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Workers of all lands, unite!  
Communist Party October 2024

# Unity!



Labour favours the interests of energy bosses, arms corporations and private healthcare giants before those of working people

## STARMER'S CHOICE

Unity! Reporter  
ENVIRONMENT

COMMUNIST PARTY chair Ruth Styles has launched an all-round attack on the priorities so far of Keir Starmer's Labour government. In a report to the party's 8 October Political Committee Ruth Styles criticised Labour plans to invest £22bn in 'unproven' carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology that could be used to assist oil and gas extraction rather than curb fossil fuel production and slash carbon emissions. She contrasted costly CCS projects in Canada to massive new Chinese investment in greener and cheaper wind and solar power alternatives. "Chancellor Reeves tells us the Tories left a £22bn 'black hole' in Britain's public finances, yet the Labour government is prepared to splash exactly that sum on inefficient CCS technology designed to boost

energy super-profits", she said. Nobody should be fooled by the Ofwat ruling that polluting English and Welsh water companies must refund £160m to their customers. "These crooks want to add £100bn to our bills to fund capital investment, having paid £66bn to shareholders since privatisation and loaded the companies with debts totalling £60bn", she pointed out, demanding nationalisation of the industry. Likewise, the party's chair condemned the £13bn pledged by British governments so far to prolong the Ukraine War. "Instead of seeking a peaceful resolution to the conflict escalated by the Russian invasion of February 2022, the US and Britain are fighting a proxy war to capture energy markets at Russian expense while extending NATO and the EU eastwards", Ruth Styles declared. She also noted the heavy carbon footprint of arms production and use, much of which is not counted in emissions estimates.

Britain's Communists labelled the new UK-Mauritius agreement on the Chagos Islands an "anti-democratic imperialist carve-up" imposed on Chagossian families evicted from their homeland fifty years ago. Under the deal, Britain keeps control of the largest island, Diego Garcia, which hosts a major US military base within striking distance of East Africa, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region. Ruth Styles deplored Keir Starmer's complicity in Israel's "genocidal war" on Gaza and echoed the TUC demand for a ban on all British arms exports to the extreme right-wing Tel Aviv regime. On the first anniversary of the Hamas attack on Israeli civilians as well as military personnel, the Communist Party called for an end to Prime Minister Netanyahu's policy of "mass murder" in Gaza, the occupied West Bank and southern Lebanon.

Full account of Ruth Styles' speech Page 2



▲ 'There is not military solution', Hadash members calling for peace and ceasefire and against the war in Gaza and Lebanon outside the Israeli army headquarters in Tel Aviv. October 5, 2024 (Photo Zo Haderech)

## Palestinian and Israeli communists say stop the war in Gaza and Lebanon

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# SOVIET POWER PLUS

‘Communism is Soviet power plus the electrification of the whole country. Otherwise the country will remain a small-peasant country . . . . We are weaker than capitalism, not only on the world scale, but also within the country. . . We shall see to it that the economic basis is transformed from a small-peasant basis into a large-scale industrial basis. Only when the country has been electrified, and industry, agriculture and transport have been placed on the technical basis of modern large-scale industry, only then shall we be fully victorious.’ **VI Lenin** Report on the Work of the Council of People’s Commissars. December 22, 1920



## Energy and war

Increasing poverty, destruction of essential public services, austerity mark 2 and adding to the climate crisis, begins to look like the unacceptable face of this right wing Labour Government

▲ An action initiated by the Otway Climate Emergency Action Network (OCEAN) at the CO2CRC AGM and Symposium (Carbon Capture and Storage Conference) in Torquay.



THIS IS AN EDITED VERSION OF RUTH STYLES' POLITICAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN EARLY OCTOBER

**Ruth Styles**

**COMMUNIST PARTY**

THE GOVERNMENT is due to produce a budget in October, which many fear, with justification based on their announcements thus far, will be a cuts and austerity budget.

For example, Labour has made big announcements on the environment.

A £22 billion investment in unproven carbon capture and storage has been announced, the main beneficiaries of which appear to be the oil and gas companies. There is evidence that where CCS has been tried in other countries it has not met expectations.

Where CO2 emissions have been captured 80% is not stored, instead it is injected into oil fields to assist in pumping oil and gas. So, no reduction in the use of fossil fuels. It is also very expensive. One power station in Canada installed carbon capture on emissions and the price of energy production doubled. Canada has several large-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects, including the Alberta Carbon Trunk Line (ACTL) system and the Shell-operated Quest CCS project. The Quest plant was designed to capture carbon emissions from oil sands operations, but a 2022 investigation found that it only captured 48% of its carbon emissions.

It is much cheaper and effective to pursue alternatives, like wind and solar power, as China has proven. So this CCS investment looks very much like it is about continuing with licensing North Sea oil and gas and pouring profit into oil and gas companies.

It is also strange that this CCS investment is exactly the same amount as Chancellor Reeves has stated is 'a black hole in U.K. finances', which is, conveniently being used to justify cuts in public sector spending.

Announced so far, amongst others, has been 10% cuts in every Government Department and the means testing of winter fuel allowance leaving millions of pensioners, just above the Pensions Credit threshold, to

make a choice of whether to heat or eat.

Reeves had already announced in July that she would be cutting costs to social care, which, unless I've missed it, has not been made public yet.

More recently, based upon statements by Starmer about people on long term sickness benefits needing to work, disability and other charities have expressed serious concern about the impact upon the vulnerable. There has been an increase of 500,000 people going on long term sickness benefits since 2019.

No Government minister has publicly made the connection with the Covid pandemic. In April 2024 a University of York study stated 'With Long COVID a key factor in the record 2.8 million people off work in the UK due to long-term sickness, the researchers are calling for yearly COVID-19 vaccinations to be rolled out and should include all working-age people'.

