



# Newsletter 005

## 31 August 2025

### SHA at TUC Congress – Brighton

Visit SHA stall #15 during congress – Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> – Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> Sept.  
Fringe Meeting is in the Restaurant Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Sept., 12:45–2PM

TUC CONGRESS FRINGE BRIGHTON

## Restore Our NHS!

NHS workers are overworked, burnt out and underpaid. The government says there's no money for fair pay while private companies gain billions from the NHS, at the expense of its staff and patients.

Privatisation widens health inequalities and leads to more deaths, yet the 10-year plan seems set to shunt even more money into corporate profit and dismantle our already fractured health service beyond recognition.

Bevan said the NHS "will last as long as there are folk left with the faith to fight for it."

**Come and join the fight!**

**MON 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPT**

**12:45 – 2:00 PM**

**THE RESTAURANT BRIGHTON CENTRE BNI 2GR**

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



### SPEAKERS



**Tabusam Ahmed**  
Regional Officer  
Unite



**Jordan Rivera**  
Unison NEC  
(PC)



**Dr Tom Dolphin**  
BMA Chair



**Alex Gordon**  
Former President  
RMT



**Dr Rathi Guhadasan**  
SHA Chair



Join the SHA today

SOHEALTH.CO.UK | ADMIN@SOHEALTH.CO.UK

Attendees must be registered to congress. Please read and read our affiliation call, [here](#).

### Subco Exhibition

**"How come we didn't know about NHS Subcos?"**

The idea of NHS Trusts setting up wholly owned subsidiary companies is about as far from Bevan's NHS as you can get. We are through the looking glass and into a world where patients have become "customers" and healthcare is viewed through the lens of commercial enterprise rather than as a public good and the responsibility of the state.

Strip away the presented veneer of cost-saving – achieved through cutting staff salaries and pensions and reclaiming VAT in a move akin to tax evasion – and the true motive for creating SubCos is clearly revealed as the transfer of assets out of the NHS. This has already happened to the tune of tens of millions of pounds and is likely to accelerate since NHS England CEO Jim Mackay said earlier this year that all Trusts should set up SubCos to save costs – an outright lie since setting up SubCos is costly for the Trust and anticipated VAT changes will make this even more so. The NHS pays and it is its patients and staff who suffer. This is all part of a decades long programme of dismantling the NHS for profit – a programme which is now accelerating at a frightening rate under a health secretary who puts profits before patients – a programme which is now accelerating at a frightening rate under a health secretary – a programme which is now

accelerating at a frightening rate under a health secretary who puts profits before patients. This booklet and the accompanying exhibition, developed by Marion McAlpine and Jan Millar, serves as an important tool in the fight to reinstate a publicly provided NHS, as a service which puts patients' interests back at the heart of healthcare. The exhibition will be launched in London in October, in partnership with SHA and KONP, and then will travel around the country. If you would like the exhibition to be hosted in your local area, please contact [admin@sochealth.co.uk](mailto:admin@sochealth.co.uk)

### Right to Food conference – London

SHA at the 1<sup>st</sup> Right to Food Conference  
Sat. 13 Sept 9AM–5PM

1<sup>ST</sup> RIGHT TO FOOD CONFERENCE

## HUNGER IS A POLITICAL CHOICE!

SAT. 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPT.  
9AM–5PM

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER  
35 MARYLEBONE RD.  
LONDON, NW1 5LS

FOLLOWED BY AN EVENING OF  
FOOD AND MUSIC

FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE ON  
EVENTBRITE - LINK ON SHA BLOG

RESERVE YOUR SEAT!

