Conference Pack

Welcome to the first national conference of The People’s Assembly Against Austerity.

**Date:** 15 March 2014  
**Time:** 10am – 5.30pm  
**Venue:** Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3DW

Nearest tubes: Westminster, St. James’ Park, Pimlico

Most of the day will be reports and contributions on motions and we also have a number of guest speakers interspersed in between.

- Christine Blower NUT  
- Kirstine Carbutt, Doncaster Unison, Care UK  
- Mark Serwotka PCS  
- Owen Jones  
- Jeremy Corbyn MP  
- Francesca Martinez

In this pack you will find:

1. Welcome pack, including useful information and contact details  
2. Conference Arrangements Committee introduction to conference and motions document  
3. Motions document

To help us save time on the day, please read this pack thoroughly. We look forward to seeing you all at conference.

Should you require this document in another format, please let us know. If you have any queries or additional access requirements please email

conference@thepeoplesassembly.org.uk

In solidarity,

**Conference Arrangements Committee**

On behalf of The People’s Assembly Against Austerity

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An injury to one is an injury to all
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1. **Timetable**

10 - 10:30am Registration
10:30 – 10:40am Report from conference arrangements committee and Q & A
10:40 – 10:50am Report from National Secretary and Q & A
10:50 – 11:00am Report from Finance and Q & A

11.00am – 12.30pm Motions debate

1 - 2pm Lunch

2 - 3.30pm Motions debate

3.30 - 4pm Break

4 – 5.15pm Motions debate
5.15 - 5:30pm Closing remarks

2. **Welcome pack and useful FAQ's**

2.1. **Registration**

Upon arrival please go straight to the registration desk and check-in. You will receive a motions document and voting card at the registration desk.

2.2. **Venue, access and transport**

Venue: Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3DW

Nearest tubes: Westminster, St. James' Park, Pimlico

Buses: 88, 87, 3, 11, 24, 211, 148, 507, 53, 453, 12, 159

See the Emmanuel Centre website for detailed maps: [http://www.emmanuelcentre.com/](http://www.emmanuelcentre.com/)

The Emmanuel Centre is an accessible venue. We are committed to making the conference as accessible as possible and will be working with individuals from the WOW petition and DPAC to ensure this happens. Should you have any specific access needs, please bring them to our attention by emailing conference@thepeoplesassembly.org.uk
For all queries please contact conference@thepeoplesassembly.org.uk

2.3. Lunch

Lunch bags will be available for £3.00 in the main hall from 12.30pm. Coffee, tea and small snacks will also be available from the Emmanuel cafe downstairs. There are also a number of cafes and pubs either way down the road from the Emmanuel Centre. If you have access requirements, stewards will be available to assist.

2.4. Post conference social

We will be booking a venue for a post conference social near the Emmanuel Centre, it would be lovely to see you all afterwards for a chance to chat and discuss in an informal setting.

3. Conference Arrangements Committee

3.1. The committee

The Conference Arrangements Committee is here to facilitate the conference and ensure it runs smoothly, democratically and with as few disruptions as possible.

The Conference Arrangements Committee is a voluntary body that met regularly to organise various things for the conference agreed at the national meeting of Dec 7 2014.

Your Conference Arrangements Committee:
Clare Solomon
Sam Fairbairn
Steve Turner
Jacqui Howard
Andy Bain
Rachel Newton
Lindsey German
Fred LePlat
Anita Halpin

We will be available throughout conference to assist with process and procedure.

Please come to the desk at the front of the main hall if you have any queries about procedural issues or other conference arrangements.
3.2. CAC Report and Standing Orders (Conference regulations)

We will explain as much as we can during the Conference Arrangements Committee Report at 10.30am. You will have the chance to ask questions at this point.

We will then vote on whether to accept the report. This will then become what is called the ‘standing orders’ (conference regulations) for the day. The people who are chairing sessions will be empowered to interpret the report according to the spirit in which it was written.

3.3. Content of motions

The PA delegates meeting on 7th December 2013 decided that conference reserves most time for three essential areas (or zones) of discussion:

1. **Aims.** We need to agree a statement or charter of our overarching aims.
2. **Structure.** We need to agree a minimum national structure for the PA
3. **Future action.** We have now exhausted the programme of marches, actions and strike support agreed at the 22 June founding conference. A new plan of action needs to be agreed.

3.4. Format of motions

Most motions are based on the following format:

1. Conference notes (facts)
2. Conference believes (opinions)
3. Conference resolves (what the motion should do)

3.5. How we arranged the motions

There are three zones with over 10 themes and 90 motions.

