



To trade union and anti-cuts organisations

The National Shop Stewards Network welcomes the overwhelming vote at this year's TUC Congress in passing the motion of the Prison Officers Association (POA) for the unions to take "...co-ordinated action where possible with far reaching campaigns including the consideration and practicalities of a general strike."

We are particularly proud of our relationship with the POA, RMT and the PCS who officially support the NSSN and were so prominent in this historical debate that can give hope to millions of workers and working-class people in general, that this government's austerity offensive can be met with fierce resistance from the trade union movement. Before the start of Congress, the NSSN organised a lobby of the TUC, which saw up to a thousand union members march through Brighton in support of the POA motion.

We now firmly believe that this vote can change the character of the TUC's October 20th demonstrations in London, Glasgow and Belfast. Along with the rest of the union movement, the NSSN will strive to help build a turnout that even eclipses the massive demonstration on March 26th 2011. We will do all we can to get a million people on the streets. But we believe that if the marches are used as a platform to popularise the idea of a 24 hour general strike, we can send a real message of intent to the ConDems that if they continue with these brutal cuts, they will be met with the full force of the organised working-class, still the most powerful force in society.

We therefore, call on the TUC General Council to discuss how this motion can be put into practice. We hope that this will create debate and discussion throughout the movement about the next steps to fight austerity. The NSSN is happy to provide speakers to any regular or special meeting called by your organisation, to explain why we think a 24 hour general strike is necessary in the next stage of resistance. Please contact us through the above email address of this mobile phone number - 07816134690. The NSSN is also organising a series of meetings and conferences over the next few months around the country, which can be found on the flyer attached.

In solidarity

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