



Future Actions 2015-2016

The future actions of the People's Assembly Against Austerity for 2015-2016 are based on the resolves of motions endorsed at the delegate conference on 5 December 2015. For the full motions document, [click here](#).

Action Plan

Based on motions submitted by the signatories group, local People's Assembly groups of Birmingham, Cambridge, Hackney, Sheffield, South London and Swindon, alongside the Student Assembly, CND, Dewesbury Keep Our NHS Public, National Union of Teachers and Defend Council Housing, conference resolves to mobilise for the following national actions:

- **27 February 2016: Stop Trident Demo**
- **To call mobilising Trident Demo meetings across the country.**
- **Call National day of action (before 11 March 2016) in support of the NHS bill (see below).**
- **19 March 2016: Refugees Welcome: UN Anti-racism demonstration, London.**
- **2-5 October 2016: Birmingham, Protest Tory Party Conference**
- **Call a National 'March for Homes' for 2016.**
- **Convening a national meeting of Local Authorities in the New Year with the aim of creating joint platforms from which Councils can stand together to defend our public services.**
- **Prepare model motions calling upon councils to set 'no cuts budgets' for use by local anti-cuts groups, trade union branches etc.**
- **Rectify lack of material on PA website supporting local campaigners around council cuts (see below).**
- **Organise a national meeting for councilors, trade unionists and anti-austerity campaigners to explore how councils can resist.**
- **The national People's Assembly will approach other national organisations and those relevant to discuss the National March For Homes and to involve the broadest possible forces.**
- **Send the 'Refugees Welcome' motion, (see below) to Jeremy Corbyn.**
- **Take part in days of action against TTIP and CETA, and to join the call for a new approach to international trade that supports the needs of working people and the environment, including in the fight against climate change.**

- **To urge all (London Based) member bodies to actively campaign to make all London Boroughs TTIP & CETA-free zones.**
- **Local groups should raise petitions and bring motions to local and regional legislative bodies to get them to defy TTIP.**
- **Regarding the EU referendum, become an active participant in the debate; producing literature, organise and attend debates, develop a speakers list to warn of the dangers inherent in both positions.**
- **To approach Trade Unions to produce a short film aimed at young people addressing how they can get active in their communities, politics, the Peoples Assembly movement and the defense of services essential to them.**
- **The People's Assembly also welcomes a new edition of our People's Manifesto and calls on all PA affiliates and local Assemblies to use it extensively in their campaigning work with their own members and communities.**
- **To call and organise a major national demonstration against austerity in the first half of 2016.**

Defending our Education:

Based on motions submitted by National Union of Teachers, Student Assembly Against Austerity and Anti-Academies Alliance conference resolves to:

- Call on the Government to restore the funding for post-16 education to pre-austerity levels and to support sixth form colleges in maintaining their separate status.
- Call on the Government to reimburse FE and sixth form colleges for the cost of VAT.
- Support the campaign of the National Union of Teachers, working with other trade unions and other organisations, to restore post-16 funding and save sixth form colleges and agrees to support any industrial or campaigning activity that the unions organise.
- Help develop a united campaign across society to improve the funding and quality of education, in particular the further development of the comprehensive system.
- Work with the full range of stakeholders, campaigning groups, trade unions and other social movements towards creating a National Education Service.
- Participate in a National Convention on Education in order to help develop a National Education Service.

Hands off our NHS:

Based on motions submitted by Cambridge People's Assembly and Dewesbury Keep Our NHS Public, conference resolves to:

- To work with the Junior Doctors and mobilise support for any industrial action in their campaign over imposed contractual changes.
- To support serious initiatives to unite health workers and NHS campaigners.
- To support the TUC and health unions campaign for a fully funded NHS.
- To call a demonstration in December 2015 highlighting the 'winter crisis' and calling for a fully funded NHS, immediate emergency funding, uniting with Junior Doctors, health workers and NHS campaigners to send a strong message to the Tories.
- Continue to make the links between war and bombing of Syria, the replacement of Trident and the NHS funding crisis.
- Commission a guide to successful campaigning drawing on the successes and experiences of Cambridgeshire NHS activists and others.
- Conference commits to support the NHS Bill, both locally and nationally.
- The People's Assembly, in collaboration with other pro-NHS campaigns and groups, shall call a national day of action before 11 March 2016 in support of the bill and against further privatisation of the NHS.
- We call on local People's Assembly groups to apply pressure to their local MPs to back the bill and to spread the word in their local area.