We have grouped motions into main themes determined by those that were submitted.

The first motion in each theme is the most general and comprehensive motion submitted. The supplementary motions add to, and do not contradict, the main motion.

The amendments change the meaning of the main motion.

Where possible we arranged motions, supplements and amendments from the broadest topic to the narrowest within each theme.

Not all motions will have speeches, especially in cases where they supplement the main motion. This was explained in the initial call for motions back in December.
We have 255 minutes allocated for speeches including guest speakers and motion debates. Some guest speakers will also be moving motions.

We will only have to use all these minutes if ALL the speeches accounted for are actually taken. So if we do not take all the speeches entitled 'speech against' and 'right to reply' these extra minutes will be used for other things, perhaps more free speeches if applicable.

We kindly ask that any disruptions are kept to a minimum in order to allow as many people to speak as possible.

If you submitted a motion but do not see it in the motions document please ONLY get in contact with the CAC by emailing conference@thepeoplesassembly.org.uk

We hope you agree that the proposed method of debate is a good attempt, and we hope it all goes smoothly so we can focus on content, policy and unity.

3.6. Speaking on the day

Speeches have been allocated on a number of criteria, which we will explain at conference during the Conference Arrangements Committee Report at 10.30am. You will have the chance to ask questions at this point.

There are some unallocated ‘supplementary speeches’ which will be decided on the day by drawing a lottery from all those who submitted motions on the topic.

Most speeches will not be allocated to maximise input from those who submitted motions, as well as space for free speeches from delegates. To ensure we get through all the motions, speeches will be limited to the time allocated in the motions document and to the topic at hand.

3.7. Parts and amendments

There will be not ‘taking parts’, i.e. no accepting or deleting of parts of motions, and no amendments on the day.

3.8. Election of Steering Committee

The re-call conference will take a decision on the composition of our leading committees that will take the national work of the organisation forward in between national conferences.
4. Signatories

4.1. Original signatories who signed the launch letter in The Guardian February 2013

Tony Benn President, Coalition of Resistance
Len McCluskey General secretary, Unite the Union
Mark Serwotka General secretary, PCS
Christine Blower General secretary, NUT
Michelle Stanistreet General secretary, NUT
Manuel Cortez General secretary, TSSA
Billy Hayes General secretary, CWU
Bob Crow General secretary, RMT
Mick Whelan General secretary, Aslef
Kevin Courtney Deputy general secretary, NUT
Paul Mackney Former general secretary, Natfhe (now UCU)
Vicky Baars NUS union development
Kevin Donnelly Trade Union Council JCC
Caroline Lucas MP
Katy Clark MP
Jeremy Corbyn MP
John McDonnell MP
Murad Qureshi London assembly member
Dawn Butler Former Labour minister for young citizens and youth engagement
Tariq Ali Author
John Pilger Journalist
Ken Loach Filmmaker
Owen Jones Writer
James Meadway Senior economist, New Economics Foundation
Wendy Savage & John Lipetz Keep our NHS Public
John Hendy QC Co-chair, People’s Charter
John Hilary Director, War on Want
Sam Fairbairn National secretary, Coalition of Resistance
Imran Khan Solicitor, co-chair, People’s Charter

Rachael Newton People’s Charter
Romayne Phoenix Chair, Coalition of Resistance
Zita Holbourne Co-chair, Black activists rising against the cuts
Clare Solomon Vice-chair, Coalition of Resistance
Andrew Burgin Vice-chair, Coalition of Resistance
Colin Hampton Co-ordinator, National Unemployed Workers Centres Combine
Anita Wright Secretary, National Association of Women
Joginder Bains Association of Indian Women
Shang Gahonia Indian Workers Association
Carolin Jones Director, Institute of Employment Rights
Lindsey German Convenor, Stop the War Coalition
Kate Hudson General secretary, CND
Bruce Kent Peace campaigner
Lee Hall Playwright
Roger Lloyd Pack Actor
Josie Long Comedian
Iain Banks Author
Arthur Smith Comedian
Roy Bailey Folk singer
Francesca Martinez Comedian
John Rees Counterfire editorial board
Natalie Bennett Leader of the Green Party England and Wales
Fred Leplat Socialist Resistance
Robert Griffiths General secretary, Communist Party of Britain
Bill Greenshields Chair, Communist Party of Britain
Richard Bagley Editor, Morning Star Anti-
For all queries please contact conference@thepeoplesassembly.org.uk

5. Finance Report

5.1. Finance Report

The People’s Assembly is now a large organisation with a range of national signatory organisations, over 100 local groups, and mailing list of 30,000.

