



Alliance for Workers' Liberty



Victory in NEC elections

We congratulate all the PCS Coalition for Change candidates elected to the NEC, offer our gratitude to the unsuccessful Change candidates, and especially congratulate Bev Laidlaw on winning the Presidency - a huge 12 months ahead to implement the platform members have endorsed.

Reform on the rise: **fight the Far Right!**

The far-right upsurge in Britain gained significant new ground with Reform's successes in May's council, Senedd and Holyrood elections. Labour's attempts to appease potential Reform voters by attacking migrants was a betrayal of principle that has predictably failed.

The elections have potentially brought closer to government a far-right party committed to:

- Slashing benefits and scrapping workers' rights, renters' rights, and net zero targets;
- Privatisation, deregulation, lowering taxes on corporations and the wealthy;
- cutting the Civil Service by "at least" 30% i.e. by between 154,000-165,000;
- rolling back women's and LGBTQ+ rights, and attacking migrants, asylum seekers, and Muslims.

Reform has promised to build "removal centres" to detain up to 24,000 people within 18 months of government, saying it would prioritise their placement in areas that vote for the Green Party, who supposedly support open borders, but would not place them in areas with a Reform council or MP.

Reform's viciousness against vulnerable people and their political opponents is palpable. But to win over voters, Reform has distanced itself from the street-based more openly fascist far right. 'Tommy Robinson' (Stephen Yaxley-Lennon) was described by Farage as "a thug". But Reform activists espouse views in line with these other far right elements, and Reform's success will embolden them.

The street based far right has been horribly energetic since the moment the Labour Government was elected in July 2024. They are clear that the labour movement is their principal opponent. On Saturday 16th May, roughly 100,000 people mobilised behind the second, dishonestly-named, *Unite the Kingdom* march called by Yaxley-Lennon. As with the first event last September, the day was characterised by anti-Muslim hate speech and racist conspiracy theories, as well as the forlorn absence of any labour movement presence by way of counter demonstration.

The encouraging *Together Alliance* anti-far right march in London on 28th March should have been the launchpad for our unions to massively mobilise a counter demonstration on the 16th May. Instead, we saw at best a weak mobilisation elsewhere in London. Yet the need for mass mobilisation was a key lesson of the 13th September 2025 debacle, when just 5,000 people gathered under the banner of Stand Up to Racism in counter-demonstration to the far right's swell of 110,000-150,000 supporters. SUTR marched an approximately 2,000 'strong' rump of its unstewarded counter demo into Trafalgar Square as far-right marchers hurled abuse; and where we would have been bloodily routed if the police had not surrounded us.

Only our unions, with our six million members, allied to the communities at the sharp end of these attacks, have the strength to beat back the far right.

Union activists and socialists must campaign to:

- Establish consistent union agitation to counter the lies of the far right in our workplaces and communities.
- Establish local anti-far right groups, building on the initiatives already being taken in some areas, including by PCS members in the London and South East Region, who have set up **Trade Unions Fighting the Far Right (TUFF)**.
- Build a united front of trade unionists, community activists, and socialists irrespective of party.
- Organise to combat Reform in unis.
- Rebuild union membership and union density, organising migrants workers and the unorganised.
- Develop strategies to fight Reform-led councils.
- Open SUTR, and the *Together Alliance* (which was put together after the September debacle and criticisms by activists) to properly democratic labour movement decision-making.
- Build a positive working class political response to the far right - unity with migrant workers, reversal of cuts, expanding public services and housing, for a working-class offensive to take wealth and power from the rich.
- Force a change of direction on the Labour Government.

Join us to fight for socialist policies and workers' action against the far-right threat!

The year ahead: the Struggle for a New Course in PCS

No to bureaucratic factionalism and obstruction: The last time the Coalition for Change (made up of the Independent Left, Broad Left Network, and others) had been elected as a majority to the NEC, PCS' General Secretary Fran Heathcote and President Martin Cavanagh, both from Left Unity, undemocratically obstructed and blocked NEC majority decision-making.

Contrary to PCS rules that explicitly invest the authority in the NEC, the GS claims sole power in "staffing" matters, including committing PCS' finances on an ongoing basis and determining where PCS staff resources are allocated.

