

# ANN UAL REP ORT

2008-2009

compass

DIRECTION FOR  
THE DEMOCRATIC LEFT



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# Introduction

The following report outlines the main work and progress of Compass from March 2008 through to early September 2009. For legal requirements we're required to file an annual report for the financial year which runs from March-March, for the benefit of members we've included an update to September 2009 when this report was written.

We are very pleased with the success and achievements of Compass during this past year, which has been the busiest and most proactive 12 months the organisation has ever been though in its 6 years of existence, the flurry of activity and output has been non-stop!

Looking back 2008/2009 saw some clear milestone successes both politically and organisationally for Compass. Snap shots include the launch of our revolutionary process to generate new and popular ideas for these changed times with our *How To Live In The 21st Century* policy competition where we encouraged people to submit and debate policy ideas; to organise meetings in their homes and we ran a series of regional ideas forums across the country - over 200 policies were submitted and then voted on by our members – our biggest ever exercise in membership democracy. In the last 12 months we have continued to campaign for a windfall tax, whilst at the same time launching new campaigns including on tax justice in the run-up to the 2009 Budget, the groundbreaking campaign with the CWU to Keep The Post Public which included a crucial win with the government shelving its plans and most recently our campaign for a High Pay Commission. We held our biggest-ever National Conference *No Turning Back* which was attended by around 1500 people. Finally we have produced a record number of evidence and research based reports. So it's been a year of producing a tonne of ideas coupled with a tonne of action! Through all of our work Compass has now firmly positioned itself as the leading political voice on the left of British politics.

Politically we have seen another disastrous year of a Labour Government and an embattled Prime Minister in perpetual crisis, what's been most disappointing perhaps has been the sheer failure of the government to seize the opportunities put right under its nose that the economic crisis offered in terms of fashioning in a new economic and political settlement for the 21st Century. As a result of that wasted opportunity Labour has conceded yet even more political ground to the Tories with the prospect of a deep and damaging public spending cuts agenda. Throughout this year it has often felt that it has only been Compass advocating the alternative centre-left policy agenda needed to reverse Labour's fortunes and that could build a lasting progressive consensus. That's not to say that there haven't been glimmers of hope on the horizon: this was the year that a younger generation of progressive Labour politicians started to make headway – first we saw the selection of Chuka Umunna in Streatham and second the election of Sam Tarry as Chair of Young Labour, both were high-profile advocates of Compass who stood against orthodox New Labour candidates and won.

Organisationally Compass continues to grow. Our headline membership figure is 4000, whilst we can now boast we have a combined total of over 30,000 members and supporters across the country. Compass Local Groups are increasingly autonomously organising a wide-range of activities throughout the year in synergy with the national organisation, with new groups cropping up all the time. It should also be noted that most significantly this year we were able to employ a new full-time member of staff thanks to individual donations from our members and supporters – a major achievement.

Importantly this leads us onto the finances. Financially we are still constantly restrained and our development as an organisation is always limited by this fact. Whilst we have raised more money this year than in any previous year, it must be noted that the only way we will ensure we are fully self-sustaining is through increased membership and supporter donations. So it is





crucial that we put significant priority in doing all we can to build both our membership and supporters base quickly all of the time. If you can afford a donation then please see the back of this annual report and fill in the form.

In terms of the year ahead we need to focus our energy on building the ideas and organisation for a lasting progressive consensus. In this we can learn from the momentous events in the United States and the election of Barack Obama. Whilst his progressive platform may not be perfect, there is no getting away from the fact that the reason he succeeded was because he built a significant coalition and movement for change, that has not only handed the Democrats electoral success, but is now being used to defend and promote the President's record in office – whether on healthcare reform or on getting through his Budget and fiscal stimulus. If New Labour's political project was modeled on 5 people at the top, then our model must be built on the involvement, inclusion and engagement of 1000's if not millions of people across Britain in building a progressive consensus and a movement for change from the bottom up.

Finally in all that we do and in moving forward let's remember that bold ideas such as the welfare state, the creation of the NHS, devolution, the Low Pay Commission that led to the first-ever minimum wage or the windfall tax on the privatized utilities did not come about in a matter of months, they took years sometimes decades of persistent campaigning to bring to life and whilst we should do all we can to ensure it doesn't take us quite so long to bring our ideas and vision of the good society into reality, we should recognise that it will take significant tenacity, energy, resource and time to fully realize our dream of a lasting progressive consensus worthy of such a name.

So the challenge in the year and indeed years ahead is, as we set out in the Political Priorities and Positioning Statement, to create the infrastructure to build a lasting progressive consensus both up to and after the 2010 general election and beyond.

**If you've any questions about the work we've done or are planning to do we'd be delighted to discuss this with you. We'd also encourage you to submit your ideas and amendments to the Political Priorities and Positioning Statement (PPPS) in time for the AGM on Saturday 14 November 2009.**

# Members and supporters

Membership has continued to surge ahead this year and within reach of our annual targets set in last year's PPPS. Membership has grown from 1500 in March 2006, to 2312 in June 2007, to 2948 in August 2008 and now stands at 3625 in August 2009, with a headline figure rounded up to 4000. With planned activities we should set ourselves an ambitious target of reaching 5000 members by November 2010.

