

# Older People's Day

## We're an asset not a burden!

Every week, a politician, think-tank or media commentator suggests that the country can no longer afford its older generation. They claim that pensioners have escaped the austerity and cuts and should now lose their universal benefits - free bus travel, winter fuel allowance, TV licences for the over 75s and free prescriptions. But this attack must be resisted.

### *What contribution do pensioners make to society?*

- Every year, pensioners add £40bn more to the economy than they receive in pensions, care and benefits.
- All pensioners pay tax, either on their income or indirectly
- Many charities would not exist without older volunteers
- Millions of young families rely on grandparents to provide unpaid childcare, and many older people also look after their spouses without any additional financial support

### *Why are universal benefits so important?*

- They save money through prevention of problems eg. free bus travel cuts down on loneliness
- They enable older people to play an active role in society
- The UK's state pension system is so poor that universal benefits are needed
- Everyone who needs help, gets it. A means-test would stop some from claiming
- The tax system can always be used to claw back money from very wealthy pensioners, rather than a costly means-test
- They show support for the welfare state

*Hands Off our Universal Benefits!*



**The National Pensioners Convention is Britain's biggest campaigning organisation for older people, with 1.5m members across the UK. You can get involved where you live by contacting one of our 18 regional groups:**

- **Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk** - frankluc@hotmail.co.uk or derry343@btinternet.com
- **Devon** - sheila@hcurzon.plus.com
- **Cornwall** - bernardt.oneil@mypostoffice.co.uk
- **Derbyshire, Leics, Lincs, Notts and Northants** - bherbertson43@btinternet.com
- **Greater London (33 London Boroughs)** - alanhoratio@aol.com
- **Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire** - sibleysorchard@gmail.com
- **Durham, Teesside, Tyneside and Northumberland** - jan.shortt@googlemail.com
- **Gtr Manchester, Lancs, Cheshire and Merseyside** - jack.crossfield@btinternet.com
- **Northern Ireland** - johnw.martin@btinternet.com
- **Scotland** - ken.harrold@blueyonder.co.uk
- **Kent, East and West Sussex** - valdexia@btinternet.com
- **Berks, Oxon, Surrey and parts of Wilts** - info@npcuk.org
- **Wales** - shirley1934@hotmail.co.uk
- **Dorset, Hampshire and part of Wilts** - donharper@talktalk.net
- **Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset** - bobjones@waitrose.com
- **Staffs, Worcs and the West Midlands** - peterlast9@tiscali.co.uk
- **Yorkshire and Humberside** - prussell2@btinternet.com

**Or if you'd prefer you can contact the NPC by phone on 0207-383-0388 or write to us at NPC Walkden House, 10 Melton St, London NW1 2EJ. Thank you.  
[www.npcuk.org](http://www.npcuk.org) / [www.handsoff.org.uk](http://www.handsoff.org.uk)**



**Hands  
Off!**