



NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2011
Labour's Resistance

**RESOLUTIONS
BOOKLET**



RESOLUTIONS 2011

1. Fairness Commission ***Islington North CLP***

This conference welcomes the central thesis of *The Spirit Level* book that we are all better off in society when income is distributed more equally amongst the population.

Islington Council set up a Fairness Commission, chaired by Professor Richard Wilkinson, co-author of *The Spirit Level*, that developed a "fairness test" to prioritise the needs of its poorest residents in its budget setting process.

In terms of income inequality, the Islington Fairness Commission and Islington Council have agreed to narrow this in Islington by introducing a living wage for all council employees and by narrowing pay differentials between council employees. Cleaners have been brought back in-house by the council and are paid the London Living Wage and the new Chief Executive is paid £50,000 less than her predecessor.

The LRC therefore agrees to promote and support the setting up of fairness commissions in its regions and localities

2. Organising in the LRC ***Greater London LRC***

That conference agrees to the formulation and implementation of a central organising strategy to further the aims and objectives of the LRC.

It would ensure we maintain accurate member records, conduct a thorough mapping exercise of where members and potential members are, increase membership, increase activity, and work strategically to ensure effective use of our resources.

The strategy would be developed in consultation and alongside regional and local groups, and would enhance and support the good work regional and local groups are currently doing.

To this end, we ask conference to agree to an additional position on the LRC EC for a National Organiser. We also ask that regional and local groups seek to ensure that they include the role of organiser on their regional and local committees.

Never has there been more crucial a time to organise – we have potential to recruit and develop in great numbers in this climate, but this can only be done effectively in a coordinated and strategic way.



3. Libya

New Communist Party

This conference opposes all interference by Nato and other imperialist forces in the internal affairs of Syria and/or Iran, following the outcome of the Nato intervention in Libya that has enforced a regime change, without any democratic mandate, for the sole benefit of western oil companies.

The Nato forces obtained a United Nations mandate to impose a no-fly-zone on Libya, ostensibly to protect human lives. They used this mandate to unleash a campaign of terror bombing that cost thousands of civilian lives and to support reactionary stooges, including elements of Al Qaeda, as a front for the violent overthrow of a government that used its oil revenue to provide a high social wage for the Libyan population and to provide generous and frequent humanitarian famine relief for other African countries.

The Libyan government has now been replaced by a divided group of puppets which include violent racists responsible for the massacre of many black African workers in Libya.

Nato is now seeking a UN mandate to impose similar carnage in Syria – a country of mixed ethnicities, cultures and religions, which is currently a secular state.

A Nato intervention in Syria can only destabilise the whole region, leading to inter-racial, inter-religious and inter-ethnic carnage and bloodshed.

We deplore the pretence of the defence of human rights to mask attempts to impose a new age of imperialist colonialism in the Middle East and call on the United Nations to defend the sovereignty of small nations against imperialist aggression.

4. Labour governments

Labour Party Marxists

The Labour Representation Committee does not aim for a Labour government for its own sake. Bad Labour governments do not lead to good Labour governments. They lead to Tory governments.

History shows that Labour governments committed to managing the capitalist system and loyal to the existing constitutional order create disillusionment in the working class.

The aim must be that the Labour Party should only consider forming a government when it has the active support of a clear majority of the population and has a realistic prospect of implementing a full socialist programme.

5. Defend Civil Liberties: Political Status for Irish Republican Prisoners, repeal the Imprisonment for Public Protection powers

Irish Republican Prisoners Support Group

The situation of Irish Republican prisoners in the north of Ireland continues to deteriorate; they are subject to frequent beatings and brutal strip searches in Maghaberry. From May 2011 some have been on dirty and no-shave protest, evoking memories of the blanket men and hunger strikers of



the late 70s and early 80s. More than 13 years after the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) on 10 April 1998 there are still 62 Irish Republican Prisoners in Ireland and 2 abroad, not counting remand prisoners, according to the Irish Freedom Committee - POW List of 28/8/2011. These prisoners are in jail because they oppose the partition of Ireland via the British occupation of the six north eastern counties by British Imperialism and the GFA which they contend merely seeks to legitimise this partition and occupation. None would be in jail if Britain did not occupy the six north eastern counties of Ireland.

