

Resist Tory failures that threaten a disastrous winter

We are now in the midst of a second wave of coronavirus infections.

The first wave resulted in around 50,000 deaths in the UK including over 600 health workers.

The Tories' commitment to austerity, cuts and privatisation meant we entered the pandemic unprepared and under resourced. The Tories have completely failed those who work in the health service at every stage of this crisis – from a lack of PPE to the complete breakdown of the Serco-run test and trace system.

We faced extreme danger and death in the first wave. We are exhausted, emotionally and physically, and are once again being asked to care in the deadly second wave as well as dealing with an overstretched NHS over the winter months. This wasn't inevitable. The Tories have repeatedly ignored scientific advice, and instead prioritised the drive for profit.

They are also exploiting the pandemic to accelerate the privatisation of the NHS, dishing out about £12 billion in contracts so far.

They should nationalise test, track and trace and use the £100 billion earmarked for Operation Moonshot to build new hospitals, fund services and pay all staff properly.

A clap and a slap

The news that MPs are pocketing a £3,300 pay rise for themselves is a slap in the face to health workers who sacrificed so much during the crisis.

Stop the job loss nightmare

Days of action:
30-31
October



Nurses, paramedics and other health workers were excluded from a public sector pay rise this year despite being 'clapped' by Tory MPs every week in the height of the first lockdown.

But while they feather their nests, our living standards are being driven down. We have lost 20% of our pay in real terms in the last decade.

Thousands of our colleagues were so angry they took to the streets over the summer to demand a pay rise.

There are further actions being called by the NHS Workers Say NO! campaign.

We demand active support from our trade union leaders and the Labour Party for this campaign and for pay equality for NHS staff.

Resisting racism

In the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement, BAME health workers were rightly pointing to institutional racism within the health sector.

The NHS has a brilliantly diverse workforce but BAME workers face

discrimination and higher levels of bullying and harassment compared with white staff.

They are over-represented in lower grades, complaints procedures and disciplinarys – and under-represented in senior positions.

We also need to resist outsourcing in the NHS which creates a two-tier workforce – one part with inferior pay and conditions, and disproportionately staffed by migrant and BAME workers.

We should support workers fighting for genuine equality in the NHS.

Sign up to the emergency programme for jobs, services, safety

People Before Profit has launched an emergency programme to organise around with some basic demands about the kind of measures we need to keep ordinary people safe as well as halt deepening unemployment and poverty.

To read and sign the statement

Go to our website:
peoplebefore-profit.com
There is also a model motion on the resources page of the site:
bit.ly/PBP2020x



To find your local People Before

Profit group: please email
healthworkercoronavirus@gmail.com

Support our days of action against the job massacre on 30-31 of October.

See our facebook page (below) for more information.