The previous government, with no change from the current Labour government so far, removed or severely downgraded Covid mitigations and public health information and systems about Covid and its risks to long term health complications.

All the alleged improvements that are being trailed, without any detail, for a crisis-riven NHS call for more involvement of the private sector, essentially public money will be spent on profit for private companies.

The same is true of housing and I suspect other alleged improvements in public services.

Recently it was the anniversary of the 7 October 23 attack by Hamas. Disgracefully Starmer and his right wing acolytes highlighted these events and the Israeli and international hostages taken, not a word about the thousands of Palestinian deaths nor the Palestinian hostages. Since Israel started its invasion of Lebanon it is reported that at least two thousand Lebanese have been killed. Sabre rattling and threats against Iran are made daily, as a result there is a very real risk of a wider war in the Middle East. Israel is bombing and attacking Lebanon, Syria, Iran and continues its genocidal behaviour

towards Palestinians.

Will this Labour Govt change course? Unlikely I think. MP Zarah Sultana asked prime minister Keir Starmer: 'Will he do what is morally and legally right and end the government's complicity in war crimes by banning all arms sales to Israel... yes or no?' Starmer answered no he would not.

The cost of these wars to Britain's people is astronomical. UK arms sales to Israel since 2015 are to the value of £489 million.

Also, according to information laid in the House of Commons Library, £7.8 billion is for military assistance and also includes another £3 billion for military assistance in 2024/25. This is met from the Treasury Reserve and does not come from the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) main departmental budget, but will appear in MOD spending figures towards the end of the financial year.

So more than £13 billion is the publicly stated financial costs so far. This is without looking at the spend on military surveillance and involvement of British military forces in Palestine and Ukraine.

The message is clear, the working class can pay for Britain's imperialist aggression and essential public services will be cut to enable this.

It is not just a matter of campaigning for peace, as important as that is, it is also about how resources are being directed towards war at the expense of everything else.

Whilst we work for peace we must also state clearly the costs of the disastrous foreign policies that Britain pursues. We must take this message into trades unions, communities and campaigning groups. We must also take apart the fallacious arguments being promoted to justify these policies.

Increasing poverty, further destruction of essential public services, austerity mark 2 and adding to the climate crisis, are beginning to look like the unacceptable face of this right wing Labour Government.

RUTH STYLES IS CHAIR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

## Stop the demolitions, build more council homes

**Unity! reporter**  
**HOUSING**

The Communist Party's housing expert has attacked the demolition of working-class homes and former council estates.

"Rather than renovating houses that are structurally sound, developers are making huge profits destroying structurally sound properties and building new, over-priced ones for sale and let", Lorraine Douglas told the Communist Party's political committee on.

The convener of the party's housing commission attacked council and social landlords in London and elsewhere who have facilitated this approach instead of repairs, renovation and campaigning for more funds to increase the housing stock.

"According to Shelter and other estimates, almost half a million people of every age are without a home and living in temporary accommodation, with thousands of others sleeping rough", Lorraines Douglas said.

She called on the left – including the Communist Party – and the trade unions to give a higher profile to Britain's housing crisis, campaigning in local communities against demolition and redevelopment as a cure-all, and urging more funds for investment in local authority housing in Chancellor Rachel Reeves' October Budget.

## Stand up to Starmer

**Unity Reporter**  
**LABOUR**

COMMUNIST PARTY communications director Johnnie Hunter has called for union leaders to stand up to prime minister Kier Starmer.

Sounding the alert that some right wing elements in the trade union movement are prepared to kowtow to the Starmer government or who are calling to 'give them time' he said: "It has now been three months since Keir Starmer won a landslide victory on 4 July 2024 based on Britain's highly unrepresentative and anti-democratic First Past the Post System, which underpins the ruling class two party system.

'This victory had nothing to do with mass public support for Starmer's tepid, right-wing politics. This victory was due entirely to public rejection of the right-wing Tory government.

'Despite the super majority of around two-thirds of MPs, Starmer only scraped a third of the vote. We must be clear that this is a deeply unpopular government and prime minister. If the left and trade union movement are able to exert our strength and power – this is a fundamentally weak Government."

'This government is already laying down a clear austerity agenda. We must build an immediate and militant response from the trade union and anti-austerity movements.

'The number of people who chose not to vote, the rise of the far right and popular apathy and dissatisfaction are the challenge and the opportunity that the left must respond to in an organised and strategic fashion", he noted.





# RISEN FROM THE RUINS

Risen from the ruins/and turned towards /Let us serve you for the common good/united Fatherland/Our task is to overcome old distress/and we shall overcome it together/and we shall surely succeed/so that the sun, more beautifully than ever before ● Shines over Germany May happiness and peace be granted/to Germany, our Fatherland/The whole world longs for peace/extend your hand to all peoples/If we unite fraternally/ we will defeat the enemy of the People/Let the light of peace shine/ so that a mother never again/Mourns her son/. Words **Johannes Becher**. Music **Hans Eisler** *National*



**CHILDCARE** The pattern of comprehensive child care in today's federal Germany still reflects the free and comprehensive system developed in Socialist Germany.

## DDR@75

75 years after its foundation it is important to commemorate the founding of the first socialist state on German soil. Micaela Tracey-Ramos reports from Berlin



YOUNG COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONISTS  
MICAELA TRACEY-RAMOS WAS AT THE BERLIN CELEBRATIONS ORGANISED BY JUNGE WELT, ORIGINALLY THE DAILY PAPER OF THE GDR'S FREE GERMAN YOUTH AND TODAY PARTNER OF THE MORNING STAR

**I**N WESTERN capitalist society, the German Democratic Republic is politically and morally delegitimised and the enemies of socialism propagate narratives that the demise of the GDR was due to the inevitable failures of socialism. The images of East Germany to many today are of an authoritarian and soulless state that oppressed their citizens locked behind the Berlin wall in contrast to the 'free' and 'democratic' West. Those that lived and visited the GDR know that this as an ignorant and prejudicial characterisation. It is essential then to remember with pride and honour the history of this peace-loving working class state in the centre of Europe.