READ MORE ABOUT FOOD INSECURITY ON THE SHA BLOG:  
[SOHEALTH.CO.UK/2025/01/25/fixing-our-broken-food/](https://sochealth.co.uk/2025/01/25/fixing-our-broken-food/)



"Food insecurity, malnutrition and hunger continue to increase as a result of further cuts to welfare and poverty pay. Our food system is broken. This national conference will discuss a new strategy from farm to fork that stands by the rights of farmers, food growers, and all food and nutrition workers. A plan that gives us more control over which foods are sold on our high streets and the price of healthy foods. Our families and communities must have the right to live healthy lives with dignity. Ian Byrne MP's Right To Food campaign provides a strategy for changing the food system based on enshrining the right to food in law. This starts with living wages and benefits to afford healthy and culturally chosen foods. In the UK, a healthy diet would cost up to 70% of disposable income for families with children. People with disabilities are most vulnerable, with over 50% struggling financially already and some now facing cuts to their disability benefits."

SHA Chair Dr Rathi Guhadasan is a keynote speaker. Read more about the conference and reserve free tickets, [here](#). SHA has several working groups incl. food insecurity, email [admin@sochealth.co.uk](mailto:admin@sochealth.co.uk) if you would like to get involved.

## Labour Party Conference – Liverpool

### SHA Fringe – September

SHA will be hosting two fringe meetings outside the conference at **Friend's Meeting House, 22 School Lane, L1 3BT**

### “Restore Our NHS” Mon., 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. 6:00–7:30PM

Speakers: David Rowlands, CHPI; speaker from the BMA; Esther Giles, SHA Treasurer and former NHS Finance Officer – other speakers to be announced.

**SOCIALIST HEALTH ASSOCIATION FRINGE**  
**RESTORE OUR NHS**

**SPEAKERS**

**DAVID ROWLANDS**  
Centre for Health and the Public Interest

**SPEAKER FOR THE BMA**

**ESTHER GILES**  
SHA – Former NHS Finance Officer

**MORE SPEAKERS TBA**

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

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**ADMIN@SOCHEALTH.CO.UK**

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Bevan said the NHS “will last as long as there are folk left with the faith to fight for it.” Come and join the fight!

**MON. 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPT**  
**6:00–7:30PM**

**FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE**  
**22 SCHOOL LN,**  
**LIVERPOOL**  
**L1 3BT**

**JOIN THE SHA TODAY**

## Central Council Meeting Wed. 24<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Members are welcome to join at the next meeting – **6:30PM on zoom**. This meeting is scheduled with regards to upcoming Labour Party Conference and allows for potential to hear emergency motion(s) – please note: criteria for emergency motions are developments following the due date of contemporary motions (Thurs. 11<sup>th</sup> Sept). Emergency motions are due 26<sup>th</sup> of Sept., – please note these relevant dates to any upcoming branch meetings.

**Zoom – Meeting ID: 853 9778 2964 Passcode 876832**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85397782964?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85397782964?pwd=KiunvkOSVoiblxZCwJrTXeaZ9Y8HdR.1)

[pwd=KiunvkOSVoiblxZCwJrTXeaZ9Y8HdR.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85397782964?pwd=KiunvkOSVoiblxZCwJrTXeaZ9Y8HdR.1)

**Agenda and minutes to follow.**

### Motions for Labour Party Conference

#### “Tackling Child Poverty”

#### “Meaningful Action to end atrocities in Palestine”

South-East SHA branch meeting recently passed two motions that may be heard at Labour Party Conference – both motions will be heard at the next CC meeting.

Please submit these to motions to your CLP for consideration for as contemporary motions for LP conference, due 11<sup>th</sup> Sept., 5PM.

Read both motions in full, [here](#).

### “Child Poverty and Health” Tues. 30<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**6:00–7:30PM**

Speakers: Dr Jatinder Hayre, SHA; Dr Ian Sinha, Paediatrician; Elaine Boylan, British Dental Association; Jane Coles, SEA Co-chair – other speakers, tba.

