



Unity!



Picture thanks to John Bain

TORIES OUT

DEFEND GAZA AND THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

Rob Griffiths KING'S SPEECH

RISHI SUNAK'S desperate bid to detoxify the Tory brand by sacking Suella Braverman reveals the exact limits of the Tory offer. If the prime minister thinks that dragging David Cameron, the architect of austerity, from the contemplation of his memoirs is enough to give this chaotic administration a facelift he is living in a bubble of his own making.

Sunak has now added yet another peer to the Upper House of privileged parasites.

Where pundits and politicians speculate that this appointment is designed to give the cabinet a Tory 'One Nation' gloss they underestimate an electorate who know too well that the past decades of pay restraint and runaway prices gained extra heft with the austerity economics of the his Tory/Lib Dem coalition.

Tory policies remain as toxic as ever.

Stripped of its ludicrous pomp, the King's Speech confirmed that Sunak intends to fight the next General Election with headline policies unchanged and with the same 'Big Lies' used against Keir Starmer's predecessor.

Labour and its leader will be accused of being unpatriotic, weak on defence, soft on

crime, the enemy of the motorist and the friend of terrorists.

Twenty points behind even his lacklustre Labour opponent Sunak became the object of ridicule with his authority over even his own ministers ebbing away as he dithered over sacking Braverman.

She achieved the near impossible task in putting the Metropolitan Police on the same side of the argument as the Stop the War Coalition and the 'Ceasefire' movement with both government and leader of the opposition on the opposing side. When the cops have better political judgement than ministers the government is in trouble.

Over the overwhelmingly popular demand for a ceasefire in Israel's brutal war on the Palestinians a crisis of leadership has opened up in both parties of capitalist continuity and performative patriotism.

Sunak's humiliation was centre stage at the traditional Lewes Bonfire night parade when his effigy was set alight to joy and derision.

But see the deeper political significance illustrated in the picture above.

Sunak's effigy was born by a mocked-up locomotive with the triumphant visage of railway worker's leader Mick Lynch signifying the forces which are assembling to consign this government to history.

Measures to extract more fossil fuels and

loosen restrictions on property developers will further weaken the fight against environmental pollution and climate chaos. Sunak continues to rely on the private sector and market forces to meet people's housing, healthcare, transport and economic modernisation needs, despite the abysmal record of the past 13 years.

The Tories offer nothing to promote safe renewable energy, protect workers against P&O-style 'fire and replace' mass sackings, rescue the steel industry, devolve more powers and resources to local government or build affordable public sector homes. Instead, local authorities will be prevented from cutting links with repressive regimes in Israel and elsewhere, and we can expect more anti-democratic and anti-trade union measures to come out of right-field. Legislation banning British governments from endorsing war crimes would be more appropriate.

As Starmer's Labour sits on the fence, scared of its own shadow, the Communist Party calls for a united front of working-class and progressive movements to unite, take action and evict this rotting, corrupt Tory regime from Downing Street.

ROB GRIFFITHS IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY

Unity! reporter RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY

SIXTY-EIGHT Communist and workers' parties across the world have demanded an immediate halt to Israel's 'brutal military offensive, inhuman blockade and barbarous genocide in the Gaza Strip' reports Kevan Nelson told the Communist Party political committee last week.

He reported that he and the party's women's organiser Carol Stavris joined 121 fellow representatives in condemning US, NATO and EU support for the Israeli offensive carried out after the Hamas attack on civilian and military targets in Israel on October 7.

Kevan Nelson, the Communist Party's international secretary praised the extent and content of the demonstrations in many towns and cities in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

'They are nothing like the "hate marches" denounced by Home Secretary Suella Braverman, although it must be conceded that her anti-immigrant and anti-refugee words and actions make her an expert when it comes to stirring up hatred', he said.

The Communist Party's political committee urged trade unions, political parties and campaigning organisations to oppose any further restrictions on the right to demonstrate in Britain.

'The Palestine solidarity protests of recent weeks have been large, peaceful and without any support for antisemitism or terrorism', Kevan Nelson pointed out, 'and the best response to Tory government and police threats is to make the demonstration in London on 11 November the biggest yet'.

The 23rd International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties took place in Izmir, Turkey, in late October.

Pages 6 and 7 for full reports of the conference



CONGRESS NEWS & VIEWS

There are people starving in the siege, there are children traumatized and terrified. There are men women and children dying. This is a situation that has reached the proportions of a tremendous humanitarian crisis. It is a tragedy and every minute that passes we lose lives and more people are brutalized and traumatized

Hanan Ashrawi Palestinian academic and politician



SOLIDARITY

Unity Reporter
INTERNATIONAL

COMMUNIST PARTY International secretary Kevan Nelson, *below in moving the Congress emergency motion on Palestine* said: “There is no bigger priority for our Party than to build support for the Palestinian people by building union solidarity and direct action, supporting boycott, divestment and sanctions, mobilising medical aid and forcing a change in Government policy.”



An evening session heard legendary South african communist Ronnie Kasrils, *circled* who, from London, organised the London Recruits to undertake apartheid missions in South Africa.

Deputy Ambassador To Minh Thu *left* from the Embassy of Vietnam noted the historic role played by Britain’s Communists in supporting the national liberation struggle in Vietnam and Congress celebrated the stunning achievements since in building Vietnamese socialism.

Delegates listened intently to Minister Zhou Fei *second from left* from the Embassy of People’s Republic of China as the congress considered the economic achievements of socialism in China and committed to as well as combatting the New Cold War, anti-Communism and Sinophobia here in Britain.

Arun Kumar, *centre* a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) told delegates: “The CPI(M) shares a very warm fraternal relation with the CPB. Historically the two parties worked in close cooperation. The help rendered by the CPB leadership during the anti-colonial freedom struggle to the Indian communists is invaluable and we will never forget it.”

Her Excellency Barbara Montalvo Alvarez, *centre right* Cuban Ambassador to Britain, said: “There has not been a

solidarity meeting with Cuba in England, Wales or Scotland where members of the Young Communist League and the Communist Party have not been present. I want to thank you.”

General secretary Rob Griffiths told Bert De Belder, *right* international secretary of the Workers’ Party of Belgium PTB/PvDA that the strong success of his party in developing their party and struggles in recent years was a big source of inspiration and an example for delegates from our party here in Britain.