In his speech commemorating 75 years of the GDR Egon Krenz, the former general secretary of the GDR's Socialist Unity Party, quoted the telegram from Moscow to President Wilhem Pieck and Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl at the founding of the GDR, 'The formation of the German Democratic Peace-Loving Republic is a turning point in the history of Europe.'



'There is no doubt that the existence of a peace-loving democratic Germany alongside the existence of the peace-loving Soviet Union excludes the possibility of new wars in Europe.'

This telegram outlined the historical mission of the GDR which was 'Never again fascism! Never again must a war start from German soil!'

The GDR remained true to these founding principles and never waged war on another country. Promoting peace, friendship and cooperation were guiding principles of state policy of the GDR as expressed in the GDR's national anthem-

'The whole world longs for peace,  
Extend your hand to all peoples.'

The GDR looked upon the efforts to safeguard peace as one of its most important obligations, which arose not only from their experience of two world wars but also as the state was situated at the dividing line between socialism and capitalism. In the midst of the Cold War, the GDR worked for international disputes to be settled by political negotiations and not war.

Conversely, the US administration, with consent from their NATO allies, pursued an aggressive policy of confrontation and arms building and preparing their country for war against the interests of the people of their countries and considerably aggregating the international situation. The aggressive nature of NATO and the US, remains true today.



During the Cold War, the GDR worked actively, alongside the Soviet Union, to implement the Prague declaration of the socialist countries which offered a meaningful programme of steps to end the arms race, particularly with nuclear arms, and to conduct political dialogue for equal security between the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

One of the greatest historical achievements of socialism was the continued peace in Europe during the existence of the Soviet Union and socialist Germany. The GDR saw the role of the international socialist community as key in the struggle for safeguarding peace.

Since the demise of the GDR, how true is this statement? NATO membership has almost doubled since the end of the GDR and whilst NATO portrays itself as purely a defensive organisation, the reality is that – as Lenin posited in *Imperialism* – imperialism prepares the ground for war.

Since the GDR's demise, NATO has a long history of criminal and direct intervention in domestic and international politics, fighting only for the interest in the West's monopoly capitalist corporations. This is in sharp contrast to the German Democratic Republic, and their state that stood for peace and where propaganda for fascism and war was forbidden.

Democracy, progress and true human freedom were priorities in the GDR. Focussing on advancing their education system, healthcare and to ensure high standards of living and economic security for those for those living in the GDR was paramount to their socialist economy.

The GDR played a key role in practical solidarity with South Africa, Cuba and Vietnam. Contrast those priorities with Britain today, an ever-increasing share of our public finances being directed to military expenditure with Keir Starmer committing to £3 billion of military aid to continue the war in Ukraine and the continuing financing and profiting from the genocide of the Palestinian people. All against the will of the working class of this country, with an ever-increasing crisis in all public services and

standard of living dropping in this country, with those living in poverty rising.

### GDR's memory

Since the 1990's, and the complete capitalist takeover from the West, the federal states that make up the former East Germany are significantly poorer than those in the West, with many inhabitants being priced out of their homes.

Despite the propaganda, nostalgia for the GDR is deeply rooted for those that live there. In the recent elections in the East, the AfD and the BSW (the AfD being a far-right Party and the BSW are a split from Die Linke) topped the polls. Both parties are anti the war in Ukraine. Given the poor result from the ruling coalition parties in Germany, it shows that many East Germany people are open are for an alternative to German capitalism.

It is in the interests of the ruling class to tarnish the legacy of the German Democratic Republic as there are those in living memory who remember the realities of East German socialism – no unemployment, cheap housing as a human right, free childcare, free education, free healthcare, and an international policy based on the principles of peace, solidarity and cooperation.

In an era of deepening crisis of capitalism and imperialism, it must be our duty to learn from the realities of the socialist society that existed in the heart of Europe.

In the struggle for peace and socialism, the GDR provides us an example of building an alternative to capitalism and inspires us to create a better and just world.

**Top** Factory-based Combat Groups of the Working Class (Kampfgruppen der Arbeiterklasse) were part of the GDR security system.

**Top right** Mural at teachers' union HQ

**Middle right** Two of the GDR women's magazines

**Abov left** Angela Davis at the 1972 Berlin World Youth Festival

**Bottom left** Two million Plattenbau housing units were built.





# FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON

*The waters of the sea are tormented in the night, and the wood is torn, the sea slips, and a serpent under the hearths and the stone. The sea rises around our houses and streams our clothes; It remains, after it has plunged into its abyss, only a creaking sea, filling the horizon. Our beds and our souls then dry up like the shores. And the city remains deprived of its lap?*  
from the poem *Sur* in tribute to the port of Tyre by Lebanese communist poet **Abbas Baydun** written on his release from prison.



▲ Stop the War demonstration in London

Abbas Baydun's poetry reflects his involvement in the Lebanese Communist Movement that landed him twice in prison: first in 1968 for agitating against the Lebanese army on the heels of its inaction following Israel's commando operation in Beirut Airport that resulted in the burning of an entire civilian airliner fleet, and second in 1982 when he was detained in an Israeli prison, during which time he composed his meditations on the Civil War titled "al-waqt bi-jur'atin kabira" (time in big mouthfuls). Shortly after his release from prison, he completed his epic poem "Sur," which marked a new phase in his poetic development: an experimentation with the Arabic prose poem. In *Sur* Baydun eulogizes the Southern port city of Tyre presently under Israeli bombardment.

