

#noausterityliv



No Austerity Conference, Liverpool
Spring 2015

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No Austerity Konferencja...Coordinamento...OXI ΣΤΗ ΛΙΤΟΤΗΤΑ



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No Austerity

Report from the
No Austerity Conference
14 February 2015
Friends Meeting House,
Liverpool

EDITORS

Josh Blamire
Juliet Edgar
Margaret McAdam
Martin Ralph

DESIGN

Martin Ralph



Liverpoolagainstthecuts@gmail.co.uk
oldswanagainstthecuts@aol.com
thereclaimgroup@aol.co.uk



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No Cuts, No Austerity

Our streets, Our services

Liverpool Against the Cuts invited everyone who wanted to fight the Con-Dem austerity policies and Labour's austerity plans, to join the "No Austerity" conference 14 February 2015 at the Friends Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool.

The conference was initially a development of the community campaigns to save the 11 libraries in Liverpool that the City Council planned to close. It was a victorious campaign in that the libraries remain open, but there is a recognition that the future remains insecure whilst austerity blights our lives.

How did we succeed in the libraries struggle? It was important to respect the autonomy of the community campaigns and union struggles, this made it possible to work together to build a leadership and to make agreed joint actions.

The aim of the "No Austerity" conference was to bring activists and campaigning groups together and build on the existing struggles that are taking place in our communities, on the streets, and in our work places.

It was keenly attended by many aspects of this diverse movement, including: anti-bedroom tax campaigners; housing rights and welfare activists; disabled peoples' activists; trade unionists; students; representatives from leftist political parties and even those new to politics but equally conscious of the devastating effects of austerity policies.

We wanted to learn from each others' strategy and tactics and to develop a common programme on which we can fight in our campaigns and the elections, to end austerity that is destroying our communities and neighbourhoods and worsening all our lives.

In order to defeat austerity we need to build a mass opposition movement. To achieve this we need to raise awareness of existing struggles and raise the consciousness of what is possible.

This pamphlet cannot reflect the level of contributions made on the day but aims to reflect the diversity and number of campaigns and activists represented, and the feelings of hope and commitment that the day produced.

Reports from campaigns, practical workshops and open discussion all fed



into a common programme that was developed on the day (see pages 6 & 7).

A number of actions were agreed on the day - the programme of struggle for campaigns and the elections; "No Austerity" demo 25 April (see page 12); to publish the programme and a conference pamphlet; to support all candidates standing in the elections against the austerity parties, including the Labour Party, and who agree with the agreed programme; and finally to explore the possibility of organising another conference.

A number of anti-austerity political parties were present in an individual capacity. So, community groups, unions and political parties worked together.

Messages of solidarity were received from across the UK and Internationally, from many who would have liked to attend but were unable to, these can be found on pages 4, 10 and 11. The messages reflect that we are fighting against a nationally and globally organised attack on the world's working class. This illustrates clearly that whilst we fight in our campaigns locally, to defeat austerity we must be linked in struggle nationally and internationally.

Please write if you would like more information or if you would like to join us to help towards building a mass No Austerity movement with rank and file democracy. All welcome if you agree with the programme and the democratic grass roots way in which it was developed from the bottom up.

Thank You

Thank you to the union and community organisations who helped build this conference and make it happen - FBU Merseyside, UCU Liverpool university, UCU John Moores university, UCU Liverpool City College, Unite branches: Merseyside Finance NW11, NW 106 RLBHUHT, NW 522.

We have to say thank you for the food - an amazing feast from Reclaim and their team of supporters from across Merseyside. Everyone expressed their genuine thanks for the enormous amount of fantastic work - keeping us satisfied and helping to making it a great day.

We sing the praises of and thank the musicians, in particular Phil Newton, for their renderings of Joe Hill, Bella Ciao and many other lively inspiring protest tunes.

The next step is 25 April 'March for No Austerity'. All are welcome - let's make a noise against austerity.

Martin Ralph and Juliet Edgar – two of the main conference organisers – on what brought this movement together. Both are active within the broader expression that is Liverpool Against the Cuts.



