

Workers would be £10,400 a year richer if wages had grown at their pre-2008 rate



Workers of all lands, unite!
Communist Party September 2024

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Unity!

Reclaim our streets from the far right

Unity! reporter
RIOTS

THE RACIALLY MOTIVATED rioting and violence of recent weeks must be a call to arms for the left, trade union and broad anti-racist movements', Johnnie Hunter told the Communist Party's August Political Committee.

Noting that many of the convicted rioters have criminal records for assault, theft and looting, and some are members of racist and fascist organisations, he said that the riots 'did not occur in a vacuum'.

'For more than twenty years, the right-wing mass media have been carrying exaggerated, inflammatory reports about migrants and asylum seekers 'flooding' and 'invading' Britain, 'stealing' people's jobs and houses, 'scrounging' welfare benefits and overwhelming our NHS', he said.

'Shamefully, mainstream Tory and Labour politicians have echoed these hysterical distortions, making anti-immigrant rhetoric a core part of their election campaigning and passing countless new Acts of Parliament as though we face an existential threat from people whose only wish is to live, work and contribute to our society'.

As the Communist Party's director of communications, he also condemned the free rein given by broadcasting and social media channels such as GB News and X/Twitter to spread disinformation and conspiracy theories that have helped create a climate of hate.

'The ruling class has always been ready to play the 'race card' in order to deflect people's attention from the real causes of capitalist inequality, insecurity and crisis', he argued.

But he praised recent mobilisations by trade unions, anti-racist campaigns, community organisations and the left to overcome 'divide and rule politics' and defend working-class communities, mosques and migrant centres against the racists and fascists.

'These mass turnouts to protect vulnerable communities failed by the police shows the potential for a 'united front' not only to reclaim the streets from the far right – but also to fight for left and progressive policies, cutting the ground from under the fascists', he said.

Johnnie Hunter also warned that reliance on a law and order response from the state would not address the root of economic and social problems which produced the alienation and conditions giving rise to these riots, while "any extra powers given to the unaccountable forces of the state to deal with the far right today will be used against the left tomorrow'.

WAGE THEFT!

NICK WRIGHT
EXPLOITATION

THE AVERAGE worker in Britain would be £200 a week better off if real wages had maintained the pre 2008 crisis growth level.

When the TUC says that the longest pay squeeze in the modern era is a 'damning indictment' of the Tories' economic record it is spot on.

But there is more to be said. The average worker in Britain would be £10,400 a year better off if real wages had grown at their pre-crisis rate. This is the measure of British capitalism's systemic and permanent crisis .

Starmer says he wants to 'get a grip' on our country's problems and 'reverse a decade of decline'. Unless this entails a swift reversal of the collapse in working class purchasing power, a dramatic improvement in public services, the NHS and other elements in the 'social wage' including pensions and benefits then Labour's chances of a second term will be in doubt.

But there is little in Labour's performance in government so far that suggests a long term approach to raising the workers' share of the national wealth we create.

Hyping up the so-called 'black hole' in the nation's finances was a pre-emptive strike against the expectations raised throughout the working class and wider – and held especially strongly in the labour movement itself – that a new approach to pay, the cost of living and public services, was possible.

Labour's decisions – to ramp up war spending and not to lift the cap on child benefits – were calibrated to reinforce Starmer's message that things will not get better any time soon and that working people need to understand this and moderate their expectations accordingly.

Those in Labour and the trade union movement who think this was an error and simply overdid the messaging should think again. Starmer and his *consiglieri* are not in a popularity contest but are focussed on stabilising Britain's peculiar economy without disturbing the balance of power and wealth.

In this they repeat the style of Gordon Brown whose infamous Mansion House speech praising the City of London was delivered to a his plump and profit-hungry audience just before the whole rotten edifice came tumbling down in 2008.

Pay restoration must be the first aim of the working class movement during the life of this new government.

Simply restoring wages to the level they were at prior to the 2008 collapse in capitalist confidence is not enough. Raising wages must be the basis of an economy that serves the people. This plus a serious assault on bank and corporate profits coupled with an end to ruinous spending on war is necessary.