Local Authorities & Councils:

Based on motions submitted by Southampton People's Assembly, Cardiff People's Assembly and Coventry People's Assembly, conference resolves to:

- The National Conference of the People's Assembly accepts the task of convening a national meeting of Local Authorities in the New Year with the aim of creating joint platforms from which Councils can stand together to defend our public services.
- Conference calls upon those local/regional Assemblies organised within Labour controlled Authority areas to canvass both the Councils and the public sector unions for their support for such a meeting.
- Publicise and develop arguments around 'needs budgets' to aid activists
- Prepare model motions calling upon councils to set no cuts budgets for use by local anti-cuts groups, trade union branches etc.
- Give a platform to, and amplify voice of councilors who vote against all cuts
- In all council areas an electronic petition could be drawn up demanding councilors vote against all cuts, raising directly the issues that we face and the responsibility our elected representatives have to fight back.
- Rectify lack of material on PA website supporting local campaigners around council cuts, especially around the political arguments (i.e. responding to 'cuts have to be made', 'we have no choice', 'what would you cut instead')
- Organise a national meeting for councilors, trade unionists and anti-austerity campaigners to explore how councils can resist.
- Compile and share information on examples of council 'best practice' in resisting austerity such as using reserves, no bedroom tax eviction policies, pledges of non-cooperation with the Trade Union Bill, Manchester Council opening up empty buildings to homeless etc.
- The People's Assembly agrees that given the lack of consultation, accountability and it being a clear means by Government to further cut public spending overall the People's Assembly should oppose such developments and lend support to local groups and trade unions who do so.'

Motions on: Disability & Mental Health:

Based on motions submitted by Newcastle People's Assembly, Black Country People's Assembly and Barnet Alliance for Public Services, conference resolves to:

- Ensure disabled people and their organisations are supported at a local, regional and national to fully participate in events.
- Assist where necessary at local and regional levels, organisations needing to know more about ensuring inclusive practice.
- Review how PA involves and consults disabled people's organisations in terms of national events to ensure maximum participation by disabled people is achieved.
- Work with disabled people to address any physical, organisational and attitudinal barriers they may encounter working with PA affiliated campaigns.
- The People's Assembly further demands an end to zero hours contracts and poor pay for care workers.
- The People's Assembly asks that the Labour Party campaign against cuts in services and benefits and for better conditions of employment for care workers and urges trade unions to show solidarity with care workers by supporting any industrial action they take.

Tackling the Housing Crisis:

Based on motions submitted by South London People's Assembly, Defend Council Housing and Hackney People's Assembly, conference resolves to:

- The People's Assembly will call a National March For Homes in 2016.
- The national People's Assembly will approach other national organisations and those relevant to discuss the National March For Homes and to involve the broadest possible forces.
- A National March For Homes should put a broad range of demands to comprehensively address the housing crisis and aim to speed the development of a nationwide movement for housing.
- Conference supports active resistance from tenants, trade unions and councilors, which can make many of the Bill's proposals unworkable.
- Join with resistance to the Bedroom Tax and benefit cuts, estate sell-offs and evictions, demolition and privatisation
- Demands for increased regulation of private renting, secure tenancies and rent controls for private tenants.
- An alternative housing strategy of investment in existing and new council and other homes to meet need, not greed.
- Demand that thousands of acres of publicly owned land could be used to build a new generation of energy-efficient council homes, cutting rents, and creating job and training opportunities.
- Conference calls for outright opposition to the Housing Bill an end to

- privatisation of public land and use of public land for private house building.
- We demand government housing grants to local authorities to build council housing.
 - We demand that empty homes to be brought back into use.
 - Measures to prevent the rich commandeering housing for investment rather than to live in.
 - Rent controls.
 - Secure tenancies.
 - Investment in construction training to alleviate skills shortages so high standard, ultra-low energy sustainable homes are delivered.
 - End Labour Councils selling off/transferring council housing.
 - To propose a national housing conference and a London housing conference prior to the Spring elections in the UK, to develop these policies and to bring together and mobilise housing and other campaigners in active resistance to this Government's housing policies

Welfare not Warfare:

Based on a motion submitted by Campaign For Nuclear Disarmament, conference resolves to:

- This conference reaffirms PAAA policy against Trident replacement and agrees: To mobilise for the Stop Trident demo on Saturday 27th February, called by CND.
- To call mobilising meetings to that end across the country.