## Lebanese communists speak out

Radio interview transcript with Omar Deeb, Head of Foreign Relations of the Lebanese Communist Party, on Sawt al-Shaab Radio about the latest political developments and the Zionist aggression on Lebanon

THE ZIONIST ENEMY has been waging a genocidal war on the Palestinian people in Gaza for nearly a year, alongside daily attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Lebanon. This is an extension of more than 70 years of crime, murder, brutality, and displacement. Today, the enemy continues its aggression against Lebanon, reinforcing its role as the strongest military and security power in the region. The war we are witnessing on Lebanon is part of this context. It is a war on all of Lebanon and the entire Lebanese population, although it currently targets our people in the south and the Beqaa. The ultimate goal is to subdue all of Lebanon and its people, steering it toward the Zionist agenda, which aligns with the broader American project for our region.

**On the American Project and the New Middle East?**  
The Zionist enemy's current ambition is to achieve a "Greater Israel" in a political, security, and economic sense, not necessarily geographically. Israel seeks an imperial regional role, aiming to expand its control, normalize relations with neighboring countries, and integrate economically, which aligns with the American project for the region. For decades, especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union, America has sought to weaken and dismantle national states in our region—sovereign states with administrations, governments, and armies. Regardless of our stance on any specific regime, the U.S. has succeeded in several places within our region.

Weakening these states makes them easier for America to control and divides them along sectarian, ethnic, and national lines. This division facilitates both American dominance and Zionist influence, driving more countries toward normalization. Unfortunately, we have seen many Arab regimes and governments following this path. Though the "Al-Aqsa Flood" operation put a stop to these governments' drift, the enemy is now trying to regain the initiative by attacking resistance movements and the region's peoples to advance its project. For us, this is a long-term struggle. There may be victories or defeats in different phases, but the confrontation is ongoing. Amid the current intensity of battle, we must not view the present circumstances as permanent. The Palestinian people have resisted for decades, and our people in Gaza have faced genocidal war for a year. We are also in for a long confrontation with this enemy, and our victory will come through our resilience and refusal to submit, even if we suffer significant military and civilian losses. The key in this battle is not to surrender to the political conditions imposed on Lebanon—its government, political forces, and people.

**On the Talk of Multiple Poles in the World: What About the Role of China and Russia?**  
There are major global shifts, with new states and powers rising to challenge U.S. dominance, but this change is slow. Many of these countries have their priorities within their own regions. While we view their opposition to aggression and efforts to find

political solutions, such as ceasefire proposals, positively, we must also acknowledge that these countries are currently limited and incapable of decisive action. Many Lebanese and Palestinians feel they are left alone in this confrontation. There is also a sense of helplessness and inadequacy from the major powers. We are witnessing open genocide against several peoples in the region, and if Israel, backed by the U.S., wins this battle, it will shift the balance of power in the region and the world for a long time. These countries must take a stand—they don't need to intervene militarily but could act politically and diplomatically. They are capable of threatening Israel with sanctions, cutting off relations, halting trade, and taking the initiative to organize international conferences. They have the ability to act but are currently doing the bare minimum.

**On Iran's Role: How can this axis be strengthened and given greater momentum?**  
Solidarity and cooperation are needed now more than ever among all the countries and peoples of this region—Arab states, their people and governments, leftist forces, and resistance movements, whether Islamic, national, or patriotic, alongside Iran and other regional states. Our peoples are being massacred, as we have seen in Gaza and Lebanon in recent days. These peoples must not be left alone, though there is a feeling of abandonment. We hope that the coming days will prove otherwise and lead to an Arab, national, and international awakening in support of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. If not now, then when? If this isn't the time to stand with the

Lebanese people against the enemy, it may never happen. Fear of the balance of power might lead many to hesitate, but we are paying the price for that hesitation. We now rely solely on the resilience of our people and their capacity for resistance. We have faced more difficult times, such as the Israeli occupation of southern villages in 1978 and the occupation of Beirut in 1982. We resisted, formed the Lebanese National Resistance Front, with its heroes from the Communist Party, national forces, and the national movement. These forces resisted with Arab and Syrian support, backed by the socialist bloc and the Soviet Union, which provided aid. The foundation of their achievements, however, was their strength on the ground, their connection to their people, and their knowledge of their homeland. We hope that the conditions in this long-term confrontation will ultimately favor our people's resilience and resistance against the enemy. As a party, we are doing everything we can in this battle to support our people's resilience, provide for displaced persons and refugees, and ensure medical aid, housing, and more. We are also working politically, both in Lebanon and abroad, to rally as much political and media support as possible for our people, launching solidarity campaigns worldwide as we did for the Palestinian people. We are fully committed to these efforts, but the key remains the people's resilience and the ability of the resistance to thwart the enemy's goals of imposing submission and disconnecting Lebanon from supporting the Palestinian people in Gaza.

**On the Governance Crisis in Lebanon, hezbollah's role, and the delay in presidential elections?**  
We believe that a president should have been elected from the very first day of the vacancy, if not even a month before, to ensure the continuity of the state and its institutions. The collapse of the state leads to further disintegration and decline. However, the internal conflicts cannot be blamed on one group. We are well aware of the makeup of Parliament. The strongest parties are the ones blocking these elections. But in this moment of confrontation, we believe that internal conflicts must be set aside. The focus should be on national unity among the Lebanese people and political forces. Everyone knows we have political differences with the ruling forces, but for now, these disputes should be postponed. We are in an existential battle that threatens our country's fate, and this will be a long and extremely harsh battle—a new Gaza-like scenario. Just as we have called on the Palestinian people and factions to unite, we now call for Lebanese national unity based on a national project to confront this aggression. All internal political disputes can remain unresolved, but addressing them must be postponed. Of course, we urge all efforts to ensure the continuity of the state, including electing a president, even in times of war, and rejecting budgets that seek more taxes and cuts. Ensuring minimum living standards and wages for workers, employees, and public and private sector staff is also important. These forces should be striving for these goals. However, political conflicts between us and other forces and between those forces themselves should be put on hold. The primary focus today must be Lebanese national unity, based on a national project to confront the aggression, because this phase is decisive and difficult.