In a detailed speech Jimmy Cocoran, *below* general secretary of the Communist Party of Ireland said his party supported Brexit: “because we recognised that it reflected a split within the British ruling class and it would lead to contradictions



between the imperialist powers, which could be used to advance the struggle for Irish national liberation and socialism. Brexit caused, and continues to cause, difficulties for the Irish Ruling class. It has exposed the lack of democracy within the EU because the negotiations over the protocol were conducted with no input from Irish elected representatives. It has also weakened unionism, the most pro-imperialist ideological current in Ireland.

Unfortunately, Brexit also exposed political differences within the Party. Describing how a political difference led to a schism he said the breakaway group argued against a referendum on re-unification and stated that if such a referendum took place, a vote in favour of unity would not be valid unless a majority of the Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist community were in favour.

“In effect they support a unionist veto which puts them in the same camp as the Tory party, the loyalists and the British far-right. Rather than opposing sectarianism, their call for a weighted majority in fact re-enforces it” he said.

Full text of Jimmy Cocoran’s speech can be found on the CPI website at: <https://tinyurl.com/mwakf4cc>

Congress elected a new Executive Committee of 35 comprising the following cadres:

Nisar Ahmed, Georgina Andrews, Mollie Brown, Ron Brown, Sean Cannon, Judith Cazorla Rodenas, Ben Chacko, Andy Chaffer, Tony Conway, James Crossley, Mary Davis, Lorraine Douglas, Nigel Flanagan, Alex Gordon, Rob Griffiths, Richard Hebbert, Victoria Holmes, Johnnie Hunter, Hugh Kirkbride, Mark Jones, Gawain Little, Ben Lunn, Stephanie Martin, Roger McKenzie, David Morgan, Kevan Nelson, Helen O’Connor, Christiane Ohsan, Liz Payne, Dan Ross, Carol Stavris, Keith Stoddart, Ruth Styles and Jonathan White.

The new EC will meet for the first time in London on 6 and 7 January 2024.

Meantime, the outgoing Political Committee will continue to meet, with their next meeting scheduled for 16 November 2023.

FIGHT BACK

Unity! reporter
UNIONS

COMMUNISTS have welcomed the decision of the Trades Union Congress to convene a special conference to deal with the trade union response to the Tory government’s planned attacks on the trade union movement and worker rights.

With the Tory government proposing legislation to impose minimum service levels to rail, the ambulance services and border security, TUC leader Paul Nowak said: “These anti-strike laws won’t work. The crisis in our public services is of the government’s own making.

“Rather than engaging constructively with unions, they are attacking the right to strike. And they are punishing paramedics and rail staff for daring to stand up for decent pay and better services.

“These new laws are unworkable, undemocratic and almost certainly in breach of international law. The UK already has some of the most restrictive trade union laws in Europe.”

★ The conference takes place in London on Saturday 9 December. At the Communist Party congress delegates committed to work to build a militant shop stewards’ movement resolving that: “the strength of the trade union movement can be linked directly, though not exclusively, to the collective power of workers on the shop floor.”



The tone was set by Merseyside delegate Nigel Flanagan *above* who warned that trade unions, “despite a summer of outstanding action and some successes, are still suffering from long-term trends of decline.

“Even during the strike wave, trade union membership declined by another 200,000 — 122,000 of them were women workers in the private sector,” he said.

Nigel Flanagan argued that unions struggled to recruit because of a shift away from the patient rank-and-file political work of the 1960s and ’70s.

CLASS ACT

Unity reporter
YOUNG COMMUNISTS

WE MUST BECOME capable of providing organisational and political leadership to struggles in workplaces, campuses and communities Young Communists’ leader Georgina Andrews *above* told delegates.

In an assured and upbeat speech she said that the congress is meeting at a crucial time with an economic crisis with workers enduring a cost of living crisis with few parallels in our history.

“This,” she said, “is the cost of capitalism and the profit system imposes on working people.”

Urging communists to continue the successes of the past year with further wins for our movement she outlined the problems experienced in particular by youth and highlighted age discrimination in pay enshrined in law, insecure work and the gig economy and unemployment and underemployment.

Threatening youth and the working class, humanity and planet were an escalating environmental crisis, NATO’s proxy war in Ukraine and the danger of war in the Middle East.

Changing the guard



Communist Party communications director Phil Katz *left* has handed his brief to Johnnie Hunter. Before taking on the party job Phil had a long career in trade union media work, printing and publishing and is the author of several books including the latest Manifesto title on the life and ideas of Tom Mann Yours for the revolution. Former YCL leader Johnnie Hunter takes over leadership of the party’s media team.



DEMOCRACY & DISCIPLINE

‘But the strength of the Communist Party, its ability to act as a united organisation, springs from the fact that the individual voluntarily associates himself with the collective, contributes everything he can to it, and accepts its decisions. We do not accept the idea that there are particular individuals with some kind of divine right to place themselves above others,’ **Communist Party of Great Britain** *Report on Inner-Party Democracy 1957*



Nick Wright
COMMUNIST CONGRESS

THE COMMUNIST PARTY’S 57th Congress ended with a call to resolve the ‘prolonged, profound crisis of working class representation, to intensify the strike wave and resist the drive to war

This was coupled with a clear determination to build and grow the Party in workplaces and communities throughout the land.

Over 100 delegates representing a growing membership of over 1,300 met for two days at Croydon’s Ruskin House, debating resolutions on the Palestine crisis, the New Cold War and union organising.

Endorsing an omnibus political resolution – drafted by the outgoing leadership and strengthened in a debate that included dozens of amendments and supplementary resolutions from party organisations – the 120 plus delegates endorsed the document without dissent.

Great attention was paid the developments in the international capitalist order and to the challenges to US hegemony by the growing independence of the global south and including the developments of the BRICS.

There was a real spirit of international solidarity with outstanding contributions from comrades representing the embassies of socialist states in Britain of China, Cuba

and Vietnam plus the Communist Party of India Marxist, the Communist Party of Ireland, the Belgian Workers Party and the South African Communist Party

General secretary Rob Griffiths said Labour’s right-wing leadership is determined to purge the party of any association with class struggle and socialism. This even extends to the repudiation of such popular policies as a wealth tax on the super-rich, higher taxes on corporate profits and capital gains, and public ownership of public transport, energy and the Royal Mail.