Equally our supporters email list has continued to grow, from just over 15,000 in August 2008 to stand at just over 25,000 in August 2009. Our goal over the next year should be to build our supporters list to 45,000 by November 2010.

Compass therefore now has just below 30,000 members and supporters across the country.

**MEMBERSHIP ACTION:** If you'd like to help us recruit people, then please encourage your friends, family and work colleagues to become members or supporters of Compass. Or if you can help us to get a recruitment leaflet/free insert into a relevant mailing (your local CLP newsletter, trade union branch, community action group mailing etc) then please get in touch.

## Local groups

Local Groups now meet across the UK with voluntary Regional Co-ordinators in the North East (Newcastle), North West (Manchester), West Midlands (Birmingham), East Midlands (Nottingham), Yorkshire and the Humber (Leeds), East Anglia (Norwich/Cambridge), South East (Southampton), Scotland and Wales. New local groups are soon to be established in the South West (Bristol) and in Oxford. Local groups meet to discuss political ideas, organise local meetings/conferences and to discuss and organise local campaigns.

Full contact details of the co-ordinators can be found on the Compass website. Further new local groups will be established in 2009/2010 as well as the further development of those that already exist.

**MEMBERSHIP ACTION:** If you'd like to be a regional, city or town co-ordinator, and dedicate your time and set up a new group in your area, then please get in touch – over the next 12 months Compass General Secretary Gavin Hayes and Campaigns Organiser Joe Cox will be visiting key people and Compass members across the country in order to help encourage and organise new local groups.



# Events

A packed array of excellent debates, discussions, seminars, conferences and other events have been organised throughout the year:

## Labour Party Conference

SEPTEMBER 2008 (MANCHESTER)

We held a wide-range of events at Labour Party conference in 2008. This included our biggest-ever rally which we held in collaboration with UNISON and Tribune. Speakers included: Jon Trickett MP, Douglas Alexander MP, Ed Miliband MP, John Denham MP, Neal Lawson, Polly Toynbee, Baroness Helena Kennedy QC and others. Other events were held throughout the week including on immigration, domestic violence and a debate on how Labour wins a 4th term.



## After market meltdown - a new age for the active state?

WESTMINSTER DEBATE – NOVEMBER 2008

The meeting took place after the major market meltdown in the autumn of 2008 including the collapse of Lehman Brothers. Speakers included: Angela Eagle MP, Jon Cruddas MP, *The Guardian's* Larry Elliott, nee economist Andrew Simms, Ann Pettifor author of *The coming first world debt crisis* and was chaired by Neal Lawson.

## In Government We Trust: Market Failure and the delusions of privatisation

WESTMINSTER DEBATE – JANUARY 2009

This event focussed on discussing a new and exciting book by Warrick Funnell, Robert Jupe, and Jane Andrew. Speakers included: Neal Lawson, Warwick Funnell (author) and Jon Cruddas MP.

## Living In The 21st Century Ideas Forums

FEBRUARY 2009 (EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM, LEEDS, MANCHESTER, NOTTINGHAM, & SOUTHAMPTON)

As part of our *How To Live In The 21st Century* policy competition we held a major roadshow across the country. These 7 meetings were all well attended and attracted high profile speakers including – John Denham MP; Chuka Umunna; Neal Lawson; John Harris, *The Guardian*; Wes Streeting, NUS President; Prof Ruth Lister CBE; Alan Whitehead MP and many more.

These events were typically led by an assigned Ideas Facilitator, who were joined by a speaker from Compass who opened the session with a few remarks on the project, followed by a short 45 minute opening panel to stimulate discussion with questions and points from participants. Participants at the event then broke up into smaller groups on each of the policy themes (equality, democracy, solidarity, liberty, sustainability). These smaller groups then discussed the themes and came up with policy ideas for about an hour and then reported their ideas and discussions back to the whole group.

As well as the formal events around the country, emulating the grassroots techniques used by the Obama for America campaign, we also encouraged people to host their very own '**21st Century Ideas from your Living Room**' events. This involved encouraging the organisation of ideas generating meetings in people's homes. These were smaller events with friends and colleagues to also feed into the process. The idea behind this was to encourage grassroots discussion, debate and involvement from the bottom up into the policy competition.

## Crisis to change: time to create a sustainable economy

MARCH 2009 (DUNDEE / SCOTTISH LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE)

We held a fantastic and well-attended debate at the Labour Party Scottish Conference in Dundee.

Speakers included: Neal Lawson, Chair, Compass; Professor Paul Thompson, Renewal; Sarah Boyak MSP Shadow Cabinet Secretary for the Environment & Transport; Cllr Willie Sullivan, Convenor, Compass Scotland (Chair).



### Trains, Planes and Automobiles, or People, Places and Planet?

MARCH 2009 (BIRMINGHAM)

In this event Compass set out to explore the issues around the creation of a sustainable transport system for the West Midlands. How should we balance the needs of the regional transport system with those of the national system? How do we balance the sustainability economy with the business economy? Speakers included: Christian Wolmar and Chris Crean from Friends of the Earth West Midlands



### No Turning Back Westminster Debate

MARCH 2009

Held just days before the G20 summit of world leaders, the event debated alternatives to the economic policy of the last three decades. Speakers included: Neal Lawson, Ann Pettifor, John Harris and Jon Cruddas MP.

