# Mass mobilisation in London demands radical reforms to tackle inequality and climate crisis



Thousands took to the streets of central London on a recent Saturday to demand sweeping reforms to the UK’s economic and environmental policies under the rallying cry: make the rich pay. The march united a diverse coalition of climate activists, trade unionists, parents, and anti-poverty campaigners, all voicing frustration at the widening gap between the wealthy elite and the struggling majority. Demonstrators carried vivid symbols— from kites and papier-mâché fish to a giant balloon shaped like a barrel of oil— while chants such as “billionaires should not exist” and “take back everything they stole” echoed through Whitehall.

This mobilization came in the wake of the recent general election, where the so-called reform-minded parties managed a meager five seats, and the Labour government—led by Keir Starmer—continues to prioritize corporate interests over the needs of ordinary citizens. With Rishi Sunak’s resignation as Prime Minister, the political landscape remains fractured, leaving many to question who truly stands for working-class Britain and whether any government will genuinely challenge the greed and inequalities ingrained in our economy.

The timing of this demonstration highlights the general public’s disillusionment with a political class more concerned with keeping the status quo than addressing systemic injustice. Speakers drew clear links between economic inequality, rising fascism, and environmental devastation, warning that without radical action, Britain risks sliding further into chaos and division. Stella Swain from the Palestine Solidarity Campaign pointedly linked climate chaos to multinational corporate interests that underpin geopolitical violence and human suffering, calling for Britain to build the largest anti-fascist movement in its history to push back against racist rhetoric, imperialist policies, and the influence of big business.

Voices from across the political spectrum voiced the demand for genuine systemic change. Green Party figure Zack Polanski labeled the current government as complicit in a “genocidal” agenda, implying its policies serve the interests of the wealthy while leaving ordinary working people behind. Radical economist Gary Stevenson underscored overwhelming public support for a wealth tax, arguing that such measures are not only necessary for economic survival but also vital for establishing a fairer society. The ‘Make Them Pay’ campaign—bringing together over 70 groups, including trade unions, environmental groups, faith-based organisations, and grassroots activists—continues to push for taxing extreme wealth and polluting corporations to fund public services, support workers, and combat climate breakdown.

The march underscored an urgent desire to redirect frustration against those at the top, rather than allowing divisions within the working class to deepen. Many participants expressed skepticism about the political landscape, citing infighting and fragmentation among left-leaning movements as a barrier to meaningful change. Yet, the collective frustration with a system that favors billionaires and corporate polluters remains evident, fueling a determination to challenge the broken status quo.

The ‘Make Them Pay’ coalition’s broad engagement demonstrates that this struggle transcends traditional politics, drawing support from activists, unions, faith groups like the Quakers and Christian Climate Action, as well as community organisations. These groups have organised workshops, community forums, and direct actions ahead of key political moments—such as the upcoming Autumn budget—in a bid to maintain pressure on a government historically reluctant to crack down on the super-rich or curb corporate greed.

This movement makes clear that economic inequality, climate chaos, and the rise of far-right extremism are interconnected crises demanding bold, systemic solutions. The fight to “make the rich pay” is evolving into a powerful call for a fundamental reshaping of Britain’s social and economic structures—one that challenges the influence of big business and aims for a more just, sustainable future. As grassroots activism grows, the question remains whether Britain’s political leaders will finally listen or continue to serve the interests of the wealthy few at the expense of ordinary people.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://socialistworker.co.uk/environment/thousand-say-make-the-rich-pay-in-london-march/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/news/make-them-pay-thousands-of-protestors-expected-to-take-the-streets-to-demand-uk-government-make-super-rich-and-corporations-pay-up/> - On 4 September 2025, Global Justice Now announced that thousands of protesters were expected to march in London on 20 September, demanding the UK government tax extreme wealth and polluting corporations to fund public services, protect workers, and address the climate crisis. The demonstration, organised by the 'Make Them Pay' coalition, aimed to rally support for three key demands: taxing the super-rich, creating decent, well-paid jobs in sustainable industries, and making polluting corporations foot the bill for climate action. The event was backed by over 70 organisations, including trade unions and activist groups.
3. <https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/news/make-them-pay-coalition-launches/> - On 19 June 2025, a coalition of NGOs, trade unions, and activist groups, including Global Justice Now, Climate Resistance, and the Climate Justice Coalition, launched the 'Make Them Pay' campaign. The coalition called for bold action to tackle inequality and the climate crisis by targeting super-rich individuals and polluting corporations. Their three key demands were: taxing the super-rich, protecting workers, and making polluters pay. The coalition also announced plans for a demonstration in central London on 20 September 2025, with activists projecting the coalition's demands onto the UK Parliament on the launch date.
4. <https://www.quaker.org.uk/events/make-them-pay-weekend-of-action> - Quakers in Britain announced a 'Make Them Pay' weekend of action on 20-21 September 2025, ahead of COP30 in Brazil. The event aimed to demonstrate support for making polluters pay for climate breakdown. On Saturday, a diverse coalition of groups, including faith communities, gathered in London to demand taxing the super-rich, reshaping the economy to support people and the planet, and making polluters pay for the impacts of climate breakdown. On Sunday, workshops were planned to explore ideas around climate and economic justice, including an interfaith workshop on climate finance.
5. <https://climatejustice.uk/cop30/make-them-pay/> - The Climate Justice Coalition announced plans to bring together an alliance representing millions of workers, citizens, and communities across Britain to demand that those responsible for soaring poverty, crumbling public services, and the climate crisis are made to pay up. The event was scheduled for Saturday, 20 September 2025, in London, with organisers encouraging people to sign up to march. The announcement included a link to the 'Make Them Pay' website for more information.
6. <https://christianclimateaction.org/2025/08/14/20th-september-make-them-pay-2/> - Christian Climate Action announced plans to join a major demonstration on Saturday, 20 September 2025, to create pressure ahead of the Autumn budget, pushing the government to tax the vast wealth of the super-rich and polluting corporations to fund climate action and a just transition. The demonstration was described as police-liaised, legal, and family-friendly, with participants encouraged to bring homemade placards, craftivist creations, flags, or just themselves. The event aimed to demand that the super-rich pay for the climate crisis they have caused.
7. <https://wccalliance.org/make-them-pay-campaign/> - The World Council of Churches announced the 'Make Them Pay' campaign on 22 June 2025, aiming to address the rising global wealth inequality and climate collapse. The campaign called for taxing the super-rich, protecting workers, and making polluters pay. A major 'Make Them Pay' event was planned for London on Saturday, 20 September 2025, coinciding with global actions against corporate and billionaire greed. The event was described as ambitious and exciting, incorporating elements of protest, political education, and entertainment, with an invitation for everyone to sign up and demand that the super-rich pay.