“Rather than capitalist nationalisation, with its compensation for wealthy shareholders and subsidies for big business, the Communist Party calls for progressive, democratic nationalisation which takes full account of the interests of workers, consumers, local communities and the environment” he said.

Reporting a marked growth in party membership and a striking growth in the Young Communist League he said delegates would return to their branches, districts and the three nations determined to struggle, build and plan in November and December and enter 2024 as an active and fighting Party.

Follow the Party’s social media in the coming weeks for post-Congress updates and content including the amended main resolutions and action plans.

Above left
Congress Logo
designed by Paul
Macgee

Centre left New
leader of the
young
communists
Georgina
Andrews delivers
the YCL fraternal
greetings

Left General
secretary Rob
Griffiths flanked
by national chair
Ruth Styles and
her co chair Tony
Conway

Centre right
Nader Awad, Dr
Firas Sarhan and
Navid Shomali

Right Unity’s
Groucho
humourist is best
known for his (or
is it her?) satirical
take at TUC
conference on
union
bureaucrats,
right wing trade
union leaders,
reactionary
Labour MPs, daft
trotskyists and
equally daft
maoists.

Special contempt
is reserved for
the class cuddle
euro communists
who privatised
the CPGB’s
£millions of
assets.

AGAINST IMPERIALISM

Unity reporter
SOLIDARITY

A packed fringe meeting at the congress hear three comrades from the Middle East give a wide ranging insight into the complex class politics of the region and the role of imperialism and the response of the people. Will we get a long-lasting peace treaty, a process that will take us forward, or will we see more and more of us becoming refugees, driven into the Sinai desert, or the Negev desert, or possibly into Jordan? asked Dr Firas Sarhan from the Palestinian People’s.

“My dad lived through the first Nakba” he said using the Arabic word for catastrophe, when three quarters of a million Palestinians were driven from their homes farms and homeland.

We stand with the resistance Nader Awaad of the Lebanese Communist Party leader told the Palestine solidarity fringe meeting at the Communist Party congress.

“It doesn’t matter whose resistance — a Muslim faction, a leftie — resistance is resistance.

“Hezbollah in Lebanon is a resistance. We stand with them. We have differences with them on other topics, we confront them, but when it comes to the resistance, we are behind them. Nothing to do with Islam.

“We don’t want, like them, a Muslim state — I’m a communist, I drink, I eat pork, you name it I do it — but when it comes to the confrontation with the imperialists and the zionists, we are behind the resistance — it doesn’t matter what colour.”

Calling for an independent state of Palestine on the 1967 borders, with its capital in East Jerusalem and with the right of return for refugees Navid Shomali from the communist Tudeh party of Iran detailed the long record of Western imperialist intervention in the Middle East, including the overthrow of the Mossadegh government in Iran.

GROUCHO

Drippy As delegates to the Communist Party’s 2023 congress entered Ruskin House, the elegant Queen Anne building that traditionally hosts the event, they pass a huddle of dripping wet CPGBML members.

This sect of cosplaying neo-maoists is really the family business of longtime leader-of-the-world-proletariat Harpal Brar, now mostly famous for fathering his heir, Joti Brar.

Joti’s dad is an erudite and likeable if slightly ludicrous figure who spent his early political career denouncing the post 1956 Soviet Union as a degenerate capitalist inversion of the state Stalin led but now lauds capitalist Russia’s Putin as Stalin’s successor.

The CPGBML, originally a breakaway Indian Maoist faction has charted an erratic path over recent years — once collectively expelled from Arthur Scargill’s Socialist Labour Party, now excluded from George Galloway’s Workers’ Party it wanders the internet in search of an audience. Having shed one body of impressionable young members due to its performative transphobia it now turns up at the Communist Party congress in the forlorn hope of tempting the unwary.

Their leaflet implored delegates to reject the main political resolution. After two days of debate delegates endorsed the amended document without dissent.

Flag Shagger Funniest speaker at the congress was Glasgow delegate Keith Stoddart. A popular figure who fronts the *Morning Star*’s fundraising operation he won tumultuous applause with a witty and highly political defence of the Communist Party’s distinctive 30s hammer and sickle designed by Eric Gill for the *Daily Worker* masthead.

The issue at stake was what relative importance should be attached to the traditional emblem and the exquisite peace dove and hammer design that Mikhail Boncza created during the 1980s missile crisis.

Rob Griffiths and Liz Payne — arguing for the latter — went down with dignity before a markedly young congress determined to assert the primacy of the original.

Keith had the last laugh (and had congress in stitches) when he chose as his raffle prize a party flag with the dove design.



POLITICS & ACTION

“Clearly, not uncritical apologetics but penetrating and thoughtful criticism is alone capable of bringing out the treasures of experiences and teachings. Dealing as we are with the very first experiment in proletarian dictatorship in world history

Rosa Luxemburg *The Russian Revolution*



Strike map with Manifesto Press Thursday, 7 December
Book Launch: The Workers' Committee by JT Murphy
 Join us for the exciting launch of the Workers' Committee JT Murphy pamphlet on 7 December, 2023 at 19:00 Register: <https://tinyurl.com/pjcz394n>

THE VIOLENCE OF MISOGYNY

A global apparatus of women's oppression

25 November 2023 2 pm - 5 pm Marx Memorial Library
 In person and online at <https://tinyurl.com/578thsay>
 To coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Communist Party's Women's Commission invites you to hear from an international panel of leading women activists on the causes and consequences of violent misogyny & the fight against it. Chair: Charlie Weinberg Speakers: Mary Davis (Communist Party EC author of Women & Class) Mariam Dhawale (General Secretary All-India Democratic Women's Association) Pragna Patel (activist and founder and former director of Southall Black Sisters) Shatha Besarani Iraqi Women's League) plus a speaker from Cuban Women's Federation

IER Employment Rights Conferences

Liverpool and London 16 and 22 November 2023
 The Institute of Employment Rights will be running their annual employment law updates in Liverpool and London this month. The conferences bring together leading lawyers, academics and campaigners from across Britain to update delegates on developments in labour law over the previous 12 months and to suggest how workers can be better protected.

