

## **People Before Profit: Emergency Programme, model motion for trade union branches and campaign groups.**

- (1) This union branch / region/ NEC/ campaign group notes the launch of the People Before Profit: Emergency Programme for Jobs, Services and Safety on September 29th 2020 (recording of the launch can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJ-ytHpcXNg>)
- (2) This union branch / region/ NEC/ campaign group believes that this programme can help to shape the resistance we need to prevent workers and the poorest and most vulnerable bearing the brunt of a health emergency and economic crisis not of their making.
- (3) This union branch / region/ NEC/ campaign group resolves to adopt this programme and to consider ways we can take up its demands in the interests of our members, and publicise them.
- (4) This union branch / region/ NEC/ campaign group resolves to look at ways we can support forthcoming days of action by People Before Profit organised to take up demands raised in the programme.
- (5) This union branch / region/ NEC/ campaign group resolves to inform the organisers of this emergency programme of our support so that they can use it to show the breadth of support. This should be done by emailing: [info@peoplebefore-profit.com](mailto:info@peoplebefore-profit.com)

### **An Emergency Programme for Jobs, Services and Safety**

*Over 100,000 people have now died unnecessarily from the Covid pandemic thanks to a government that was ill prepared and continually put profit ahead of people's safety. Now, alongside a Covid pandemic that is far from over, we face an avalanche of job losses, more austerity and more attacks on pay and conditions. Workplaces have been some of the most unsafe places to be during the pandemic as major centres of transmission.*

*We need a fightback across workplaces and communities to demand that ordinary people won't pay for the crisis.*

**Extend the Furlough scheme – Defend Jobs:** The withdrawal of the government's Furlough scheme will have a devastating impact on jobs: it must be kept in place for at least the next 12 months and be extended to cover all workers regardless of what type of contract they are on – no worker should be left behind. Government should take an ownership stake in firms in return for such support. We demand a 35 hour week for workers with no loss of pay. Firms making profits must be barred from making mass redundancies and shareholder dividend payments should be frozen. Major firms that go bankrupt should be nationalised without compensation with workers provided with a job guarantee. We will support any group of workers that strikes or occupies their workplace to defend jobs.

**Safe workplaces:** Both the government and employers are pressing to drive ever more people back to work despite the real dangers of a second Covid wave and the utter failure to put a credible test and trace system in place. Unions must sign off any agreements over what constitutes safe working conditions and the right to refuse to work in unsafe workplaces must be strengthened. High quality PPE must be provided. In workplaces without unions, the democratic election of workers' reps should be legally provided for, with a right to involve a trade union if requested. We support any group of workers that refuse to work in unsafe workplaces.

**Tax the wealthy – don't make workers' pay for the crisis:** The richest 1,000 people in UK have an estimated combined wealth of £743 billion alone! We need a massive transfer of resources from the rich to protect jobs, services and living standards. The top rate of income tax was 83 percent until 1980 – this should be reinstated. An immediate wealth tax should be imposed on all those with wealth of £1 million and over. We need a Living Wage for all workers of at least £15 per hour and this must be extended to cover those working in the “gig economy”. We support all workers fighting for better pay. We reject any argument that pay freezes will save jobs – we need to fight on every front.

**Public ownership of services and end outsourcing:** Services like Royal Mail, rail, energy and water must be brought back into public ownership. The outsourcing of services to private firms across the health service, civil service, local government and elsewhere must be reversed – no more two tier workforces, one with less pay, security and poorer sickness entitlement.

**For an immediate massive programme of green investment:** We need to “re-purpose” industries like aviation, car production, engineering to urgently address the climate crisis, end dependency on fossil fuels and to provide a million climate jobs. We need a massive programme of investment in council housing and in public transport.

**A welfare system that provides real social security and dignity:** Universal Credit and the Bedroom Tax must both be scrapped and benefit sanctions halted. Benefit payments should be massively increased and the moratorium on housing evictions must be reinstated.

## ***Get organised!***

**Build fighting unions and solidarity with every fightback:** to defend the interests of workers we need to rebuild the trade union movement. We need to draw millions of workers facing job losses, low pay, lack of safety at work into the unions – and we need tens of thousands of new reps and activists who can help organise campaigns, strikes and protest to defend workers. Unions that fightback can recruit members and enthuse a new generation of activists. Every group of workers that fights back should be flooded with messages of support, donations to their strike fund and invites to address union and labour movement meetings. We demand the repeal of all the anti-trade union laws.

**Equality and unity - don't let them divide us:** Governments that want to shift the burden of a crisis onto the shoulders of workers and the poor will also turn to more scapegoating, division and racism to help push their attacks through. We will organise to challenge and oppose all forms of racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia and discrimination against disabled people. Only through unity based on equality can we fight back effectively.