

# Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

*Fighting for communism – the future that works!*



## About the CPGB-ML

An understanding of society (theory) and a way of uniting to change it (organisation) are the two things that we need to make a socialist revolution. Ordinary people in Britain have everything to gain by getting involved in this process sooner rather than later. This world isn't working for us and we deserve better!

Not only do we need to campaign against the bad conditions and lack of prospects for working-class people in Britain today, but we need to work for a completely different type of society – one where people's needs decide everything.

So many problems face this world: environmental catastrophe, poverty, disease, racism and war. They'll never be

solved while capitalism remains, but they could all be sorted if society was set up for the benefit of the majority rather than the private gain of a few billionaires.

Our party is different because we consistently apply Marxist science to all areas of our work, and we're not scared to tell it how it is. We refuse to be intimidated by the barrage of lying propaganda that fills Britain's mainstream media. It is the capitalists' job to try to stop us from building a socialist society; it is our job to do it anyway!

Challenge your ideas – challenge their propaganda – seek the truth – serve the people – change the world!

Contact the CPGB-ML to find out more.

watch: [youtube.com/proletariancpgbml](https://www.youtube.com/proletariancpgbml) :: read: [cpgb-ml.org](http://cpgb-ml.org)

Get in touch with local activists, find out more about the party and join the struggle!  
Send us this form or an email and we'll contact you:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

274 Moseley Road, Birmingham, B12 0BS :: 01924 218 737 :: [info@cpgb-ml.org](mailto:info@cpgb-ml.org)

# SAVE OUR



# NHS

# Support the Sercos strikers!

[www.cpgb-ml.org](http://www.cpgb-ml.org)

The NHS provides excellent care to all, from cradle to grave, free at the point of use, regardless of ability to pay. This outstanding achievement would not be possible without the dedicated workers of the NHS who enable it to function. However years of privatisation and “efficiency savings”, including the outsourcing of jobs to private contractors, are beginning to have a serious impact upon the NHS.

Vital support staff such as cleaners, security, and porters have so far borne the brunt of the privatisation of staff, which has led to worse working conditions and pay cuts. While private companies are able to milk the public purse for billions each year, privatisation also makes the service worse, enabling businesses and the government to promote further privatisation as the solution.

## What is Serco doing?

Serco is one of the biggest beneficiaries of privatisation within the NHS. In December 2016 they were awarded a 10-year contract, worth £600m, to manage the facilities of the Barts Health NHS Trust. They immediately earned the enmity of cleaners and porters by trying to do away with paid 15-minute breaks, leading to 120 cleaners stopping work until the breaks were won back from Serco. Currently all of Serco's workers earn the London ‘living wage’ (£9.75 an hour) but increasing living costs have forced many to take on second jobs.

Serco have rejected the demands of the cleaners, porters, and security staff (many of whom are members of Unite) of an hourly increase of 30p, calling their existing wages “generous”. It is a modest demand, considering Serco earned £82m in profit last year,

but one that would make a big difference to the lives of the people who actually earn that profit for Serco.

Privatisation does not only impact upon a person's pay, working conditions are also affected. One cleaner stated “I am now doing the job of three people. I have people following me telling me to clean more beds, more rooms. I've started doing the jobs of healthcare assistants and have received no extra training. My colleagues working in the kitchen are doing the same. Many of us have extra jobs and we are so tired and cannot do our jobs properly. I hurt everywhere when I get home and all I do now is eat and sleep.”

Serco workers have been left with no option but to strike for a wage which they can live on and to halt regressive changes to their working conditions. The Barts Health NHS trust has become the focal point. Strike action began on 4 July when 99% of Unite members who took part in a strike ballot voted in favour of strike action. These strikes have continued throughout July, and more are planned throughout August and September as Serco has not made any substantial concessions during talks with the union.

Serco are profiting off of hardworking, low-paid staff, and the joy of the shareholders, as their bank balances grow, is at the expense of their employees. Their extra profits depend on staff struggling to afford basic necessities such as housing, food, and travel. Only the meanest of people could call Serco's business model a success. If the support staff at the Barts Health NHS Trust win their dispute for better pay and conditions against Serco, it may lead to private sector staff at other NHS Trusts taking similar action to improve their lot. Perhaps

this is why Serco are so unwilling to relent, despite the resolve of the strikers showing no sign of weakening.

## Can workers get a better deal?

Decent pay and working conditions are not provided by employers because of their generosity, they exist because working class people have demanded and fought for them. The interests of an employer are always in direct opposition to that of their workers, and will remain a source of conflict *until the working class do away with capitalism.*

Capitalists will continue to demand that employees work harder, for less money. Slogans such as a “fair day's wage for a fair day's work” misdirect the working class and leave them impotent, as it is the entire exploitative wages system we must do away with! The profit that companies make is not because of business acumen or genius as the ruling class would have us believe, all profit is derived from paying a worker less than the value they produce. Capitalism could not function without this simple truth.

The CPGB-ML stands in solidarity with the Serco workers who are struggling for better pay and working conditions, and we encourage everyone, locally and nationally, to support the strike as well. It can be won; recently cleaners at the London School of Economics won a major victory when their strike action forced LSE to take all cleaning staff back in-house, and to stop using super-exploitative agencies.

## How can we save our NHS?

Many campaigns that have sprung up to defend the NHS, while welcome, have a tendency to be too narrow in scope and to al-

low themselves to be misled by politicians' promises. Only by clearly understanding our rulers' determination to dismantle the NHS and by coordinating our efforts to save it can we hope to succeed.

We must demand:

1. the immediate scrapping of all PFI debt;
2. the scrapping of the ‘internal market’, which pushes privatisation, not ‘efficiency’;
3. the scrapping of the STPs and their associated cuts;
4. the scrapping of foundation trusts, CCGs etc, which act as businesses first and health providers second;
5. the reintroduction of integrated health planning, commissioning and provision on a national and regional level by the NHS;
6. an end to the private provision of healthcare, which doesn't ‘add choice’ or ‘increase overall health funding’ but only adds cost, and ultimately deprives the poor of healthcare;
7. an end to pay freezes and ‘restraint’ and to the tearing up of national employment contracts and frameworks;
8. the nationalisation of all drug and medical technology companies.

It has long been the case that while public debt is social, profitable enterprises are in ‘private’ hands.

The CPGB-ML believes that the welfare of workers can only be safeguarded by a socialist system of economy, controlled and administered by the working people themselves.

Let the capitalists' ministers try and show us otherwise; let them start by meeting this list of simple demands.