

SUPPORT THE POSTAL WORKERS!



Workers at Royal Mail are joining those on the railways and the docks in standing up for their pay and conditions.

Royal Mail postal workers, already on strike on 26 and 31 August in a dispute over pay, have now also voted overwhelmingly for further industrial action over working conditions. The Communication Workers Union (CWU) reported that almost 99 percent of its members voted in favour of taking further strike action on a 72 percent turnout.

Clearly the lead taken by the rail workers and dockers in refusing to take cuts in their pay and working conditions at a time when the cost of living crisis is already pushing people onto the breadline, is having a tonic effect on workers everywhere.

Privateers chasing profits

Royal Mail bosses have blamed workers for the losses the company is making, resorting

to the crudest blackmail and threatening that if there is not a “significant operational change” (that is, unless workers accept the imposition of inferior pay and working conditions) the company will be broken up and jobs will be lost.

Since the privatisation of Royal Mail in 2014, exposing the company to cutthroat competition from rival carriers, it has had mixed fortunes.

When lockdown struck, Royal Mail management chased after elusive profits by cashing in on the boom in online shopping and prioritising parcel traffic. But as the high streets reopened and online shopping took a dip, so too did parcel traffic.

And now, with inflation ballooning and prices rising, consumer spending is contracting across the board. According to Royal Mail itself, the company is losing a million pounds a day.

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Decent pay is the right of all workers

There is a good deal of smoke and mirrors to be encountered in trying to assess the likely future of the company. Although Royal Mail may be losing a million a day, its parent, International Distributions Services, has hived off its profitable overseas operations to yet another entity, called GLS.

Who really knows where the money trail leads? Not into the pockets of postal workers trying to make ends meet, that's for sure.

The problems hitting Royal Mail have not been caused by the workers. The postal workers are right to strike to defend their class interests and they deserve the support of workers everywhere.

And if something as basic and essential as the postal service cannot be run sensibly by the privateers, then let it be brought back into public ownership, and subjected to a national plan dictated by public need, not private greed.

Who are the communists?

Not only do we need to campaign against the bad conditions and lack of prospects for working-class people in Britain today, but we need to work for a completely different type of society – one where people's needs decide everything.

So many problems face this world: environmental catastrophe, poverty, disease, racism and war. They'll never be solved while capitalism remains, but they could all be sorted if society was set up for the benefit of the majority rather than the private gain of a few billionaires.

The Communists refuse to be intimidated by the barrage of lying propaganda that fills Britain's corporate media. It is the capitalists' job to try to stop us from building a socialist society; it is our job to do it anyway!

Our aim is to revive revolutionary Marxism and popularise it amongst the broadest possible sections of our class. Combining knowledge with disciplined organisation is the key to success in the fight against capitalism.

Our membership is youthful, while our leadership is experienced. We may be small, but we are growing. We welcome anyone who is serious and committed to working for a socialist future.

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