

Scottish Socialist



Party

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS VOICE

VICTORY TO THE PASSPORT WORKERS

unite against poverty pay

The Scottish Socialist Party offers 100% solidarity to Passport workers in your strike action and work to rule against endless foot-dragging by the employers.

Their record on pay last year - combined with the New Labour government's appalling record of cuts to jobs, cuts to budgets and prolonged pay freeze for public sector workers - justifies your claim and your determined action.

As Scotland's party of trade unionism and socialism we never hesitate to practice our motto of 'struggle, solidarity, socialism'.

SSP members in PCS are raising support for your battle in

SSP members in PCS are in the forefront of campaigning for united industrial action across the entire civil service and other agencies in defence of jobs, national pay, pension rights and against privatisation. Regional union forums have made plain that members have had enough of New Labour-inspired attacks that

their own union branches, and should you face a protracted campaign of action we will gladly extend that effort, including raising money for any hardship fund you establish, into other trade unions we have members in.

To assist your efforts, our national convener, Colin Fox MSP, has submitted the motion (see box) to the Scottish parliament, to help you raise the profile of the issues you face. We have also published an article in our weekly paper, the *Scottish Socialist Voice*.

Stand firm and united - you are not alone! A victory for you will be a victory for all who face low pay and cuts.

make work levels unbearable, job insecurity a growing problem and pay disparities totally unacceptable.

A one-day civil service-wide strike (being considered for 31 Jan) could launch a sustained, united campaign. Stop the jobs slaughter, poverty pay and privatisation! Put people before profit!

SSP support

MOTION LODGED IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT BY SSP MSP COLIN FOX:

Strike by Passport Workers- That the Parliament supports the 24-hour strike by Public and Commercial Services union (PCS) members at passport offices across Britain, including the one in Glasgow, on Friday 13 October, in pursuit of a 4.4% wage claim; regrets both the unfortunate disruption that will caused to the general public and that the action is necessary but believes the union is entitled to feel aggrieved that some two months after the agreed settlement date for the pay negotiations no offer has yet been made; believes that this effective pay freeze is part of a wider attack on the public sector where workers pay and conditions and pension rights are being diminished and that continuous privatisation eats away at the quality of service to the public.



- Solidarity with IPS strikers - fight poverty pay.
- Unite across civil service on jobs, pay, privatisation, pensions
- Build a one-day strike across the civil service - reply to generalised attacks with generalised union action.

JOIN THE SSP PCS GROUP ring 0141 429 8200

Scottish Socialist Party - civil service workers VOICE

“It is a scandalous way to treat a workforce that has delivered huge changes as a result of government legislation. Low paid staff deserve far better treatment. The government should intervene to arrange immediate talks that bring about a decent, acceptable deal for Passport workers.

“Scottish Socialist Party members in PCS argue for a sustained campaign of action to force the government to tackle the long-standing problems of low pay in the whole civil service.

“The talks with the govt are welcome, but it is time the union drew the line in the sand. A one-day strike of the entire PCS membership on 31 January should kick off a sustained campaign. If national pay is good enough for teachers and nurses it is good enough for civil servants.”

Gerry McMahon, PCS assistant branch sec, Glasgow North

“I work in the DWP and I’m a BEC member for PCS in The Pension Service in Northgate. You have no doubt seen us on our strike days, and personally speaking as a PCS and SSP member I’ve always appreciated the support given by your members to us. So now its my turn to offer you and you colleagues my personal solidarity in your struggle against this unfair treatment by your managers.

“The treatment you and your members have received is appalling, but I know the sacrifice your making will be worth while.”

Gordon Thomson, PCS BEC member (in a personal capacity)

“Given you have already been in a situation where Passport Office Management delayed previous pay proposals, impacting on members pay, it is a disgrace that they are unable to come to the negotiating table in a reasonable time for the current pay bargaining talks. This is more outrageous when we are hearing that Treasury are taking over 6 months to clear any pay bids from Departments / Agencies.

“Registers will soon be going into pay negotiations with our management and therefore there is tremendous sympathy from within our Branch Executive Committee and wider membership for your plight.

“It is bad enough we are faced with the derisorily low Treasury Pay Remit, to have a management that grudges coming to the bargaining table to discuss pay can only be viewed as contemptuous.

“We hope that your action achieves the desired effect and that this drives your management to the negotiating table.”

John Jamieson, PCS branch secretary, Registers of Scotland



PEOPLE NOT PROFIT!

The Scottish Socialist Party is building solidarity with all the IPS staff who have been forced to strike by the hardnosed refusal of management to budge on pay.

Gordon Brown’s announcement of a further 5% cut to next year’s civil service budget and a pay freeze adds salt to the wound - and explodes the baloney talked by some people that ‘things can only get better’ once Brown replaces Blair.

New Labour is New Labour is New Tories, regardless of who is at the helm.

New Labour is out to wreck the public sector with even more privatisation and offshoring of work.

New Labour is out to destroy workers’ pension rights and keep the elderly on a poverty-line state pension.

New Labour retains the vicious anti-union laws that seek to stop solidarity between workers.

New Labour is up to its neck in sleaze and corruption, giving lordships for loans, defending the millionaires, not the millions.

In stark contrast, the SSP stands on the side of workers against the employers, for people not profit, for public services not private greed. We are Scotland’s trade union party.

We have moved Bills in the Scottish parliament to tackle poverty, ill-health and inequality - demanding abolition of the Council Tax, scrapping of all prescription charges, for free, nutritious school meals for all kids at state schools.

We campaign for:

- £8 minimum wage for all over 16, no exemptions. Equal pay for women.
 - immediate state pension of at least £160
 - a shorter working week, without loss of pay
 - massive public investment in NHS, education, public transport, welfare - not in war and nuclear weapons
 - public ownership and democratic control of public services, transport, gas, electricity, telecomms, major industry, banks, N Sea oil
 - an independent, democratic socialist Scotland
- Join the SSP - the party of workers.**

Join the SSP - the party of public ownership, solidarity and socialism

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