After the Con-Dem budget March 2015, George Osborne announced that there will be a further £30bn cuts if they remain in government after May. The permanence of austerity

means that if we are to end these brutal cuts we must build a mass struggle and take it to the streets.

As the banner slogan says “austerity kills poor people”. The report ‘Breadline Britain’ claims that 20 million people already live in poverty due to five years of deep cuts. Osborne’s intends to go from war against the poor to a blitzkrieg. The Labour party is also defending austerity and claims to no longer represent those on benefits. With UKIP and the Lib Dems also supporting austerity we have to build - there is an alternative.

We stopped Labour’s plan to close 11 of our libraries

The Labour Party appeared to have no understanding of just how much the libraries are used and valued, and the vital role they play in our communities. From 5 year olds to 85 year olds they are essential community hubs. As so many social spaces have now disappeared because of austerity and Labour’s implementation of the cuts, the importance of the libraries has become even greater.

But to win we had to build and we had to mobilise on the streets every week. We organised two demonstrations that brought 100s to the streets, and gathered over 20,000 signatures. OSAC, Sefton Park library campaign and LATC all fought together. At the same time an army of famous writers, musicians, actors, poets and academics supported the call by local children’s authors, Alan Gibbons and Cathy Cassidy, to keep the libraries open. Schools heads and teachers organised and 100s of children wrote letters to the council to keep the libraries open. One 11 year old even spoke at one of our rallies.

We had just printed 10,000 leaflets, stating 11 reasons to keep libraries open demanding a city wide referendum. Two days later the council and Joe Anderson made a U-turn.

What we win we will win by mobilising on our streets

Every struggle, so long as it is run in a democratic way where all decisions are made at meetings, can build powerful alliances and campaigns. In many parts of the country local disputes in communities and in work places are winning in this way.

At the #noausterity conference we brought together many campaigns to discuss how to unite our fights and we agreed a programme to fight against all austerity and all council cuts. The programme belongs to everyone who developed it, wants to support it, and wants to build it. It is a programme for the struggles and campaigns on our streets and also in elections.

The day was inspiring and the conference is a concrete example of how we can unite and fight together.

Martin Ralph

Standing for Old Swan Against the Cuts



ReClaim provides information and support to the most vulnerable persons and deprived communities on Merseyside and further afield. We have a history of campaigning against the cuts to social security benefits, particularly the bedroom tax, which represents an attack on the working class and the very concept of social housing. We have been running welfare rights surgeries in the Kirkdale area of Liverpool since 2013, devoting this time to support those hit hardest by austerity measures and resisting the unprecedented wave of cuts to communities in Liverpool.



Many of those that come to ReClaim have no income whatsoever, and require food, emergency payments and other help to get their benefits back in place, to stop them losing their homes, or even just to get through until the next day. Many also have long-standing illnesses, are disabled and/or require carers, and suffer mental health issues. Their vital safety net – the welfare system – is rapidly being eroded away.

Austerity kills

We have listened to threats of suicide, and even Joe Anderson (Mayor of Liverpool) had admitted that austerity kills – through suicide, the cold, or having no food! Those social security benefits which were fought for by our own grandparents are being savaged by the current CONDEM government.

However the attack on the poorest and most vulnerable in our society will not change, even if we see a change of government in May 2015! The main political parties have all sold out the UK electorate using a narrative of attacking and demonising the poor and most vulnerable, who are now being made to pay for a crisis created by the rich!

Sold out by Labour councils

Merseyside is an area where all our councils are Labour controlled. How have our Labour Councils made a stand against the bedroom tax? Well, in the North-West and across Merseyside good social homes are now empty due to the bedroom tax, and these homes are now at risk of being sold off or demolished by the housing associations. On Merseyside there are no council homes. We need to ask, how did that happen? ReClaim, along with Left Unity and others, are launching a Housing Action Week from 25 April 2015 to bring media attention to the crisis in housing!