Last year HSBC made £31,263,61 million, up 80%; Lloyds made £5,518 million, up 57%; Barclays made £5,323 million and NatWest made £4,632 million.

Taxing bank and corporate profits coupled with a military strategy based on territorial defence rather than NATO expansion would help end austerity.

Defence spending has been steadily rising since 2017 to £56.3 billion. On top of this in total, the UK has committed almost £12.7 billion for NATO's confrontation with Russia in the Ukraine war including £7.6 billion in military support and £5 billion in non-military support. This is a profits bonanza for the war industry profiteers.

The TUC and our unions need a policy that delivers productive jobs for members who presently depend on immoral arms spending and challenge the dangerous trend set by the Tories and continued by Labour.

NICK WRIGHT IS EDITOR OF UNITY!

Groucho knows where your wage rise went

Corporate Profits in the United Kingdom increased to £145102 million in the second quarter of 2024 from £140461 million in the first quarter of 2024.

Corporate profits averaged £46245 million from 1955 until 2024, reaching an all time high of £155481 million in the first quarter of 2023.



Inside

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
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LABOUR ARISTOCRACY

‘The period of imperialism is the period in which the distribution of the world among the ‘great’ and privileged nations, by whom all other nations are oppressed, is completed. Scraps of the booty enjoyed by the privileged as a result of this oppression undoubtedly fall to the lot of certain sections of the petty-bourgeoisie and the aristocracy and bureaucracy of the working class.’
VI Lenin 1920 *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*

TUC: trade unions prepare to deal with Labour



Alex Gordon
TRADES UNION CONGRESS

DELEGATES TO this year's conference of the Trades Union Congress meet at an historic moment. Millions of workers have taken note of a desperately needed general election victory that saw the end of a series of disastrous Tory governments.

The conference takes place in Brighton in the wake of a Labour election victory that was shallow and based on renewed commitments to maintain austerity policies, revive the disastrous Private Finance Initiative (PFI) responsible for burdening the NHS with unsustainable debt, and divert much needed public resources into the arms industry, which will do nothing to help working people.

These policies, far from bringing the 'Change' Labour promised, are in fact a continuation of the discredited policies of the previous Tory government, driving the dangerous rise of the far-right in Britain and intersecting with the drive to war across the globe in which the British state plays the most destabilising role in support of US imperialism.

As always the annual TUC conference reflects, sometimes openly and sometimes in muted form the contradiction between the real life aspirations, hopes and interests of working people and the always present drive to accommodate the interests of capital, big business, the banks and the state bureaucracy.

A wide range of unions – EIS, Unite, USDAW and PCS and FBU, CWU and Aslef –are pledged to support policy on ending the hostile environment towards workers. These concern Labour's 2024 general election manifesto New Deal for workers and trade union rights – banking the commitments in the New Deal, defending them from attacks from the right-wing in the Labour Party and from hostile big business lobbyists and extending them further, especially on collective bargaining. The aim is to refocus the TUC and the trade union movement on the vision outlined in the Institute for Employment Rights (IER)'s proposals in its 2016 Manifesto for Labour Law for mandatory sectoral collective bargaining.

Posing an alternative to the Starmer/Reeves surrender to austerity

economics Unite and the RMT press for an alternative economic strategy, the need to break Labour's self-imposed fiscal rules, to tax wealth and to spend to grow the economy and save our public services, to reject a new generation of PFIs, and instead start to tackle the real blocks to Britain's economy, the grip of the City of London financial institutions and a handful of multinational corporations who extract value from our economy.

Opposition is mounting to a poorly disguised Trojan Horse to prepare the ground for realignment with the European Union Single market. Prospect's motion would open the way to taking Britain back into the EU Single Market in a backwards step that ignores the unexplored possibilities of economic sovereignty to rebuild our economy and public services.

A Unison motion on challenging the politics of hate and on the rise far right is open to being strengthened by an amendment from the NEU. This argues that unions need to take responsibility and put significant resources and effort into rebuilding collective organisation both within and beyond the workplace, in working class communities abandoned by the labour movement.

