

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

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 _____

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Axe the tax!

Let the rich pay for *their* crisis!

www.cpgb-ml.org

Blaming the poor for poverty

When the Bedroom Tax comes into force on 1 April, 14 percent will be cut from housing benefit for households with one 'spare' bedroom and 25 percent from those with two or more. An estimated 660,000 working-age social tenants across the country will be hit, losing an average of £14-16 per week, and facing the stark choice of moving home or being forced into even deeper poverty. Evictions and debt levels will skyrocket.

In order to justify this move, politicians and journalists have been spinning a fairy tale of housing 'shortages', but it is actually one- and two-bed flats that are in short supply, so where are people supposed to 'downsize' to? If our rulers *really* want to do something about the affordable housing shortage, why not set rent controls in the private sector, build lots of new social homes and requisition all those empty 'deluxe' flats?

It's a classic privatisation strategy – first reduce the amount and quality of a service, then blame the service users for the problem and use it to justify the *next* privatisation move! How many times have we been told that our NHS is under threat because poor people are suffering from diet- or smoking-related ailments, or that burdensome pensioners are 'bed-blocking'? The answer? Instead of creating new hospital wards and putting more nurses and doctors into them, *more* outsourcing to dodgy profiteers and *more* cuts in bed and front-line staff numbers to pay *more* PFI debts!

In reality, this tax has nothing to do with 'freeing up social housing'; it is a callous scapegoating of Britain's poorest people – after all, only those who are claiming benefits will have to pay, even though many of them are already impoverished to the point

of malnutrition. Disabled people, single parents who are not designated as the 'main carer' for their children, couples sleeping apart owing to medical conditions ... all will be hit. Children of the same sex will be required to share a room until they reach 16, and of the opposite sex until the age of 10.

Labour party hypocrisy

Grassroots campaigns to oppose the tax have been launched by workers all over Britain. But a dangerous pattern is emerging as these campaigns take shape – their *hijacking* by Labour's so-called 'left' wing and the *exclusion and silencing* of all non-Labour-affiliated organisations and individuals. Many supposedly 'non-aligned' events have been seized and monopolised by a 'committee' that has censored anyone who tries to tell the truth about Labour's support for and implementation of the capitalists' cuts. Non-Labour people have been systematically blocked from Facebook event and campaign pages all over the country.

The hypocrisy is staggering. Labour, far from building new homes, recently oversaw 13 years of sell-offs and privatisation that massively accelerated the ghettoisation of Britain's remaining social tenants, while 'Red Ed' Miliband, in whom we are asked to put our hopes of a 'worker-friendly' capitalist government next time around, has actually *endorsed* the bedroom tax.

When it comes to cuts, privatisation, and all other attacks on working people's living standards, the Tories, Labour and LibDems are all as bad as each other, *because they all serve the same capitalist interests*. The 'debate' that they distract us with is only about *how soon* or *how fast* to make the cuts that capitalists demand – or *who to blame*, and where to wield the knife *first*.

What they are all agreed on is that British imperialism must at all costs be saved from the current crisis, which is the deepest ever seen – even worse than the fabled Great Depression of the 1930s, which led to WW2 and the deaths of millions of poor people all over the world.

Let us recall that the \$20bn cuts 'required' to be made to our health service were first announced by the *Labour* government – and that *all the parties agreed with them*. They also all agreed that *£1bn on bombing Libya's hard-won infrastructure* – health, education, housing, industry, electricity and water – into the dust was money well spent.

Desperate to stop workers drawing the obvious conclusion that no capitalist party can serve their interests, Labour has been working hard to rebrand itself as the 'anti-cuts' opposition. Glossy leaflets and online campaigns abound, but the concerted effort to remove all *other* voices from the bedroom tax campaign is proof that the party is not interested in uniting the opposition and defeating the tax, but only in getting a bit of free advertising. Labour's fake 'opposition' to cuts is just a cynical PR exercise.

If more proof is still needed of this, let us look at the case of Newcastle's Michael McDonald. As an anti-cuts organiser, he must be a thorn in the side of the Labour-led council that is busy implementing drastic cuts in the city. Following an anti-cuts demo in February, where Mr McDonald told council-leader Nick Forbes what he thought about these attacks on Newcastle's poorest, this Labour scoundrel sent police to drag McDonald out of his bed and charge him with a 'public order' offence! The Labour party's true role as *policeman of the workers' movement* could not have been more clearly illustrated!

To injure one is to injure us all

We need to understand that no representative of a capitalist party is on the side of the workers, however much (s)he may pretend to be. Nor is anyone who tries to incite us to blame each other for the poverty in which we find ourselves. It is not immigrants, fat people, poor people, smokers, benefit claimers, council-house tenants, hoodies or pensioners who are 'bleeding the country dry' but the free-market-fundamentalist gangsters who rampage all over the globe in search of profit, profit and more profit.

Today, our forces are divided, not only by the racism and scapegoating that we are encouraged to indulge in, but by the pigeon-holing of struggles as 'separate' issues, each one of which is presented as being relevant only to a small minority of people. We have lost sight of the fact that 'an injury to one is an injury to all', and so our forces are dispersed and our attention is diverted by every new media-created distraction.

If we unite, however, we can *use our collective power* to sabotage *all* attempts to make us pay for the capitalists' crisis. A *real* tenants' movement, instead of Almo-led eviction organisations, is needed to defend our homes. If we join together we can *refuse to be resettled or moved*. We can patrol our estates and *stop bailiffs* from evicting our fellow tenants. We must *defend ourselves – and our neighbours – from the thugs and hired servants of the rich*.

And we must refuse to let our campaign groups be hijacked by Labour politicians who do nothing to defend the working class from the assaults of capitalist bloodsuckers. They are helping the state to rob the poor to pay the rich – kick them out of our communities!

28 March 2013