<https://www.ier.org.uk/events/employment-law-update-november-2023-liverpool/>
<https://www.ier.org.uk/events/employment-law-update-november-2023-london/>

Manifesto Press book launch

24 November 2023



There is already early acclaim for the Workers' and Students' Guides series published by Manifesto Press. The series will be formally launched on 24 November at the Marx Memorial Library. Starts 6.30 pm.

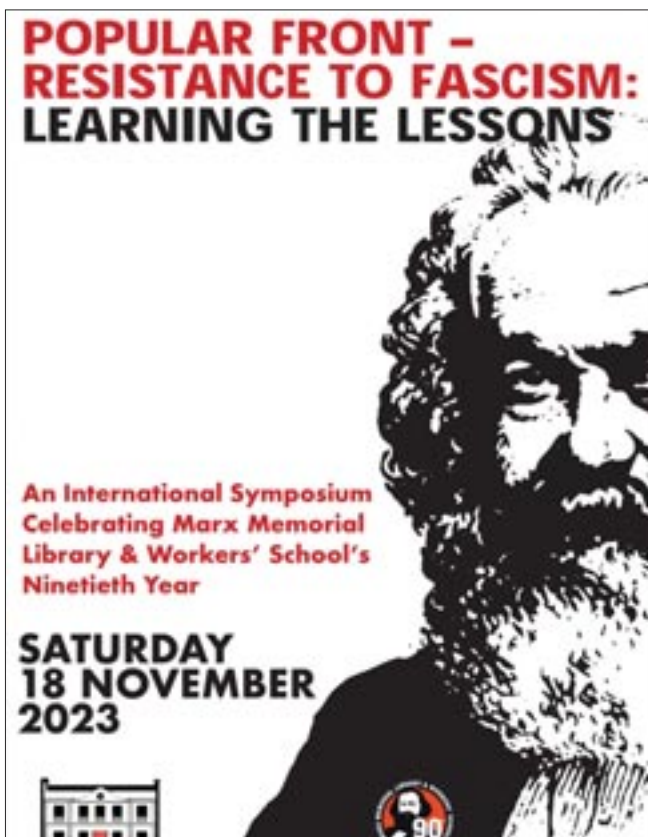
Join us there to meet all three authors of the five initial guides:
Nigel Flanagan: *Organising in our Trade Unions*. **C. Ritchie:** *Marxism & Philosophy in the 21st Century: Materialism & Idealism*. **Stewart McGill:** *The Top Ten Economic Myths; Socialism or Extinction; Straight Lefts on Inflation*.

The launch will be hosted by **Judith Cazorla**, CP central organiser. There will be presentations from the writers, opportunities to discuss the guides, pick up copies signed by the authors, and drink some wine.



Check out the latest episodes of CommieCast podcast. These high quality podcasts are great to share around and listen to, full of information and ideas. Available on anchorfm, Spotify, Google and YouTube:

- CommieCast#18** Venezuela: a crisis of capitalism? A view from the Communist Party of Venezuela.
- CommieCast#19** Not one step back from the truth: fighting Historical Revisionism. Listen to Dan Ross and Phil Katz.
- CommieCast#21** Race, Class and Empire with Roger McKenzie.



An International Symposium Celebrating Marx Memorial Library & Workers' School's Ninetieth Year

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2023



ONLINE & ONSITE LECTURE
DIEGO'S APPRENTICES:
 Jack Hastings, Clifford Wight and the making of the Marx Memorial Library & Workers' School fresco

Thursday, 16 November 2023 7:00pm

COMMUNIST REVIEW 108

CONTENTS: ARTS, THEORY AND DISCUSSION JOURNAL
 THE VIDEO GAME INDUSTRY
 A Virtual World to Win: Class Struggle in the Video Game Industry Scott Alsworth
 Après Moi, Le Déluge: Gambling in the 21st Century An Onymous
 The Historical Jesus and Marxist Historiography James Crossley
 BOOK REVIEW With Scalice Aforethought Ken Fuller
 DISCUSSION A Reply to a Reply Greg Codels
 SOUL FOOD Igniting the Fire: Poetry and Keeping Hope Alive Fran Lock



THEORY AND DISCUSSION JOURNAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AUTUMN 2023

- Editorial *Martin Levy*
 - A Virtual World to Win: Class Struggle in the Video Game Industry *Scott Alsworth*
 - Après Moi, Le Déluge: Gambling in the 21st Century *An Onymous*
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- www.comunistparty.org.uk



education for tomorrow for the defence of state education New series Number 5 Autumn 2023

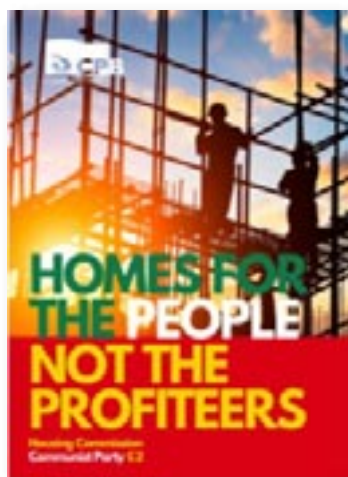
- Boarding school boys and British politics: the nationalisation of emotional austerity *Lucia Quadrini*
- The rise of authoritarianism *Phil Beadle*
- The inclusion room/prison system *Nina Morris-Evans*
- August 1911 *Tom Shields & Holly Vallender*
- Teaching about fascism *Steve Handford*
- Teaching in the real world *Cartoon Wallman*
- SEA Manifesto *Ian Duckett*
- Daniel Kebede interviewed *Ben Chacko*
- Union Lefts Workers summit
- extract from Troublemaking: why you should organise your workplace *Lydia Hughes and Jamie Woodcock*
- Nicaragua *Roger McKenzie*
- London Recruits *Steve Marsling*
- Palestine *Julia Simpkins*

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A WORKER WHO READS

The young Alexander conquered India. *Was he alone?* Caesar defeated the Gauls. *Did he not even have a cook with him?* Philip of Spain wept when his armada went down. *Was he the only one to weep?* Frederick the 2nd won the 7 Years War. *Who else won it?* Every page a victory. *Who cooked the feast for the victors?* Every 10 years a great man. *Who paid the bill?* So many reports. So many questions. Lines from **Bertolt Brecht's** *A Worker who Reads*



▲ Homes for the people not profiteers

Every human being wants, and needs, a roof over their head. We all want a place of safety, for ourselves and our loved ones. A good quality, affordable home is a basic human right – and one which is denied to millions of our fellow citizens.

