

WHAT BRITAIN NEEDS

Challenging inequalities in wealth and power



Dear delegate,

The team at Class is delighted to welcome you to our second national conference - *What Britain Needs*. We hope that today will be an opportunity to discuss vibrant, fresh and convincing policies that can become part of a strong offer at the next election.

This conference will be one of the last big gatherings of progressives before the coming General Election in May, so electoral programmes will be very much in the forefront of our minds. But to win the election requires a vision beyond it too. Class and our supporters have always believed that a bold and radical policy offer is more likely to win broad public support.

What Britain Needs is the theme of today – because we must be clear about the depth of crisis, the falling living standards, the lack of hope felt by so many. We need much more than an electoral programme for next year, we need a set of policies that represent a real vision for the next decade. One that gives real hope for the future. Today's debates will be small but important steps in creating that vision.

A YouGov poll commissioned by Class in the run up to today's conference revealed that over half the British public see inequality as bad for both society and the economy, and many think progressive policies—from pay ratios and a mansion tax to a living wage and closing tax loopholes—would be effective in reducing inequality.

We hope that you will have a stimulating and engaging day exchanging ideas with leading progressive figures in journalism, trade unionism, politics and academia. After the Conference please keep in touch with Class, sign up for our email alerts and follow us on Twitter, visit the website, participate in the discussion, attend our regional events. Between us, we can make a difference.

Steve Hart
Chair of Class

10:00

**THE STATE OF BRITAIN:
CHALLENGING POWER
AND INEQUALITY**
Congress Hall, Lower Ground

Chair: Seumas Milne (The Guardian)
Speakers: Will Hutton (Political economist), Prof Doreen Massey (Open University), Paul Kenny (GMB), Angela Eagle MP.

**11:25 MORNING
BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**BRITAIN NEEDS A PAYRISE:
HOW TRADE UNIONS CAN
DELIVER IT**

Council Chamber, 5th floor

Chair: Carolyn Jones (Institute of Employment Rights)
Speakers: Stewart Lansley (economist), Owen Smith MP, Dr Lydia Hayes (Cardiff University), Tim Roache (GMB and Class).

**A VISION FOR THE FUTURE
OF THE NHS**

Congress Suite 2-4, Lower Ground

Chair: Kate Osamor (Labour NEC)
Speakers: Polly Toynbee (The Guardian), Prof Sue Richards (Keep Our NHS Public), Rachael Maskell (Unite the Union), Dr Kailash Chand.

**MORE THAN BRICKS AND
MORTAR: BUILDING HOMES
AND COMMUNITIES**

Room 1/2, 5th floor

Chair: Mark Ferguson (Labour List)
Speakers: Dawn Foster (Inside Housing), Prof Marjorie Mayo (Goldsmiths), Alex Hilton (Generation Rent), Cllr James Murray.

**WHY SHOULD I VOTE? HOW
WE RECONNECT WITH
YOUNG PEOPLE**

Invision 1, 2nd floor

Chair: George Eaton (New Statesman)
Speakers: Shelly Asquith (UoA Students' Union), Owen Jones (The Guardian), David Braniff-Herbert (GMB), Aviah Sarah Day (UK Uncut).

**TACKLING THE FAILURE OF
PRIVATISATION: THE CASE
FOR PUBLIC OWNERSHIP**

Room 3/4, 5th floor

Chair: Seumas Milne (The Guardian)
Speakers: Cat Hobbs (We Own It), Clive Lewis PPC, Mick Whelan (ASLEF), Hilary Wainwright (Red Pepper).

**INVESTING IN OUR SOCIETY:
THE POTENTIAL FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE**

Invision 2/3, 2nd floor

Chair: Tony Lennon (BECTU)
Speakers: Josie Long (Comedian), Dr Dave O'Brien (Goldsmiths), Juliet Jacques (New Statesman), Bim Adewunmi (freelance writer).

**12:35 - 13.20
LUNCH BREAK**

To guarantee your lunch order
before 12pm at the registration
desk for £5

13:20

POLICY PITCH: FOR A WINNING MANIFESTO

Congress Hall, Lower Ground

Chair: Owen Jones (The Guardian)

Speakers: Josie Long (Comedian), Sadiq Khan MP, Shelly Asquith (UoA Students' Union), Emma Seery (Oxfam), Steve Coe (TSSA).

Closing: Tim Roache (Class and GMB)

14:20 AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

TAX JUSTICE AT THE HEART OF A FAIR ECONOMY

Congress Suite 2-4, Lower Ground

Chair: Stefan Stern (LabourList)

Speakers: Margaret Hodge MP, Richard Murphy (Tax Research UK), Prof Prem Sikka (Essex University), Lorna Merry (PCS).

STAND UP TO RACISM: CHALLENGING SCAPEGOATING, UKIP AND THE FAR RIGHT

Invision 1, 2nd floor

Chair: Kamaljeet Jandu (GMB)

Speakers: Diane Abbott MP, Sabby Dhalu (UAF), Don Flynn (Migrant Rights Network), tbc.

FEMINISM'S FUTURE: REALISING WOMEN'S EQUALITY

Room 3/4, 5th floor

Chair: Ellie Mae O'Hagan (Class and The Guardian)

Speakers: Selina Todd (University of

Oxford), Bim Adewunmi (writer), Polly Trenow (Fawcett Society), Bernadette Horton (Morning Star).

RENEWING OUR WELFARE STATE: STRONG, PROUD AND FAIR

Council Chamber, 5th floor

Chair: tbc

Speakers: Prof Tracy Shildrick (Leeds University), Ian Lavery MP, Mark Serwotka (PCS), Frances Ryan (The Guardian and New Statesman), Ellen Broome (Family and Childcare Trust).

BUILDING OUR FUTURE ECONOMY: INVESTING IN JOBS AND GREEN GROWTH

Room 1/2, 5th floor

Chair: Martin Mayer (Labour NEC and Unite)

Speakers: Chi Onwurah MP, Prof Özlem Onaran (Greenwich University), Ann Pettifor (PRIME Economics), tbc.

STANDING UP FOR EDUCATION: FIGHTING FOR A FAIRER SYSTEM

Invision 2/3, 2nd floor

Chair: Zoe Williams (The Guardian)

Speakers: Tom Wilson (Union Learn), Prof Stephen Ball (Institute of Education), Max Hyde (NUT), Paul Cottrell (UCU).

15:35

WHAT BRITAIN NEEDS: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Congress Hall, Lower Ground

Chair: Kevin Maguire (The Mirror)

Speakers: Lisa Nandy MP, Mark Serwotka (PCS), Diane Abbott MP, Owen Jones (The Guardian).

class

Centre for Labour
and Social Studies

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What is Class?

The Centre for Labour and Social Studies (Class) is a new think tank established in 2012 to act as a centre for left debate and discussion.

Originating in the labour movement, Class works with a broad coalition of supporters, academics and experts to develop and advance alternative policies for today.

Through high quality, intellectually compelling publications and events Class seeks to shape ideas that can inspire the trade union movement, cement a broad alliance of social forces and influence policy developments to ensure the political agenda is on the side of working people.

Who is involved?

Class was set up by the trade union movement and has the support of a growing number of unions including:



More information

Copies of Class publications can be found on the stall in the conference foyer and are all available to download free from our website.

www.classonline.org.uk [@classthinktank](https://twitter.com/classthinktank)

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