### Global Economic Summit

MARCH 2009

This high-profile economic summit took place the week before the G20 meeting in London. The conference was organised around seven roundtable discussions dedicated to seven key areas: Counter cyclical measures; Reform of multi-lateral organisations; The role of the state; The core economy; Equality; Climate change and Debt and development. The event included contributions from Will Hutton, The Work Foundation; Larry Elliott, *The Guardian*; Prof Jayati Ghosh; Jon Cruddas MP; Neal Lawson, Chair, Compass and Andrew Simms, Policy Director, nef (the new economics foundation). The event was also kindly supported by ASLEF, CWU, The Fabian Society, Global Policy Institute, IPPR, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Public Interest Foundation and the TUC.

### Tax Justice Rally

APRIL 2009

The rally coincided with our major campaign on tax justice in the run-up to the 2009 Budget. Speakers included: Angela Eagle MP, HM Treasury; Jon Cruddas MP; Richard Murphy of Tax Justice Network UK; Kate Green of Child Poverty Action Group; Adam Lent of the TUC; Tim Horton, The Fabian Society; Hugh Lanning, Deputy General Secretary, PCS.

### Homes for People

WESTMINSTER DEBATE – APRIL 2009

This debate coincided with the publication of our major housing report *Don't bet the house on it – no turning back to housing boom and bust* speakers included: Jon Cruddas MP; Toby Lloyd; Heather Wakefield from UNISON; Nicky Gavron AM and Neal Lawson (chair).

### Women in the recession: Gender equality and the economic crisis

MAY 2009

Compass and the Fawcett Society hosted a joint event at the Houses of Parliament, to discuss gender in relation to the current economic crisis. Speakers included Katherine Rake, Director of the Fawcett Society and Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP QC, Prof Ruth Lister CBE and Larry Elliott from *The Guardian*.

### Public Service Reform...but not as we know it!

WESTMINSTER DEBATE – MAY 2009

Compass held an event in Parliament to launch a fantastic new book by Hilary Wainwright (with Mathew Little) called *Public Service Reform...But Not As We Know It!* Confirmed speakers at the launch included Hilary Wainwright (author); Jon Cruddas MP and Kenny Bell, UNISON and Heather Wakefield UNISON.



### Keep The Post Public Regional Rally Roadshow

MAY 2009 (GLASGOW, NOTTINGHAM, SOUTHAMPTON, BRISTOL, NEWCASTLE, LEEDS)

These rallies coincided with the Keep The Post Public campaign taking place all across the UK. Speakers at these meetings included: Billy Hayes, Neal Lawson, Alan Whitehead MP, Glyn Ford MEP, Sharon Hodgson MP and many more.

### Compass National Conference: *No Turning Back*

JUNE 2009

Our Robin Cook Memorial and Compass National Conference was yet again a tremendous success, with this year nearly 1500 people in total in attendance throughout the day. The key achievement was to successfully bring together a platform of progressive speakers from both inside and outside the Labour Party which included: Neal Lawson, Billy Hayes, Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, John Hilary from War on Want, Caroline Lucas MEP, Chuka Umunna, Evan Harris MP, Ruth Lister, Helena Kennedy, Polly Toynbee, Jon Cruddas and many more.



### The Communitarian Face Off

JULY 2009

This event saw us debate key people associated with Red Toryism or Progressive Conservatism. Key speakers included: Jon Cruddas MP and Neal Lawson from the Left alongside Oliver Letwin MP and Philip Blond from the Right.

### Compass Organising Academy

AUGUST 2009

This summer school event gathered 30 of our key activists across the country together for an evening and a day of campaign training based on the Obama for America Campaign organising model and was led by Karin Robinson former Head of Field Operations (Europe) for the Obama for America Campaign.

### The Compass Summer Lecture: *The Future of Social Democracy*

SEPTEMBER 2009

A new addition to the Compass calendar this event completely sold out of tickets within 10 days of being advertised. The event set out a route-map for Labour's renewal in office and was delivered by Jon Cruddas MP with Prof Doreen Massey, Polly Toynbee, Evan Harris MP and Rt Hon James Purnell MP responding.

### Other speaking events

Management committee members, staff, regional co-ordinators and key Compass activists have spoken at a wide-range of other external meetings throughout the year.

**MEMBERSHIP ACTION:** If you'd like a Compass speaker to address a meeting, or are interested in organising a Compass meeting of your own please get in touch.

# Campaigns

This year has been a highly successful year in campaigns for Compass and we've yet again proved our effectiveness at building coalitions and co-ordinating our campaign objectives with a range of progressive organisations, NGOs and individuals to deliver hard hitting and effective campaigns that bring about a more democratic, equal and sustainable world.

We have recently run some fantastic national campaigns: on the Windfall Tax last summer, on Tax Justice in the run up to the 2009 budget, our crucial campaign that stopped the privatisation of the Royal Mail and most recently our calls for a High Pay Commission. However the challenge ahead is also to build campaigns not just from the top down but from the bottom up – encouraging and building the capacity for community action and greater self-organisation around campaigns at the local level - that we effectively join up internet and grassroots mobilisation.