Under the terms of the GFA those republicans still opposing the GFA and continuing to fight for a united Ireland have lost their Special Category status and are treated more or less as common criminals. In August 2010 after a protest that went on since Easter of that year an agreement was reached and signed by the prisoners' representatives and by the prison authorities in Maghaberry Prison. The agreement conceded the two demands of the prisoners, freedom of movement and an end to strip searching. A body scanner was provided instead. But the screws broke the agreement within weeks, the first prisoner going out to court was brutally strip searched. Colin Duffy was strip searched 8 times for a 4 day court hearing, so brutally that he had very obvious injuries and appeared in court naked from the waist up because he refused to wear a prison uniform top.

Frame up and revocation of the licences of some of those released under the GFA constitute a hidden form of internment of those who wish to continue the Republican struggle. Human Rights campaigner Monsignor Raymond Murray has this to say on the framing of Michael McKeivitt; *"Evidence of paid and schooled informants resembles internment, where persons were put in jail on the suspicion, prejudice or dislike of anonymous agents. The social and political consequences of accepting evidence of a long-term paid informant like Rupert (highly paid informant David Rupert) are very serious and long-lasting. .. (The document) The Framing of Michael McKeivitt, (presents a strong argument for the innocence of Michael McKeivitt"*.

In like manner Michael Campbell was set up in a 'sting' operation by MI5, the Irish and Lithuanian intelligence agencies and jailed in Lithuania on 21 October 2011 for 12 Years. The spooks had in fact initiated the arms deal on which he was convicted. His lawyer, Ingrida Botyriene, said: *"He would never be involved in arms deals and would never go to Lithuania for such an affair if he had not been provoked by secret agents."*

Marian Price - a founder-member of the 32 County Sovereignty Movement - is one of a number of political activists held without trial. To be a member of the 32 County Sovereignty Movement is by no means illegal, nor is it a criminal offence to support or join this organisation. It is not proscribed by law, nor is the Irish Republican Prisoner's Welfare Association (which Marian Price helped found) and was until her arrest and (illegal) detention that group's secretary. Her 'crime' apparently is she *'poses a significant threat to society.'* She held a piece of paper for a masked man who read a speech from it!

Marian Price was released from Armagh Prison in 1980 having been granted an RPM - a Royal Prerogative of Mercy - as she was suffering from anorexia and tuberculosis brought on by forced-feeding and ill-treatment. This means the Secretary of State was not legally entitled to order her return to prison as she had been released by Royal Prerogative of Mercy - and not on licence. The Price legal team are now thought to be preparing to launch a legal challenge in the light of this information.



Lurgan man Martin Corey, who had served 20 years in Long Kesh, was arrested in April 2010 and his licence, was revoked, according to British Secretary of State Shaun Woodward who had him arrested. He was not released on licence either and had served an extra two years having refused to sign any such licence agreement so as to be able to politically campaign for his republican beliefs. He is still held in Maghaberry. In October, 2009 Brendan Lillis was arrested and had his license revoked despite no charges being pressed against him for alleged involvement in an attempted robbery. He suffers from a chronic medical condition called, ankylosing spondylitis which causes the spine to fuse and, though now moved to an outside hospital he remains interned.

Mohammed Hamid was found guilty in early 2008 of "soliciting to murder" under legislation dating back to 1861, despite never actually instructing anyone to any specific act. Months of surveillance, both through undercover agents and covert recording produced no evidence at all; everything was inferred and circumstantial. He was given an extremely severe sentence of 7 ½ years, together with the "imprisonment for public protection (IPP)." This sentence is extremely controversial, amounting to a life sentence unless an individual can prove that he is no longer a risk to the public. As Hamid, based on the evidence, was never accused of a violent act, how would he be expected to demonstrate that he has reformed and is no longer a risk to the public if there was never any risk to begin with?