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▲ An updated edition of the fight of our lives is now available in digital and print

Author of the best-selling Manifesto Press book *Our Trade Unions* Nigel Flanagan says this pamphlet is clarity – in itself a massive achievement. It is recommended for all working class and trade union activists.

www.manifestopress.coop



▲ Eye witness: China, Cuba and Venezuela

A new Communist Party pamphlet launched at Congress featuring a compilation of our General Secretary Robert Griffiths' articles on the revolutions in China, Cuba and Venezuela is now available on the Party shop

<https://shop.comunistparty.org.uk>



▲ The Resurgence of Class Politics

A new Party pamphlet launched at the Communist Party Congress featuring a compilation of articles and speeches on the political situation in Britain by our General Secretary Robert Griffiths' articles is now available on the Party website

<https://shop.comunistparty.org.uk>



EMAIL YOUR MP TO DEMAND A CEASEFIRE NOW!

It only takes 2 minutes. Don't worry if you've not written to your MP before, you don't need to be an expert... but just a few words from a constituent like you can make all the difference.

Over 34,000 emails have already been sent to MPs demanding they call for a #ceasefireNOW using our previous e-actions. 49655 people have sent an additional message using this new template letter... now is the time for you to contact your MP and and keep that pressure up!

Urge your MP to call on the government to press for an immediate ceasefire, and a complete end to total siege on the Gaza Strip.

<https://tinyurl.com/78hyu25a>



Straight Left

Stewart McGill

Unemployment

The weathermen still don't know which way the wind blows

RECENT TRENDS have shown indicated that unemployment is on the rise, so we thought we would look for some underlying causes. Data published on 31 October by the Office for National Statistics showed unemployment rising to 4.2 per cent in the three months to August, up from 4 per cent in the previous quarter, the employment rate fell 0.3 percentage points to 75.7 per cent. But the agency warned these estimates should be treated as “experimental”, since the labour force survey on which its figures are usually based has proved so unreliable.

No figures on the reasons behind stubbornly high rates of economic inactivity, no details on working hours, self-employment or part-time work, no sectoral breakdown.

“We still don't know whether employment has failed to grow since the pandemic, or risen by one million,” said the Resolution Foundation, adding this would hamper “crucial decisions” on interest rates and inactivity.

This is a story in itself, the Bank of England, and other policy makers, will have to make serious judgements affecting people's lives based on woefully inadequate data. Answers to the key questions are blowing in the wind, and nobody really knows which way the wind is blowing.

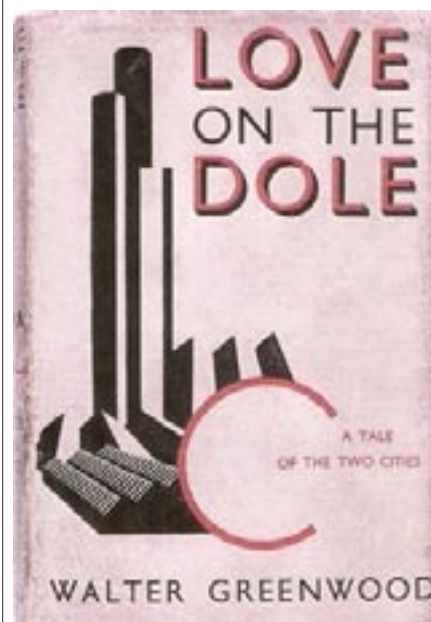
A few guesses on direction based on that which we do know.

UK businesses remain reluctant to make significant investments in the midst of an uncertain outlook for global political economy and high interest rates, according to a recent survey by the British Chambers of Commerce.

Only 23 per cent of respondents said they were considering fresh injections of cash to improve the way they operated. The pause in investment is often traced back to 2016 and the uncertainties provoked by Brexit vote; such reluctance to invest will damage employment prospects. However, and caveating for the quality of the data, eurozone unemployment is 6.4 per cent compared to our 4.2 per cent. It's a general malaise, not Brexit as the Remain Sulkers like to maintain.

Corporate insolvencies in England and Wales climbed to their highest level since the 2008 crisis in the six months to September as businesses were damaged by high borrowing costs and weak demand, according to official data released on 31 October, a 10 per cent year-on-year increase. Borrowing costs are up since the Bank of England started raising interest rates to fight an inflation caused largely by corporate profiteering. Even when the information is available and gives a clear message, they still proscribe measures that reflect class interests rather than reality.

Maybe we shouldn't get too preoccupied by the absence of any decent data.



▲ So sensitive was the issue of unemployment in the 1930s that despite the success of the book and play of *Love on the Dole* that the British state banned the making of a film to be made. According to Ronald Gow who adapted the novel for the play staged by the Manchester Repertory Theatre it was “regarded as 'dangerous'”. In 1936, the British Board of Film Censors rejected a proposed film version

Eventually filmed and released in wartime the film was the first English-made feature film to show British police wielding truncheons against a crowd.



<https://members.comunistparty.org.uk/join-now>

international bulletin



The 23rd Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties took place on 19–22 October 2023. The meeting was hosted by the Communist Party of Turkey and attended by 121 representatives of 68 parties from 54 countries and seven parties, who could not attend for various reasons, also sent their greetings.

THE THEMES of the meeting were firstly, the political and ideological battles to confront capitalists and imperialism and secondly, the tasks of communists to inform and mobilize the working class, youth, women, and intellectuals in the struggle against exploitation, oppression, imperialist lies and historical revisionism; for the social and democratic rights of workers and

peoples; against militarism and war, for peace and socialism.

During the meeting, valuable experience was exchanged regarding the struggle of the Communist and Workers' Parties, of the labour and popular movements, at a time when we witness that class contradictions have deepened and that the capitalist system offers nothing but inequality, poverty,

unemployment, war, conflicts and displacement for humanity; that competition and contradictions within the imperialist system continue to increase; that imperialist aggression increasing along with the competition continues to harbour the potential danger of a war that could engulf the whole world.

