



## Constitution of the Greece Solidarity Campaign

1. The Greece Solidarity Campaign (GSC) adopts the Purpose and Aims as set out below.
2. The Greece Solidarity Campaign has three categories of involvement: supporter (free, receives Updates etc); member (paying an affiliation fee, with voting rights); and institutional affiliate (paying local or national fees, with voting rights).
3. The GSC has an Annual General Meeting (AGM) open to all members, affiliates and supporters which is the ultimate GSC policy-making body.
4. The GSC has an Executive Committee (EC) of 15 members, elected at the AGM. In addition, each national affiliate is entitled to one representative on the EC.
5. The EC shall be responsible for organising the work of GSC. It shall have the power to co-opt further EC members, to set and, in exceptional cases, to waive affiliation fees. Wherever possible, decisions will be taken by consensus.
6. The GSC AGM shall elect a chair, secretary, treasurer and such other officers as may be determined by the Executive Committee and ratified by the AGM.
7. All posts may be job-shared, e.g. with co-chairs or joint secretaries. In addition various functions will be allocated by the Executive to specific members – e.g. Minutes, Membership and affiliations, Updates, Website, Fundraising, Delegation co-ordination, anti-fascist co-ordination, trade union links.
8. The GSC has an honorary President, and patrons as determined by the Executive Committee and ratified by the AGM.  
*Currently the Honorary President is Tony Benn  
and the Patrons are Jeremy Corbyn MP and Katy Clarke MP*
9. The registered address for the Greece Solidarity Campaign is Housmans Bookshop.
10. Executive Committee meetings, which any member may attend, are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month, usually at UNITE central office, Holborn.
11. GSC has a Unity Trust Bank account with Treasurer and other signatories from the EC.
12. The GSC has also established Medical Aid for Greece with a separate Unity Trust bank account and works with organisations in Greece such as Solidarity for All.

*Current Affiliation Fees are £12 for Members (£6 unwaged); £24 for local organisations; £100 for national organisations.*

## Our purpose

The Greece Solidarity Campaign (GSC) is an independent campaign and non-party political organisation, established in response to an appeal by Tony Benn in February 2012 for solidarity with the people resisting 'austerity' in Greece. It is supported by the TUC and has a number of affiliated organisations and individual members. (see Congress Motion below).

The working people of Greece are being driven to poverty and mass unemployment by the demands of the so-called Troika – the European Union, the European Central Bank, and the International Monetary Fund – which imposed Lucas Papademos, formerly of Vice-President of the ECB, as Prime Minister and now requires memoranda of extreme austerity measures to be implemented by the right wing coalition government in Greece.

Greece is at the cutting edge of the austerity measures that are being introduced across Europe. All the evidence shows that, while these measures may protect the interests of the rich, they just make matters worse for the majority of the population.

What happens in Greece today will be repeated in Portugal tomorrow, and in Ireland and Italy the day after. In Britain, the Coalition government is pursuing similar measures which will see workers earnings cut, working longer for a smaller pension, the marketisation of education and the dismantling of the NHS along with other public services.

The Greek people have shown mass resistance to these outrages and we commit to build a movement of solidarity with them.

GSC speakers have travelled far and wide and GSC has issued 20 Updates on an occasional basis (usually monthly) to a list of over 500 people. We have organised successful delegations to Athens where we have met representatives of anti-austerity organisations, parties and movements.

GSC has established Medical Aid for Greece (MAfG) which also has TUC endorsement.

## Our Aims

1. To develop practical acts in solidarity with Greek working people.
2. To support and celebrate the determined resistance by all those opposing 'austerity measures' in Greece, with the exception of the so-called 'anti-austerity neo-nazi elements'.
3. To provide information on the situation in Greece including debunking the myths about the causes of the crisis.
4. To circulate Updates, maintain a website and Facebook, and encourage conferences, meetings, discussions, lobbies, pickets, publications, media work, musical and cultural events.
5. To encourage mutual contacts with Greece through delegations, twinning etc.

6. To oppose governmental attempts to weaken trade unions and destroy collective bargaining.
7. To work with solidarity organisations of Greeks resident in the UK and to link with similar anti-austerity campaigns across Europe.
8. To oppose the growth and spread of neo-nazi violence, racism and fascism.
9. To defend Greece's democracy, sovereignty and independence and support the right of the Greek people to determine their own future free from oppressive external intervention.
10. To support and build activity around these objectives throughout Britain, within Parliament and local government, with the TUC, trade unions, pensioners, students, faith groups, equality campaigns, cultural and political organisations, and social movement bodies.

## **Appendix: TUC Congress Resolution 2013 (M78 from FBU) Solidarity with Greek workers**

"Congress notes the continued austerity programme carried out by the Greek government, backed by international financial institutions and other European governments. These attacks include sacking public sector workers, slashing salaries and pensions, worsening contracts of employment, cutting benefits and decimating public services.

Congress notes that workers, the unemployed, pensioners, the young and poor in Greece are at the sharp end of these attacks. But this austerity agenda is Europe-wide and affects us all.

Congress condemns the Greek government's actions bringing about the overnight closure of ERT (the Greek national broadcasting corporation) and applauds the Greek journalists and technicians, and the European Broadcasting Union, for their occupation of the building and the continued transmission of news and programmes to the Greek people.

Congress also calls on the Greek Health Ministry to end its appalling, degrading policy of forced HIV tests aimed at immigrant and marginal workers and the LGBT community, in the context of massive public health cuts.

Congress supports the Greece Solidarity Campaign, who organised a joint delegation with the FBU and other trade unionists to Greece in March 2013, as well as other campaigns and solidarity.

Congress supports the Medical Aid for Greece appeal, launched in response to a call for support from Greek anti-austerity campaigners in association with health unions, health workers and community organisations in Greece.

Congress supports the labour movement resistance to these attacks and encourages all affiliates to forge direct links with workers and their representative organisations in Greece."