

Women Against the Cuts

(Part of Merseyside Public Sector Alliance)

JOIN THE FIGHTBACK

We are facing a devastating attack on the welfare state and public services—health, education, benefits—the list goes on. If we do not stop these cuts, the damage that will be done will be felt for generations to come, with women being hit hardest.

We are living in a society of extreme inequality with the richest gaining a greater share of society's wealth than ever before. The Tory/ Liberal coalition government tell us that there is no money and we have to make cuts in welfare services - £18 billion from benefits and £16 billion from education and other services -but they have made available £1100 billion to the banks! These attacks are ideological and not necessary.

They tell us they have no choice – the national debt is too high – but there is a choice. In 1945 the public debt of UK was roughly the same as now but then the political answer was build the NHS, nationalise the Bank of England, protect jobs by nationalising industry.

TAX THE RICH – LABOUR COUNCIL'S SHOULD NOT CARRY OUT TORY CUTS

The annual deficit is £70bn but the 1000 wealthiest individuals *gained* £77bn last year. £120bn of tax, yearly, goes uncollected, avoided or evaded by the rich. There are 22 millionaires in the Cabinet. There is no lack of money – just a government that defends the rich. We oppose all the Tory/ Liberal cuts and demand that Labour councils don't implement them; they should refuse to make job cuts and cut services.



WOMEN BEAR THE BRUNT OF CUTS

72 per cent of the net cost of the changes in taxes, benefits and tax credits set out in the budget will affect women. Specific cuts that will affect families with children include:

- the abolition of the Health in Pregnancy Grant
- a three-year freeze in the value of Child Benefit, in addition to the withdrawal of Child Benefit from women living in a household where one adult is a higher rate taxpayer
- the abolition of the Baby Element of Tax Credits (worth a maximum of £545 to eligible families) and a reversal of previous Government's commitment to introduce a Toddler Tax Credit (worth a maximum of £208 for eligible families)
- a cut in the proportion of childcare costs that are covered for families eligible for Working Tax Credit, from 80 per cent of costs to 70 per cent of costs
- a three-year freeze in the value of Working Tax Credit

CUTS IN SOCIAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS HIT WOMEN HARDEST

Women and children rely heavily on local services and on Child Benefit, Tax Credits, Housing Benefit and Maternity Pay. Cutting legal aid means that poor women in violent relationships won't be able to get legal advice. Decreasing the budget to refuges will mean women's lives are put in danger. In the context of 27 per cent cuts to local government funding by 2014–15, a wide range of services that benefit women and families will inevitably be cut or scaled back. Women are more likely than men to use many services including social care, libraries, education, (further education and higher education) early years care services, sexual/ reproductive health services, and healthcare services in general.

We say defend all services.

JOIN US NOW - FIGHT THE CUTS TOGETHER

CUTTING PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS MEANS AXING WOMEN'S JOBS – FIGHT FOR EVERY JOB

We are two thirds of the workforce in the public sector, often in part time work. Job cuts will mean women and our families will face more poverty and inequality. With 500,000 public sector jobs to be axed as a result of the government's spending review, it is likely that at least 325,000 of those losing their jobs will be women. In local authorities, which will take the biggest cut, women make up 68 per cent of the workforce. – The trade union movement needs to organise strike action to defend our jobs, pay and conditions.

We say fight for every job.

OPPOSE CUTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The increases in tuition fees will mean less working class people can afford to study in higher education. The loss of the Education Maintenance Allowance will result in less working class people being able to study at college. The government announced that they will stop subsidizing social sciences and humanities subjects where women mostly study and teach and will fund only medical and engineering subjects, where mostly men study and teach. The Tories do not care about the education of working class people. All education cuts must be opposed.

We are for free education for all.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Contact us:** If you are facing job cuts, the closure of a nursery or care home or losing a particular service - let us know and we will help set up a defence campaign
- **Speak up**– raise these issues in your trade union group, get a speaker and help us link up those women who want to fight the cuts.
- **Join the protests** - Women Against the Cuts is part of the Merseyside Public Sector Alliance which links up trade unions, students and community groups. We are also linking with other women's groups locally, nationally and internationally. We support and organise demonstrations and campaigns against the cuts and urge you to join the protests.

**Merseyside Public
Sector Alliance
Say No to Cuts
March and rally**

**11am 5th Feb
Exchange Flags (back of
Town hall)
Speakers include Tony
Benn
Avis Gilmore NUT**

**INTERNATIONAL
WOMENS DAY
PROTEST**

**Saturday 12th
March
Assemble
ST Georges Plateau
12.30pm**

**TUC NATIONAL
DEMO**

**LONDON
26TH MARCH 2011
MARCH TO DEFEND
JOBS AND SERVICES.
TRAINS AND COACHES AVAILABLE
FROM LIVERPOOL AND ACROSS
NORTHWEST
CONTACT 0151 666 1999**