

FAIR / FAIR PAY / VOTING

CAMPAIGN

WE DEMAND FAIR PAY – AND FAIR VOTES!

Especially in England, a tidal wave of strikes has hit the UK.

Almost all of them have two similarities: 1) the Tory government is the ultimate paymaster in each one...and so they all could be settled in a few days; 2) the government demands that striking workers accept a 4%-5% annual pay increase when our cost of living has skyrocketed at least 10% in the past 12 months alone.

Workers have rightly asked: "HOW CAN THAT BE FAIR?" The government's response? "WE DON'T CARE!" And it threatens to enact new repressive laws to even further weaken the right to strike.

UNFAIRNESS IS BAKED INTO SYSTEM

This unfairness is no surprise. In the last election, the Tories had the support of less than half of the voters. Yet they have all of the power in parliament. Indeed, unfairness is baked into our voting system. Several times in the past 20 years, Tory and Labour majority governments have been elected on only 35% of the overall vote.

Most people don't vote for the Tories, so why should a Tory government care about the living standards of most people such as nurses, teachers or rail workers?

And when you learn that, since World War Two ended, a staggering total of 192 seats have not switched parties and that votes for some parties in 2019 were worth 20 times the votes gained by others... well, it is not hard to conclude our whole archaic electoral mess needs a major overhaul. And FAST!

ELECTORAL REFORM IS ONE WAY OUT OF THIS MESS

Bringing in a far fairer voting system using proportional representation (PR) is an urgent priority. The three cardinal laws of PR voting are: a) all votes are equal; b) all votes matter; c) seats won should match votes cast. A party getting 10% of the vote gets 10% of the seats.

A PR voting system could give the workers' movement greater political influence. Research on voting systems around the world shows, for example, that there is a clear bias in favour of progressive causes and support for stronger trade unions and workers' rights in countries using PR.

Of course, PR is not a silver bullet. But with PR, we would be far less likely to be governed by an unresponsive and out-of-touch elite.

SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT ELECTORAL REFORM

The pro-democracy and pro-PR movement is bigger and broader today than it has been for a generation.

- + All political parties apart from the Tories back PR as a matter of policy.
- + Public opinion now favours PR over our current voting system.
- + A growing number of trade unions support PR: ASLEF, BWAFU, CWU, MU, NAPO, PCS, TSSA, UCU, UNISON and Unite.
- + Pro-PR organisations are beginning to work together. A total of 195 councillors and activists attended the launch meeting of a new group, Councils for PR, set up jointly by Make Votes Matter and GET PR DONE!

More and more people are getting fed up with a situation where a deeply unpopular party, the Tories, have 100% of the power, but won only 43% of the total vote and has 56% of the seats at Westminster.

We need to get as many parties and candidates as possible to pledge support for PR to ensure it is introduced after the next election.

A new deal for working people should include fair votes!

On the picket lines and in politics, ENOUGH IS DEFINITELY ENOUGH.

HERE ARE FOUR WAYS YOU CAN HELP GET PR

- 1) **ASSIST** the "Councils for PR" project (https://councilsforpr.org.uk) to get your own local council to pass a motion in support of PR for Westminster elections. More than 20 councils in England have already done so. Write: contact@councilsforpr.org.uk
- 2) **JOIN** the "WIN AS ONE" (WAO) campaign. Set up by Compass, WAO will organise a tactical voting project in the next general election to try to unseat up to 60 Tory MPs and bring in a government supporting PR. https://winasone.org.uk
- 3) **EMAIL** Labour leader Keir Starmer (leader@labour.org.uk) and tell him to support PR. His party wants PR in Labour's election manifesto. Why doesn't he?
- 4) **SIGN UP** for the GET PR DONE! Facebook group, the premier Facebook group devoted solely to debate and news about the pro-PR movement: https://www.facebook.com/groups/getprdone

This flyer issued by GET PR DONE! (getprdone@gmail.com), a cross party/ no party campaign group set up in January 2020. https://getprdone.org.uk