Unite, Accord and Artists Union England have tabled an important and prescient bid to end discrimination by algorithm and for safeguards for Artificial Intelligence.

There will be controversy over an important bid by the NEU in solidarity with Palestine. A Unite amendment, which uses the arms industry's preferred narrow definition of arms sales as 'export licences for arms directly traded with Israel' is a crude attempt to gut the motion and maintain UK arms sales that prolong Israel's genocidal war on Palestinians. This debate links with the wider need for a proper labour movement debate about diversification and just transition in our arms economy, and restoring trade union movement to being an advocate of peace, rather than shoring up the interests of arms multinationals in driving us to practical support for genocide and catastrophic world war.

ALEX GORDON IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S INDUSTRIAL ORGANISER AND A TWICE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE RMT



Unity! reporter
STRATEGY

ASUMMER 2024 issue of the *Unity!* trade union supplement has been published by the Communist Party setting out the case for a new alternative economic and political strategy.

Dealing with Labour's economic problems the party argues that Labour has inherited a desperately weak economy with the lowest growth in the G7 group of nations. UK productivity consistently lags behind that of other advanced economies. Years of Tory austerity have weakened that economy yet further, eroding public services, damaging growth, holding down tax revenues.

A detailed analysis of the political and economic power of the City of London looks at the stranglehold it has on spending and government policy and its role in distorting investment and stifling industrial growth.

The role of multinationals and monopoly groups in Britain's 'foundational economy' in concentrating ownership and intensifying profits is analysed while the final section details a series of economic and political steps to enable a Labour government to raise living standards for working people and take pressures off smaller businesses by tackling the biggest barriers to economic development and redistribution of wealth – the power of the City of London, multinationals and big business which do so much to determine the functioning of our economy and the life chances of our people.

The Communist Party argues that Labour must change direction and raise the workers' share of national wealth if it is to survive and make a difference to the lives of working people. The supplement argues that these measures can't be seen as a menu of options from which the labour movement can choose, but an interlocking strategy for weakening the vice like grip of monopolistic big businesses and the financial interests in the City of London.

These measures also anticipate the reactions of this small group of interests and propose further measures that might be necessary in the face of resistance.

The programme outlined would build support for a Labour government among the mass of people including the organised working class, the wider working class beyond the trade union movement and also among large sections of the domestically based business community.

Importantly, the programme would also support the creation of new unionised jobs in manufacturing and free the unions to be



able to expand out of their current bases. In this way, they would be measures to re-build an active, organised labour movement.

★ An Autumn issue of the supplement is being distributed to delegates to the 2024 TUC conference in Brighton setting out the Communist Party's views on the main motions before delegates.

Free downloads of both are available at www.communistparty.org.uk/unity

What Labour's Employment Rights Bill needs to include

September 8th 2024, at 6:00pm (or end of congress)
Brighton 1360, Lower Kings Road, Brighton, BN1 2LN

After nearly 15 years of continued vandalism to UK labour law and enforcement, the current moment presents positive opportunities for the labour movement. Labour is preparing legislation for its 'Making Work Pay' policy (AKA the New Deal for Workers) to be enacted in its first 100 days in office – something to be welcomed but kept under healthy scrutiny.

Come to the IER & CTUF fringe to join our experts for a closer look at what the Employment Rights Bill is likely to include, as well as why those elements still missing from the original New Deal document are key to creating a framework of labour law fit for the 21st century.

Speakers:

- Lord John Hendy KC
IER/CTUF
- Dr Joe Atkinson
University of Southampton
- James Harrison
Director of IER
- Prof Lydia Hayes
University of Liverpool
- Fran Heathcote
General Secretary, PCS
- Neil Todd
Thompsons Solicitors
- Chair: Sarah Woolley
General Secretary, BFAWU

SUSSEX MORNING STAR READERS AND SUPPORTERS GROUP
TUC FRINGE EVENT

REPEAL

ALL ANTI-UNION LAWS!




