy companies report record profits. Inflation pre-dates the invasion, although both the war and Western sanctions (which enrich bosses and drive up prices more than they help Ukraine) made it worse.

Truss doesn't even have answers for British capitalism, never mind us. Rising interest rates won't stop firms putting up prices, but are tipping the economy towards recession. Capitalists need healthy, educated workers who can get to work reliably. Instead we are suffering with a crumbling NHS, Long Covid, inadequate housing, and not enough money to stay warm and well fed. While failing to protect working-class people, the Tories appease the profiteers - from the oil companies to the city to landlords. The limited 'help' they offer is paired with increasing repression - new laws to make it harder to protest or strike.

The Tories resist mass insulation of homes which could keep us warm, lower energy bills and help address climate breakdown. They won't invest in renewable energy or expanded, high quality, affordable public transport. They approve more fossil fuel extraction despite record-breaking temperatures and fires in Britain and horrific floods in Pakistan. They won't tackle rents, landlords or the housing shortage. They hope to distract and divide us with racism and 'culture war' attacks on some of the worst off.

The good news is that more and more working-class people are resisting. Millions can see that there's no point pinning hopes on Starmer's Labour Party. The strikes have been inspirational. Most win at least something and quite a few are managing to stay ahead of soaring prices. The only realistic way to prevent rapid erosion of our pay is to unionise and strike.



We've even seen wildcat strikes by workers at Amazon and Cranswick Foods who weren't yet in unions. The Tories want us to believe that pay rises will cause a 'wage-price spiral', pushing prices up even further, but rising real wages were not the cause of inflation, and lowering them won't end it.

Even though many of the strikes are in the private sector, the government often stands behind the employers and obstructs a settlement, as with the rail industry. The Tories are afraid of workers scoring a big, visible win that lifts all our hopes, so we need to expect some hard fights. Once you are in a fight, it's dangerous to be half-hearted about it. We can bet the Tories won't be. So workers need to demand pay rises that at least match inflation, push our union leaders to escalate the action, and coordinate it across unions and industries to maximise solidarity and pressure on the government.

But it's not just about wages. There's little point winning better pay only to hand it over to the landlord, the bank, the energy company or the supermarket. Those too young, old, sick, unlucky, or busy with unpaid caring to be in paid work are also being hit by soaring prices. We need to defend our public services. So we also need to organise in working-class communities. It's great to see campaigns like Don't Pay and Enough Is Enough involving hundreds of thousands of people. There are many ways to resist (see over) - socialist organisation helps each of us work out how to do so effectively wherever we are.



Photo: Steve Eason

The increase in strikes has been inspirational. We can all help strikes win through solidarity, see rs21.org.uk/solidarity



Don't Pay UK is a movement demanding a reduction in energy bills to an affordable level and organising people on Direct Debits to cancel them from October 1 if this does not happen. Many will simply be unable to pay unless we win.

Don't Pay has organised campaigning across the country. There are media reports that 1.7 million people plan to cancel their Direct Debits. If a fraction of this number do, it will create a crisis for the energy companies and the government.

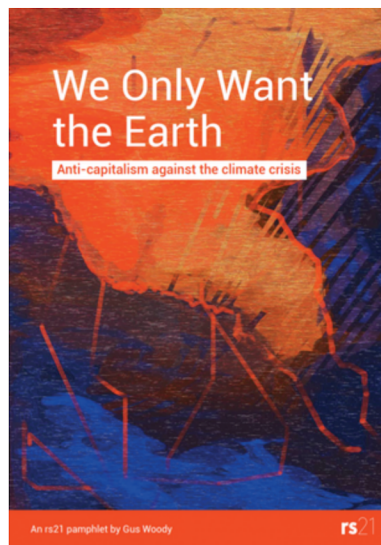
More at www.rs21.org.uk/dp

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Enough Is Enough is a campaign coalition launched by the Communication Workers Union, ACORN, Fans Supporting Foodbanks and others demanding a real pay rise, slashed energy bills, an end to food poverty, decent homes for all and taxes on the rich.

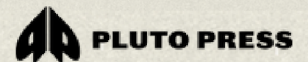
EiE has held huge rallies around the country and plans to form community groups, organise picket line solidarity and take action against the companies and individuals profiting from the crisis.

More at www.rs21.org.uk/eie



Pamphlet £3
rs21.org.uk/earth

WORKERS CAN WIN A GUIDE TO ORGANISING AT WORK IAN ALLINSON



Many workers can see the need to organise at work, but don't know how to do it effectively. At last there's a guide to the politics and practical techniques of organising at work.

'Just at the time when workers are mobilising to tackle the economic and climate crises we all face, this invaluable handbook comes along to provide an essential guide to winning.'

John McDonnell MP.

More info and order via workers-can-win.info

How to get involved with rs21:

- You can become a member at rs21.org.uk/join
- Follow us on social media - links and addresses are below.
- Subscribe to our newsletter at rs21.org.uk/subscribe
- Our meetings are free and open to all. rs21.org.uk/events