It has been fantastic that thanks to individual donations from our members and supporters that this year we have been able to employ Joe Cox our new Campaigns Organiser who started work for us in June, this has enabled us to increase our capacity to organise campaigns and make a bigger impact.

In addition to employing Joe we have also brought online new web-based campaigning tools which compliment Joe's appointment and will enable us to make it easier for our members and supporters to take action and organise more easily around Compass campaigns.

Both Joe's appointment and the deployment of the online tools are crucial in increasing Compass's campaigning capacity and in building the organisation.

The membership of political parties is falling all over the developed world but campaign groups are more popular than ever. This phenomena combined with the use of social networking has created new challenges and opportunities for campaigners. We now have a host of progressive campaigning models from the Obama for America campaign, Move On, to London Citizens and HOPE not hate that all combine internet organisation with grassroots mobilisation. We have to learn from these organisations and use many of these techniques to our advantage.

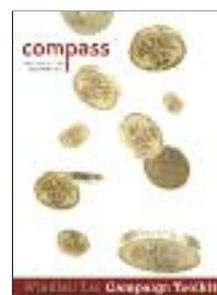
With our *How To Live In The 21st Century* policy competition concluded Compass needs to think strategically about organisation and campaigning that reaches beyond an increasingly hollow Labour Party. In the next year we need to continue to create a unique space inside and outside of Parliament where ideas and organisation can be brought together and more crucially acted upon through campaigning.

There is now massive opportunity for campaigning for a new politics that can create a more democratic, equal and sustainable society: there has never been a better time to build the ideas and crucially the support for a new progressive consensus – this is the priority for Compass's campaigning in the year ahead.

A list of our major campaigns in the last 12 months is below:

## A windfall for social and environmental justice

Throughout 2008 Compass campaigned for the Government to introduce a Windfall Tax on the profits of energy companies. Following the rising cost of fuel and energy the campaign aimed for a one-off windfall tax on energy company profits to be used to pay for greater environmental and social justice and, in particular, fuel poverty relief. The campaign attracted major support amongst MPs, over 120 MPs, 12 PPSs and the Chair of the PLP signed the petition calling on the Government to implement the tax. Rob Marris MP, then PPS to the Northern Ireland Secretary, went so far as to discuss resignation over the matter and Labour Conference voted to send the proposal to be considered by the National Policy Forum. Whilst a Windfall Tax did not materialise the level of support for the proposal was such that the



Government announced £910m of measures designed to deal with fuel poverty. These proposals included, free loft and cavity wall insulation for those on benefits, half price insulation for every household, an increase in cold weather payments and a freeze on this year's fuel bills for a number of the poorest households.

### Closing in for Tax Justice

Compass has had a long-standing commitment to creating a higher tax-band for top-earners. In the run-up to the 2009 Budget Compass ran a week long quick-fire campaign against personal tax avoidance, encouraging people to write to the chancellor with a number of key demands. In the Budget announcement the Government declared that they would implement three of these demands: the abolition of tax relief for those at the top, the introduction of a new 50% tax rate (in 2010, rather than the earlier proposal of 2011) and the closure of personal tax avoidance loopholes. These moves were widely heralded as – perhaps – the most progressive step the Government has taken since it came to power in 1997.



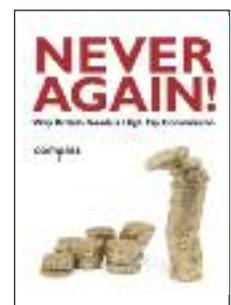
### Keep The Post Public

Throughout late 2008 through to summer 2009, Compass in collaboration with the CWU successfully campaigned hard against the government's proposed plans to part-privatise the Royal Mail and the Post Office. The campaign not only saw us effectively made the case against privatisation including the publication of our report *Case Not Made* but through effectively advocating a positive alternative to the government's plans outlined in our publication *Modernisation By Consent*. Our campaign was supported by over 179 MPs who signed EDM 428 in opposition to the government's plans. Through the campaign we also attracted a further 6000 supporters.



### A High Pay Commission for a just & sustainable economy

In August 2009 we launched our latest campaign for a High Pay Commission with the publication of a major statement signed by over 100 high-profile signatories including Vince Cable MP, Jon Cruddas MP, the TUC's Brendan Barber, Caroline Lucas MEP and many more. The campaign has attracted high profile media attention and helped to move the debate on - away from MPs expenses and the spotlight firmly back on the so-called 'masters of the universe' in the City who caused the current economic crisis in the first place. So far over 1000 people have emailed the Chancellor demanding a High Pay Commission, we hope to see the debate prioritised as a contemporary debate at Labour Party Conference, with further campaign action in the run-up to the pre-budget report. We believe given the biggest economic crisis since the 1930s and given the significant role excessive pay and bonuses played in bringing about that crisis, that it is right that the government instigate an evidence and fact based enquiry into the effects of high pay on our economy and on society. Ultimately if the government refuse to establish a High Pay Commission it is our plan to set up our own independent commission ourselves.