# AGAINST OCCUPATION

‘The Israeli colonial occupation is attempting through daily arrest which has affected thousands of Palestinians annually throughout the duration of the occupation to exhaust and intimidate our people and destroy its ability to struggle against the occupation. This occupation has violated our cities, villages, refugee camps, holy places and Jerusalem, and it arrests dozens of Palestinians daily and subject them to torture and ill treatment...’. **Marwan Barghouti**, in prison since 2002



**Kevan Nelson**  
**SOLIDARITY**

**I**SRUEL'S GENOCIDAL war against the Palestinian people is being escalated by Netanayu in a desperate attempt to prolong his regime. Faced with Israel's reckless promotion of the war – in an attempt to draw Israel's western allies into a regional conflict – the British government is content merely to impose meaningless sanctions on two of the most reactionary and racist of Netanayu's ministers. A basic human response would be to stop arms exports to Israel and join in the international movement to boycott Israeli institutions, impose sanctions on the country's military, intelligence and political leadership and disinvest from its economy. These are precisely the tactics which helped to bring down the apartheid regime in South Africa. The act of the British government in banning the grandson of Nelson Mandela from speaking at Palestine solidarity actions in Britain speaks to both the bankruptcy of this government's foreign policy and the inadequacy of its foreign secretary. We carry here statements from our Lebanese, Israeli and Palestinian comrades and from communist world wide.

## In solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese people against occupation and the genocidal war

We, the undersigned communist and workers parties, hereby express our strongest condemnation against the escalating Israeli crimes against the Palestinian, Lebanese and all peoples of the Middle East. Following months of the genocidal war against Gaza, which has resulted in the killings of tens of thousands of civilians - including 12,000 children - and the massive destruction of its schools, hospitals and infrastructure, we are now witnessing a new phase of murderous aggression on Lebanon and the initiation of a full-scale invasion of the country. This has led to a humanitarian catastrophe over the past few weeks, resulting in the

martyrdom of more than 2,000 Lebanese citizens, the injuring of more than 10,000 and the displacement of about 1.2 million citizens who were forced to leave their homes, seeking shelter in other regions as well as on the streets and in cars and tents. The assassinations of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and Hezbollah General Secretary Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut have resulted in retaliatory missile strikes by Iran on Israeli targets. We believe that these aggressive actions and crimes conducted by the Zionist entity, with full support by imperialist powers, are leading the Middle East into a disastrous cycle of conflict and possibly a regional war. The imperialist governments, especially those of the US and NATO countries are responsible for the crimes committed against the Palestinian and Lebanese people by being fully involved in the armament of Israel and open support through all financial, political, diplomatic, media and intelligence resources at their disposal, as well as sending their air and naval forces to the region in preparation for broader aggressions. We hereby express our full solidarity with the peoples of the region, in particular the Lebanese and Palestinian people and their rightful resistance, in all its forms, to achieve their liberation and independence. We salute the persistence, steadfastness and resistance of the peoples of the region, including communist and progressive forces that are striving for national liberation, independence and sovereignty. We call for an immediate unconditional ceasefire in Gaza. We support the ending of the occupation of Palestine, as well as guaranteeing the right of self-determination and the implementation of a fully sovereign Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. We call for the return of all refugees. We furthermore call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli military forces that are occupying sovereign territories in South Lebanon, and the Golan heights in Syria and to end the bombardment of sites in Syria, Iran, Yemen, and further afield. Pursuant to this, we call for an end to all exports of military armaments, ammunition, as well as technical assistance to the Israeli occupation army. We call for the rulings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the Israeli genocidal war in Gaza to be upheld and implemented without delay or obstruction. We also call upon the peoples of the world, and the communist, workers, and progressive forces in various countries, to assist the growth and strengthening of the wide political, popular, and media solidarity campaign to achieve the immediate ceasefire and to put an end to the Zionist aggression and its crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian people and all peoples of the region.. Full list of signatories at [www.solidnet.com](http://www.solidnet.com)

## Joint Statement of Communist and Workers Parties:

We stand against the widening of war in the Middle East! We, the undersigned communist and workers parties campaigning for peace and progress in the Middle East, hereby express our most profound concerns over the unprecedented escalation of the situation in the region with the Israeli multi-dimensional attacks on Lebanon and full-scale invasion of the country. This has predictably resulted in the retaliatory missile strikes by Iran on Israeli targets, following on from Israeli attacks on Lebanon and other provocative infringements on Iranian sovereignty. We believe that if the current trend of developments continues, the region will be plunged into a cycle of conflict that could very easily lead to a globalised war. This would endanger the security of all states and peoples in our region. In Israel, the Netanyahu government, which has flagrantly violated international law in its perpetration of a genocidal war in Gaza for the past 12 months, assassination of political leaders in Tehran and Beirut, and now in its invasion of Lebanon and blatant recourse to terror tactics to eliminate its foes there, is seeking a direct military conflict with Iran in order to expand the war across the Middle East, in collusion with the US and UK governments, to aggressively implement schemes fundamentally aimed at the re-drawing of the political map of the Middle East and imposition of their imperialist hegemony. The state of Israel conducts itself as the wild arsonist in the Middle East, while Western powers continue to cover, support, and arm it to the teeth, since it constitutes their long and steely arm in the region. This despite Israel's repeated brazen thumbing its nose to the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), as well as the rule of international law. We recognise the definitive peaceful and political resolution of the Palestinian issue as being central to the current situation in the Middle East. We therefore call for an immediate full ceasefire and end to the genocidal war in Gaza and the West Bank and the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from those territories; the release of all Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli gaols and detention centres; the release of all remaining Israeli hostages held in Gaza; as well as immediate concrete and legally enshrined steps towards the recognition and implementation of a fully sovereign Palestinian state within the borders as they stood on 4 June 1967 as per the relevant UN resolutions. In accordance with international law, the illegal occupation of Palestine must be brought to an end. We furthermore call for the immediate withdrawal of all Israeli military forces from the sovereign territory of Lebanon and reaffirm our solidarity with the struggle of the Lebanese and Palestinian people and support for their fundamental and inalienable right under international law to resist foreign invasion and occupation. We also call for an end to the bombardment and military targeting of sites in Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Yemen, and further afield. Pursuant to this, we call for an end to all exports of military armaments, ammunition, as well as technical assistance to Israel in order to force a reversal from its dangerous military adventure in Palestine, Lebanon, and other countries in the Middle East. We call for the rulings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the Israeli genocidal war in Gaza to be upheld and implemented without delay or obstruction. We call for the UN's appeals to all sides to be heeded in order so as to earnestly row back from and avert the nightmarish scenario of a generalised war, which edges ever closer and would spell disaster for all peoples of the region. Full list of signatories at [www.solidnet.com](http://www.solidnet.com)