Refugees Welcome Here:

Based on motions submitted by Sheffield People's Assembly and Swindon People's Assembly, conference resolves to:

- To hold a national day of action to show solidarity with the refugees and Muslims in our communities who are feeling threatened.
- To share the true facts about the situation.
- To oppose all attempts to blame refugees and migrants for the crisis in the NHS, low pay, bad housing, the lack of good jobs or any of the other problems we face.
- To welcome refugees and immigrants here, and to call on the government to open the borders to refugees and migrants from Calais and elsewhere.
- To fully support the 19 March demonstrations and to email all PA supporters calling for their attendance.
- To oppose the Prevent programme and the Counter-Extremism Bill that increases Islamophobia and threatens us all.
- To send this motion to Jeremy Corbyn to make clear the People's Assembly's position.

No to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP):

Based on motions submitted by War on Want and Barnet TUC, conference resolves to:

- To intensify mobilisation over the coming year at local, regional and national levels against TTIP, CETA and all other such free trade deals which favour the interests of transnational capital over the needs of people and planet.
- To take part in days of action against TTIP and CETA, and to join the call for a radically new approach to international trade that supports the needs of working people and the environment, including in the fight against climate change.
- To join with trade unions, campaigns groups and local activists working together under the 'No TTIP' campaign banner to put pressure on MEPs not to ratify CETA when it comes before the European Parliament.
- We, the delegates to the Peoples' Assembly request this meeting to pass a motion urging all member bodies to actively campaign to make all London Boroughs TTIP & CETA-free zones.
- Local groups should raise petitions and bring motions to local and regional legislative bodies to get them to defy this secretive and menacing deal.

EU Referendum:

Based on a motion submitted by Doncaster People's Assembly, conference resolves to:

- Become an active participant in the debate by producing literature; organising and attending debates; and developing a speakers list to warn of the dangers inherent in both positions (In or Out) to the Labour movement. This includes the reduction of our rights to strike, protest and organise.
- Work with our constituent bodies to counter the racist myths inherent in both camps.
- Encourage trade unions and the TUC to actively promote workers' rights across the continent, by developing solidarity actions including Europe-wide MAY Day demonstrations and celebrations, which raise the need for solidarity in the face of increased competition for markets.

Next steps for the People's Assembly:

Based on motions submitted by Peoples Assembly National Committee, York Peoples Assembly, Manchester Peoples Assembly, Merseyside Peoples Assembly and Birmingham Peoples Assembly and the Communist Party of Britain, conference resolves to:

- To continue to strengthen community organisation; to bring existing local anti-cuts groups towards the People's Assembly; to set up new local People's Assembly groups in towns and cities across the country that represent every section of the community.
- To encourage the establishment of regional teams and assemblies to meet regularly and coordinate regional campaigns/activities.
- To assist in promoting and organising a national organising event to share good practice and experiences across our movement.
- To work closer with the Trade Unions, both on a national level and branch level.
- To work with the TUC on a national day of action(s) against austerity, anti-union laws and racism.
- To strengthen organisation and confidence to take action in workplaces, mobilise support for any group of workers taking strike action, and support any unions that defy the new anti-union laws.
- To organise a major national demonstration against austerity in the first half of 2016 and to take the fight to the Tory's when they meet in Birmingham later in 2016.
- To approach appropriate Trade Unions to explore the production of a short film aimed at young people addressing how they can get active in their communities, politics, the Peoples Assembly movement and the defense of services essential to them.
- To support and initiate action in defense of the staff and services of the NHS alongside existing health campaigns, to campaign against the growing housing crisis and against further privatisation.
- To oppose any attempt to scapegoat migrants, refugees and minority groups for the problems caused by austerity.
- To continue to liaise with those fighting austerity internationally and particularly across Europe.
- The People's Assembly also welcomes the new edition of our People's Manifesto and calls on all PA affiliates and local Assemblies to use it extensively in their campaigning work with their own members and communities.

Furthermore, with around 150 local groups set up across the UK since the launch event in June 2013, (in accordance with its ongoing strategy) conference resolves to:

- Continue to support the formation of new local groups
- Prioritise strengthening, supporting and raising awareness of local groups and the national organisation
- Improve communication between local groups and the national organisation
- Widen the base of the PAAA by actively approaching community groups, campaigning organisations, trade union branches, faith groups, prominent individuals and local politicians and asking them to affiliate to or formally support the group
- Continue to hold meetings, rallies, protests and actions in every locality possible
- Ensure women are fully involved in the formulation of alternative progressive economic and social policies that are developed by the People's Assembly so that they are truly representative of the whole of the working class.
- Build a broad, united movement by offering solidarity to all genuine actions against any cuts and austerity measures; identifying pro-austerity political organisations and monopoly corporations, their actions and the victims of monopoly activity and aiming to build a broad, democratic anti-monopoly alliance locally and nationally.