

# Build and extend the mass movement

REVOLUTION LEAFLET TO NCAFC CONFERENCE, 22 JAN 2011

THE NCAFC national conference today is one of the most important days in the student calendar this year.

We will be amending and voting on the structures that NCAFC needs to go forward.

We will also be voting and amending on the tactics and strategy that we believe the wider education movement needs to take up in the months ahead if we are to defeat the ConDems and beat their cuts.

The draft Battleplan that will be discussed today was put forward to an NCAFC meeting a few weeks back by REVOLUTION members. It outlines the need to build the broadest unity against all the cuts - by linking up with trade unions and anticuts campaigns to form the broadest possible movement. We believe that the NCAFC should affiliate to the **Coalition of Resistance** to bring our struggles together.

Some people in the student movement have questioned the above approach. After all, the radicalism of youth and students taking to the streets in November and December seemed to rock the government far more than the bureaucratic and slow-moving trade unions have in recent years.

But the truth is students can't stop the cuts alone. The brutal slashing of everything from healthcare to council services means we need to build a movement that reaches into every corner of

every community and workplace, building up to a truly mass movement that can bring millions on to the streets and onto the picket lines. In the run up to the TUC demonstration on **26 March**, this is vital and gives us a chance to argue among thousands of people that we can and should coordinate industrial action and protests up to and including a **general strike** to bring the government down.

Orienting to the unions doesn't mean that the great struggles of students and youth are unimportant. Nor does it mean taking a back seat and letting the leaders of the Labour Party and Trade Unions call the shots.

On the contrary - it is our job to go to every picket line and support workers striking for their jobs, challenge the trade union leaders to call and support our demonstrations, and push the unions into action and challenge their leaderships to go further.

When the NUS refused to take the necessary action to fight fees and cuts we tried to work with them where ever possible, but we went alone when we had to and demanded they followed our lead. The same will apply to the struggles ahead.

In the next few months we have everything to play for. We've already shown how students and youth alone shook the ConDem government. Now, together, united we can break them.



## Vote for democracy

NCAFC's loose network structure worked well when the organisation was first set up at a conference last February.

But with our increasing role in movement, we've had to make important decisions every single day - from whether to call an emergency protest in response to a government announcement, to what to say in media interviews.

We can't let these important tasks fall only upon those who are willing to take them up. It overburdens a few individuals with work, and more importantly reduces accountability to other NCAFC supporters if our leadership is self-appointed rather than elected by a majority.

That's why it is vital that this conference makes steps towards having more of a structure. It will make NCAFC more democratic, not less.

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