**MEMBERSHIP ACTION:** You can sign up and take action on Compass campaigns on the website. Whenever we run a campaign we'd encourage you to get involved as much as possible with campaign related activities, like responding to our consultations or e-petitions, writing to your MP, or writing a letter to your local paper. We now have dedicated web-based tools that mean you can assist us in our campaigns in just a few easy clicks. To get more involved in our campaigns please get in touch.

# Research, Policy & Publications

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



Through sticking to core principles and pursuing a dynamic research agenda Compass over the next year will continue to influence the debate. Our work will look to develop around core concepts of Equality, Democracy and Sustainability. To this end Compass will be undertaking our most ambitious research agenda yet and taking on the big issues of Tax, Banking, Europe, Environment, Gender, and Education. This will form the base of work we will be carrying out over the coming year which endeavours to put in concrete terms how we could start to build the good society.

This work will build on the How to Live in the 21st Century project which was completed earlier this year. The How to Live in the 21st Century has and will inform our campaigning and research decisions over the coming year and in the run up to the next election and these winning ideas will be built on as we put together a comprehensive agenda in the form of an alternative manifesto which will be launched early in the New Year.

Over the last 12 months we have engaged with numerous academics and organisations to form networks alliances to support the research we are carrying out. Over the next year these will be built on to create a compelling and evidence based case for more progressive politics. While we will continue to build alliances with other organisations and individuals over the coming year the key networks are as follows:

- **Education** – we are forming a wide reaching network of individuals led by academics at the Institute of Education to build a cohesive vision of education – initially this will take place over the next 18 months to two years and will involve seminars and round-table events and the publication of policy and ideas papers.
- **Banking** – the collapse of Northern Rock is an important story of how a crisis in the abstracted world of finance affects communities. Supported by the Millfield House Foundation, and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation, and essential donations from our members and supporters we will be conducting a wide reaching analysis of the banking sector – tied into the story of Northern Rock.
- **Environment** – through the formation of networks and alliances with Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and other organisations and individuals Compass is working to produce a report on Copenhagen and beyond. We will also be publishing work which ties in the case for environmental justice and sustainability with concerns for social justice and building the fair society.
- **Tax** – over the last year Compass has been working with a group of tax and spend experts and has put together a ground breaking report on reforming the tax system over the coming years. This report will show how we can make tax more progressive and illustrate how it can be used to build the good society.
- **Europe** – Since the publication for “Building the Good Society” we have been working with individuals across Europe. Building a fair social Europe is key to building the good society nationally. For too long Europe has been a divisive issue – we believe that through working with like minded individuals across Europe we can start to put together the necessary ground work to ensure the evidence base is there to build the good society internationally as well as nationally.

**Over the last year we have published new and exciting work – which develops the body of evidence informing the work Compass does.**

## Never Again! Why Britain needs a High Pay Commission

BY JOE COX

Published a year on from the collapse of Lehman Brothers this publication argues very little has

been learned. The system of compensation that helped cause the crisis has not gone away and rescuing the financial system without real reform has not protected us from a future crisis. This publication outlines the arguments for a High Pay Commission to instigate a public investigation into the effects of excessive pay on our economy and society.

### In pursuit of egalitarianism: and why social mobility cannot get us there

BY REBECCA HICKMAN

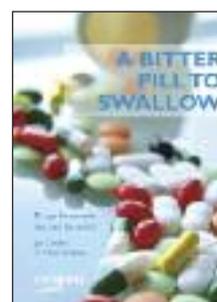
New report by Rebecca Hickman, entitled "In pursuit of egalitarianism: and why social mobility cannot get us there" offers a compelling vision of the good society and a strong critique of the incoherent concept of "social mobility". A riposte to Alan Milburn's recent work on social mobility and to New Labour's continuing confusion of aspiration with acquisition, the report highlights how large inequalities harm us all and corrode the social fabric.



### A Bitter Pill to Swallow: Drugs for people not for profit

BY JON CRUDDAS MP AND ZOE GANNON

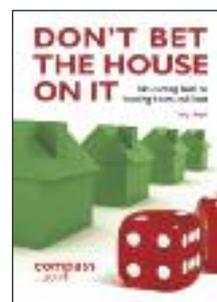
This report discusses the current state of the pharmaceutical industry - particularly in relation to the UK. It draws on a large body of evidence to highlight the key issues in the pharmaceutical industry - looking specifically at rates of innovation, clinical trials, and its relationship with the medical profession. It goes on to call for an improved regulatory structure to ensure that the industry delivers the drugs we need at prices which we can afford.



### Don't bet the house on it: No turning back to housing boom and bust

BY TOBY LLOYD

This latest Compass publication written by Toby Lloyd and published with the kind support of UNISON's General Political Fund, the TUC and Shelter is an essential overview of the current state of housing in the UK. As well as presenting a clear and comprehensive picture of how and why the housing system has failed us, the report provides an easily approachable discussion of the measures needed to get out of this mess and create an equitable, sustainable housing system that delivers the quality homes we all need at fair prices.