According to Brian Barder's website, *"Nearly half of the more than 6,000 IPP prisoners in our prisons have completed the punishment and deterrence element in their sentences: they continue to endure the harsh punishment of imprisonment, not for anything they have done — they have already been punished for that — but because our risk-terrified society is scared to release them for fear that they might one day, in some way, re-offend. They are being brutally punished for offences they haven't committed and which they might well never commit if released. And it's worse than an ordinary prison sentence because the IPP prisoner can have no idea when or even whether he will ever be released."* <http://www.barder.com/2942>

These conditions in Ireland, taken together with the Islamophobia highlighted by Mohammed Hamid's conviction are a full-frontal assault on civil liberties and threaten the liberty of every serious trade unionist and political activist. Any serious opponent of the capitalist system would never be released if arrested under these IPP powers.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is an African-American writer and journalist, author of six books and hundreds of columns and articles, who has spent the last 29 years on Pennsylvania's death row. His demand for a new trial and freedom is supported by heads of state from France to South Africa, by Nobel Laureates Nelson Mandela, Toni Morrison, Desmond Tutu, by the European Parliament, by distinguished human rights organizations like Amnesty International, city governments from Detroit to San Francisco to Paris, scholars, religious leaders, artists, scientists, the Congressional Black Caucus and other members of U.S. Congress, the NAACP, labor unions, and by countless thousands who cherish democratic and human rights – and justice -the world over.

We therefore demand:

1. Immediate implementation of the Agreement of August 2010 conceding freedom of movement and an end to strip searching.
2. Restoration of Political Status to all Irish Republican political prisoners in the north of Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and abroad.
3. Repatriation of Michael Campbell and no extradition to Lithuania of his brother Liam, framed by the same secret intelligence agencies.



4. Release of Marian Price and Martin Corey and an end to arrest using the excuse of revoking the GFA license – this amounts to political censorship and a reintroduction of internment in another name.

5. Repeal the “Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection” laws: free Mohammed Hamid, free Mumia Abu-Jamal.

6. Cuts to adult social care

Hampshire LRC

This conference notes that government cuts are damaging the future life chances of millions of working people and our economy, and that in some cases these cuts are resulting in death and worsening health conditions of vulnerable people reliant on those services.

Conference welcomes the tabling of EDM 2251 “Deaths following residential care home closures” (text below), tabled by John McDonnell MP and recognises the work of campaigning solicitor Yvonne Hossack who has saved over 80 care homes from closure and found that when an elderly people's home closes around half of residents die between three and eight months of hearing the news or being moved.

The Early Day Motion states: *That this House notes with deep concern the worsening crisis for elderly care as growing numbers of local authority and private care homes face closure; acknowledges concerns that the loss of elderly people's care homes causes fear, anxiety and, in many cases, a higher mortality rate when vulnerable, elderly people are forced to leave their homes; further notes that the Southern Cross crisis will increase the need for local authority care; and therefore calls on the Government to hold a public inquiry into the deaths following closures of local authority care homes and impose a moratorium on the closure of local authority care homes until that inquiry publishes its results to ensure that vulnerable, elderly people's lives are not put at further risk.*

Conference agrees to campaign within the labour party for the following:

- 1) For the party to call for a halt to all local authority care home closures pending the outcome of a public enquiry;
- 2) To commit the party to policy of public run and adequately funded care homes for all social care

7. Tasks of the Labour Representation Committee

Hackney LRC

Conference notes that:

1. We are living through the deepest economic crisis since 1929;
2. No significant current on the left, domestically or internationally, has succeeded in developing a popular programme for overcoming the crisis. The growing anti-capitalist movement has yet to articulate a convincing socialist response.

Conference resolves that the tasks of the Labour Representation Committee are to:

1. Join with others on the left, in the anti-capitalist movement and in the trade unions and Labour Party to develop a programme and an action plan for the crisis that starts from the current struggles to defend living standards, and which raises the core issues of the need



for nationalisation of the banks and a major extension of public ownership into the financial sector. Our tasks will be to articulate and popularise a programme for socialism at all levels in the wider labour movement and community-based campaigns;

2. Support the resistance, whether expressed in strike action or occupations, against the attacks on living standards, wages, pensions, welfare benefits and civil liberties launched by the Coalition Government in response to the economic crisis;
3. Bring these struggles of resistance into the Labour Party, rebuild the Labour left, and attempt to transform the Labour Party into an arena of struggle, and thereby address one of the fundamental problems which we face – namely the crisis of representation.