# Palestinian and Israeli communists say stop the war

Only by establishing a Palestinian sovereign state will there be peace and stability in the region. Stop the war in Gaza and Lebanon now! said the Communist Party of Israel (CPI) and the Palestinian People's Party (PPP). The Israeli and Palestinian parties held an online meeting on the dangerous escalation in the region, and the political situation in Palestine and Israel, with the participation of Adel Amer, CPI General Secretary and Bassam A-Salhi, PPP General Secretary. On last July a high-level tripartite leadership meeting was held in the city of Ramallah in July between delegations representing the leadership bodies of the CPI, the PPP, and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (Hadash). The meeting reviewed the latest political and battlefield developments considering the ongoing war and genocide to which the Palestinian people are being subjected, especially in the Gaza Strip. It also discussed ways to enhance the struggle and joint action of all three organizations. Attendees surveyed the most prominent dangers facing the Palestinian cause and the current challenges due to the aggression and policies of the fascist Israeli occupation government and its efforts,

together with the U.S. administration, to liquidate the Palestinian cause and rights. Foremost among them are the right to self-determination, the establishment of an independent state, and the right of return in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions. The meeting stressed the urgent issues and tasks, prioritizing collective efforts and intensifying the joint struggle to stop Israel's aggressive war and the genocide it is committing. Lifting the siege on the Gaza Strip, opening its crossings and securing the food, health, and housing needs of its people was identified as an immediate necessity. The return of

the displaced, the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Strip, and the curbing of all its crimes in the occupied Palestinian territories rounded out the list. The PPP, the CPI, and Hadash agreed that the Palestinian people's struggle against the occupation is a national liberation issue, and that true peace can only be achieved by ending the occupation and achieving the freedom and independence of the State of Palestine on all the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. For more details and inscription, please contact:





# CRITICISM & HISTORY

‘Sometimes a distinction is made between the tasks of a literary critic and those of a literary historian; this distinction is based not so much on an analysis of the past and present, as, for the literary historian, on an objective analysis of the origins of the work, its place in the social fabric and its influence on social life; whereas for the literary critic, it is based on an evaluation of the work from the point of view of its purely formal or social merits and faults’. **A. V. Lunacharsky** 1928 *Theses on the Problems of Marxist Criticism*



RON BROWN  
CONVENES THE  
COMMUNIST PARTY'S  
CULTURE  
COMMISSION

## Ron Brown CULTURE

**C**ULTURE is a big word. It has the power to divide. It has the power to unite. It includes all the things that make life fulfilling and worthwhile, whether its playing sport, going to a football match, making music, singing, dancing, reading, writing, painting, eating and drinking – humans have always done these things.

Can these things bring people together? Yes.

Is culture a class issue? Of course it is: when capitalism prices working-class people out of doing these things it is a class issue. When one person has access to the industry networks and another doesn't due to their background it is a class issue.

Does it matter that the production of our culture is left, like everything else, to capitalism? To be privatised, commercialised, monopolised, Americanised – stolen – and in the service of imperialism? Out of reach from and out of touch with working-class communities?

The Communist Party is trying to do its bit to put culture front and centre in the struggle for socialism.

Those countries which understand the importance of culture - such as Cuba, China, Vietnam and North Korea - have been able to embed it within their societies alongside changes to the economic base and the political superstructure – as we will hear from our Cuban Embassy speaker.

*Britain's Road to Socialism* says: 'The ruling capitalist class wages its political struggle on three main, distinct but interconnected fronts: the economic, the political and the ideological and cultural. This requires corresponding responses from the labor and progressive movements.'

It also requires corresponding responses from socialists and communists themselves who must put ideology and culture at the heart of everything it does.

Join in a day filled with discussions, workshops and performances that explore the intersection of class and culture and dive into thought-provoking conversations led by experts in their fields while gaining a deeper understanding of how these two aspects shape our society. For all of us this event is a platform from which to organise.