### Modernisation By Consent

BY NEAL LAWSON

This report outlines our own alternative proposals to the government's plan to part-privatise Royal Mail and the Post Office, we set out a positive vision for a modern post service that remains in public hands. This report has two sections. In the first we examine why privatisation is the wrong answer to the problems Royal Mail and Post Office Counters face; in the second we set out a range of governance, investment and industrial relations reforms that could form the basis of a new model for Royal Mail that avoids privatisation but enables the modernisation of the service in terms of investment and improved industrial relations.

### Public Service Reform...But Not As We Know It!

BY HILARY WAINWRIGHT WITH MATHEW LITTLE

The book tells a fascinating story of how by strengthening democracy, involving workers and citizens we can transform public services. The book truly kicks privatisation into touch!

### Tax Avoidance: we're closing in

A full range dossier: we're targeting tax avoidance with a document full of facts! Compass takes

personal tax avoidance very seriously indeed! Although the vast majority of people who pay their taxes are honest, those who avoid their taxes, often very wealthy individuals, are picking the pockets of law-abiding taxpayers. In 2008-09 the TUC estimates that tax avoiders effectively stole an estimated £13 billion from public funds, that's why we are determined that the government should close in on them! This dossier outlines all the facts and figures.

### Building the Good Society: the project of the democratic left

BY JON CRUDDAS MP & ANDREA NAHLES

Ten years ago Tony Blair and Gerhard Schroeder produced their declaration of the European third way. To mark this anniversary Compass and its counterparts in the SPD in Germany have published a new declaration. It offers an alternative project to build a post- crisis social Europe, and forms the start of a debate across the European centre-left.



### Case Not Made

This document is intended to review some of the findings and conclusions of the Hooper Report on the provision of the universal postal service and, in particular, the validity of those conclusions and the quality of the evidence provided for them. The purpose of this report is to highlight those areas where we believe further evidence or analysis is required before it would be responsible to adopt the report's recommendations.



### Windfall Tax Campaign Toolkit

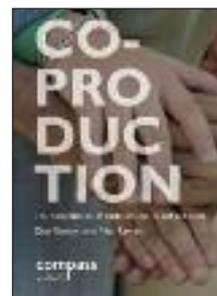
BY JENNA KHALFAN & GEMMA TUMELTY

The Windfall Tax Campaign Toolkit has been specifically designed to encourage grassroots local action in support of a windfall tax on energy and oil companies. The toolkit is an essential step by step campaigning guide.

### Co-production

BY ZOE GANNON AND NEAL LAWSON

This pamphlet continues our work on reforming the public services. Through case studies and examples this project explores the increasingly popular term "Co-production". It sees co-production as a deeply practical method for improving services. It is about the recognition of mutual interests, co-operation and participation and has the strong moral purpose of building communities and social networks based on the practice of "what works". We would like to thank UNISON for their continued support and advice.



**MEMBERSHIP ACTION:** Ask your local bookshop and library to stock Compass publications, or donate your old Compass publications to your local community or advice centres. You could also ask your local trade union and CLP to subscribe to Compass and get our publications. Did you know all Compass publications can be debated on the Compass website? Why not make your own contributions?

## E-communications & website

In October 2008 we re-launched the website with a brand new look and feel to make it more user-friendly and accessible to our members and supporters.

New facilities included: the ability to tag articles like a blog; our Compass TV/YouTube channel fully integrated into the site; Compass in pictures; integration of our presence on social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter; Compass Thinkcasts; a better events calendar and much else.

The site now attracts up to 160,000 active user sessions a month, up from 100,000 this time last year.

As mentioned above our email supporters list has grown from 16,000 to just under 30,000 – the most effective way that we can communicate with a large body of progressive activists across the country.

The campaigning and action based side of the website has been further developed in summer 2009 with us bringing online a platform of web-based campaigning tools that make it easy for our supporters and activists to take action at the click of a button.



**MEMBERSHIP ACTION: We welcome comment, debate and contributions from members on our website, both on the main news page, as well as on the 'Compass Debates' members-only section. If you have ideas for articles or thinkpieces please get in touch. Please do add your comments/views on a regular basis.**

## Media coverage

We have continued to have a very high media presence this year, this has been greatly assisted through our increased level of campaigning. Compass is regularly represented on BBC News 24, Sky News, the Today Programme, BBC Newsnight, The Politics Show and other key programmes. In fact it was quite incredible how much media coverage we receive given our limited capacity. A small selection of positive press coverage can be found below:

**“the Left has finally found a voice...(Compass) has become a serious organising force, one of the most serious, on the Left”.**

Editorial, The Times, August 2009

**“Compass is the sharpest political movement because it is trying to be not a party, but a framework taking in disparate groups.”**

Polly Toynbee, The Guardian, May 2009

**“If there was a star of the fringe, it was Compass. The fresh energy and even excitement of the left-leaning group's meetings managed to revive many spirits.”**

Decca Aitkenhead, The Guardian, October 2008

**“As the centre of gravity in the party shifts to the left...the pressure group Compass becomes increasingly influential...”**

Andrew Sparrow, The Guardian, September 2008

A full list of media coverage can be found on the press page of our website.



We all see how politicians are using taxpayers' money to build houses for ducks rather than homes for people. But that's what goes on inside Westminster. In the real world, people are getting sacked, evicted and left on the scrapheap.

