



Resolution Date: 10/02/2014

Resolution Title: The Crisis of Political Representation

The following has been submitted as a motion to Unite's Policy Conference 2014:

"This conference recognises that our members have suffered unprecedented hardship since 2008 in the shape of job losses, reduced pay and pension provisions, increased workloads, attacks on terms and conditions, welfare cuts to those in work and without, and a swathe of changes to employment law that tilt the judicial system even more in favour of the establishment and against the working class. From the cradle to the grave, the austerity measures threaten the gains made by working class people since World War two.

Unite has correctly recognised the need to fight austerity both in the political and industrial spheres.

Industrially, Unite has been one of the few unions to position itself as a fighting force to resist cuts, and there is no doubt that the union has played a unique role in the labour movement, organising and supporting lines of resistance in the workplace and wider community. We instruct the executive to continue supporting such action, and, further, to escalate coordinated industrial action at every opportunity. It must continue to argue for this at the TUC, actively explore opportunities for coordinated action by members across and within its own sectors, and must now convene a conference of unions supportive of coordinated action.

However, the Labour Party's commitment to these austerity measures, its disgraceful behavior toward Unite members seeking election in Falkirk and elsewhere, and its lack of democratic decision making over party policy, all mean that there is little sign that Labour will give political power to working people. Whilst Unite pursues its strategy of working with the Labour Party, therefore, it must simultaneously consider potential alternatives to Labour should this strategy fail. The working class cannot afford to wait to see if the Labour Party will change direction and transform itself into a champion of the working class, before starting to develop an alternative political strategy. Unite should start this process now by hosting an open meeting on the crisis of political representation for the working class. "