

**March for the alternative  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**Unite the union  
Practical details**

This Saturday March 26th is the day that working people in this country will demand an alternative. Unite members are coming from all corners of the country. We will say to government that its cuts are too fast, too deep and causing too much pain. The 'March for the Alternative' will see Unite members join other trade unions and community groups to make their opposition to the cuts heard.

Tens of thousands of you are heading to the capital, many of you setting off in the dead of night to make sure you stand with your friends and colleagues. I wanted to outline the details of the day for you.

## **Practical details for the day**

Unite will have coaches and trains travelling to London on Saturday from all over the country. The response to the march has been fantastic and we anticipate a great Unite turnout, not to mention all the members and their families which will travel into London independently.

Unite and the TUC will have stewards on duty during the whole day. Please do speak to our stewards if you need any assistance.

### **On the day**

It will be a long day for everyone, many are leaving home very early. It will be fun and the atmosphere will be great, but to make the day as enjoyable as possible please ensure you wear comfortable clothing and have suitable footwear, waterproofs are advised. Also please bring a packed lunch and water with you. Many shops will be closed on the route and the crowds will make it difficult to buy food until you reach Hyde Park late in the afternoon.

### **Unite transport**

If you are travelling on a Unite coach or train please ensure before you get off the transport that you know when and where to meet your coach for the return journey. Coaches or trains cannot wait for those who are late. Please ensure before you get off the coach/train that you:

- take down the mobile telephone number of others on your coach/train
- get the mobile number of the senior steward travelling with you.

You must let your transport steward know if you are running late or do not plan to travel back to your region.

### **Line up**

The form up at the start of the march will be the most challenging section of the day. The TUC estimate that it may take around three hours for all participants to leave the assembly area.

For safety and policing reasons on arrival people will be directed to the back of the march line up when they arrive in their groups. The front of the march will be zoned for different unions to gather.

**Unite will be starting our march at lamppost 3 between Hungerford Bridge and Waterloo Bridge. At this location Unite will have a music band and two large Unite helium spheres. This is how we will mark our main assembly point.**

HOWEVER, it is simply not going to be possible to get all Unite members to march together as space is limited here. We would of course love for all our participants to be able to enjoy the day together, but due to the different arrival times and the sheer number of people who will be gathering on Victoria Embankment it will not be possible.

Therefore the best thing to do is:

- please do look out for the Unite march head ie the spheres
- if there is space and it is possible for you to do so safely (if Victoria Embankment is not full when your coach arrives) please do come and join this section
- if you can not reach us then please do not put yourself or others in a dangerous situation by pushing through the crowds. Please join the back of the march and march with any other Unite members you spot.

### **Rally- Hyde Park**

There will be speakers and music at the rally in Hyde Park. As well as trade union speakers, such as myself, there will also be activists outlining their campaigns against the cuts.

Unite will also have a stall at Hyde Park, this can serve as a meeting point for groups if necessary. Also you may wish to use this as a meeting point if your group gets split up.

There will be toilets in Hyde Park.

The final speakers will be finished by 4.30pm at the latest. We are urging people to stagger their leaving times for safety reasons. Please feel free to arrange for your party/coach to depart as early or late as is appropriate for the distance you are travelling home.

Here are some more tips from the TUC for first time marchers - <http://marchforthealternative.org.uk/2011/03/21/tuc-top-tips-for-new-marchers/>

Friends, this is OUR day. This will be a celebration of working people's support for decent jobs and stable communities.

Let's make it the success it is destined to be - and send a message to our government, there is another way.

I very much hope you enjoy the day. See you on Saturday.

Len McCluskey, Unite General Secretary