Assessments were exchanged on the recent political, military, and economic developments. The role of NATO was strongly denounced, as well as its expansion to new countries.

The importance of the developments in Palestine was stressed. Immediate stopping of Israel's aggression and blockade on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank stop was demanded.

Full solidarity with the Palestinian people was expressed and the brutal military offensive, the inhuman blockade and the barbarous genocide by Israel in the Gaza Strip was condemned.

The support of the USA, Britain, NATO and the EU for the Israeli offensive was denounced. Ending of the Israeli occupation, the creation and recognition of an independent Palestinian state, the cessation and dismantling of the illegal settlements in the Palestinian territories, the release of political prisoners from Israeli jails and the return of refugees was demanded.

Internationalist solidarity with the people of Palestine was expressed and the importance of strengthening the struggle in all countries to stop the



Carol Stavris, the Communist Party's national women's organiser and Kevan Nelson, its international secretary represented the party at the 23rd international meeting of the communist and workers' parties at Izmir in Turkey on 20-22 October 2023.

This is the text of Carol Stavris's speech.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of Britain welcomes this 23rd international meeting of Communist and Workers Parties in Izmir. We salute and thank our hosts, the Communist Party of Turkey. We pledge our solidarity with the TKP in its struggle for a secular, independent and socialist working people's republic in Turkey.

From our standpoint, as communists working in the world's oldest bourgeois democracy, we see a world in transition.

The gross domestic production of the

BRICS has now surpassed that of the G7. Time will tell whether the progress of an enlarged BRICS can be maintained and how its contradictions with the imperialist bloc will work out. While the economies of the major capitalist powers stagnate, there is growth in the BRICS economies as a debt-driven financial crisis threatens the post-Covid recovery of the major G7 powers.

For communists working in the imperialist heartlands, solidarity with nations working to break free of imperialist domination is a foundation of our politics. This is why we work to achieve the greatest unity around concrete solidarity actions without losing sight of the historical truth that the class struggle persists so long as capitalist relations of production and private ownership exist.

We acknowledge the class character of many of the regimes who find the BRICS a useful instrument. These are contradictory processes and the outcome depends on the interplay of class forces at both the domestic level and globally.

The appropriation of surplus value by a class of owners inevitably engenders class struggle and it is not possible to either legislate or imagine this out of

existence or to imagine that conflict with imperialism renders class struggle redundant.

The rapid increase in China's economic and technological growth and rise in global influence poses a serious threat to US global hegemony and the dominance of the Western imperialist system since the 1990s. We count this as a decisive factor in complicating the drive by the main imperialist powers – including Britain – to decisively shape the global situation.

Our party works constantly to explain how collective ownership, state direction of the economy, collective control and ownership of the banking system and direct investment in the productive economy are universal principles that can only be guaranteed in a system where public ownership predominates and the state is a reliable instrument of the working class constituted as the ruling class.

We do so from our understanding, deepened by the tumultuous course of class struggle in our own country where a massive strike movement followed the political defeat of a left wing challenge within the Labour Party.

Our social democratic formation is



PEACE & LIBERATION

“Having suffered numerous sacrifices, pain and loss during decades of struggle against foreign aggression and for peace, independence and freedom, the people of Viet Nam deeply appreciate the value of peace,”

Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, former Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam



The New Cold War has arrived with the NATO expansion into central and eastern Europe – a principal factor in the present Ukraine war – and an essential elements in the US drive to counter both Russia and China’s growing economic, commercial and diplomatic strength. Andrew Murray’s new book draws on his original 2015 Empire and Ukraine and updates it with his 2022 commentary and a new introduction. Essential reading for all in the anti war movement. www.manifestopress.coop

Andrew Murray, chair of the Stop-the-War Coalition from 2001 to 2011, is the author of several books on political and trade union matters, including The Imperial Controversy (Manifesto Press 2009) Flashpoint World War III (1997), Off the Rails (2001), A New Labour Nightmare: Return of the Awkward Squad (2003), Stop the War: The Story of Britain’s Biggest Mass Movement (with Lindsey German, 2005), The T&G Story (2008) and Empire and Ukraine (Manifesto Press 2015).

massacre in the Gaza Strip and end the occupation of Palestine by Israel was stressed.

The war in Ukraine, with its different aspects, was brought into attention by many of the participating parties. There were different approaches regarding the sources and the character of the war; but all parties especially put emphasis on the fact that the struggle against NATO should be intensified.

It was highlighted that under these circumstances the Communist and Workers’ Parties bear the responsibility to organize and lead the struggle of the working peoples, to illuminate the necessity of socialism. It was also emphasised that it is necessary to strengthen internationalist solidarity among the Communist Parties, the class-oriented labour organizations, the movements of the poor farmers and farmworkers, and the popular movements overall.

The need was stressed to strengthen solidarity with the Communist Party of Cuba, Cuba and its people, who have gained independence, equality, important labour and social rights, struggling to defend socialism and the achievements of the Cuban revolution; to strengthen the international condemnation of the genocidal US blockade against Cuba and to demand its end.

It was expressed that anti-communism manifested itself not only in the military operations of imperialism and the direct or covert attempts and

unusual in that the trade unions exercise real if limited power within the party structures. A limited breakthrough - with the election of a firm internationalist, anti-imperialist and anti war Labour Party leader - unleashed a powerful counter attack by the ruling class, the capitalist state, domestic and foreign intelligence organisations including those of the US and Israel and what we describe as the personification of capital within the labour movement whose main instruments are a majority in the parliamentary Labour Party and decades old domination of the party apparatus.

We are under no illusions that a Corbyn led government would have survived an attack by the forces which when confronted with the prospect of a left-led Labour government, did everything to defeat it.

Our approach is to rally workers in struggle, build the widest class and left wing unity, fight on every front to advance the struggles of the working class and draw lessons from every victory and especially every defeat.

The City of London, which has both domestic and global features, is where

interventions against the organization of communist and workers’ parties from different parts of the world threatened the right of the working class to organize.

The fact that the monopoly of capital over the means of communication dominates the channels of information and organization of the working class and that the bourgeoisie holds the power to silence all revolutionary forces and the disinformation created by imperialism continues to distort reality in line with the interests of imperialism was mentioned. Thus the need to strengthen the ideological and political struggle against the bourgeois media and imperialist lies was emphasised.