Supported by STRIKEMAP, BRIGHTON & HOVE TUC, UNITE BRIGHTON & SURROUNDS

CAROLYN JONES
(Campaign for Trade Union Freedom)

GAWAIN LITTLE
(General Federation of Trade Unions)

LORD JOHN HENDY KC
(Institute of Employment Rights)

Wagner Hall, Brighton, BN1 2RU
Tuesday, 10 September
12:30 pm





CAPITALISM & AGRICULTURE

‘Capitalist production collects the population together in great centres, and causes the urban population to achieve an ever greater preponderance. This has two results. On the one hand it concentrates the historical motive-power of society; on the other hand, it disturbs the metabolic interaction [Stoffwechsel] between man and the soil, i.e., it prevents the return to the soil of its constituent elements consumed by man in the form of food and clothing; hence it hinders the operation of the eternal natural conditions for the lasting fertility of the soil.’ **Karl Marx** ‘Modern Industry and Agriculture’ in *Capital*



Phil Katz
RURAL CRISIS

OUR COUNTRYSIDE is in crisis. Life for the rural working class is marked by declining public services, poverty pay and pollution.

Years of public spending cuts, privatised public transport, food production in the hands of ruthless monopolies squeezing the smaller producers and a housing market hijacked by greedy developers adds up to a crisis in the countryside.

The decay of small farms, poverty pay and the stranglehold big supermarkets have on prices has left rural communities struggling to survive. Alongside countryside workers is a parasitic class of landowners linked to big business and the banks.

The countryside crisis is decades in the making. It is rooted in the ownership of enormous tracts of lands by the bourgeoisie. Marx and Engels highlighted the origins of this crisis as far back as 1846, warning how rural communities were becoming second-class citizens in their own country.

Where the rhetoric of the Countryside Alliance has drawn in some rural workers it is, in reality, a mouthpiece for the fox hunting fraternity linked to big landowners. Only the long standing failure of Labour (and indeed the left) to develop a clear anti monopoly policy for agriculture and the countryside gives this privileged elite a platform.

Rural Britain can be a hell of exploitation for many workers.

A few unions like Unite, GMB, Usdaw and the BFAWU are fighting to organise workers in the food sector, but much more needs to be done. The scale of exploitation is staggering.

Workers, often migrant labourers, toil in fields late into the night for pitiful wages. Gang master maintain a grip on the supply of labour. Workers face rising rents, a drastic shortage of council housing while migrants live in appalling conditions at the mercy of their employers and gangmasters.

Monopoly supermarkets have a stranglehold on the food supply chain, big landowners leave fertile land unused, and the EU's policies have battered our fishing

communities. Processed food is making us sick, and less than half of the food we eat is produced in Britain.

The reality is that big landowners control enormous portions of what is in effect stolen property. The landowning elite became even bigger landowners with the Enclosure Acts which drove the rural proletariat into the towns and the ‘dark satanic mills’ of legend.

Today land ownership is the basis of the economic and political power of our bourgeoisie. In England half the land is owned by less than one per cent of the population. Twenty five thousand landowners – typically aristocrats and corporations – own the land.

A tiny number of the super-rich have a long standing grip on much of Scotland's land. The Scottish Land Commission reports that big landowners operate like monopolies across much of rural Scotland and dominate land use, economic investment and local communities.

The King owns 65 per cent of the Welsh foreshore and riverbeds. While land ownership in Wales is obscure the Who Owns Wales/Pwy Bia Cymru project points out that several estates and landowners were partly funded through colonial activities, the slave trade and slave plantations.

What's needed is a united front from the TUC to bring workers and communities together with a clear strategy to support those from farmers in the hills of Wales; vegetables pickers in East Anglia or strawberries pickers in Kent and Suffolk.

Once the land was a common treasury. The idea of land in the hands of the common people is not new. It's a legacy passed down from the Levellers, Diggers, Chartists and Joseph Arch's Agricultural Union. But today, we face new challenges.

The workers and small farmers at the bottom of the rural pyramid suffer the most. They can't get a bus to work or visit relatives, can't get their kids into a local school, and can't find a dentist.