At ADC 2023 then-President Heathcote sent a private message on WhatsApp to LU delegates calling on them to raise their hands to speak, so that she could prolong debate and thereby prevent another motion – relating to Proud – being heard and voted on. Differences over the union's policy and direction should not be pursued by cynical, bureaucratic, anti-democratic methods.

LU's red-baiting: Yet another distasteful aspect of recent NEC elections has been the red-baiting hostility of LU candidates to socialist organisations; and the breathtaking cheek of that behaviour when people built their "careers" on membership of or support from socialist organisations.

For example, Mark Baker stated in his election address, "...for them [the Alliance for Workers Liberty and the Socialist Party], it is Party first, PCS members second." Somehow, he forgot to tell the PCS voters that he himself stood on the LU slate as an SP member for approximately 16 years. He also forgot to mention that Heathcote was an SP member for many years, and was first elected on to the NEC, and then subsequently as Vice President, as an SP member in LU. We could name others.

PCS members in Workers' Liberty – laser-focussed on members: AWL and IL members have always concentrated sharply on members (Baker knows this from his days directly benefiting from our work and

seeking our advice and support), such as how, for many years AWL and IL members advocated the building of a PCS Fighting Fund to aid members' resistance to attacks by the employer. It took LU a staggering 22 years to come round to the idea but they (sort of) got there. It would have been objectively better for members if they'd done so about 22 years earlier.

Who are the AWL? Without trying to state everything about us and our politics, we are socialists who organise around:

- Support for workers' struggles, large and small, while advocating for a radically more egalitarian, socialist, world.
- Internationalism and the cooperation of workers' organisations across borders.
- Consistent and expanded democracy.
- Socialist feminism; women's, LGBTQ+ and trans rights and liberation.

We argue that workers everywhere should organise in their own interests, a "Third Camp" independent of employers and states. To compare and contrast, the now-outgoing LU majority on the NEC oppose Motion A67, calling for solidarity with Hong Kong's socialist and trade unionist victims of Chinese state repression. LU prefers the oppressors of Tibetans and the Uyghurs and Hong Kong's free trade unions.

So, again by example, we defend Cuban self-determination, oppose US attacks, and call for an end to the US blockade. But our solidarity with Cuba against US imperialism is not a political solidarity with the Cuban government and the privileged people who control it. We would not invite a Cuban state ambassador to our union conference. We would prefer to see Cuban workers overthrow the Cuban regime in favour of a regime of socialist democracy. We would expect any workers outside the UK who wished to support workers here, to be able to do so, without politically supporting the UK Government and all its positions!

Join the IL: We encourage principled socialists and trade unionists to do as we have done and join the PCS IL. It is a very

democratic and open grouping. You will see a much livelier bunch of switched-on union members debating policy and strategy than you will ever see at an LU NEC caucus!

Hybrid working – Our Work Our Way: We congratulate ONS on securing agreement from management to replace the instruction to individuals to attend their office for at least 40% of their time with a collective 40% target. We also congratulate MHCLG reps and members for undertaking Action Short of a Strike by refusing to comply with their management attendance targets.

With the slogan *Our Work, Our Way*, PCS in MHCLG has rightly focussed on staff choice and control of their working lives; on being able to make their own decisions about how and where they work from, on the basis of their understanding of their circumstances and work. Lack of control of working environments and work flows is a major cause of work-related stress, which is far more prevalent amongst "junior" grades. Our Work Our Way campaigns would give more control to workers.

Choice and control would, for example, enable more carers to work full time or more hours, because commuting time could be converted into contracted hours and a lifetime boon to pay and pensions, and enabling a better work-life balance.

A campaign for choice and control would also defend the right of members who prefer or need to attend offices to do so with good quality accommodation, correct H&S measures in place, and appropriate reasonable adjustments where needed. The default negotiating position of PCS should be for workers to have the flexibility to choose to work from home or the office enshrined in T&C, **Our Work Our Way!**

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** or **All the Rage**, subscribe to our fortnightly newspaper **Solidarity** or quarterly magazine **Women's Fightback**, or order some of our publications seen here.

