

# UNITE FOR JOBS

**UNEMPLOYMENT AND CUTS  
DESTROY COMMUNITIES**



## MESSAGE FROM IRISH REGIONAL SECRETARY

# “DON’T BREAK OUR COMMUNITIES, BUILD THEM”

Ireland, north and south, is facing its biggest economic crisis. The recession has hit this island harder than anywhere in Europe: falling growth rates, rising unemployment, soaring levels of poverty.

And now the Fianna Fail and Tory-led Governments are responding in the same way – cutting public services, cutting social welfare, cutting jobs – in the public and private sectors – and cutting investment. They claim they are doing this to reduce the deficit. What they are actually doing is making working people pay for the crisis caused by a mismanaged banking system.

Let us be clear: public spending cuts – services, jobs welfare – are not part of the solution; they are part of the problem. Slashing public spending actually cuts economic growth, employment, tax revenue and force more businesses to close. That is why leading economists state that a cuts strategy will lead to a low-growth, high-unemployment and high debt future.

Both Governments claim there is no alternative to their policies. They are wrong. There is an alternative – one that is being advanced by UNITE and all trade unions in Ireland and Britain.

This alternative is based on growing the economy – through increasing employment and investing in our public services, peoples’ skills and education, and our infrastructure. Getting people back to work is the quickest way to increasing growth, promoting living standards and reducing the deficit.

In Ireland, north and south, UNITE is working with other unions to promote a new economic strategy – one that is based on jobs and investment. We will be unveiling these plans over the coming weeks and months.

The first step is to stop the cuts before they make our economic situation worse. We are in a hole. We must stop both Governments from digging us into a deeper one.

UNITE will stand by all workers defending their jobs and wages. We will stand by those forced on to the dole queues, the pensioners, the disabled, the lone parents in their campaign to protect their living standards. We will stand by community and social organisations which are coming under attack by both governments.

If we all stand together, we can defeat Government policies which are impoverishing working people and begin to put together a new and better strategy.

**Jimmy Kelly**  
**Regional Secretary, UNITE the Union**