

British protesters rally against rising inflation, cost of living



This photo, taken at King's Cross in London on Saturday, October 1st, shows Brits protesting at the 'Enough is Enough' rally over rising inflation and the high cost of living in the UK.

London, October 3 (RHC)-- Thousands of people across the UK have held rallies to protest against the rising cost of living and inflation. The "Enough is Enough" rallies, organized by worker unions and climate change activists, were held over the weekend in all major UK cities, including the capital London.

"People can't continue to live like this," said Tim, one of the protesters at King's Cross, demanding a pay raise to match rising inflation, unprecedented in 40 years. "I have colleagues at work who have worked out their weekly money and they can't afford to actually live once they pay their fuel bills and once they

pay all the other rising costs," he said.

"One of my colleagues, his rent's gone up 17 percent just last week, 17%! We're not getting any kind of pay raise like that. Our pay raise at the moment was something about 8 percent. That's a massive pay cut for us," he noted. "That's why we're here today. Supporting the RMT (Maritime and Transport Union) and the CWU (Communication Workers Union), the post office (who) are on strike today, as well, because it's time for working people to get together and to take action."

Helen, another protester at King's Cross, said she was there because she was against the current right-wing government. She said the country's latest prime minister is "on the far, far right ... people are going to really suffer in all sorts of ways." "And we don't know where it's going to end. We need to get rid of them. We need to get rid of this Tory government."

Helen also said the mini-budget, a measure recently revealed by the government, which gave massive tax cuts for those earning more than £150,000 (\$167,000) would be "disastrous for this country." "I mean, we need to sort of seize the initiative on the left and get rid of these people. I mean, it means real hardship for people. It means it affects pensions. It affects people's rents, people's mortgages, people's gas bills, everything. People don't afford it."

More than half of the British public do not have confidence in Conservative Prime Minister Liz Truss to perform at the highest levels as a world leader, according to a recent poll. Describing the mini-budget as a measure, "for the rich" some protesters said: "We are determined to survive and we're demanding caring for all those who care for people and the planet, the land, the environment, their home, and the community." "And, we think that's the only way we can survive and save the planet ... We're demanding back all the money that's been stolen, that belongs to us. We intend to get it back," she said.

The British pound has plunged to an all-time low against the dollar with investors looking for exits after the new Tory government's fiscal plan threatened to stretch the crisis-battered country's finances to breaking point.

Many Brits blame Conservatives for UK's financial crisis with more than half of the British public lacking confidence in Prime Minister Liz Truss. Leader of the opposition Labour Party Keir Starmer has promised to revive the UK's economy, improve public services and take the government out of an "endless cycle of crisis" if he is chosen to lead the country at its next general elections.

Delivering a speech at his party's annual conference in Liverpool on Tuesday, Starmer attacked the Conservatives' decision to cut taxes for the wealthiest amid a major cost of living crisis, urging voters not to "forget" or "forgive" the moves ahead of an anticipated national vote in 2024.

Starmer insisted Labour was once again "the party of the centre ground" and promised to fix the UK's ailing economy, revitalize the country's National Health Service (NHS), and confront the climate crisis.

"This is a Labour moment," Starmer told the filled venue in the northern English city of Liverpool. "Britain will deal with the cost of living crisis. Britain will get its future back... That's my commitment to you... the national mission of the next Labour government. And together with the British people we will do it," Starmer concluded.

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