Now is the time to fight

The No Austerity conference brought hope to Liverpool and this was echoed by voices from across Europe. No Austerity is building on a small, but vibrant grass roots movement. Join our demo and let’s reject austerity once and for all.

Juliet Edgar

ReClaim



Building the No Austerity conference



Liverpool Against The Cuts is an organisation which seeks to develop a co-ordinated fight back. LATC passed a motion in December 2014 from Old Swan Against the Cuts:

We continue to oppose all the cuts in local services: adult social care, support for mental health, children's centres and swimming pools.

No deterioration but improvement of all current library services, no cuts and no staff loses.

Take Liverpool from the grasp of those who support austerity and give the city back to the people.

We ask Liverpool Against The Cuts to work with all anti-cuts groups, to call a conference to deepen the fights against the cuts, and to encourage anti-cuts groups to stand in the elections on a social and political struggle basis.



Opening conference: Juliet Edgar and Martin Ralph. Chair Larry Bowles.

Reports from community groups and unions who talked about their experiences, difficulties, actions and results (see opposite page). Workshops followed (see page 8 and 9).



Cuisine a la Reclaim



This conference and campaigns like it, are absolutely vital. We all hear stories of people in desperate circumstances, living in severe poverty, with their benefits cut by a system that sets out to inflict hardship on our most vulnerable citizens.

That is not a sad accident. It is a deliberate act of policy by politicians who represent the interests of big business and employers. They demand cheap labour, weak unions and privatised services.

Take heart from Syriza's victory. We can fight back here too!

Greetings and solidarity,

Ken Loach,
Internationally acclaimed film maker.



With Syriza in government and Podemos growing in confidence, we are at a crossroads. For the first time in years, there is the possibility of a broad, anti austerity movement. We have seen in this city what happens if political representatives meekly implement cuts. We have also seen, in the libraries campaign, a microcosm of what resistance looks like. I hope you have a great conference. Solidarity,

Alan Gibbons,
Children's author and library and anti-cuts campaigner



Phil Newton organised a music workshop that represented a new and participatory method of being part of working class and political struggle. One song was about famous Joe Hill, agitator and organiser:

From San Diego up to Maine.
In every mine and mill.
Where working folks defend their rights.
It's there you find Joe Hill.
It's there you find Joe Hill.

Afternoon session was chaired by Lesley Mahmood.

Report back from workshops, then discussion and vote on the programme (see page 6 and 7) followed by an agreement to organise a No Austerity demo (see back page)



I think it was the best conference ever I have been to. Passion, honesty, diplomacy, and intelligence filled the room. Old Swan Against the Cuts helped grow this conference for all it's worth. Well done comrades all the hard work paid off.

Larry Bowles, Unite senior shop steward NHS.

@noausterityliv

“I only popped in for half hour but was taken back by how many people were there wanting to see change. Spending my Sunday watching the live streams.”

Jane Pinder Wirral SOS: we occupied Seacombe library last night #solidarity!
We are fighting against insidious ‘volunteer-run services’. We want PAID work #properjobs



@Laurence_Clark. Comedian, writer, husband, dad, disability rights campaigner.



Sue Ferguson, Save Our Libraries: We’re fighting for a publicly run library service, with fully trained librarians.

Sam Semoff @KONPMerseyside: lowering the threshold for treatment, longer waiting times, cut-backs to mental health. Economics of health cut-backs does NOT work! (see page 8)



Joe Boyd, Anti-Fracking: We’ve seen the devastation fracking has caused around the world #dirtyindustry. The state are all in it together; we, the 99%, must be all in it together! (see page 8)



Kellie Butchard Save Knowsley Libraries campaign: people of Knowsley will not be walked all over. We stand together, we fight them. No cuts not now not ever. (see Our Experiences page 8)

Guy and Paul Save our Sanity: protecting mental health services from cuts! (see page 8)



Peter Glover @TUSCoalition: We are facing an awesome assault on the living standards and terms and conditions within work in

Valentina Barrera UCU Liverpool University organising against zero hour contracts (see page 10)



For me, I found that the No to Austerity Conference highlighted the problems that people are having. Not because of some natural event or an all round shortage of money and materials in the system but because it is being unfairly taken away.