8. Foreign policy

Labour CND

The LRC will campaign

- 1) to scrap Trident and all other nuclear weapon systems and oppose Trident replacement
- 2) to demand an immediate UK withdrawal from the war in Afghanistan
- 3) to oppose UK and NATO military intervention in civil wars
- 4) for a UK withdrawal from NATO and NATO's dissolution.

9. Capitalism in Crisis and Women

Northern Region LRC

When neo-liberalist answers to crisis in capitalism is to restore profit by transferring incomes from labour to capital, not only are all workers affected but workers who, capitalists view, as a drain on the mode of production – such as the public sector. As predicted the cuts in public sector jobs affect women disproportionately. Women's unemployment is now at its highest in more than 23 years – over 1.07 million and in some areas, such as the North East there are 35,000 fewer women in work since May 2010. Research from the IPPR highlights additional cuts to welfare and childcare support exacerbates this. It is obvious how this government hates the working class and despises women through sexist attitudes and actions. They view unpaid labour of women as the main answer to replace much of the paid work in the public sector, such as health and social care. Coupled with increasing sexism it is time for the left to revisit and discuss women's issues into the socialist answer and class struggle.

The LRC reaffirms recognition of the impact of the cuts on women and continues its support of women within the socialist struggle and solution.

10. Banking system

Ealing & Hounslow LRC

This Conference commits itself to bring all possible pressure upon the Labour Party to commit the next Labour government to take the banking system into full public ownership and control as a priority.



The intention of this policy is to make sure that a banking crisis that ruins millions of people's livelihoods never happens again in Britain, and to create a unified publicly owned financial services industry committed to serving the public rather than profit.

The UK high street banks, insurance companies and pension funds that are privately owned should be taken over and integrated with the banks that are already effectively state owned. The existing boards should be replaced with boards containing representatives of ordinary bank workers and of the labour movement.

The operation of these financial services should be governed by a code that limits top pay and bonuses, forbids repossession of homes and gives priority for loans to working people and small business. Deposits in the publicly owned financial system will be guaranteed by the state.

All banks operating in the UK will be forbidden from engaging in speculative investments as defined by the code.

We believe an incoming Labour government would have to pass enabling legislation at the same time as taking over the remaining financial institutions so the publicly owned banking system could operate a system of exchange controls in the case of a threat of a flight of capital.

11. LRC commitment to the Labour Party

Sussex LRC

We reaffirm that the LRC is "an open, democratic and socialist organisation committed to the election of a Labour Government" (clause 4, LRC constitution), with:

- a) individual membership "open to anyone who is not a member of a party that stands candidates against Labour" (clause 6, LRC constitution); and
- b) affiliate membership open to organisations "providing they support the principles of the LRC and are not affiliated to any political party that stands candidates against Labour" (clause 8, LRC constitution).

We note that, in its 2010 manifesto, the Green Party equates trade unions with big business when it comes to involvement in politics, specifically referring to "the corrupting effects of big private and Trade Union donations" on party funding. We also note that the Green Party is not a socialist party and has no commitment to socialism in any part of its Core Values or Philosophical Basis. Rather, its policies reflect that the Green Party is a utopian capitalist party, which advocates a "transforming green alternative" - not a socialist alternative.

We urge all members and affiliates of the LRC to fulfil the LRC's stated aims and objectives. The LRC must continue to "appeal for support on the basis of its socialist policies to all existing Labour Party members and to all socialists outside the Labour Party who it will encourage to join or rejoin the Labour Party" (clause 3, LRC constitution) and to "seek to transform the Labour Party into an organisation that reflects the interests of all sections of the working class" (clause 5, LRC constitution).

Whilst the Labour Party is far from perfect, one of the main strengths of the Labour Party remains its trade union link, which we support. We acknowledge that the Labour Party remains the only UK political party committed to a redistribution of wealth and power in favour of the working class and



which can practically achieve this. Only the Labour Party can defeat the Tories or any Coalition, as only Labour has the necessary class base and national spread to form an alternative government. Accordingly, it must be our priority to ensure that the Labour Party has open, democratic and socialist policies, and to seek for those to be applied when Labour is in government.