We depend on the efforts of volunteers to build our organisation and the campaign against austerity. Bankers and big business funds the politics and propaganda of the right. We will never be able to match their millions, but we can respond by building a mass movement of opposition. But we cannot do this solely through volunteers, we need to raise funds.

The funds we raise are used to implement our campaign events, and build our organisation. An organisation the size of the People’s Assembly needs permanent support, and it is only fair that we pay those who work for us full time the living wage. Paying two staff the living
wage costs around £2,000 per month. We are very grateful to receive office space and facilities for free from the Morning Star.

We have invested in a new database driven website and e-communications tool. We have created a national website, with local templates. This offers local groups access to a local website, and a database of their members. It has sophisticated e-communications and social media tools. This is on a monthly lease and costs £120 per month.

Our major costs are around events, such as the launch event, this conference, the hands off our unions meetings and national demonstrations. We aim to cover the costs of events through donations. However, the financial risks limits our ambitions and cash flow is a problem as large donations can take a while to arrive, while the bills need to be paid.

Our income stream is far from secure. A secure income stream is based on a large number of regular donations from organisations and individuals. One off events put a strain on our cash flow, for example, the expense of this conference has meant that we have had to put out an urgent appeal for donations from signatories.

**Income and expenditure 2013-14**

Table 1 shows the income and expenditure of the People’s Assembly to February 2014. Our total income was just under £70,000. Seven national unions have donated a total of £12,350. £24,395 was raised through ticket sales and stalls for the national launch event. £23,550 was been donated by other national organisations, local union branches and campaign groups, and individuals. Of this £830 a month is through recurring individual donations.

Recurring donations are the most useful as they give the People’s Assembly stable income. This type of donation has grown month by month; with a large increase from a total of £554 in October to a total of £830 in November driven by appeals by Tony Benn and Owen Jones.

However since November the recurring income has remained broadly static at £888 for February. On 3 March we received £645 from the Coalition of Resistance, which is intended to be a recurring monthly payment.

This will mean that monthly income in March is likely to be around £1,545.

A total of 202 people have set up individual payments during the last year. By the end of February there were 184 regular payments made.

There is some evidence that there is a drop off of regular donations from paypal. Of 69 regular payments made on a single day in September, 28 were no longer being made in January. During this time 22 regular payments were set up. This explains why the initial growth in regular payments has not been maintained.

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This suggests problems with the PayPal regular payment process. There are few simple alternatives to PayPal, although pushing people to set up direct standing orders should be a major initiative in 2014.

Table 1 shows the donations from organisations and individuals and the money raised by selling tickets for events. It shows that by far the largest expenditure is on events.

At the end of February we had £7,255.00 cash balance. However, some of this was from ticket sales for the Women’s Assembly and some significant bills for this event were outstanding at that stage. The cash balance will be fully utilised in staging this conference.

We have just started paying for the website, and paying staff in 2014. We have a monthly contract with our website and email provider which is £120 per month. We need to pay two freelance staff to work full time to ensure that the office can function. This costs £950 per month.

Our current monthly income is £500 short of the costs of these outgoings. In the short term we can use the accumulated cash balance and one off donations to cover the shortfall; however, we quickly need to find a solution to increasing our regular income.

The conference will debate motions on finance and we need to ensure that the funding of the People’s Assembly is increased substantially as a result of the conference decisions. We will need to launch an urgent appeal to all on our mailing list and signatories to pay membership and affiliation fees and increase donations.

Nick McCarthy, Treasurer
5.2. Income and outgoings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 2013-14</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>outgoings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signatory donations</td>
<td>£ 25,428.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual donations</td>
<td>£ 13,705.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc donations</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>£ 30,636.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
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<td>-£ 53,772.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td></td>
<td>-£ 1,132.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nation builder</td>
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<td>-£ 120.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff pay</td>
<td></td>
<td>-£ 4,050.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hands off our unions</td>
<td></td>
<td>£ 1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>misc</td>
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<td>-£ 288.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pay pal</td>
<td></td>
<td>-£ 3,614.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>£ 69,769.00</td>
<td>-£ 61,976.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash balance</td>
<td></td>
<td>£ 7,255.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Motions document

See next page for full motions document and table of contents