



## Report from London Retired Members



### London demonstration against winter deaths

by Tony O'Brien

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On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the National Pensioners' Convention, Unite for a Workers' Economy, Fuel Poverty Action, the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) and others came together to protest over the cold weather winter deaths. We held a minute's silence opposite Westminster followed by march to 10 Downing Street.

An estimated 13,400 more deaths occurred in the winter period (December 2021 to March 2022) compared with the average of the non-winter period.



We have had six protests over the last 15 months, against the escalating cost-of-living crisis and fuel poverty that together with COVID has led to huge number of the elderly and those most vulnerable to face early death.

If we and others had not taken action our triple lock would have been taken away along with what little government support we receive.

Most recently we have been demanding an end the practice of forced use of prepayment meters as they hit the poorest of our pensioners and others who are being left without heating as temperatures plummet. 3.2 million people have not been able to afford to top-up their meters last year and one in five customers were cut off in the past year.

We also need:

- Public ownership of energy companies
- Government commitment now to increase support with our fuel bills after April 2023
- A massive program of improving the energy efficiency of homes
- The speed up to cheaper renewable energy

We must build our movement. As your delegate on the national executive committee of the NPC I will continue to push for greater unity and involvement with other likeminded organisations, it is only in this way can we be successful in growing our numbers to fight to end this exploitation.