What's needed is a complete overhaul — a national food policy that ensures quality, affordable food for everyone. This must include free school meals, proper nutrition in hospitals, and meals for pensioners. It means ending endemic outsourcing in the

public sector.

A housing crisis plagues rural areas. The epidemic of second homes – itself a product of capitalism speculative scandal – must be controlled, and instead, councils should be enabled to construct affordable homes for local people. As Marx and Engels pointed out nearly two centuries ago, the integration of rural and urban life is essential for any shift in the direction of socialism.

Monopoly landownership and the profit drive added to climate change underpins a soil degradation crisis and coastal erosion.

The scandal of Britain's privatised water industry is driving a popular demand for renationalisation which Starmer's Labour is ignoring.

Action to bring the production of seeds, fertilisers, and pesticides under public control is urgently needed.

The restoration of the Agricultural Wages Board is a necessary start, but it doesn't go far enough. We need a food and farming price control board to take pricing power away from the retail giants and ensure fair prices for both producers and consumers. This is about taking back control of our food supply.

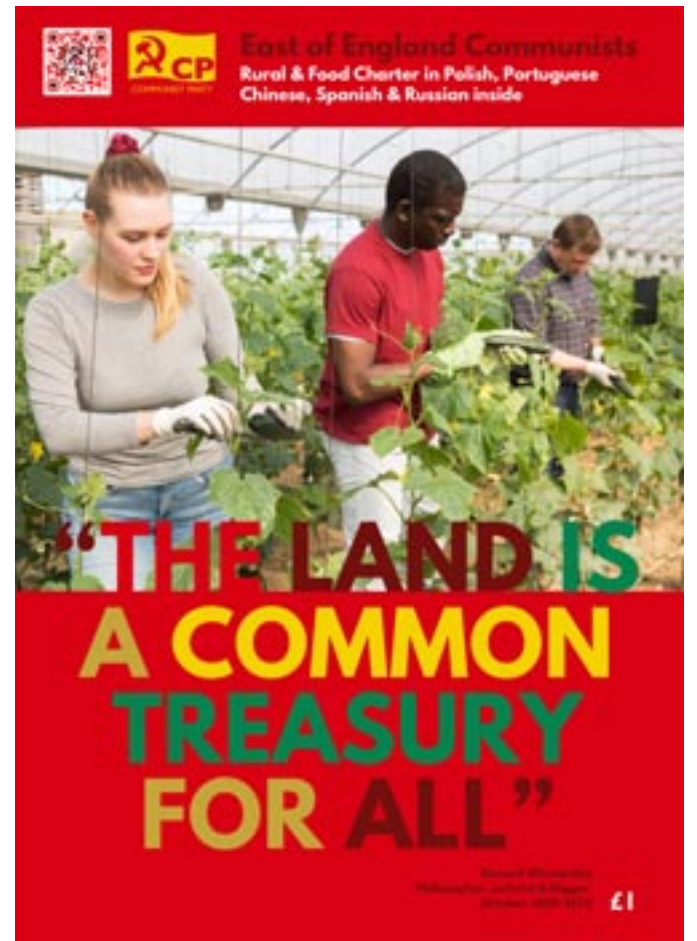
The co-operative movement allied to government action can be a real force for progressive change to drive out monopoly control of production and prices.

We should be setting ambitious targets — like producing 75 per cent of our food here at home. Training anew generation of skilled rural workers and specialists, improving soil quality, introducing high quality research and innovative farming techniques that enrich the soil and reduce dependency on chemical inputs.

But food production alone isn't enough to sustain rural communities. They need schools, medical centres, sports and cultural facilities, and libraries.

The source of the rural crisis is private ownership of the land and capitalist control of food production, marketing and distribution. Britain's agriculture and our rural communities need socialist measures to tackle the crisis capitalism has created.

PHIL KATZ IS SECRETARY OF THE EAST OF ENGLAND COMMUNIST PARTY



The Rural and Food Charter

Steve Marling
RURAL POLITICS

BITAIN'S RURAL communities have been neglected for too long and to tackle this the Communist Party in the East of England has drafted a *Rural and Food Charter* with policies to change everything under the sky and in the countryside.

