



FRAN & PAUL 4 PCS

THE ONLY CANDIDATES THAT CAN UNIFY ACTIVISTS AND WIN FOR MEMBERS

The elections to decide the next PCS General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary get under way on the 9th November. When they close at 12 noon on the 14th December it has never been more important for our union and our members to have elected the Left Unity candidates, Fran Heathcote and Paul O'Connor to the positions of GS and AGS respectively.

Left Unity have been at the forefront of turning PCS into the democratic, lay-led, fighting union it is today, with Fran and Paul both LU members and key figures in our union for over 20 years and more, alongside PCS stalwarts such as Mark Serwotka and Janice Godrich.

Why Left Unity are supporting Fran and Paul

PCS Left Unity are clear that Fran and Paul are the only candidates in these elections that can unify our activist base and build on the gains already made for our members.

In three key areas for members there is a clear separation between the LU candidates and the candidates for the unprincipled alliance between BLN and IL.

The **NATIONAL CAMPAIGN** has seen PCS make gains on pay and secure talks on cohesion across the civil service, as well as force the government to U-turn on their electoral pledge to cut the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. It was the ground-breaking strategy set out by Fran, as National President, and Paul, as NDC Secretary, that achieved these concessions from the most hostile, right-wing government we have perhaps ever seen in the UK. The strategy of targeted and sustained action with strike pay, backed up by national action that can have the most impact, helped maximise the pressure on government and departments, while minimising the financial impact on low paid PCS members. This enabled members to take part in record levels of industrial action and put more money in their pockets. While it didn't deliver everything we want on pay, it has showed taking action can force even a Tory government to back-track and offer more with the right strategy and membership support. Unlike our opponents in these elections, Left Unity and both our candidates, are clear that taking action by itself can't win for members, but deploying the right tactics and retaining members support is key.

Both are also acutely aware of the importance of our union and its structures reflecting our membership. It is for this reason that Left Unity have been championing the creation of devolved policy making structures in Scotland and Wales, and why a fundamental review of our democratic structures, **INCREASING DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION** is a key pillar of their election pledge, alongside enhancing the support given to Groups and reps.

EQUALITY within our union is equally important in that aim of increased accountability and engagement. It is why Fran and Paul have been leading advocates of reinvigorating PCS Proud for our LGBT+ members. A network and committee without any elections in place for over 4 years cannot claim to be truly representative of those members it exists to serve. Fran and Paul understand this and committed to getting more members involved in Proud and regular elections taking place. In addition, their aim of increased participation in our structures of women and black members has to be delivered if PCS can genuinely state equality is at the heart of everything we do.

The brilliant work that our union has done in challenging the government's abhorrent immigration policies, lead by Paul O'Connor and delivered by the LU dominated NEC under the presidency of Fran Heathcote, is direct evidence of their joint commitment to equality, both inside and outside of our union structures. It has also ensured our standing across the movement has never been as high as it is right now.

Both LU candidates garner support from across our movement due to a deep respect for their work and commitment. The **INTEGRITY** of their campaign, setting out a positive vision for the future of PCS, how they will build our union and continue to win for members, is the polar opposite of their opponents.

The BLN/IL coalition rely on their supporters engaging increasingly personal attacks on Fran - in particular – Paul, and other PCS Left Unity members, clearly with the aim of creating a hostile environment during these elections. Despite this cynical “mud-sticks” approach being deployed, both Fran and Paul continue to focus on their commitments to stand on their records and platform of building PCS in the future.

PCS Left Unity is confident this will be seen as a breath of fresh air compared to the dishonest campaign being ran by their electoral opponents. That may seem a strong accusation, but the narrative deployed by BLN in particular cannot be seen as anything but dishonest. Repeatedly members will hear claims that their candidates are pledging to take a worker's wage if elected, because they understand how low paid members' struggle. They omit to clarify, however, that their GS candidate is a G6 manager with a pro-rate salary higher than that of Fran's wage as an EO in DWP, or that since elected in 2019, their AGS candidate has taken the rate for that job before personally deciding how much he can afford to donate to causes he supports.

Both opposition candidates have also declared they oppose the strategy that was backed by tens of thousands of members in the recent consultative ballot and have insinuated more could be won with further action. What both BLN and IL are deafeningly quiet about is the action they favour is more national unpaid action, backed up by paid strikes, despite members making clear the cost-of-living crisis makes masses of unpaid action unaffordable.

VOTE FRAN and PAUL – VOTE LEFT UNITY

PCS Left Unity urge you to vote to elect Fran and Paul as our new GS and AGS respectively. They have already delivered for members and have the vision and commitment to do even more. Imagine what else can be achieved with Fran elected as General Secretary and Paul as Assistant General Secretary.

Vote Fran & Paul for PCS

Elections open 9th November and close 14th December. It is a postal vote.