



nationalshopstewardsnetwork

**If the ConDems don't back
down after N30 ...**

ALL STRIKE TOGETHER



...AGAIN!

- **Step up the action**
- **TUC must name the date
for further nationally
co-ordinated strikes**

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A year ago the Tories and their friends in the media thought that workers in the UK were going to take the cuts on the chin. The day before Osborne announced his £81 billion cuts package in October 2010, Jeremy Paxman taunted: "There are general strikes in Europe. Why won't workers in Britain fight?"

Well, over half a million of us marched on 26 March on the biggest trade union demonstration in living memory. 750,000 teachers, lecturers and civil servants went on strike on 30 June. Today, 30 November (N30), up to three million workers from all across the public sector are striking to defend their pensions from the attacks of this cabinet of millionaires. This is the biggest strike in Britain since the 1926 General Strike and, in terms of numbers striking, bigger than the first day of that great struggle.

The Con-Dems are terrified at this show of strength by the organised working class – still potentially the most powerful force in society. The government has 'blinked' first in the run-up to N30 by offering concessions to get the strike called off and being prepared to turn a blind eye to a token 15-minute stoppage.

This only shows how out of touch they are. The government wants all public sector workers to pay more into their pensions out of smaller pay packets. Even under the so-called 'better deal', the vast majority of workers will work longer for worse pensions. Millions are also striking because all the anger and frustration at so many cuts has been poured into the pensions dispute - a quarter of a million job losses, pay freezes,

and pay cuts of thousands of pounds after new contracts have been imposed - all at a time of over 5% inflation.

MAKE N30 THE START OF THE ACTION

The NSSN was set up by the RMT transport union in 2006. We have been arguing for this type of coordinated action alongside fighting unions like the PCS. We've put out over 100,000 leaflets calling for a 24-hour public sector general strike. Over 700 shop stewards and union reps came to our lobby of the TUC conference in September. Later on that week, the N30 strike was announced. Now we've got to keep the pressure up to make sure that, if the government does not retreat, today is the start of the action, not the end. Decisive action can unite workers in the public and private sectors with all those, young and old, suffering from these vicious cuts. Thousands of construction workers, facing 35% cuts in their wages will be walking out today. They should be invited to speak from the platforms to help to build solidarity. Today and in any future action, private sector workers should come on the strike rallies and think about joining the action. At the very least, all live disputes in the private sector should be co-ordinated with the public sector strikes.

The threat of mass strikes has shaken this government. The action today, followed by a timetable that escalates it to further 24- or 48-hour coordinated strikes and more can force a total retreat. Such action will terminally damage this weak coalition. The NSSN calls on the

TUC to name the date for the next strike - no later than the end of January.

Anyway, why should we pay the price for a crisis caused by the bankers and their profit system?

The NSSN is opposed to **ALL** cuts, whoever makes them. We call on Labour councils to refuse to implement the Con-Dem cuts in their budgets early next year. But if they continue to wield the axe we will continue to fight them.

Cuts are not inevitable. And they are certainly not necessary. There is a huge amount of wealth and resources available in society. 72% of people support action being taken to tackle youth unemployment. The Jarrow marchers (www.youthfightforjobs.com) have made the point that there are 200,000 unemployed construction workers. Get them building and renovating homes for the five million people on council housing waiting lists.

We've got to win this fight of all our lives to defend everything that gives ordinary people a decent life – the NHS, education, public services and the welfare state.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Call a workplace meeting soon after the strike to discuss the experience and how to build pressure for the next action
- Get your union branch affiliated to the NSSN
 - www.shopstewards.net/affiliate
- Come to the 2012 NSSN conference
 - see website for details

