

# BREAK WITH LABOUR

## For a republican socialist party



Over 120 years ago the trade unions supported the Liberal Party. Keir Hardie and his supporters campaigned for the movement to set up its own party. The Labour Party was born. It became a broad coalition of trade unionists, socialists and liberals.

Today we have come full circle. Labour has become a more right wing equivalent of the Liberal Party. It is unapologetic in its support for capitalism and free markets. It is the main ally of US imperialism. It is opposed to the interests of working people and their trade unions. It articulates the values of individual freedom which in practice means freedom for business to exploit workers and maximise profits. The Labour government supports a raft of anti-working class policies, such as the anti-union laws, privatising the NHS, cutting pensions, occupying Iraq and attacking civil liberties.

Trade unions must assert themselves against the government. This includes taking up the fight to repeal the anti-union legislation and fighting for accountable union reps in the workplace. Disaffiliation from the Labour Party is a protest. But this will not take us very far unless there is an alternative working class party as there is in Scotland.

The trade union movement is back to square one. There is no party that represents the interests of trade unions and working people. We have to take inspiration from the example set by Keir Hardie in breaking

away from the Liberal Party and founding a new workers party. We need this now. This conference can and should be a step along that road.

The United Kingdom is very different from the days of Keir Hardie. After two world wars the Empire has gone. The USSR has been and gone. Britain is part of the European Union. The planet is threatened by global warming and environmental destruction. The social gains of the past are under attack. The Iraq war and recent elections have shown up serious failings in parliamentary democracy. Far too much power is concentrated in the hands of the Prime Minister and top civil servants. Civil liberties are under threat.

Therefore we need a different kind of party to Labour. The Scottish Socialist Party points us in the right direction. Like the SSP, we need to unite socialists and communists and trade unionists into a single party. We need a party that fights for a democratic secular republic as the means to the socialist transformation of society and the environment. We need a party which is internationalist in its outlook and champions the struggles of all oppressed people.

The Scottish Socialist Alliance created a new party in Scotland. The Socialist Alliance intends to do the same in the rest of the country by bringing socialists and trade unionists together wherever we can. If you support our aims please contact us overleaf.

Alliance for socialism, internationalism,  
republicanism and the environment.  
Against racism, fascism and specific oppressions.

## Ten years fighting for socialist unity

The first Socialist Alliance was set up in Coventry in 1992 and the first national meeting held in 1996 with eight local alliances represented. Within two years 20 local alliances and twelve left groups had joined. During the next two years the project took off with 58 local SA's across the country.

In 2001 the SA adopted a new programme and constitution and now involved all the main tendencies and groupings on the left, including the AWL, CPGB, International Socialist Group, Revolutionary Democratic Group, Socialist Party, SWP and Workers Power. The SA stood 98 candidates in the 2001 general election, making the biggest left challenge to the Labour Party for 50 years.

After the Bush-Blair war in Iraq, the SWP majority abandoned the SA for Respect and closed the SA down. However a significant minority did not accept this. In November 2005 the SA was relaunched at the London conference. The need for non-sectarian socialist unity remains central to the struggle for socialism. In 2006 the Socialist Alliance is coming back.

### SA Branches

Coventry &  
Warwicks  
London & South  
East  
Merseyside  
Southampton  
Swindon  
Stockport

### CONTACT THE SA

PO Box PO Box 4123 Rugby,  
CV21 9BJ

Website

[www.democracyplatform.org.uk](http://www.democracyplatform.org.uk)

**To join the SA**

[samember@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:samember@hotmail.co.uk)

## Membership application form

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY/TOWN..... POSTCODE.....

PHONE..... EMAIL .....

TRADE UNION..... POLITICAL AFFILIATION.....

I wish to join the SA and I enclose a cheque for £12/£3 for 2006,

**made payable to 'Socialist Alliance'**, to The S A, PO Box 4123, Rugby CV21 9BJ

The SA Membership Secretary can be contacted at **samember@hotmail.co.uk**

Date..... Signed.....

## Affiliated socialist organisations

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Communist Party of Great Britain        | ■ Revolutionary Democratic Group  |
| ■ International Socialist League          | ■ United Socialist Party (TUSP)   |
| ■ Republican Communist Network (Scotland) | ■ Walsall Democratic Labour Party |