Those who a society should look after are being targeted to feed the greed of the rich who are being given our services such as the NHS, who are feeding off cuts to welfare and the companies who thrive on zero hours contracts that workers have to take or lose everything.

But there was no deep gloom on the day - there was instead a determination to fight back and while that fight goes on people are supporting and helping each other.

People shared ideas and there was a sense of solidarity along with a deep feeling that the main political parties have all failed, and nobody more than our local Council with its bombardment of cuts which they have done ruthlessly and sneered at anybody who suggests alternatives.

Ian Seddon LATC, Unite and SOS Wirral



The alternative against in Liverpool and

Lesley
Mahmood, anti-
cuts campaigner
and Left Unity



Glenroy Watson, Pres-
ident London Trans-
port Regional Council,
opening the afternoon
session

“Austerity is THEFT, to
take from the poor and
give it to the rich!”

No Austerity programme

- **No to Austerity**
- **Free, high quality public and council services – owned by the people, for the people. Re-nationalisation!**
- **Keep our libraries council-run, properly maintained and fully staffed with trained librarians.**
- **Against increases in council tax**
- **Free public transport for children and students**
- **Fully comprehensive, integrated, publicly accountable and publicly provided, free at the point of delivery NHS, based on need.**
- **Fully publicly funded education & means to education (Sure Start, libraries)**
- **Real contracts for workers, proper permanent jobs! Minimum wage £10 an hour.**
- **Restore - pensioners' and disabled people's rights**
- **Restore a real benefits safety net; stop all sanctions!**

austerity is growing Merseyside!

One of the main aims of the conference was to begin an anti-austerity programme, which would emerge out of a live, open and democratic discussion on the day, that sought to build on the diverse experiences of struggle in order to build a mass anti-austerity movement. A programme from the grassroots, that will be based in and controlled by, both communities and unions.

There was unanimous agreement and understanding of the need for street mobilisations, and of the need to celebrate and build on our victories. It was also recognised that this can only be achieved by adopting working class independence and democracy, where everyone has an

equal right to contribute to the development of a fighting programme and plan of actions.

The conference agreed to adopt a programme of affirmative and positive demands that reflect what we are for, and how we can move forward to build a grassroots alternative to austerity and capitalism. There was unanimous agreement that the programme was a step forward, but it was also recognised that it is a living programme stemming from today's conditions. We invite any candidates looking to stand in the elections – on an anti-austerity platform – to defend this programme built by those opposing austerity in Liverpool and beyond.



14 February 2015

- **For a renewable energy policy - not dependent on fossil fuels, nuclear energy and fracking!**
- **Scrap Trident and nuclear weapons – use the £100bn for sustainable energy**
- **Equality for all people; irrespective of race, culture, sexuality, gender, age and disability.**
- **A society that nurtures, protects and cherishes all its children! Full rights for the child.**
- **Full rights for women.**
- **Full rights for all immigrants.**
- **We are a society – an injury to one is an injury to all. Replant the seed of social solidarity among the young.**
- **What we win, we win by mobilising – support building local anti-austerity groups in all neighbourhoods.**
- **Work towards diversifying the movement.**
- **Support all international struggles against austerity!**

Workshops: Building the Struggle

In the build-up to the conference, it was felt that we had to organise more participatory and engaging ways of producing a shared politics together. It was widely agreed that organising three ‘themed’ workshops would allow us to share our thoughts and experiences in more democratic and

organic ways. Overall, the workshops were a great success and also suggest new ways in which we can begin to develop alternative political strategies. Below, each of the workshop facilitators gives an account of what we learnt from each other, and how we could move forward.



Workshop 1:

Our experiences

This workshop sought to collect activists – working in diverse campaigns – and share their experiences of struggling against austerity. The general outcome was that mass mobilisations are needed in every campaign – but how do we achieve this? We need to spread the message that we won’t stand for these cuts. This can be achieved through social media, leaflet drops and attending regular meetings. We need to learn from each other and draw on others who have suffered austerity measures.