And young people are getting hit the hardest. In society they are asked to wait their turn, they are the "next generation", but next never means now.

With the crisis we face, young people are crying out for a new way of doing politics. It's not that they're not interested in politics, it's that they see no way of being able to make change happen.

**We listen to what issues matter to young people and work out with them what they can do about it**, organising sessions at:

- Progressive London, for people to come up with policies to improve the lives of young Londoners
- Compass Conference, on how young people can work together to win progressive change, as well as speakers at the education, housing, student debt and tax justice seminars
- Brussels to discuss with PES, ECOSY and SOLIDAR activists what issues we should campaign on across Europe

We also filmed young people asking them their policies to submit to the How to Live in the 21st Century policy competition.

**We try and understand how young people are experiencing the recession, as well as their hopes for the changes they would like**, working with:

- TUC Young Members Forum, to discuss what impacts the recession is having and how we campaign for young people in and out of work
- Vote for a Change, touring London to film young people with Ed the Duck on what they would do if they were MP for a day
- Soundings, on the Radical Future project, linking analysis and personal experiences of young people to get an understanding of the society we live in and how we can change it

*Do you want to organise a session on your campus or neighbourhood to find out what issues matter to young people and work with us to develop campaigns on these? Contact us now!*

**We develop young people's skills so they can campaign on the issues that matter to them with others**

We're always amazed by the passion of members we meet and your energy in making change happen. That's why we joined up with

- Toynbee Hall & we20 to develop Campaigns Camp where young people developed their skills on campaigning techniques with facilitators and got involved with other young people to try these out to create new campaigns
- Newer Labour and Blue State Digital to learn the lessons of the Obama campaign and see how people could apply them where they lived
- Put People First on how activists can mobilise for jobs, justice and climate change

We've also produced various toolkits to enable you to develop participative policy workshops, campaign in the community, get elected and run a campaign game.

We're now developing this Campaigns Camp programme, bringing the best organisers to train young activists to campaign on the issues that matter to you.

*Are any areas you want training on or even want to help organise? Contact us now!*

### **We support campaigns that young people want to organise**

That's why we worked with "Organising for Change" to run Sam Tarry's campaign for Young Labour Chair and other candidates across the country, leading to the most successful campaign by the young democratic left.

Working with local activists, our campaign video in Manchester went viral across the city and became the second most viewed video in the UK with 185,000 views.

We mobilised activists for rallies at Put People First, Strangers for Citizens, Unite for Iran, Vote for a Change and 10:10 and have just recruited 15 campus coordinators. We also organised festivals in London, Northampton and Bristol.

We have also recently launched our first ever magazine Compass Points, which includes a mix of articles, cartoons, guides, quotes and calls for action.

*Do you want to make sure that we give a stronger platform to all our members, especially women, disabled, BME, LGBT and working class so you can make Compass Youth more diverse and more accountable? Do you want to organise on campus? Contact us now!*

We want to make sure that for each of you, Compass Youth can be exciting and rewarding. We want you to be able to have your say and do something about it with others where you are. Don't just get people on your dancefloor, get them to run the show and they'll join your revolution.

Come and see us at the AGM or contact us at [youthchair@compassonline.org.uk](mailto:youthchair@compassonline.org.uk).

## Other networks

In 2009/2010 it is our intention to further develop existing networks and set up new networks, including local government and trade union networks – this will further help build our organisational capacity.

## Staff and office

The organisation now employs 3 full-time members of staff. These are Gavin Hayes, General Secretary; Zoe Gannon, Research Co-Ordinator and Joe Cox, Campaigns Organiser. We are based in a dedicated office space at Southbank House near to Vauxhall. The office also has a team of enthusiastic interns throughout the year. We would like to make clear that the only way we have been able to increase our staffing this year has been through individual and regular donations from our members and supporters, we can only maintain our current staff capacity with ongoing financial support.

# Management Committee members

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2008/2009 WERE: Neal Lawson (Chair); Willie Sullivan (Vice Chair / Scotland Rep); Mark Cooke (Treasurer); Jon Cruddas MP (PLP); Meg Russell; Chuka Umunna, Neil Foster; Ben Folley; Anna Helga Horrox; Gemma Tumelty; Alan Finlayson (Wales Rep); Jenna Khalfan; Joy Johnson; Sam Tarry (Compass Youth).

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2009/2010 ARE: Neal Lawson (Chair); Sue Goss (Vice Chair); Mark Cooke (Treasurer); Meg Russell; Jon Cruddas MP (PLP); Willie Sullivan (Scotland Rep); Matthew Hall (Wales Rep); Sam Tarry; Ben Folley; Jenna Khalfan; Gemma Tumelty; Joy Johnson; Andy Howell; Noel Hatch (Compass Youth).

Gavin Hayes, the General Secretary of Compass, also serves the committee as its Secretary but as a full-time member of staff does not have voting rights.

## Donors

In the interests of transparency Compass publish all donations and project funding of £5000 or over, this excludes smaller donations and income including membership subscriptions. Below are details of funding and grants awarded to Compass of £5000 or over for 2008/2009. We'd like to pay tribute and thanks to all the organisations and individuals who've given funding to Compass over the past 12 months and in the coming year ahead.

