

## Message of Support to the Students of Amsterdam and the LSE

We write to express our support for the marvellous actions of students occupying their universities in Amsterdam and London and in many other cities around the world. These actions are an inspiration. The students and members of staff who support them rightly demand an end to the managerial takeover of universities, to the ever-growing burden of student debt, and to the precarity of university labour.

But these demands are not the whole story. By occupying their universities, students and staff have also taken tentative steps towards the creation of completely different places of learning. They have taken steps towards the achievement of a university system which is no longer ruled by money and where education takes place beyond neoliberalism's confines. Students in Amsterdam, London and elsewhere have put the democratic self-determination of their education at the forefront of their demands. Crucially, in their protests and assemblies they put into practice - they prefigure - this directly democratic alternative. They set out to show something of what autonomous and non-marketised education may mean.

We wish the occupiers every success in their struggle and recognise the key role such struggles play in battling the wider neoliberal assault upon society. The students of Amsterdam, London and elsewhere are actively building a democratic new world and deserve our fullest support.

[plus signatures]