Our campaigning proposals:

- ★ transform the Ministry for Farming and Food to prioritise rural and fishing communities, workers, and small farmers not big business
- ★ food imports and exports should be controlled by an all-Britain Food Commission to end food insecurity
- ★ a Food & Farming Price Control Board to set prices for all basics including wheat, meat, fish, milk with payments guaranteed to producers
- ★ the government must act to break up the monopoly position of the giant food retailers, where appropriate taking them into public ownership and fixing the price of basic necessities
- ★ establish a state-owned fertiliser and seed company directed and run by those who work in the sector
- ★ revamp a cooperative sector, bringing more land into production, encouraging the youth to create hybrid food and technology start-ups
- ★ create a new Unified Agriculture and Food University, drawing on the latest technologies and food science research
- ★ establish a Regional Assembly to plan investment in infrastructure, coordinate transport linking rural and urban areas, create jobs and support local council home-building programmes
- ★ priority be given to properly resourcing rural schools and medical centres with the primary initial aim of making dental, hearing and eye services available to rural communities on the NHS
- ★ re-form an Agricultural Wages Board to negotiate with unions and progressively raise wages and standards of living of agricultural, food and horticulture workers
- ★ enable councils to fund provision of culture, sports and library facilities, accessible to all struggle for a new level of political involvement of working people and communities in democratic decision-making and accountability
- ★ plan long-term investment to end the mismatch in the quality of life between rural and urban areas.

STEVE MARSLING IS CHAIR OF THE EAST OF ENGLAND COMMUNIST PARTY

Solidarity with migrant workers

The Rural Food and Land Charter contains a sharp analysis of the rural economy and practical proposals for government, the unions and co-ops to make real changes and includes appendices in Russian, Polish, Spanish and Portuguese for the guidance of migrant workers.



AGAINST IMPERIALISM & WAR

‘All these mountains of Irish dead, all these corpses mangled beyond recognition, all these arms, legs, eyes, ears, fingers, toes, hands, all these shivering, putrefying bodies and portions of bodies once warm living and tender parts of Irish men and youths – all these horrors in Flanders or the Gallipoli Peninsula, all are items in the price Ireland pays for being part of the British Empire.’ James Connolly. 1915



* NEW STOP THE WAR COALITION PAMPHLET IS AVAILABLE AT www.stopwar.org.uk

Andrew Murray
STOP THE WAR

B RITAIN MAY have a new government, but on the most important questions, it has the same old policies. It is already costing tens of thousands of lives across the world and is leading us towards still greater dangers.

We now have the most volatile global situation in decades, and at home too. A Middle East enflamed by Israel's genocide in Gaza. Muslim communities fearing an emboldened far-right.

Both the front benches in parliament have united in support of Israel's slaughter in Gaza, in working to prolong the war in Ukraine, in pursuing a new cold war directed at China, and in committing to huge rises in military spending.

These issues received little or no hearing or debate during the general election campaign. Both Labour and Tories preferred to pass over them in silence as far as possible.

Yet these matters will shape our future as much or more than those questions which were discussed.

And they are issues which millions are already concerned about. Great masses of the British people have marched in solidarity with the Palestinians over the last year, demanding a change in the policy of support for Israel.

That movement had a direct and powerful impact on parliamentary politics, leading as it did to the election of four independent pro-Gaza candidates around the country, in addition to Jeremy Corbyn's re-election in Islington, with several others only narrowly missing out by just the narrowest margins.

And millions of voters, concerned about the damage done by austerity to vital public services, and dismayed that neither governing party has any plausible plan to rebuild them, will be looking askance at the vast and increasing sums being poured into weaponry and warfare.

As the dangers of a wider war become more apparent, people will start to demand answers on wider questions of foreign policy too.

Whether Labour and Tories like it or not, these questions will, in all likelihood, come to dominate the political agenda.

The new Stop the War Coalition pamphlet explores the issues involved and sets out the position of the Coalition on them.