### Donations of over £5,000 during 2008-9

Apr-08	Barrow Cadbury Trust	£25,000	21st century project
Apr-08	The Barry Amiel & Norman Melburn Trust	£9,000	21st century project
Apr-08	Unison	£10,000	Co-production publication
May-08	Green Alliance (as a conduit for the Polden Puckham Foundation	£9,496	Environment project
Jun-08	Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd	£7,750	21st century project
Jun-08	Unite	£10,000	Compass annual conference sponsorship
Jul-08	Unison	£10,000	Core funding
Sep-08	Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd	£11,000	21st century project
Sep-08	Unite	£10,000	Compass annual conference sponsorship
Sep-08	Unite	£10,000	Core funding
Dec-08	Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd	£7,750	21st century project
Dec-08	Barrow Cadbury Trust	£10,000	21st century project
Feb-09	TUC	£5,000	Housing Project
Mar-09	Unison	£5,000	Housing Project
Mar-09	Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd	£7,750	21st century project

# Financial report

Our finances whilst more healthier than in previous years continue to constrain the organisation, while exceptionally tight controls are continuing to have to be exercised by our General Secretary in order to ensure the organisation stays within its framework budget – in fact for this year alone the budget had to be analysed budget line by budget line to identify over 10% of cost savings to help us to employ our new Campaigns Assistant. However partly because of a prudent approach and through running the organisation efficiently the financial position of Compass has improved considerably over the previous year.

So we are pleased to be able to report that Compass ended the year with a small surplus. Our activity continues to grow rapidly, and keeping income and expenditure in balance remains a challenge. Income from members has continued to grow strongly, and we have continued to receive support from both trade unions and trusts, ensuring we are not over dependent on any one source of income. We are particularly grateful for the support of Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust and the Barrow Cadbury Trust for their support of the 21st Century Project.

Although we ended the year with a small accumulated deficit, our financial position was satisfactory as we had received contributions in advance for a number of projects, including the generous support of members for our Campaign Assistant fund.

Building financial support from individuals is of enormous importance to Compass, as it increases its strength and independence.

However it must be made clear that we are reliant on our members and supporters to deliver individual and regular donations in order to maintain this position for the future.

**MEMBERSHIP ACTION:** If you can afford a regular donation by standing order, or even just a one off donation by cheque, please consider doing this so we have a constant regular income to rely on (see the form at the back of this report).

## Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2008

	2009 (£)	2008 (£)
<b>INCOME</b>		
Members' subscriptions	32,763	24,350
Members' donations	13,660	13,053
Grants from Trade Unions	34,000	68,942
Grant from Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	44,000	24,800
Grants from Barrow Cadbury	47,000	-
Other grants	21,669	24,890
Event income - Compass Annual Conference	42,334	37,096
Event income - Public Services Reform Conference	3,265	-
Other	2,270	5,001
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>241,288</b>	<b>198,132</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Payroll costs	54,867	56,882
Other staff costs	9,694	5,077
Consultancy	53,498	15,000
Office costs	36,268	29,378
Compass annual conference costs	31,207	42,361
Other event costs	16,465	12,601
Publications costs	15,847	13,469
Membership recruitment	6,627	5,908
Fundraising costs	-	6,439
Other	16,688	5,601
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>241,161</b>	<b>192,716</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>5,416</b>

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009

	2009 (£)	2008 (£)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Debtors and accrued income	15,715	12,215
Cash	30,189	5,583
	45,904	17,798
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors and accruals	(28,771)	(22,703)
Deferred income	(22,911)	(1,000)
	(51,682)	(23,703)
Net Assets	(5,778)	(5,905)
<b>REPRESENTING</b>		
Members' Funds		
Brought forward	(5,905)	(11,321)
Surplus /(Deficit)	127	5,416
<b>Deficit carried forward</b>	<b>(5,778)</b>	<b>(5,905)</b>

# Thank you for supporting our work...

## MONTHLY GIFT STANDING ORDER MANDATE

YES I'd like to support Compass with a monthly gift of £ \_\_\_\_\_

I ENCLOSE A ONE OFF CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDERS FOR £ \_\_\_\_\_

I HAVE COMPLETED THE STANDING ORDER MANDATE BELOW

FULL NAME:	_____
ADDRESS:	_____
	_____
EMAIL:	_____
TELEPHONE:	_____

### STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTIONS

Please pay immediately by standing order to Compass' account, Lloyds TSB, 32 Oxford Street, London, W1A 2LD (a/c 02227769, sort code 30-98-71) the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_ (in words \_\_\_\_\_) starting with the first payment on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ and continuing for 12 months on the same day each quarter/month (delete as appropriate), unless cancelled by me in writing.

Bank/building society name \_\_\_\_\_

Bank address \_\_\_\_\_

Account name (your full name) \_\_\_\_\_

Account number Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### RETURN TO:

Gavin Hayes, General Secretary

Compass

Southbank House

Black Prince Road

London, SE1 7SJ

The logo for Compass, featuring the word "compass" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter "p" is significantly larger and extends downwards, creating a distinctive vertical element.