## Class and culture programme

- 10am Introduction**  
● Ruth Styles *Chair of the Communist Party*
- 10.10 am Socialism and culture**  
● Representative from Cuban Embassy
- 10.40am Cultural interlude/entertainment?**  
*Mike Quille Poet and Chief Editor at Culture Matters*
- 10.40am Capitalism and Culture**  
● Ed Harlow *Teacher and NEU National Executive* ● Paul McGee *Graphic Designer and Business Manager at Manifesto Press*  
● John Pateman *Doctoral Researcher and CP Culture Commission* ● Daisy-Mae Stewart *Playwright and Theatre Practitioner*
- 11.40am Breakout sessions**  
How can we embed cultural work within the Communist Party?  
What can we do to build cultural democracy?
- 12.40pm Breakout session feedback**
- 1pm LUNCH**
- 1.45pm Live music**

**2pm Culture is a force for change**  
● Heather Wood and friends *National Women Against Pit Closures*



- 2.30pm** ● Joe Solo Musician and Activist
- 3pm Breakout session**  
How can we use culture as a force for change?
- 3.30pm Breakout session feedback**
- ROUND UP (Chair) [3.50-4.00]**
- 4pm DRINKS (bring your own) FOLLOWED BY MUSIC / POETRY**
- REGISTER: [TINYURL.CLASSANDCULTURE](https://tinyurl.com/classandculture)

**“I read the Morning Star because I want a paper I can trust.**

**It tells me about the issues I want to read about, the news I want to read about. It touches on issues the other papers don't.”**

Maxine Peake Morning Star Ambassador

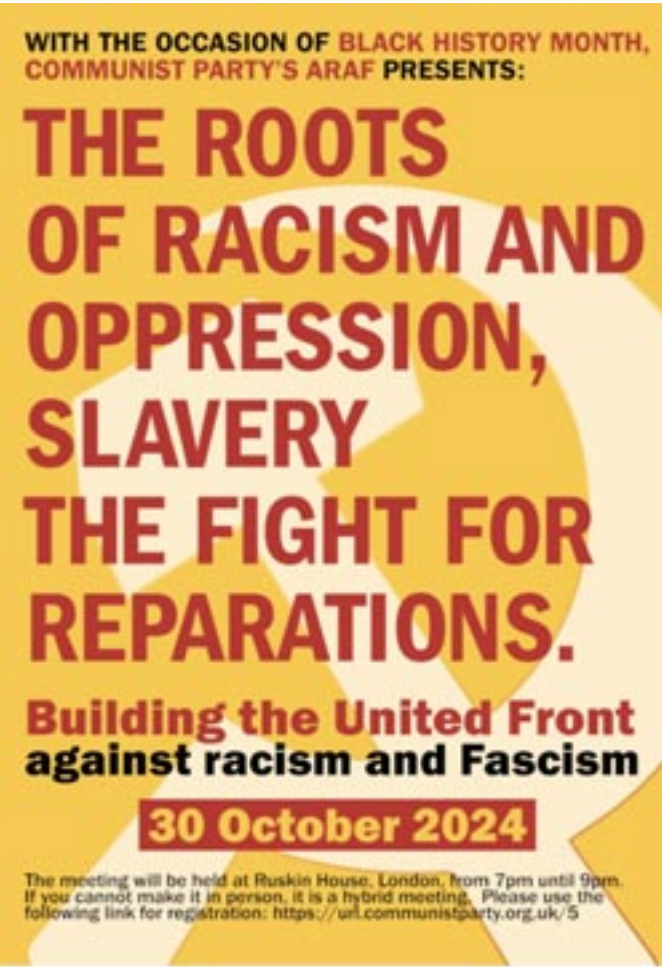


The Communist Party is building and growing across Britain - but we need your help.

Donate to our £50,000 Big Red Appeal to help us on the next step of rebuilding the communist movement in Britain.

Your donations will help build Party staffing and infrastructure, fund future campaigning and branch building and fund strategic areas of growth.

Thanks for all the donations generously received so far.  
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Please send cheques (marked 'CPB') to CPB, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Rd, Croydon CR0 1BD.







# LABOUR&ELECTIONS

‘The last General Election has had at least one beneficial result: it has shocked many more people into a recognition of the fact that the Labour Party is a sick party. And it has also helped many more people within it to realise that the sickness is not a surface ailment, a temporary indisposition, but a deep organic disorder, of which repeated electoral defeats are not the cause but the symptom. What this means is that the sickness would have been as serious if Labour had won.’ **Ralph Milliband** writing in 1960.



▲ Sacked P&O Ferry workers rally at Dover



ALEX GORDON IS FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE RAIL, MARITIME AND TRANSPORT UNION AND COMMUNIST PARTY INDUSTRIAL ORGANISER.

## Alex Gordon WORKERS' RIGHTS

WHEN TRANSPORT Secretary Louise Haigh voiced criticism recently of P&O Ferries' callous dismissal of its 800-strong workforce in March 2022 – only to replace them with workers flown in from some of the world's lowest waged economies on significantly worse contracts of employment – she echoed the thoughts of millions of workers.

But not, it appears the desires of Kier Starmer.

No sooner had she uttered the truth than P&O are rogue employers than the ferry firm's owners – DP World (one of the largest ports and shipping monopolies, personally owned by the Sultan of Dubai) told the government it would withdraw its planned £1 billion investment and withdraw from Labour's showpiece industrial investment bash.

Cue for Keir Starmer to chastise his minister and scrape a submissive bow before DP World's royal owners.

Nothing could make the priorities of Starmer's Westminster courtiers clearer.

Bow down before employers, don't stand up for workers.

The context is Labour's flip flops over the legal framework in which workers fight for their collective employment and trade

union rights to decent wages and conditions and security of employment.

The last Tory government rewarded P&O's breach of employment law with a new contract and the firm's boss scored a £183,000 bonus on top of his £325,000 salary after the mass sackings.

Labour in government has failed to carry through its promise of a thorough new deal for working people to deliver collective bargaining rights that it pledged repeatedly over the last three years.

The Employment Rights Bill (2024), published this month does contain some improvements in employment rights but falls far short of the expectations raised across the trade union and labour movement.

Although the Bill abolishes the ballot thresholds in the Tories' Trade Union Act 2016 and allows industrial action on a simple majority vote, the proposal to introduce workplace balloting (contained in Labour pre-election Plan to Make Work Pay) has vanished. Moreover, the 6-month expiry of industrial action ballot mandates means trade unions are locked into a permanent reballoting cycle.

Still in place is the tangled mess of requirements to be met before industrial action can take place. While the notice period is reduced to seven days. Ewing and Hendy argue that Labour Bill: 'does not do nearly enough to remove the restraints on

trade unions or to give them the powers they need to make a significant difference to the lives of the millions of workers.'

