

# Left-Horizons

## What we stand for:

This website is run and managed by socialists who are active members of the Labour Party and Trade Unions. We believe in maximising political discussion, debate and argument within the labour and trade union movement, the better for the workers' movement to arrive at programme, policies and methods that can drive it forward to success. We further believe that these debates and discussions should take place in a fraternal and comradely fashion, where insults, threats and personal abuse have no place. For our part, this website will deal only in the currency of facts, figures and arguments and not personal abuse.

We believe that the so-called 'free-enterprise' economic system, capitalism, offers no way forward for working class people in Britain or internationally. Austerity, declining health-care standards, crumbling educational opportunities, low pay and inadequate housing - these are only some of the effects of leaving the big majority of the economy in private hands. An economic system based on greed, short-term gain and private appropriation of wealth offers nothing but unending austerity for the big majority.

### **Policies in the interests of workers**

We believe the Labour Party should fight for policies in the interests of the big majority:

- For an immediate national minimum living wage of £10 an hour
- For a national house-building programme, focused on social housing, to build a million homes a year.
- For rent controls linked to the national living wage. Housing is a basic right and no family to pay more than a modest percentage of its net income on rent!
- Reversal of Tory cuts and a massive programme of public works in infrastructure, housing, education and NHS.
- Reversal of Tory anti-trade union legislation
- Opposition to an EU dominated by the needs of big-business, finance and private profit.
- For a Socialist Federation of European states, with free movement of labour and common policies that under-pin workers' rights and minimum rates of pay.
- For a fully-funded and publicly-owned NHS, with the cancellation of all private contracts and PFI scams
- For a fully-funded and integrated transport system, linking rail, road and buses in a publicly-owned and managed system for the benefit of travellers.
- For the cancellation of student debt and the re-introduction of grants and bursaries for further and higher education.
- For a living wage for public sector workers, linked to the prices index, so that fire-fighters, nurses, teachers and council workers can afford a decent life.
- Renationalisation of Royal Mail, the railway system and utilities like gas, water and electricity, so they can run for social benefit and not subsidised for private gain.

We believe that these policies and more should be at the centre of Labour's programme and will prove to be enormously popular.

We believe that Labour needs to campaign and explain that the huge economic wealth of this country should be used for the benefit of the overwhelming majority, through the **nationalisation of the big companies that dominate the economy**. We do not advocate the nationalisation of every little business or corner shop, only the giant companies that dominate the economy. These big firms lobby and covertly influence ministers and keep their tax affairs and profits in closed books, dodging taxes and paying obscene sums to their bosses.

If socialism is to mean anything, it must mean the organisation of economic wealth in a **democratic plan of production**, so the resources, skills, expertise and wealth can be used for the benefit of all and not a tiny minority.

### **For Labour Party democracy**

If we take the social and economic crises affecting the world population and add the growing crises of global pollution, climate change, population pressures and the misuse and exhaustion of natural resources, we are entering the most disturbed and dangerous period in the whole of human society. We believe that so-called 'green' issues are not 'separate' but have effects on social and political developments and are therefore part of the struggle for a society based on a rational use of resources, rather than greed, corruption and short-term profit for an insignificant handful of super-rich.

In fighting for working class people and for real socialist ideas, we believe the Labour Party and Trade Union movement should be a model for democracy itself, with all officials elected, subject to recall and paid the same wages as

ordinary skilled workers. We believe that elected Labour representatives, whether MPs or councillors, should face automatic re-selection for every election, so there are no meal-tickets for life.

### **Freedom from discrimination and harassment**

We believe the Labour and Trade Union movement, as the political and industrial arms of the organised working class, should fight for the greatest possible social and political freedoms for all people and against all forms of discrimination and harassment, whether on the grounds of race, religion, sex, sexuality, disability or age. It must be the organisations of the labour movement more than any other that champion and progress the interests of oppressed minorities and the disadvantaged. We believe the Labour and trade union movement should follow a policy of consistent internationalism supporting and promoting workers' unity against all those who would divide the working class on grounds of national, religious or cultural differences. Socialism in one country is an mirage that cannot be maintained in the real world. We therefore believe that the struggle for the transformation of society is one that necessarily means having an international perspective, programme and policy.

These are the policies and these the ideas that will be reflected in the articles on this website. Unsigned articles will reflect editorial policy, but that does not apply to signed articles and from time to time we will carry opinion pieces that are published to provoke discussion and debate.

This website seeks to establish a clear political tradition that is to the benefit of working class people - the overwhelming majority of the population - in their struggle for a better future and a better world.