The participants of the meeting reiterated their solidarity with the working class of Turkey, that has been facing deeper exploitation and impoverishment day by day. On the occasion of the meeting, which took place on the centenary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey, they saluted the struggle of the communists of Turkey against capitalist exploitation and imperialism.

Furthermore, many Parties expressed their solidarity with the struggles of the workers for their social, political, and trade union rights.

Ahead of 2024, the Communist and Workers’ Parties adopted a framework of joint and convergent actions they will develop.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY
PRESS BUREAU

the global bourgeoisie does much of its business. Yet such is the depth of the capitalist crisis that wide sections of our working people are experiencing direct attacks on their living standards, wages, pensions, benefits and savings.

This is exceptionally fertile ground for the work of our party and we count the growth of our party and especially the Young Communist League as a real advance.

We are realistic that our party’s modest resources are not yet decisive in the politics of our nation but we are confident that in the working class movement the values and ideology of our party command respect and support as does the our daily newspaper the *Morning Star* which is universally seen as both the newspaper of the labour movement and the left as well as the voice of the communists.

Since the dissolution of socialist relations of production in the former USSR and Europe the global balance of power has not favoured the world’s working class, the millions existing in pre-capitalist or unevenly developed capitalist relations of production and has thrown great burdens on the countries that aspire to build socialism.

DECLARATION ON PALESTINE

1 We demand that Israel’s aggression and blockade on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank stop now. We call on the people to continue to take to the streets to struggle, to organize popular mobilizations against Israeli aggression all around the world. We express our full solidarity with the Palestinian people and condemn the brutal military offensive, the inhuman blockade and the barbarous genocide by the Israel in the Gaza Strip, with thousands of dead civilians, children and elderly, deprived of food, water, medicine and electricity.

We denounce the support of the USA, Britain, NATO and the EU for the Israeli offensive.

2 We condemn the decades-long Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, the killings, imprisonment, persecution and settlements. We defend the right of the Palestinian people to a free homeland, to be masters of their own land. We demand an end to the Israeli occupation, the creation and recognition of an independent Palestinian state, the cessation and dismantling of the illegal settlements in the Palestinian territories, the release of prisoners from Israeli jails, the return of refugees in accordance with UN resolution 194.

The occupation of Palestine by Israel, supported by US-NATO imperialism, is the source of the suffering of the Palestinian people, and all the peoples of the region. As long as the occupation continues, the conflicts will continue, the peoples will be prevented from living in peace, they will be in danger of being caught in the vortex of a generalised war.

3 The Communist and Workers’ Parties participating in the 23rd IMCWP, express their internationalist solidarity and call upon the workers, the peoples, the youth, in all countries to strengthen the struggle to stop the massacre in the Gaza Strip and end the occupation of Palestine by Israel to express decisive solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

The parties participating in the 23rd International Meeting of Communist and Workers’ Parties (IMCWP) held in Izmir, Turkey, 19-22 October 2023:

Communists operate in vastly different conditions, some in clandestinity, some in bourgeois democracies, many in countries where the battle to fully establish socialist relations of production proceeds in conditions characterised by a substantial engagement with foreign capital and where there are constantly evolving contradictions between the need to fully appropriate the social product. and the obligations arising from integration in the global capitalist economy.

The position of women in the capitalist world is bleak. In terms of pay gaps, lack of opportunities in education, lack of their health care and social needs as well as rising levels of sex-based violence, women’s experiences are grim. Even in countries that have managed to overthrow the system which oppresses women and are trying to build a socialist, sustainable future, historically embedded patriarchy still has to be tackled. UN Women, the entity working for gender equality and women’s empowerment, produces an annual Gender Snapshot which makes disturbing reading this year. The report estimates that, without substantial global funding, gender equality worldwide will

not be achievable by 2030 and more than 340 million women and girls (8% of the world’s female population) will be living in extreme poverty.

Countries which are pursuing a socialist path must do more to lead the way for women’s equality. Listen to women, hear their concerns and bring them into decision making at every level so that patriarchal attitudes from a reactionary past can be ended and women valued for their contributions to a progressive future.

Comrades, the 22nd meeting in Havana reaffirmed the importance of the unity of the Communist and Workers Movement to the struggle against the capitalism system of exploitation. Today, Communist unity is an absolute imperative at a time when world peace is under immediate threat from economic, military, and political tensions arising from the situation in Ukraine, notably the intervention of US led imperialist forces seeking to escalate, prolong and widen the conflict.

**Long live our Communist unity for Peace and Socialism
Long live the international unity of Communist and Workers Parties**



COMMUNIST WOMEN

I would not say that female cosmonauts are not welcomed in the Russian space program. I must say, however, that all spaceflight hardware, including spacesuits and spacecraft comfort assuring systems, were designed mostly by men and for men.' **Valentina Tereshkova** First woman in space

THE CHARTER FOR WOMEN

MARY DAVIS
LIBERATION

More than three decades ago the first edition of *Women and Class* was published. Now in its fourth edition its aim remains to develop a Marxist feminist analysis of women's oppression and super-exploitation. This theory informs the Communist Party's campaigning work, through promoting the *Charter for Women*, which was first adopted by 2002 Communist Party Congress with the aim to embed it in the labour movement's work on women's rights.

The *Charter for Women* was officially launched on in February 2003 at a meeting in the RMT's headquarters following which a Charter Steering Group was established, the aims of which were: 'to work across the labour and women's movement to publicise the Charter, engage in debate, challenge bad practice, oppose the oppression of women and to encourage affiliations to the Charter.'

The steering group adopted a constitution and met every two months. It organised regular AGMs which elected officers – among whom, over the years, were Megan Dobney, Mary Davis, Barbara Switzer, and Sharon Allen. Most importantly, the steering group introduced and publicised the Charter in the trade union, labour and women's movement from 2004.

The aim of the Charter was, and remains, to inspire a new and inclusive socialist feminist theory and practice that will motivate a new generation of women activists and revitalise the fight for women's liberation. It suggests that one of the ways of doing this is to unite around a campaigning programme as outlined in the *Charter for Women*. The Charter did not and does not offer new policy but instead seeks to bring together the key demands for which progressive women are fighting in various arenas. It covers three broad areas, social policy, the labour market and the labour movement. It raises the main progressive concerns and campaigning points for which women have fought under each of the three themes. The aim was, and still is, to ensure that it would be discussed, adopted and promoted by the trade union and labour movement and by progressive women's organisations. Fringe meetings on the Charter were held regularly at TUC congress and the TUC Women's Conference.