**SOCIALIST HEALTH ASSOCIATION FRINGE**  
**CHILD POVERTY AND HEALTH**

**SPEAKERS**

Dr Jatinder Hayre – SHA Vice-chair

Dr Ian Sinha – Paediatrician

Elaine Boylan – British Dental Association

Jane Coles – Socialist Education Association, Co-chair

More Speakers TBA

Refreshments provided

**TUES. 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPT**  
**6:00–7:30PM**

**SOCHEALTH.CO.UK**  
**ADMIN@SOCHEALTH.CO.UK**

**FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE**  
**22 SCHOOL LN.**  
**L1 3BT**

**JOIN THE SHA TODAY**

## Petition: NW Ambulance Service; Answer THIS Emergency Call NOW!

“UNISON members who train contact centre control room staff at North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) are taking strike action after their employer cut their role's pay by 9% through the unfair removal of a ‘Recruitment and Retention Premia’.” Read and sign, [here](#).



SHA GM members – Secretary, Caroline Bedale and Judith Kramer at the Troublemakers At Work Conference (July) in Manchester representing SHA. Read more about the conference, [here](#).



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## Support pathology workers on strike!

### Health Services Laboratory – The Doctors' Laboratory

"Staff at the HSL laboratories who conduct blood, skin, and tissue tests for two London healthcare trusts are furious over the lack of transparency in their grading. This means staff are often doing the work of more senior colleagues without being properly paid or doing the same job as other colleagues and being paid different rates. The privatised service, despite being a supplier to the NHS, does not adhere to NHS pay scales and staff earn less money than if they were directly employed by the NHS" – Unite the Union – read more, [here](#).

Notice circulated: "HUGE pathology workers strike next week\* 🗨️👉👈🩸 More than **800** outsourced pathology workers in north London will be ON STRIKE over pay and unsafe staffing levels with Unite next week! The walkout by workers at Health Services Laboratory is set to cause widespread disruption to the NHS. 🚫 Workers pay has eroded since they were outsourced from the NHS. Meanwhile the CEO of HSL gave himself a 40% pay rise last year. 🙄 Support frontline healthcare workers on their picket lines! 🗨️👉👈🩸 **Wednesday 3 September** 🗨️👉👈🩸 Picket lines from **7AM to 10.30AM** outside the front of the following sites:

- 📍 The Halo Building, WC1H 9AX
- 📍 60 Whitfield St, W1T 4EU
- 📍 Barnet Hospital, EN5 3DJ
- 📍 North Middlesex Hospital, N18 1QX
- 📍 Northwick Park Hospital, HA1 3UJ
- 📍 76 Wimpole Street, W1G 9RT
- 📍 Royal Free Hospital, NW3 2QG
- 📍 The Whittington Hospital, N19 5NF

🗨️👉👈🩸 **\*Thursday 4 September:** RALLY for all workers and supporters\* 🗨️👉👈🩸 **10am**

- 📍 The Halo Building, WC1H 9AX

🗨️👉👈🩸 **\*Friday 5th September\*** 🗨️👉👈🩸 Same locations and timings as Weds 3 September

Confirmed picket lines will take place

**Dates :** Monday 1st of September to Friday 5th of September  
**Times :** 6.30am – 10am

**Location:** Cherry Tree Way, Glen Rd, London E13 8SP"

## Resident Doctor Strikes

"Sign of wider conflicts to come" Andy Ford, Unite NHS Rep . Vote to strike – "massive 90% on a 53% turnout".

"Nearly half a million NHS staff are currently employed in these two pay bands alone. Many of them are leaving to earn the same or better pay in supermarkets or routine admin jobs where they do not face the constant pressure of clinical work.

In a further twist, new visa rules introduced, in a misguided response to Reform's electoral successes, have ensured that NHS Band 3 falls £67 a year short of eligibility for overseas workers to be supported into the NHS. Because of that £67 a year, and the erosion of the NHS pay scales, huge holes are going to open up in NHS staffing, with dire effects on patient care. No amount of right-wing rhetoric will fill those holes.

