



Alliance for Workers' Liberty



Setback in PCS elections

The 2025 National Executive Committee elections have resulted in a setback for the Coalition for Change, with its NEC presence reduced from 19 to 7 members, and majority reclaimed by the ironically named Left Unity. The setback follows the CfC's sweeping 2024 gains, on the back of the disastrous mismanagement of PCS's pay campaigns by the long-ruling LU. But from the outset, the LU General Secretary and President, supported by the LU NEC minority, have all year obstructed and wrecked the effective working of the NEC at a time of many rising challenges from our employers and with the cynical intent to blame the NEC majority. However, CfC still retains a higher NEC starting point, compared to 2023, for the aim of transforming PCS, provided lessons are drawn, including the need to step up local resistance against employers' attacks. Voter turnout was an all-time low of just 6.4%, a symptom of organisational and democratic ill health that should focus all factions including the LU NEC members who argued in 2024 that the CfC majority 'lacked a democratic mandate' on a turnout of 8.6%.

Fighting the Far Right

Reform's advances in the recent county council and mayoral elections, and the Runcorn by-election, are a warning to us all: the far right in Britain, feeding off and into far right movements elsewhere in the world, is a very serious threat.

Reform has been steadily rising in the polls since the 2024 general election. It has a growing branch structure and is likely to keep building support through other elections before the next GE. More Tory activists, and harder fascistic elements, may jump on the Reform bandwagon. Especially, we cannot rule out a Reform/Tory lash-up.

But we know that Reform does not offer solutions to the problems facing working class and swathes of middle class people. Farage's suggestion of a Trump/Musk 'DOGE' approach to the councils' Reform controls is a threat of mass cuts, anti-unionism, and hostility to equality policies. Farage has long called for an insurance approach to health care; *"If you can afford it, you pay; if you can't, you don't."* He has long cosied up to Trump, with all that implies, including the gross persecution of migrants. His hostility to Net Zero echoes Trump's *"drill, baby, drill."*

Reform is not fascist but it is part of a deeply threatening, authoritarian, global wave of the far right. It is an element in the wider UK far right ecosystem, some of which is fascistic and violent. Reform voters have been drawn to it for a whole variety of reasons, including economic

despair. Farage's opportunistic call for the nationalisation of steel was an attempt to attract working class support.

In the face of the rising, menacing far right challenge, the labour movement must urgently oppose the far right in principle and fight for working class social redress. For example, a welfare state with universal provision is perfectly affordable... if the government taxes the rich and the corporations.

If we do not succeed in leveraging significant pushback against Starmer's attacks on benefits, pay, jobs, and public services, the base for the far right will likely widen. **PCS could and should play a critical role in building this pushback.**

Similarly, PCS and other unions must play a leading role in countering the racist, authoritarian, and nationalist myths and hatreds which the far right peddles as the solution to social malaise and deprivation. Our role has assumed greater urgency with the government's shameful mimicking of the far right's language and narrative, with its increased immigration restrictions and reduced rights for asylum seekers. The same must be said for the defence of trans and non-binary rights.

We must tie our resistance and positive alternatives to austerity to principled arguments for working class solidarity and equality, and against racism and transphobia. Instead of overly relying on affiliation to groups like SUTR, PCS and



sister unions should directly mobilise members behind the labour movement's banners, demands and explanations.

And PCS and others must rebuild our membership density, which in many workplaces stands at 50% or less, and extend it to the swathes of non-unionised workplaces and the millions of non-unionised workers who are not hearing union messages of solidarity and fightback.

Solidarity, internationalism, the sense that together we can change things for the better, will become more meaningful and persuasive the more we deepen and extend union membership and the more we fight the attacks on our pay and jobs and the lies of the far right.

The task before us is urgent and challenging. But it is winnable, if socialists and union activists unite in action, irrespective of differences in tactics.

PCS 2025 ADC Bulletin

This year at ADC

This conference will be pivotal in pushing for greater democracy in the union and transforming it into a real member-led body capable of winning on jobs and pay. Members demand answers as to why we face another real-terms pay cut, and will be angry to hear that Coalition NEC members were admonished by LU for not giving Labour "a chance" and told that any threat of cuts was just "speculation." We must rally to support trans members to fight the Supreme Court's ruling, and the bland and weak reply from the GS

and President, which offered neither opposition to the decision nor solidarity to trans people under attack. We support Emergency Motions calling for a defence of trans rights. The union's support for Ukraine is up for debate, with a motion pushing the Stop the War Coalition line that the working class should abandon Ukrainians' right to self-determination against Russian imperialism and be forced to accept a false "peace" with annexations. Against Putin and Trump, Ukraine and Ukrainian trade unionists need our solidarity more than ever.

UK FRIENDS OF STANDING TOGETHER DEMAND
PERMANENT CEASEFIRE
END THE OCCUPATION
PEACE & EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL



Standing with Standing Together

Standing Together, the largest joint Jewish-Arab grassroots movement in Israel, organises Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel to fight against the brutal occupation, including practical solidarity and aid, and campaigns for peace, equality, and social justice.

As its founding statement puts it: *"The future we seek - peace and independence, full equality for everyone in this land, and true social, economic, environmental justice - is possible. To achieve it, we must stand together as a united front. Jewish and Palestinian, secular and religious, Mizrahi and Ashkenazi, rural and urban, and people of all genders and sexual orientations. Many people want progressive change. They support peace and oppose the occupation; they support equality and oppose racism; they support social justice and oppose rule by wealth. They need a movement to unite them, inspire them to take action, and turn their solidarity into a powerful political force."*

Standing Together has emerged as Israel's leading anti-war campaigning group. The Standing Together media platform, Rosa Media, produces podcasts and other content in both Hebrew and Arabic. It maintains active social media networks with large followings. Building on its earlier campaigning activities, Standing Together has organised Solidarity Guards in mixed cities to resist

racist incitement by the far right; formed a Humanitarian Guard which has defeated many settler attacks on aid to Gaza; ran its own aid convoys to Gaza; set up defence campaigns for victimised Palestinian workers; staged large anti-war protests; and organised anti-war/anti-occupation blocs in the mass post-7th October anti-government protests.

"At a time when we are witnessing so much death, destruction, racism and division in Israel-Palestine," writes ST, *"it has never been more important to support people inside Israel working for change."*

That's why Friends of Standing Together (FOST) groups have been launched across Europe and on other continents, based on three simple goals:

- Promote the power of joint struggle with Palestinians and Jews working together
- Campaign for peace, justice, and equality for Israelis and Palestinians in line with ST's vision, including an equal right to self-determination and full equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel
- Raise money to support the work of Standing Together

Friends of Standing Together UK organises stalls, vigils, meetings, and lobbies elected representatives.

To contact FOST and get involved, email: ukfriendsofstandingtogether@gmail.com

Find out more and get involved!

The AWL is an organisation fighting as part of the labour movement for a socialist alternative to both capitalism and Stalinism, based on common ownership and democracy. We have branches across the country and caucuses of activists in several trade unions and sectors.

Feel free to chat with us here at ADC, or read more about us at workersliberty.org, check out our online and in-person events like Ideas for Freedom, subscribe to our weekly newspaper Solidarity or magazine Women's Fightback, or order some of our publications seen below.