'The bitter truth is that what working people (half the total population of Britain — with most of the rest dependent on them) need is not more individual rights, welcome as they may be, but greater power.'

The new Bill fails to repeal the anti-trade union laws that Thatcher introduced in the last century and continues the serial betrayals of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown's New Labour governments.

With this Bill, Britain remains in breach of international laws on union rights and industrial action to which she is formally committed through its signatory to the International Labour Organisation and the European Social Charter.

The key element in the New Deal for Working People that Starmer's Labour inherited from Jeremy Corbyn's 2019 manifesto was the introduction of sector-wide collective bargaining in all branches of the British economy. In the Employment Rights Bill, limited schemes for school support staff in England and in adult social care remain in a truncated form, but nowhere else.

Despite moves to remove existing restrictions on winning union recognition in the workplace, too many expectations are freighted with expectation they cannot fulfil.

There are no effective sanctions on employers who refuse to comply with decisions of the Central Arbitration Council and nothing that enforces workers' demands for union recognition.

The Bill allows a trade union to ask an employer for an access agreement (which they can do already). If the employer refuses, the union can complain to the Central Arbitration Committee (CAC) which can impose an access arrangement.

Any CAC penalty imposed on the employer goes not to the union but to the government!

The litmus test is how such limited changes could help workers win in 'fire and rehire' situations or in key cases like the P&O Ferries scandal when hundreds of workers were sacked by Zoom call and replaced by lower paid workers, or in the more recent Amazon recognition ballot where GMB won a near 50% of workers in Amazon's Coventry plant

The focus of Labour's Employment Rights Bill is individual employment rights, including useful proposals for employment rights from day one (qualified so far in an as yet undefined way, for a probation period); imprecise proposals to change 'exploitative' zero hours contracts and qualified measures on fire and rehire.

And all subject to yet a further period of consultation during which employers will lobby hard encouraged by Starmer's complete collapse before the first rogue employer to tell him off.

While even marginal increases in individual rights of working people are welcome the Bill fails to deal with the main features of the as yet unrepealed Tory anti union laws. Winning recognition remains hedged about with obstacles. Employers are largely immune from legal sanctions. The balance of class power in workplaces and across society is hardly changed. Industrial action is still constrained by notification periods and obstacles while employers largely have a free hand. And the essential element of working class solidarity action is still illegal.

A full examination of the Bill by Professor Keith Ewing and John Hendy KC can be found at [www.tradeunionfreedom.co.uk](http://www.tradeunionfreedom.co.uk)



**Unity! Trade Union Supplements** available to download at [www.communistparty.org.uk](http://www.communistparty.org.uk)



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# AGITATION & LEADERSHIP

The class character of the Social-Democratic movement must not be expressed in the restriction of our tasks to the direct and immediate needs of the “labour movement pure and simple”. It must be expressed in our leadership of every aspect and every manifestation of the great struggle for liberation that is being waged by the proletariat, the only truly revolutionary class in modern society. **VI Lenin** *Iskra*, No. 16, February 1, 1902. *Political Agitation and ‘The Class Point of View’*

documents,  
information  
and materials

New posters and  
stickers are available on  
the Party shop



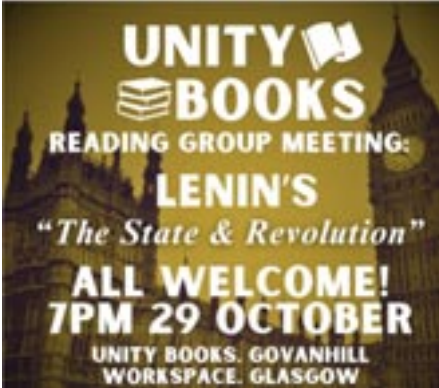
For bulk orders for branches, please contact <https://tinyurl.com/3wd42zsu> .  
If there are new forms of Party merchandise and propaganda you would like to see, please contact with suggestions.



Tommy Robinson is organising a demonstration in Central London for the 26 October.

Stand Up to Racism has organised a counter demo where the Communist Party will march in a Red Bloc.

Coaches will be organised from different cities in Britain. If you are coming, please send an email to or text 07845 677320.



Glasgow and Online: Unity Books Reading Group Meeting Lenin's The State and Revolution - 7pm 29 October 2024

Glasgow: 107 years of the Great October Socialist Revolution public celebration and social November 2024  
Save the date! The Glasgow Branch of the Party will be hosting a public celebration of the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution at the Alpen Lodge in Glasgow from 7pm on Friday 8 November 2024 featuring speakers, a social and music. All welcome.  
More details and publicity to follow.



**Unmasking Reform UK**  
A new Communist Party pamphlet exposes Nigel Farage's privately owned political vehicle as alien to the interests of the working class  
Unmasking Reform UK Ltd.  
£2 from [www.communistparty.org.uk](http://www.communistparty.org.uk)



**Graham Stevenson memorial event**  
**Saturday 26 October 1-4pm**  
Unite Regional Office, 30 Jennens Road, Birmingham, B7 4EH  
A celebration featuring culture, politics, food and entertainment. Celebrate the life and passions of Graham Stevenson (1950-2020)

Speakers include:  
Steve Turner *Unite Assistant General Secretary*;  
Georgina Andrews *YCL General Secretary*;  
Annmarie Kilcline *Unite Regional Secretary*  
Music from Birmingham Clarion Singers  
Poetry and Drama/Culture Matters



Pornography, prostitution, surrogacy. These huge industries use women as commodities. Equality between the sexes can never be possible whilst this exploitation continues. Male comrades please step up now. This is not just a women's issue; it's a class issue.

ALL comrades are urged to attend this conference in Central London Saturday 9 November 10am - 4:30pm Venue: TBC

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