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**March for Homes.** Housing crisis needs to be addressed, you can help by joining Barnet UNISON banner **Saturday 31st January**, Assemble 12 midday, St Mary's Churchyard, Newington Butts, SE1 6SQ (Elephant and Castle tube/rail)

# Rich keep on getting richer

- The combined wealth of the **80 richest billionaires** is the same amount as that of the **bottom 50%** of the Earth's population, Oxfam said in a new report
- **Eight** of the **top ten** wealthiest billionaires are American
- Oxfam found a steep drop and that 388 billionaires had the same amount of money as the bottom 50% of the Earth's population in 2010
- The charity's report also said that the **richest 1 percent** of the population will own **more** than half the world's wealth **by 2016**

THE **80** RICHEST PEOPLE OWN THE SAME WEALTH AS THE 3.5 BILLION POOREST PEOPLE



EVEN IT UP OXFAM

"Billionaires and politicians gathering in Switzerland this week will come under pressure to tackle rising inequality after a study found that – on current trends – by next year, **1% of the world's population will own more wealth than the other 99%**"

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/jan/19/global-wealth-oxfam-inequality-davos-economic-summit-switzerland>

It is important for all our members to reflect on the above statements and links. Austerity is an excuse to kick the workforce, to cut, cut and cut until they either delete the job or hand you over to a contractor who will find a way to move you out of your job either directly or indirectly.

Austerity has brought rich pickings for the fat cat corporations that see contracts in the public sector as **"free money"** and security for the future.

If you haven't seen the [Super Rich](#) and Us on the BBC I would strongly recommend you do. It is in three parts, but part two explains how Austerity was a deliberately constructed and has made indecent amounts of money for the Super Rich (the 1 percent) at the expense of us (the 99 percent).

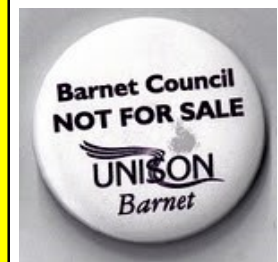


The planned Austerity has created a perfect storm best described in this picture

A **direct casualty of Austerity** are our **Your Choice Barnet care workers** who had a **9.5% pay cut** imposed. Today was their second day of strike action and the third wave of strike action they have taken, pictures below from their picket lines.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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**Update on Unified Pay**

The latest news is that there is no news.

Watch out for more news later.

**"All bets are off!" - Education & Schools Meals service**

At Full Council the decision to proceed with the outsourcing option was agreed. The next step will be an invite for contractors to submit bids will be sent out shortly. The Council is fast-tracking this process which UNISON has warned is very risky. Early feedback from our members (who are considering place a little bet on who will win this contract) is that Capita ([Entrust](#)) are **'odds on'** favourite at **"2 to 1 on."**