### The trade union movement should demand:

Resident doctors be paid fairly

The government should agree a road map towards pay restoration for all NHS staff

A restoration of the nursing bursary

An end to pandering to the illusory politics of racism."

Read in full, [here](#).



Powerful footage of Resident Doctors' strike can be viewed, [here](#). Solidarity!



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## Cumbria – Professor Allyson Pollock

Professor Pollock visited Carlisle and was welcomed by a full meeting to discuss her published research about the creation of a two-tier system within the NHS, how outsourcing fuels inequalities and drives up waiting times. Attendees were keen to ask Professor Pollock about her recent research and her previous work specifically on PFI as Cumbria branch has an ongoing campaign. Cumberland Infirmary was the first hospital to be bond financed and the PFI hospital has already cost taxpayers £260M (2015). It is anticipated the cost will total upwards of £1018M (by 2036). The hospital was built without fire-safety doors, minus 90 hospital beds, and a flooded operating room – all before it was even opened. Cumbria's leaflet can be viewed, [here](#). A template PFI leaflet for other regions to campaign on their local PFI projects will be available for members to personalise soon. Many thanks to Professor Pollock!



Professor Pollock with Cumbria officers, her research found [here](#) and book, [here](#).

## Motion – “Stop Starving Gaza”

**Model / template motion passed by SHA London**

“This branch notes over 60,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since October 2023. 70% are women and children. The Israeli government's blockade of food and humanitarian aid is causing widespread starvation to a population already displaced, traumatised and under constant bombardment. The health sector has been targeted and decimated, along with all public health infrastructure. – Over 1000 Palestinian civilians have been killed seeking food from private aid hubs, in what the UN has described as the “weaponization of food” and a war crime.” Read in full [here](#). This will be brought to the Central Council in September.

## State of GM Maternity Services

**Tues. 9th Sept. hybrid 7:00–8:30PM**

SOCIALIST HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
GREATER MANCHESTER

# STATE OF MATERNITY SERVICES

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Maternity services across the country are subject to catastrophic cuts to services, women and staff bear the brunt of austerity policies – particularly Black women who are four times more likely to die in childbirth than white women. Where do health activists and socialists go from here?

TUES. 9TH SEPT  
7PM – 8:30PM

FRIENDS MEETING  
HOUSE  
MOUNT STREET  
MANCHESTER  
M2 5NS

JOIN US TO HEAR FROM FELICITY DOWLING (Save Liverpool Women's Hospital), Pat Schan (SHA maternity services working group) and others speakers, tba – to discuss the current state of GM maternity services. Open to the public.

ZOOM:  
HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM  
M.US/J/868234410722  
PWD=BZGLLCBUREQDS  
RC3UTJNZ4QVXZZYS.1  
LOGIN: 868 2344  
1072  
PW: 484534

Contact: Caroline Bedale  
secretary of GM branch  
c.bedale@btinternet.com  
for more info.

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ADMIN@SOHEALTH.CO.UK

JOIN THE  
SHA TODAY

## London mental health centre staff to strike over pay

**‘Workers in Newham take to picket line over pay as workplace relations breakdown’**

“Dozens of staff that keep a London mental health facility in a fit and proper state are striking next week over a failure by their employer to pay decent wages. Unite members at the Newham Centre for Mental Health are striking from **1–5 September** and from **15–21 September** due to their anger over pay and conditions.



“Starmar!  
Stop starving Gaza!”

Workers are employed by a private sector outsourcing company, Grosvenor Facilities Management (GFM) despite working in an NHS hospital. They are not paid on NHS pay scales and earn less than colleagues directly employed by the NHS doing the same facilities roles such as chefs, domestic assistants, porters and maintenance.”  
Read more from Unite the Union, [here](#).



