



GSC UPDATE 19 (August/September 2013)

Fundraising Dinner - Wednesday 9th October 7pm - raising money for Medical Aid to Greece - at Andy's Taverna, Camden. Tickets are £25, which pays for delicious food, a glass of house wine, live music, a raffle, guest speeches. Every penny raised will be sent to the free social health clinics set up by activists in the anti austerity movement in Greece and spent on childrens vaccines. To book tickets please send a cheque to Greece Solidarity Campaign, Housmans, 5 Caledonian Road London N1 9DX.

Dear friends and supporters of the Greece Solidarity Campaign,

Wednesday 18th September 6.30pm - Greece Solidarity Campaign organising meeting

The next organising meeting of the Greece Solidarity Campaign is on Wednesday 18th September, 6.30 at Unite House, 128 Theobalds Road, Holborn. All welcome

Thursday 19th September, 7-9pm, Unite, Theobalds Road [Gold mining in Greece: stories of resistance and repression](#)

Come and hear first-hand accounts of resistance to gold mining in Greece by Eldorado Gold, a company listed on the London Stock Exchange. Lazaros Toskas, member of the Struggle Coordinating Committee of Megali Panagia, will share stories of resistance and repression, of mining, rights and the politics of development. The meeting has been organised by Corporate Watch and the London Mining Network. Chaired by Rachel Newton, Greece Solidarity Campaign

Great step forward for those organising solidarity with the Greek people at the TUC:

This year's TUC unanimously adopted Motion 78 in solidarity with the Greek resistance and specifically supporting GSC and Medical Aid to Greece. It was excellently moved by Matt Wrack, General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, seconded passionately by Manuel Cortes, General Secretary of TSSA, supported by speakers from PCS and UNITE. See the motion <http://greecesolidarity.org/?p=926>

The Greece Solidarity Campaign were pleased to facilitate a visit to Congress by Syriza MP Theano Fotiou. Theano's role as Syriza spokesperson for education and social solidarity (including 'Solidarity for All' – www.solidarity-4all.gr), against the background of anti-austerity debates at the TUC, was particularly relevant. Theano met with over 50 of some of the most influential people from the UK labour and trade union movement while in Bouremouth, and some extremely important links were made. We were particularly delighted to hold **a joint fringe meeting with the Fire Brigades Union on Greece Solidarity**, with Theano Fotiou as a guest speaker, in addition to Dave Green from the FBU, Daniel Trilling, author and journalists, Rachael Maskell, Head of Health at Unite and Tom Davies, Executive Member of the NUJ.

This years Congress was a great step forward in organising solidarity with Greece In this regard the Greece Solidarity Campaign must acknowledge in particular: the tremendous work by the FBU, TSSA, UNITE and other unions; the help from Owen Tudor, the officers at the TUC; Frances O'Grady for

inviting Theano as an 'official guest of Congress' and above all, the fantastic and inspiring spirit with which the Theano communicated her message to the labour movement in the UK.

Wednesday 9th October 7pm Greece Solidarity Fundraising Dinner - raising money for Medical Aid to Greece

Andy's Taverna, Camden - join us for an evening of solidarity. Tickets are £25, which pays for delicious food, a glass of house wine, live music, a raffle, guest speeches. Every penny raised will be sent to the free social health clinics set up by activists in the anti austerity movement in Greece and spent on childrens vaccines. To book tickets please send a cheque to Greece Solidarity Campaign, Housmans, 5 Caledonian Road London N1 9DX. [Further details](#).

Greek day in London – 21 September, Hackney Wick – food, music, dance, politics. For details [see](#)

Teachers and lecturers open up fresh wave of resistance

Greek teachers are on the eve of mass rolling strikes, starting this Monday (16/09), having achieved 92% support from members of the Federation of Secondary School Teachers (OLME). The strike is about 16 000 job losses, cuts in pay and attacks on working conditions. For more see [here](#) and [here](#). Alexis Tsipras, the leader of the main opposition party Syriza, [appealed](#) to pupils and parents to support the teachers in their strike "because it was a struggle to keep schools on their feet". He also said that the strike was more than education and that it was a struggle for a better society. He said he hoped the strike would lead to a "massive wave of resistance".

University of Athens on strike

Head of Greece's largest university has said that the institution has no choice but to strike against the government's plans to remove hundreds of its administrative staff.

Following this university administrators in a number of colleges in the north of the country voted to start 48-hour strikes, starting on Tuesday. Affects the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki and the Thessaloniki Technical College. For more [see](#).

Murderous attack by Golden Dawn on the left

Thousands of Greeks took to the streets of Athens to protest against a violent attack on Communist party members (KKE) by black-shirted supporters of the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party, leaving nine people in hospital with serious injuries. In what was described as a murderous attack – and the most serious violence since the extremist group was elected to the country's parliament last year – about 50 men wielding crowbars and bats set upon leftists as they distributed posters in a working-class district of the capital late on Thursday. See [more](#)

HIV Witch-hunt

New documentary chronicles a modern day witch-hunt against HIV positive women in Greece by the Government in a politically orchestrated campaign in the run up to the May 2012 general election. The campaign saw women alleged to be HIV positive rounded up by the police, forced to have HIV tests, and had their names and photos printed in the news. Independent film maker Zoe Mavroudi's debut documentary, *Ruins: Chronicle of an HIV Witch-hunt*, features interviews with two of the HIV-positive women and their mothers, as well as doctors, lawyers, journalists, academics and activists who campaigned for their release. The film was commissioned by Unite. See [more](#). In July the special measures that were used by the Greek Government to carry out the policy exposed in this documentary were reintroduced, and there have been reports of the powers being used also to attack migrant workers and members of the LGBT community. Human Rights Watch has called it an abusive health regulation and called on the Greek government to repeal, as has the British TUC. For more [see](#)

Samaras claims economic recovery – the people don't agree

Greece PM predicts economic recovery and claims Greece is now a 'island of stability' in a speech at Thessaloniki trade fair prompting thousands of Thessaloniki residents to take to the streets in protest. See [more](#)

Alternatives to public sector cuts in Greece

Back in July the Greek government passed measures slashing thousands of public sector jobs, prompting [huge protests](#). Argiris Panagopoulos, correspondent of Il Manifesto newspaper interviewed Panos Lamprou, a leading member of the opposition Syriza party, on this latest round of Troika-inspired austerity, dubbed a 'mini-memorandum'. The [interview](#) took place shortly after Syriza's founding conference as a unified party.

The Greece Solidarity Campaign holds organising meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, 6.30pm, Unite the Union 128 Theobalds Road. All welcome. If you want to organise a meeting on Greece in your area or organisation, please get in touch, it would be great to hear from you.