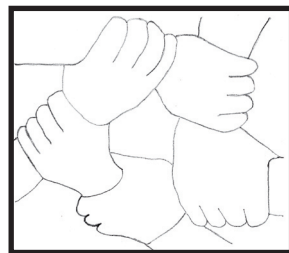


National Shop Stewards Network



**For justice in the workplace,
workers rights, solidarity and equality
- trade union freedom**



Why a Shop Stewards' network?

Workers in Britain have taken a hammering over the last 30 years. And, as the economic crisis deepens, it is us who they are asking to pay for it. Attacks by both public and private sector employers get sharper by the day, as the crisis is used to force through pay cuts and attacks on our pensions. In the meantime, unemployment mounts, and millions of people are being thrown into poverty, even as top executive pay and pensions go up. 40% of London's children grow up below the poverty line

The Tories and New Labour, egged on by the media, are competing over who can force through more cuts. Whoever wins the election is to set to a launch an assault on

workers and on the welfare state. In the private sector jobs are cut daily, and in the public sector its clear the plan is all out privatisation and cost cutting, from the NHS, local government and education through to the Royal Mail and Civil Service. Already universities and colleges all over the country have announced redundancies and cuts in courses even as ever higher numbers of students apply for courses.

To curb effective resistance the Government has kept Europe's toughest anti-union laws that make any solidarity action illegal. But further defeats are not inevitable. We say enough is enough; we can and must turn the tide. It is time we

got together to organise the fight-back against the whole range of attacks and the laws that aid and abet them.

Over the past year we have seen the beginnings of a fightback. There has been a wave of occupations and strike ballots in colleges and universities. Students and lecturers at Leeds have forced management to back off from proposed cuts and redundancies. And now, with the strikes at BA and proposed action by the RMT on the trains the stakes have been raised. Strikers have been subject to vicious attacks. It is up to us to defend them, and to build resistance in our own workplaces and colleges.

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What we are doing

300 shop stewards and workplace representatives came together in July 2007 to launch the National Shop Stewards Network (NSSN). The Network's founding conference resolved to rebuild the strength of our working-class movement from the bottom up by creating local, regional and national networks to put elected reps and shop stewards from different unions in permanent contact with each other. We have subsequently held two further conferences, which have gone from strength to strength, as well as organising local events.

Organising mutual solidarity when trade unions are in dispute will be at the heart of our work. We will also share information to develop ways of successfully resisting attacks on our union rights, jobs, pay, conditions and pensions. We aim to build a movement that can help sweep the anti-union laws off the books and make them inoperable in the meantime.

Bringing new blood into our movement is vital so the NSSN will encourage younger workers, agency and migrant workers to join their unions, organise in their workplaces and become reps themselves.



For justice in the workplace, workers' rights, solidarity and equality - trade union freedom. Get organised and join the Fightback for decent wages, jobs and pension rights. www.shopstewards.net davechapple@btinternet.com 0208 5221156 davechapple@btinternet.com

What you can do

Full membership of the NSSN is open to all elected trade union reps who are not national paid full-time officials: so if you are a shop steward, local rep, branch official, health and safety rep, trades council delegate or union learning rep, your place is in the NSSN as well as your own union. Of course, ALL union members are welcome to attend our meetings.

The NSSN does not interfere in internal trade union business, but seeks to strengthen confidence, democracy and accountability at all levels of all our unions. We seek affiliations from all official trade union bodies, from local branches to national unions.

We seek the co-operation and support of local trades union councils in building our network. In turn the NSSN can help revitalise dying trades councils and help to start new ones by putting known workplace reps in a town or city in touch with one another. While the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union played an essential role in founding the NSSN, several other unions including the CWU, PCS, POA and the NUM have already supported us at national and regional level.

Conference 2010

Saturday 26th June 11am,

South Camden Community School, London NW1 1RG

Come to the 2010 conference of the Shop Stewards Network to discuss with other trade unionists about how we can work together and support each other in the struggles that working people will face over the coming year; contact us to register and find out more details.

**"If we are to roll back the tide of privatisation and war, rebuilding the grassroots of our movement is essential."
Bob Crow
General Secretary RMT**



Get involved I'd like to join the NSSN as an individual member and enclose £5 ☐

My trade union branch would like to support the NSSN and I enclose a minimum donation of £20 ☐

My trade union branch/organisation would like to affiliate to the NSSN with delegate rights and I enclose a minimum donation of £20 ☐ **please make cheques payable to 'National Shop Stewards Network'**

Name.....Trade Union.....

Address..... Post Code.....

Email.....

Telephone.....

Send to: National Shop Stewards Network, PO Box 5862, London N1 1ET