People discussed the growing importance of social media campaigns, like 38 Degrees, but also using Facebook and Twitter to support each other and better communicate what kinds of resistance are taking place. We also discussed the role of the media in campaigns, and how it can be harnessed in positive ways, but also the difficulties of receiving adequate and just coverage. We saw people use YouTube in the case of the library campaign, which was widely agreed to be the most notable (and successful!) campaign.

It was agreed that the success was down to us all having the determination and resolve – and, most importantly, working together – that forced the council to ‘save’ the 11 ‘at risk’ community libraries. We should take heart from our efforts, but there’s a lot to do.

Kellie Butchard

Library Campaigner and standing for the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC)

Workshop 2: How do we work together

There were people from a wide variety of groups such as anti cuts, anti-fracking, political parties, pensioners.

How do we approach other groups when needed? This was one of the first questions. Also, how to recognise when your particular group is in need of help or is becoming isolated and so losing focus and effectiveness.

An example is the SOS Campaign to save Liverpool Mental Health Service and Adult Social Care. They wanted wider help and came to Liverpool Against the Cuts for support. So whilst they built their own campaigns they have received practical help and suggestions. Sometimes this can be as basic as a room full of people saying well done you are on the right track. They also bonded the workers and the service users which was vital and brought a real spine of solidarity to the campaign. So each can look at what others want, and ensure that the needs of both are met in the group.

Keep Our NHS Public (KONP) said we need the “Spirit of 45” – where people help each other. When the NHS was formed this was needed, now we need a strong community spirit to save it. Patients working with unions is an example. Importantly this pushes the sense that we belong to a society - something the Tories and neo-liberalism resent.

Joe from anti-fracking talked of the different levels campaigners come up against. For example anti-cuts groups faced opposition from the council and local police – anti frackers have faced the wrath of the state and state broadcasting who misrepresent their aims and motivations. It was pointed out how groups such as pensioner groups and retired people have helped and offered support. Traditional groups working with the new groups because they trust each other.

There were people from National Pensioners Convention who are also involved in Unite pensioners group. They too are learning from “new protest” actions. They have seen how groups are working, how they confront Councils for example, how leaflets are done and of course social media.

Ian Seddon
SOS Wirral





Workshop 3: Our Demands

In this workshop, we asked ourselves:

- What are our solutions?
- What are the changes we would like to see?
- How would that happen?
- Why would we like to see those changes?
- What have others across the world also demanded?
- What would our story or narrative be for those changes?
- What can we learn from others?

This was the largest workshop with a wide range of views. In sum, we all agreed that we need to develop some sort of anti-austerity narrative, with the aid of better communication to counter the right-wing media. We need to increase awareness of our working class history, creating and using our own counter-cultural media where necessary. We need to communicate our ideas effectively and embed them within that broader anti-austerity

narrative. We need to educate young people, draw on their energies, and encourage their political participation. Our demands must be inspirational (free bus transport) and promote positivity and hope. Below I sum up what we agreed an anti-austerity movement should demand:

- Vote for anti-austerity parties
- Nationalisation of the banks (no compensation)
- Social housing must be cherished and protected
- Push for the economic alternative
- Keep resources and industry in public hands
- Local level control of public transport, etc.
- Force a radical expansion of democracy, change the system
- End the rotten system of capitalism!
- Develop a socialist system, revolution is necessary!

Juliet Edgar
ReClaim

The No Austerity conference in Liverpool was a fantastic day. I heard lots of excellent speakers all talking about their own campaigning, all were linked by cuts to services and attacks on the working class. The programme agreed at the end of the conference was a fantastic achievement. Congratulations to all those who worked so hard to make this conference happen. Aimi Molloy, FBU firefighters union and women's

Power to the people - one of the musicians sang. The conference on 17 February in Liverpool has been a clear example of that. This was real participatory democracy or democracy from the bottom. It is what Europe needs to fight against austerity policies. Marco Longoni, former CGIL shop steward Michelin (Italy)

“We need to be having meetings like this in every neighbourhood!!”