One of the results of this was that many unions adopted the charter or versions of it and were attracted to send delegates to three well attended Charter conferences (2005, 2008, 2011) to which as average of 12 unions sent up to five delegates.

By 2012 the campaign around the Charter had secured the affiliation of 27 trade unions (including 18 national unions) and several trades' councils. Although we did not succeed in our aim of establishing local Charter groups, it was nonetheless the case that the Charter continued to exercise some influence within the labour movement in Britain and beyond. It was publicised by the European Social Forum and even got publicity in France at a meeting on the Charter organised by the CGT in Paris in 2005 at which I spoke. It was adopted by the People's Charter in Britain – the forerunner of the People's Assembly. Subsequently the National Assembly of Women has become the custodian of the Charter.

The Charter was relaunched in 2020 under the aegis of the National Assembly of Women and is attracting considerable interest once again as it becomes increasingly apparent that the fight against women's oppression requires eternal vigilance. Thus the Charter remains an essential campaigning document in the fight to retain extend women's rights in society, in the labour market and in the labour movement.

Donate!
Sylvia Pankhurst
statue fund
<https://tinyurl.com/3srbzemy>



The Charter

Women have always fought for their long-denied rights; we must do so again. We hope to inspire a new and inclusive socialist feminist theory and practice that will motivate a new generation of women activists and revitalise the fight for women's liberation. One of the ways of doing this is to unite around a campaigning programme. This is the purpose of the Charter for Women. It does not offer new policy but instead seeks to bring together the key demands for which women are fighting in various arenas. The charter covers three broad areas, social policy, the labour market and the labour movement. It raises the main campaigning demands under each heading. We want it to be discussed, adopted and promoted by women in the labour movement, by all progressive women's groups and organisations. For us the price of equality is eternal vigilance – we must ensure that women's demands are heard and acted on.

in society ■ Highlight the feminisation of poverty and campaign to reverse cuts in social provision, the welfare state and public services. ■ Campaign for decent local authority grant funding for voluntary organisations that campaign for women's equality to ensure a strong voice advocating for women's equality for all women. ■ Expose the ideologies that are used to perpetuate women's inequality (for example, the notion of 'family values' and the 'family wage'). ■ Draw attention to the role of the media and other cultural agencies in shaping gender identities that reinforce the unequal relationships between men and

women. ■ Campaign for greater support for lone mothers, carers and women subject to domestic violence, coercive behaviour, stalking and other abuse. ■ End the discrimination against Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans women. ■ Improve access and rights to abortion. ■ Campaign for Period Dignity with free period products available in workplaces and public buildings and an end to VAT on period products. ■ Ensure that women and girls are entitled to the full range of free and high quality educational provision (from nursery to further and higher education) and subject choice. ■ Campaign for gender sensitive occupational health and safety, personal protective equipment and work stations and environments designed by and for women. ■ End women pensioner poverty by reducing the state pension age to 60 and increasing the State pension in line with average earnings. ■ The principle of women only spaces to be upheld – and where necessary extended. Gender neutral spaces should be additional to women's spaces. ■ Maintain the exemptions in the Equality Act that allow for single sex services or requirements that only a woman can apply for a job. ■ Ensure that women have an absolute right to self-organisation as women. ■ Extend sisterhood and solidarity to our sisters internationally in recognition that women across the world face similar sex-based discrimination.

at work. ■ Campaign to end institutional and other forms of racism and ensure that the status and pay of Black women workers is a bargaining priority. ■ Campaign to reduce the gender pay gap and highlight its causes. ■ End job segregation by improving access to apprenticeships, training and opportunities for women in non-traditional areas. ■ Campaign to ensure that unions fight more equal value claims through the mechanism of collective bargaining. ■ Campaign for access to justice for women, with restoration of legal aid. ■ Campaign to change equal pay law to permit 'class action' (group claims) and remove employer 'get out', strengthen the legislation to ensure employers are required to be open and transparent and with employees and close the loopholes that employers regularly use to avoid equal pay. ■ Campaign to raise the level of national minimum wage to at least half, and rising to at least two-thirds of male median earnings. ■ Demand that statutory pay audits be implemented in the private and public sector and remedial action taken. ■ Demand full-time rights for part time workers. ■ Root out bullying and sexual harassment in the work- place. ■ End casualisation and especially abusive zero hours contracts. ■ Campaign for a fully funded national child care service with affordable child care including pre-, after-school and holiday provision. ■ Campaign for a shorter working week for all and rights to flexible working. ■ Improve maternity leave and pay, including properly paid paternity leave. ■ Ensure that women do not suffer disproportionately from the impact

of robotics and artificial intelligence in the workplace. ■ End modern day slavery, people trafficking, racist immigration laws and campaign for the free movement of people

in the labour movement

Women's membership of trade unions is rising. However, women are not represented in proportion to their numbers within the leaderships of trade unions or other labour movement organisations. The under-representation of Black women is even worse. ■ Tackle the under-representation of women and Black women in labour and trade union movement structures by proportionality and other measures.

■ Campaign to maintain and extend women's self-organisation in trade unions. ■ Campaign for the right to organise a trade union, statutory rights for union equality reps, and the right to take industrial action. ■ Campaign for sectoral collective bargaining, delivered through a Ministry for Labour, with an oversight of ensuring the gender pay gap is closed. ■ Ensure the accountability of women's structures to women. ■ Maintain and extend women's committees, women's courses and other measures to ensure that women's issues/ concerns are collectively articulated and actioned. ■ Maintain women-only short lists in the Labour Party. ■ Campaign to raise the profile of the TUC, STUC and Welsh TUC's women's conferences as the 'parliaments of women'. ● Campaign for a Ministry of Women's Equality ● a fully funded independent Equality and Human Rights Commission with powers to take action when the Equality Act is breached; ● restoration of the Women's National Commission.

Ensure that by these means women's collective voices are not only heard but are acted



National Assembly of Women
SISTERS
<https://tinyurl.com/bdhyhaks>