

NO TO SKY HIGH FEES • STOP THE CUTS • FOR FREE EDUCATION FOR ALL



This year £7 billion was paid into the pockets of the fat cats in the banks and in businesses. Meanwhile young people are having their future destroyed. Unless we stop them, this government intends to decimate college and university education, depriving many of their right to education. Already, applications for university from college leavers are slowing down dramatically as more and more announce fees of £9,000 a year.

At the same time, nearly 1 million young people are unemployed, and, of all jobs created since the crisis started in 2009, 97% are temporary. Despite the rhetoric from Cameron and Clegg, these are all symptoms of a crisis created by the capitalist system which puts profit before people.

But the money is clearly there! EMA cuts will save the government £500 million – this is small change compared to bankers' bonuses or the tax avoidance of the rich, estimated at £120 billion a year.

That's why our fightback is necessary. I have been an activist with Socialist Students for 4 years, and Youth Fight for Education. Last year I have played a leading role in the protests and occupation in Leeds, as Press Officer for Leeds University Against Cuts (LUAC). With LUAC I helped build for the mass demos where over 3,000 university and college students in Leeds walked out in defiance of the government. I spoke on the opening platform of the 30,000-strong demonstration on 9 December in London, and have argued for a strategy to defeat the cuts throughout the movement.

It is not necessary that the local colleges and universities implement these cuts. Many have reserves that they can use, and, if necessary, borrow in line with normal practices. We call on local managements to refuse to make cuts, and instead demand that the government funds them according to their needs. But we have to keep the pressure on the government as well. Further national days of action are needed, and they have the potential to be bigger and bolder than last winter. With both the National Union of Teachers (NUT) in the schools and sixth forms and the University and Colleges Union (UCU) discussing further action, there is the potential to link up with students and have a one-day education shutdown. Students need to unite with the anti-cuts movement as a whole - March 26 showed that there are many, many workers and community activists who are gearing up to take on the cuts program.

We need to build a national student movement, and bring together representatives from the anti-cuts groups that exist across the country. This is urgent to build a united, coherent fightback with the power to defeat the cuts.

We need an NUS that does not seek to make cuts behind students backs, that supports lecturers defending education 100%, that brings together student activists and discusses a way forward rather than condemning tens of thousands of student protesters.

WWW.SOCIALISTSTUDENTS.ORG.UK

PO BOX 858, LONDON, E11 1YG • 020 8558 7947

Support the Jarrow march for jobs

Youth Fight for Jobs is marching from Jarrow to London in October, on the 75 anniversary of the original Jarrow march. This protest will highlight the conditions young people face, and will link together protesters against the cuts, student activists, unemployed young people and trade union activists. For more information, route maps and to get involved, see www.jarrow2london2011.wordpress.com

WE SAY

- No to cuts to jobs and services
- Repeal the increase in the cap on tuition fees, as a step towards abolishing university fees altogether
- Reinstate EMA, ALG and other incentives to learn, including grants to university students
- To lift the cap on university places, restore funding per student to 2008/09 levels and invest in repairs (and if necessary expansion) of university facilities
- That all private degree-awarding institutions be brought under public ownership; kick big business out of education!
- Support our lecturers – link up with trade union activists in the NUT and UCU for an education shutdown
- Support anti-cuts groups across the country – no to cuts from colleges, councils, government or management
- Defend democratic rights; Stop the witch hunt and victimisation of student activists, repeal the anti-trade union laws
- For a united fightback against the coalition – support the National Shop Stewards Network anti-cuts campaign
- For an end to capitalism and its crises; for a socialist world based on democratic planning to meet the needs of the world's population