We heard inspiring stories of individuals who have suffered, but who have fought back with support and help and have won. We heard of others who did not win but with that support they no longer feel the isolation and stigmatisation that is part and parcel of these cruel austerity policies. That in itself is a victory. Margaret McAdam, Unite, Secretary Liverpool Trades Union Council.



Fraternally and Sororally greetings from Merseyside FBU (Mark Rowe speaking).

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has been devastated by the attack of the Tory led coalition on the peoples fire service.

There have been £28m worth of cuts over 5 yrs. More than any other Fire and Rescue Service in the country. These spivs masquerading as a Government do not care if the people of Merseyside burn in their beds.

They have also launched a personal attack on firefighters by ripping up long standing pensions agreements. They expect firefighters to now work on the front line until we are 60 yrs old. If we cannot maintain our fitness merely for the crime of getting older then we will be forced out on a massively reduced pension, or dismissed for under capability, leaving us with no job and no pension.

The FBU have fought these attacks and have to date undertaken over 50 periods of strike action over the last 3 years.

The FBU will be announcing a further 24hr strike over the coming weeks.

We will continue to fight for Merseyside public's safety. Austerity is an attack on the poorest workers in this country and is a redistribution of money from those who need it most to those who need it least
Solidarity for today's conference!
Mark Rowe, FBU



Building the Resistance in Merseyside

The primary aims of the first 'No Austerity' conference held on 14 February 2015, were to develop anti-austerity resistance in the city and Merseyside, forge links between the various grassroots campaigns, and to organise an organic, democratically-mandated anti-austerity programme for the upcoming elections. The conference was centred upon developing more democratic and participatory ways of doing and producing politics, with workshops and group discussions inviting participants to co-produce their programme for change.

Building the movement

The conference represented the very early steps of movement building. There is a significant absence of the infrastructures necessary to sustain the development of a new, open and exciting class-based and leftist struggle that inspires people and is capable of generating new political ideas. Here, solidarity networks were formed and new energies created as the resistance wrote new chapters in the political history of the city.

Forge new connections re-organise our struggle

We should not underestimate the importance of forging new connections – it's only through the development of these that new, political alternatives will develop – though we should be conscious of the need to broaden participation and diversity within the movement in order to build critical and more diverse arguments against austerity.

On 7 May, people in the UK will go to the polls to elect the new government. Facing the mainstream cross-party consensus of more austerity, and a technocratic popularity contest whereby those larger parties effectively compete over who can be the toughest on migration and the most ruthless in cutting the deficit.

It seems like the political horizons of the 'possible' have been reduced to almost nothing – the future is the present; no hope, and a further reduction in our living standards.

Reorganising the left

So how can things be different? We cannot simply struggle for a return to the past. The social-democratic compromise is over; we now live in a 'zero-hours' climate, with precarity the new norm. The left wasn't adequately prepared for the crisis, and hasn't yet responded with the tools necessary to overturn capitalism's response – austerity.

The left and the working class is currently undergoing a process of reorganisation, where our ideas require rejuvenating and re-energising in order to meet changed conditions and the new challenges facing us today. There is a pressing need to develop more radical alternatives.

There is a pressing need to move beyond the current 'fire-fighting' of much of the left, simply defending an odd service. We must develop a progressive programme for change. The conference was the start. We're in it for the long haul. Join us on the demo on 25 April.

Josh Blamire
@Josh Blamire

End Zero Hour Contracts

The use of zero hours contracts (ZHCs) has grown exponentially in recent years. Many local trade union and civil society campaigns are currently fighting against these exploitative contracts.

A new umbrella campaign is being organized called Liverpool Zero Hours Free Zone (LiverpoolZHFZ). The aim is to bring together those fighting the use of ZHCs, to share experience and tactics, and to support one another's campaigns wherever possible.

One benefit of this boldly titled umbrella campaign is it's increased public awareness - already featured in the Liverpool Echo and shortly to be covered by Channel 4 Dispatches.



