



PEOPLE OVER PROFIT

- Panel Five - For the many: Public services in a just global economy

A world where workers have dignity, where the planet is protected and where everyone can meet their basic needs and fulfil their potential requires a different economic model from the one we have.

An economy for the people is not possible while the paradigm of the market and competition remain all-pervasive, urging a race to the bottom for wages, taxes, public service provision and environmental standards. The current system is only politically sustainable because those who benefit from it have deliberately established an ideology that insidiously promotes myths that public services are inefficient, unable to innovate and are a burden on the economy and society.

Yet people are still strongly committed to the quality public services they receive. People will fight to defend and extend them when strong viable alternatives are presented. There is public anger towards the wealthy and large corporations for not paying their fair share of taxes. Communities are increasingly mobilizing to stop trade agreements that increase inequality, transfer rights to corporations and undermine public services.

We must return public services to their central role in realising human rights and at the core of the democratic state - to ensure democratic regulation, support sustainable development and provide universally accessible services. We must value public services, and public service workers, for both the economic and social contribution they make. Our ability to make progress for a more just economy depends critically on our ability to present credible alternatives, educate, mobilise public opinion and influence decisions-makers.