Consequently, all LRC members, branches and affiliates should adhere to the LRC's constitutional commitments and keep these in mind when facing political pressures from other individuals, parties and groups.

12. Public and common ownership ***CWU Greater London Combined branch***

This Conference reaffirms its commitment to public and common ownership.

We believe that the current capitalist economic crisis, which is being prolonged by Coalition Government policies, creates the opportunity for us to popularise and develop thinking in this area. We call on the LRC to work closely with LEAP to produce publications and organise events to help win the battle of ideas in this vital area.

We need to directly challenge the fragmentation of public services provision through 'arms length' models of contracting out and other forms of outsourcing.

We call upon the NC to work with trade unions and campaigning organisations to make the case for public and common ownership and democratic control of particular sectors of the economy.

We also need to highlight that the current system of regulation on the basis of competition in privatised industries such as energy, rail, post and telecoms, and also in financial services industry fails to deliver for consumers and the wider public interest.

13. Economic crisis, riots and Labour leadership ***Lambeth & Southwark LRC***

This conference notes the ongoing deep crisis of capitalism which is causing ever greater hardship to working people and their families both in the UK and internationally. Our society is becoming more unequal as each year passes with wealth being concentrated in fewer and fewer hands.

We believe that the riots in August 2011 were a direct result the economic crisis and social inequality as well as growing youth unemployment, savage cuts in public expenditure (including huge cuts in youth services) and a growing lack of opportunities in education. We recognise that riots offer no way forward. However, what they reflect is despair and outrage amongst many young people at the lack of opportunity neo-liberal capitalism affords them.

This conference regrets the lack of opposition from the Labour Party who appear ever weaker and lacking in direction. We regret in particular:

- (a) the decision by the Labour leadership to embrace capitalism just at the time when the capitalist system is entering its most profound crisis since the second world war;



- (b) the failure of the Labour leadership to support industrial action called by trade unions over pension cuts earlier this year and/or on the 30th November 2011;
- (c) the decision of the Labour leadership that should they form a future government they will not bring free schools back into the state system;
- (d) the further attempts by the Labour leadership to weaken the role of trade unions in the Labour Party;
- (e) the ongoing failure of the Labour leadership to address the unjust anti-union laws. We are dismayed at Ed Miliband's statement at conference that Labour was wrong to oppose these laws when they were introduced.

This conference welcomes the occupation of the area around St Paul's Cathedral and in Finsbury Square which has effectively drawn attention to the ongoing scandal in the financial sector of unaccountability, unjustified bonus payments and corporate greed.

We also fully support the industrial action against pension changes in the public sector.

We believe that what the growing opposition movements against capitalism lack is a coherent alternative which we believe to be socialism.

This conference resolves to work with groups and activists both inside and outside the Labour Party to build support for socialism and socialist policies as a way out of morass of capitalism in its death agony.

14. Further industrial action against the government's austerity measures

PCS Labour Left

Conference applauds those Trade Unions who took Strike action on June 30th and are, now, preparing with the major unions for further industrial action on 30th November, However, this action is only the beginning of the resistance to the ConDem's Coalition of more attacks on our pensions, jobs, pay, terms and conditions. In fact, their austerity measures are going faster than our own level of industrial action. No doubt, we need to organise our Trade Union link with the Labour Party in opposing all cuts.

Although MPs and Councillors, regardless of party, argue that "Cuts" or "Some cuts... are necessary", this statement is far from the truth. It has been reported by Her Majesty's Customs and Revenue that at least £123 billion of tax per year has not been collected from private and city businesses. If all these taxes were collected tomorrow, it would be easy to resolve the country's budget deficit. Therefore, no cuts are necessary and will, only, serve to damage the economy.

Sadly, the government is not listening and the media remains silent on this vital issue of tax avoidance. We have little option but to re – organise our labour force in exposing the tasteless propaganda. Such organisation can, only, be achieving through re – building the Trade Unions, our links with the communities and the Left Wing activist base of the Labour Party.

