

RAISED VOICES

London Political Choir
singing at the

SOS NHS

National Emergency Day of Action

26th February 2022

1. WE WILL FIGHT ON (A, F#, D)

*S.African, 'Amen Siakadumisa', attrib. S.C.Mdefe.
Words: Raised Voices, Strawberry Thieves*

(Call) We'll fight on!
(Tune) We will fight on against the cuts (x2)
We will fight on (x2)
We will fight on against the cuts.

(Call) The NHS!
(Tune) We will defend the NHS (x2)
We will defend (x2)
We will defend the NHS.

(Call) Protesting!
(Tune) We defend the right to protest (x2)
We will defend (x2)
We defend the right to protest

(Call) The poorest!
(Tune) Why should the poorest foot the bill? (x2)
Why should the poor (x2)
Why should the poorest foot the bill?

(Call) The NHS!
(Tune) We will defend the NHS (x2)
We will defend (x2)
We will defend the NHS.

(Call) Sing loudly!
(Tune) Protesting has to be heard (x2)
Sing loud and clear (x2)
Protesting has to be heard

2. BELLA CIAO (A)

*Public Spending Cuts version
Traditional. Arr. PiH, Gude Cause*

The public sector is for the people
Oh bella ciao, bella ciao,
Bella ciao, ciao, ciao,
The public sector is for the people
Not for sale to profiteers.

The NHS needs proper funding
Oh bella...
The NHS needs proper funding
Don't let them privatise by stealth.

The rich get richer, the poor get poorer,
Oh bella...
The rich get richer, the poor get poorer,
Unnecessary and unfair.

We don't need Trident, it's wasting billions,
Oh bella...
We don't need Trident, it's wasting billions,
We need health and social care.

Repeat verse 1.

3. GIVE THEM PROPER PAY (E, C#, A)

Tune: John Brown's body

We / used to clap for carers,
Such an / easy thing to do
But / what they need is real support
For / helping me and you
Nurses' / pay-rise is a pittance,
Nothing / like what they are due
Give them a / proper pay rise / now!

Chorus:
/ Thanks for everything you / do, now
But / far, far more than thanks are / due, now
/ We're all out today
Demanding / "give them proper pay"
Not just / cheers for the N-H- / S!

They / struggled without PPE,
Worked / many a long shift
Their / total dedication meant
Their / own health was at risk
Some / had to stay away from home,
Their / families they missed
Give them a / proper pay rise / now!

/ Some have left, they'd had enough,
Ex- / haustion took its toll
/ Some have died, this tragic loss
Now / leaves some gaping holes
/ Those still left have more to do,
How / can we fill these roles
Without a / proper pay rise / now!

4. ARE WE GONNA TAKE IT LYING DOWN (starts G, B)

*origin (words and music) Mavis Cook 2011,
arr. Morag Carmichael; update 2022 RV*

Health for profit, not for care is what we face [it's true]
The plan's to make a killing in the market place [I fear it]
Free health care would disappear and leave no trace [it's bad]

Chorus: Well, the question is
For folks who live in every town
Are we gonna take it lying down?

Tory plots are hatching, health is under threat [it's true]
Working people pay the price for bankers' debt. [I fear it]
Jobs will go, they'll cut by stealth, most dange'rous yet [it's bad]
(Chorus)

If you're poor in London East, can you stay well? [can you?]
In Huddersfield or Birmingham, well, who can tell? [I fear it]
One thing's sure for many there'll be years of hell! [It's bad]
(Chorus)

Health for profit, not for care is what we face [it's true]
The plan's to make a killing in the market place [I fear it]
Free health care would disappear and leave no trace [it's bad]
(Chorus)

5. SIYA HAMBA (BassD, TenB, AltD, SopD)

*Tune: trad. South African; Arrangement: Niels Erlank/ John
Hamilton. Words: trad. South African plus Liverpool Socialist
Singers*

1. Siya hamb' ekameni lokolo (x 4) (kolo)
Siya hamba, hamba, siya hamba,
hamba siya hamb' ekameni lokolo (kolo).
2. We are fighting for the NHS...
3. We are singing out against the cuts...
4. We're demanding social care for all...

Repeat verse 1

6. SAVE OUR PUBLIC SERVICES (starts G)

Tune: Banaha, trad. Congo.

Part 1: Save our public services
This is really not the way out (x2)

Part 2: Dashing hopes, crushing dreams
This is really not the way out (x2)

Part 3: Stand up and shout
This is really not the way out (x2)

Sing as a round

7. BAMBELELA (Never Give Up) (starts bass:G, tenor: B, alto/sop: D)

*Xhosa language: 'Hold on', S.Africa
Transcribed Gordon and Mairi Munro
Arr. Phil Jakob*

(Call) Sizo bambelela,
Oh bambelela (x3) o-o-oh

(Tune) Bambelela, bambelela
[Oh] bambelela, bambelela,

(All) [Bamba], bamba, bamba, bamba
Bamba, oo-ooh, bamba
Bambelela. (Repeat verse)

(Call) You must never give up
Oh never give up (x3) o-o-oh

(Tune) Never give up, never give up,
[Oh] never give up, never give up,

(All) [Never], never, never, never
Never, oo-ooh, never
Never give up. (Repeat verse)
(then repeat verse 1)

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London Political Choir

We welcome new members,
please see our website for further details

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voices.org.uk