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# NHS Structure, Policy, Privatisation

## MMT Meeting, 31st July

Last month, SHA members were invited to hear from guest speaker Patricia Pino Argumedo, PhD candidate at the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose on Public Finance and 'Modern Monetary Theory' (MMT). The meeting was well attended and thoroughly informative – Patricia offered an analysis of the theories surrounding NHS affordability and the funding of healthcare services – particularly in regards to the proposed PFI copayments, and constraints placed on healthcare when viewed from a 'tax before spending' cycle standpoint. Patricia noted this cycle standpoint was most often used by those looking to profiteer off of the privatisation of the NHS. Richard Murphy, Professor and co-founder of the Tax Justice Network (2024) details this cycle within his work and argues this cycle standpoint obscures the reality of taxation, and lends to the misrepresentation that the NHS is simply 'not affordable'. Public services, Patricia argued, are not directly funded through taxation. Rather, tax is a control for inequality and inflation, and acts as a 'steering wheel' for the economy. While taxation is still important, public finance should be thought of in a 'spending comes first' cycle standpoint, where funds are invested to directly achieve government objectives and manage growth – debt is not a burden but rather a national savings product, an asset.

*"The question [then] is no longer "can we afford it?" but is, instead, "do we have the resources, skills, and technology to do it?" If the answer is yes, then, as John Mastnard Keynes once noted, whatever it is we want can be done. The government can create the money, direct the work, and use taxation afterwards to keep the economy balanced, and that opens the door to a completely different policy agenda for younger people..." (Murphy, 2025).*

From this cycle standpoint, Patricia elaborated, growth is fostered, supported and arguments about the NHS being 'unaffordable' collapse. Murphy (2025) goes on to reason that while there is a need for more certain forms of taxation – again to help address inequality and control inflation – the types of taxation need to be further addressed.

Capital gains and taxes on income derived from wealth should be equalised with forms of income taxation, and often income in the form of dividends is "severely undertaxed". Murphy (2024) 'Taxing Wealth Report' details an "enormous horizontal inequity within the UK tax system", offering further insight and proposed reforms to address staggering inequalities. Read more in the [Taxing wealth report link here](#). The meeting gave full thanks to Patricia for her time, insight and resources. If you are interested in joining the NHS Structure, Policy and Privatisation working group, please contact Esther Giles at [sochealthtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:sochealthtreasurer@gmail.com)

## Save the Date – 'Geopolitics'

**'A web of inequality disease, falling life expectancy and quality of life – there is another way!'**

**Guest speaker: John Middleton ; Webinar SHA WM**


Join SHA WM online webinar – 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. 19:00–20:15PM for talk and a Q&A with Chair Dr Peter Mayer Middleton and Levesque (2025) – "Geopolitical health: A new imperative for understanding the health of the people we serve" is available to read on the SHA blog in advance of the meeting. Zoom link, [here](#).

WEBINAR

# GEOPOLITICS:



a web of inequity, disease, falling life expectancy and quality of life  
There is another way!

**John Middleton**  
Professor of Public Health,  
Wolverhampton University  
Honorary Professor University of  
Public Health Derby University  
Past President, Association of  
Schools of Public Health in the  
European Region



The public health community has been slow to address those issues of geopolitics which have been preventing and worsening the health of the public for many years. Neoliberalism has been the central economic policy responsible for many of the harms to the health of people and planet that we face today. There is a grisly threat from neoliberalism to oligarchy, to populism, to culture wars, to performative cruelty, to autocracy, to a new age of conquest and global instability.

All these forces are impacting on health and damaging efforts to achieve health equity, tackle climate breakdown, do more to prevent non-communicable disease epidemics, and be prepared and resilient against major disasters and new pandemics.

 **Tues., 7th October**  
 **19:00-20:15**  
 **Zoom:**  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82278380538?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82278380538?pwd=zNC9Wyn3nUZb5EXVa0UT9K2wWsXh5h.1)  
[pwd=zNC9Wyn3nUZb5EXVa0UT9K2wWsXh5h.1](#)  
**Meeting ID: 822 7838 0538**  
**Passcode: 901816**

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