Therefore, we ask the LRC to carry out the following measures:

- (1) Pressurise the Labour Party into more systematic attacks on our government's austerity measures.



- (2) To lobby all Trade Unions in order to build for further general Strike action in the New Year if the government refuses to back down after November 30th.
- (3) To encourage and support more of our Trade Union Representatives in the LRC in becoming nominated as Labour Party Candidates for future elections at local and general level and challenge any cuts in public sector jobs proposed by members in the party.
- (4) To support UNITE's policy of building community Trade Unionism
- (5) To build Trade Unions in the private sector and other non-unionised areas of industry.

15. Against British nationalism - for a Workers' United Europe ***Alliance for Workers Liberty***

LRC believes:

1. That the Europe-wide capitalist crisis requires a Europe-wide working-class response.
2. That we should no more oppose European capitalist integration than we would oppose the merger of two companies, even though the bosses use mergers as an excuse to attempt job cuts and other attacks. When Britain plc merges into Europe plc, the answer is to link up with other European workers in solidarity and struggle.
3. That demanding withdrawal from the EU, or opposing British entry into the European single currency, is a British nationalist position which misidentifies the enemy as "Europe" rather than the ruling class. This is not altered by tacking on a slogan like "Socialist United States of Europe".
4. The road to a Socialist United Europe is the road of responding to European capitalist unification by organising for cross-European workers' and socialist struggle. We advocate the following program for this struggle:
 - Oppose all cuts; level up wages, services, pensions and workers' rights to the best across Europe;
 - Tax the rich and expropriate the banks, Europe-wide;
 - Scrap the EU's bureaucratic structures; for a European constituent assembly;
 - Against a European defence force; for a Europe without standing armies or nuclear weapons;
 - For a European workers' government.
5. In a referendum on British entry to the Euro, our position will be to advocate an active abstention and our slogans will be along the lines of "In or out, the fight goes on"; "Single currency - not at our expense"; and "For a Workers' Europe".

LRC resolves:

1. To organise public meetings and debates about Europe across the country.
2. To initiate a short statement setting out this position and circulate it around Britain and Europe for signatories.
3. To produce a short pamphlet setting out this position.

16. Building a socialist alternative ***Unite Croydon & Crystal Palace branch***

This conference notes the warnings from the ILO, the OECD and the governor of the Bank of England that the global economy is on the verge of a great depression.



It is clear that the global debt crisis, the result of credit-driven, unsustainable growth to boost profits, is overwhelming the capitalist system in every country.

Under these conditions, any measure to reflate the UK economy would not stem the collapse.

The Labour Party leadership fails to challenge the causes of the capitalist crisis and has demonstrated its determination to pursue and support austerity programmes, for which working people bear the cost.

In these circumstances it is the responsibility of this LRC conference to agree a basic platform of demands which will enable our members and supporters to engage with those in struggle: with trade unionists fighting job losses, reductions in pensions and working conditions and those fighting the destruction of public services; with anti-cuts activists, anti-capitalist protesters, students, unemployed youth, pensioners movements and struggling families.

Our platform must provide the basis to argue for and build support for a socialist alternative:

- reject every cut and job loss at local level.
- refuse to do the ConDems' dirty work
- no more bank bailouts at our expense
- workers and communities to seize the banks and use the assets for social investment
- shut down speculative money markets and the stock exchange
- reorganise the economy along co-operative lines

That the LRC will support co-ordinated and indefinite trade union strike action, to bring down the government and so create the conditions for an alternative socialist programme.

17. Labour Party foreign policy

LRC National Committee (International sub-committee)

This Conference calls on the Labour Party leadership to break with the bipartisan consensus with the Coalition on foreign policy and in particular:

1. to commit to scrapping the hugely expensive and unnecessary nuclear replacement for Trident;
2. to campaign for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Afghanistan;
3. to oppose British military action in the whole region (North Africa, Middle East, Persian Gulf, Central Asia)
4. to outlaw mercenary private security contractors operating from the UK.
5. to campaign for justice for the Palestinians and the establishment of viable Palestinian state

