

HOW CUTS IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE

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YOUNG, FREE AND FOR THE... SCRAPHEAP?

Young people are bearing the brunt of the spending cuts. Funding for youth services has been slashed and £1.5 billion has already been cut from higher education.

ARE WE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER? QUITE SIMPLY NO!

It was not public spending that caused the financial crisis of 2008, but the greed and avarice of the wealthy elite. In the middle of a crisis they caused, the **one thousand richest people** in the UK have boosted their assets to a staggering **£77 BILLION** in the last year alone – that's a gain of 30%. These people have actually benefited from the slump and have been bailed out with our taxes. **We're footing the bill!**

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT – A CRISIS FOR SOCIETY

- ▶▶ Youth unemployment in Northern Ireland is already chronic and **rising faster than any other UK region**.
- ▶▶ Unemployment of those aged between 16 and 25 in Northern Ireland is at a record high of 20%. **One out of every five young people are out of work**.
- ▶▶ Northern Ireland's youth unemployment rate is **THREE TIMES** that of adults.
- ▶▶ There is currently no policies in place to specifically address the jobs crisis facing 18 to 24 year olds.
- ▶▶ Low-skilled young women are the worst hit. Nearly half – 46% – are unemployed.

SO DO YOU HAVE A DEGREE?

- ▶▶ There has been a recent spike in **graduate unemployment** – it was 17% in 2009, a 10% increase on 2008.
- ▶▶ Many firms have **stopped** hiring.
- ▶▶ The average **debt** of university graduates is £25,000.

THE CUTS WILL DEEPEN THE CRISIS

- ▶▶ Job losses and **redundancies** will choke the chances for young people securing **apprenticeships**.
- ▶▶ **University places** will be cut – an estimated 200, 000 applicants missed out on places this year.

▶▶ College and university **tuition fees** will rise along with associated debt – blocking more and more working class young people from third level education.

▶▶ Education cuts will damage the **quality** of education leading more to leave school without qualifications.

▶▶ Cuts to youth services and youth club closures will remove **support** from vulnerable young people and leave many with nowhere to socialise.

▶▶ Benefits cuts will remove a **safety net** for many young people forced on the dole.

AND THE KNOCK-ON EFFECTS FOR SOCIETY...

The Prince's Trust has reported one in 10 young people have admitted to being driven to drink or drugs by joblessness. Mental health problems will **increase** along with drink and drug-related crime and homelessness. This will damage society as a whole. No one will be unaffected.

THE ICTU YOUTH COMMITTEE CALLS FOR:

▶▶ Those who caused the crisis to pay for the crisis.

▶▶ Increased funding to teaching and support staff.

▶▶ Help for all school leavers and graduates to find jobs.

▶▶ Decent sustainable jobs with guaranteed human and trade union rights for all young people as well as increased investment in apprenticeships.

▶▶ An end to youth homelessness.

▶▶ Increased investment in youth clubs and services.

WE ARE NOT ALONE!

Thousands of young people and workers in trade unions and other organisations are mobilising across the UK and Europe to fight against the unnecessary austerity measures being imposed on workers and their families. This is a campaign to protect **YOUR** future.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Join us in our campaign against these vicious cuts in public services and make sure you do your utmost to protect your family and community.

You can help by:

- ▶ ▶ Endorsing the trade union alternative to programme of cuts.
- ▶ ▶ Write to your MP, MLA and local councillor asking them to endorse the trade union alternative to the cuts.
- ▶ ▶ Encourage your friends, family and neighbours to do the same.
- ▶ ▶ Support the trade union public demonstrations against the cuts.
- ▶ ▶ Support your local communities' struggles to protect local services.



Wednesday
SEPT 29

Rallies at City Hall, Belfast and
Guildhall, L'Derry - 12.30pm

Saturday
OCT 23

1pm march & 2pm rally at
City Hall, Belfast

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