We can help garner support from the public and pressurise politicians both locally and nationally. It is no secret that Liverpool City Council has made some positive noises regarding its use of ZHCs, whilst simultaneously outsourcing work to employers who are particularly guilty of using of ZHCs. With a large visible city-wide campaign we can point out this hypocrisy and hold the council to account.

LiverpoolZHFZ is about facilitating and supporting existing anti-ZHC campaigns, not taking over or replacing them. If you are interested in joining your branch's anti-ZHC campaign, or starting one - consider expressing an interest and together we can end these exploitative contracts once and for all - please email: Liverpoolzhfz@gmail.com

International greetings



No Austerity – Coordination, Italy

Austerity is the greatest threat to the lives of workers all over the world. The masses are organizing in every country, from Greece to Brazil, passing through Spain, Portugal and Ireland.

Almost three years ago, a few workers and union activists joined to form a struggle coordination called No Austerity.

The need of an united struggle was so urgent and important that several activists of different political tendencies have joined No Austerity. This has allowed us to create a network of solidarity between different struggles in order to make them stronger. Important to us is also the international solidarity between workers and union activists: for this reason No Austerity is also part of the International union network of solidarity and struggles.

We are now happy to see that in Liverpool there's a conference which is very similar to the one that gave birth to our organization. We hope that this will be the first step of a path that will lead to a stable workers and popular struggle organization against austerity.

Best wishes for the success of your conference.



Solidaires, France

We want to acknowledge the initiative of your conference, which brings together community activists struggling against austerity.

With many others, our trade union organization (Solidaires union federation that has approximately 110,000 members in France) helps strengthen unionism struggles for social transformation, particularly through the international trade union solidarity and network struggles (www.laboursolidarity.org).

Our practice of unionism is to link the defense of the immediate interests of workers with the construction of a powerful struggle for deep social transformation. This implies, in our view, the development of an autonomous unionism from all political parties, which is united, combative, supports the different workers sectors issues and which promotes inter-union and social struggle.

Unifying the fighting carried here and there against different forms of austerity, is fully within this strategy.

At a European level, we participate in the European network of struggle and solidarity, and you are welcome to join us.

Railway workers, Belgium

We are very pleased that through your actions that you kept the Liverpool libraries open! Victories against the austerity plans in Europe are still too few, and they are even more important to make known, in order to give us confidence in our ability to have victories through struggle.

As delegates of the Belgian railway, we resist the dismantling of our public service.

This is what the Europe of capital wants to destroy for the sole benefit of shareholders. We oppose all austerity policies through Europe. We also know that together, all workers, employed and unemployed, in Belgium and across borders, can build a better society.

We cannot be present at your No Austerity conference, but we wish you a good debate to strengthen your action. We would also like to be informed of your prospects, so we may consider perhaps collaboration in the future. Warmly, Public Services (CGSP) General Central Railwaymen - Brussels Region



CSP-Conlutas, Sao Paulo,

As in Europe workers in Brazil face the government's measures that attack labor rights. We are together in the struggle against the austerity measures imposed by governments around the world, and in defending workers' rights and against the flexibilisation of labour laws.

Your conference will be an example of working class democracy for their independence from the government and the bosses, and an important step to organize the fight against these attacks.

Active internationalism is an integral part of the CSP-Conlutas programme and a permanent goal to be sought by our federation

The liberation of the working class from all forms of oppression and exploitation is a task which doesn't fall within the framework of a single country and should be taken at the international level.

In this spirit we greet the participants of the conference "No Austerity" and congratulate your initiative to move forward in our common struggle against austerity plans that attack the working class worldwide.





March for No Austerity: communities and unions

**Keep all
libraries
public
No job
losses**

**Fight zero
hour and
casual
contracts**

**11.30am
Saturday
25 April 2015**

**Assemble at
Central Library
Liverpool.**

**Defend adult
education
services, the
NHS and all
council
services**

**Build our
movement on
the streets!**

**Smash
Sanctions**