

ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE



Bulletin

Alistair Darling's Solution to the Crisis:

A Fair Deal for all Bankers*

*We re-print the positive content of Alistair's speech below

Reports for the Convention of The Left

Real Debates - Real Answers

Monday's full day of discussions at the Convention of The Left saw 350 people listen to some excellent contributions across a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

First of all, the opening session on Dangers of Globalisation and the parallel session on the Economic Crisis mutually decided that you cannot talk about the economy without talking about the environment and you cannot talk about the environment without talking about the economy. (Ministers please note. Manchester Council is reportedly "decoupling" its climate change strategy from its economic development plans.) So the two meetings united for a single discussion; it was tremendously encouraging to see participants take the Convention into their own hands.

The session continued for over three hours; at one point a participant, grabbing a cup of tea, declared that "we are in

permanent session". Contributions both tried to explain the crisis and suggest ways of building a movement to combat it. Prem Sikka was clear and incisive about the Government's failure, he condemned Government ministers' corruption and called for everyone to take action in their own workplaces and communities. Other contributors included Raphie de Santos (SSP), Jeremy Corbyn MP and John Hilary (War on Want). An inspiring meeting.

While Spike Lee's "When the Levees Broke" was shown during the afternoon, over 50 people heard the Miami 5 (part of Cuba Solidarity Campaign's tour of the families) and another 30 debated Stopping the Nuclear Madness (together with CND). Martin Empson made clear how we must nail the lies told about renewables; the reality is that they are more than useful and viable, and the vested interests in the nuclear

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power industry that denigrate renewables must be challenged.

Building a Movement to Stop Climate Change heard Tony Kearns (CWU) emphasise that the Climate Change campaigns and workers must get together to develop a genuine movement to ensure a sustainable future for the planet. Jonathan Neale said that there was a need for a 60% reduction in carbon emissions, requiring an 80% reduction in the rich countries, possibly within as little as ten years. Robbie Gillett of Plane Stupid said that people must take action and then governments and business must listen and he gave notice of the direct action taking place at 12.45 today (Tuesday); further details from the Convention stall today.

Tony Benn opened the LRC rally with an urgent call for left unity in order to combat the rise of the far right. Mark Serwotka (PCS) welcomed the Convention of The Left, declared the Labour Government “disgusting” and made clear that his union was not affiliated to any of the mainstream parties, between whose policies you could not put a cigarette paper. Mark said that there was both an industrial and political strategy needed. He called for action by all trade unions against the pay freeze and for unity across the left in order to prevent the rise of the far right.

Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell all echoed the welcome for the Convention; John described the Convention as a welcome breakthrough; the unity was like the Wild West, we were leaving our guns outside the saloon, and uniting in action.

Everyone involved in the Convention is looking forward to the Recall Event on November 29th, when the outcomes of all these discussions can be gathered together and we can begin to work out the concrete steps that we need to take to make left unity a reality.

People and Public Services

Tuesday 23rd September

At Friends Meeting House, Mount Street

12.30: People and Public Services: Opening Plenary with Jeremy Corbyn MP, Javier Navasques (United Left, Seville)

1.00: Housing with Prof Chris Allen (author) Alan Walter (Defend Council Housing), John Grayson (author)

1.00: Transport with Peter Cranie (Green Party), Ken Ferguson (editor, Scottish Socialist Voice) and film director Ken Loach, followed by showing of '**Navigators**' the film by Ken Loach

5.00: Education with Bill Greenshields* (NUT president), Martin Brown (editor of Education for Tomorrow), Barry Conway (Bolton NUT)

5.00: Health with Dr John Lister (Health Emergency), Karen Reissmann

7.00: Challenging Inequality - Reclaiming Public Services with Astorn Wahl (Campaign for the Welfare State, Norway) and contributors from the earlier sessions.