Stop the War has played a central part in the mobilisation in support of the Palestinian people, and it has also campaigned against the prolongation of the Ukraine conflict, increased militarisation and the drift to wider war.

It further fights against Islamophobia and in defence of civil liberties, both central questions in British politics today.

From the start of the 'war on terror' in 2001 and the Iraq War in 2003, the Coalition has stood up for peace and justice, and mobilised millions in support of our campaigns.

Today it is needed more than ever.

ANDREW MURRAY IS VICE PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER MEMBER OF THE STOP THE WAR COALITION.

For working class unity! Smash racism and fascism

THE COMMUNIST PARTY unequivocally condemns the racist and Islamophobic attacks by far right thugs on communities, immigrants and refugees across Britain over the last weeks.

It is clear that these actions were planned by a range of far-right figureheads, commentators and organisations, amounting to a far right offensive. This offensive has been brought about by the mainstream media, politicians and others who have done nothing to challenge the root causes of racism in Britain. On the contrary, their anti-immigrant rhetoric has for years given far-right extremists a platform on which to build and grow.

It is clear that working people cannot trust the police to protect communities from fascists and racists. The left and the trade union movement cannot sit on the sidelines. We must organise collectively to defend our communities. The Communist Party will do all in our power to help build such community resistance. At a local level, we must come together to protect people and homes and places of worship.

Racist divide and rule politics are the oldest trick in the book for the ruling class for distracting working people from the real causes of our problems – capitalism – and scapegoating the most vulnerable.

After 14 years of cuts, with no end in sight and more to come under Starmer's new Labour government, stagnant wages and declining living conditions, it is clear that capitalism cannot deliver even the basic necessities of a dignified life for the mass of working people. It is these cuts that are to blame for deteriorating public services, not immigrants. It is big business and multinational companies that are to blame for unemployment and poverty pay, not immigrants. It is property speculators and landlords that are to blame for the lack of housing, not immigrants.

It is the capitalist system that is to blame for the problems working people in Britain face – not immigrants.

The Communist Party welcomes and applauds the actions of local people and anti racists in opposing and blocking the far right. We welcome the statements issued by a number of trade unions. These actions give us a cause for hope that we can build a United Front that not only confronts the far right on the streets but also achieves real change for working people to cut the ground from under the far right and make clear the real culprit for our problems and the target of our struggle: capitalism.

We will continue the work of our Party with the Indian Workers Association, Bangladeshi Workers Council, Caribbean Labour Socialism and Jewish Voice for Labour in putting forward well researched demands for anti racist immigration and nationality laws. We welcome the work of Stand up to Racism and the Liberation Movement in campaigning against racism. We welcome the coverage and commentary made in the *Morning Star* in steadfastly opposing the far right, unlike the ruling class and state media.

While capitalism persists, the threat of the far right and fascism which it nurtures will always remain. Socialism is the only permanent defeat for the fascism. Our tasks are clear:

- ★ Build the United Front!
- ★ Smash racism and fascism!
- ★ Fight for real change!



‘And what do North American presidents represent?’

Kevan Nelson
NICARAGUA

NICARAGUAN PRESIDENT Daniel Ortega told the 19 July rally in Managua to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the 1979 Sandinista Revolution: 'They are nothing more than placed there, by either of the parties, to serve the military-industrial complex. More wars mean more business for the military-industrial complex. To serve the big North American corporations'.

The five hour event, attended by 600 international guests who were welcomed into the main square (above), was a combination of Nicaraguan culture and powerful anti-imperialist and internationalist politics. Special guest was veteran Palestinian revolutionary Leila Khalid.

Other speakers included Venezuelan foreign minister Ivan Gill and Ramon Waldes, a 92-year-old historic leader of the Cuban revolution, as well as senior politicians from Russia, South Africa, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, and Algeria. Representatives of China and Vietnam were present at the rally.

Daniel Ortega's keynote speech lasted for one hour reviewing developments in Nicaragua and internationally with a strong emphasis on social peace in Nicaragua and national unity. His wide-ranging international perspectives were staunchly anti-imperialist. A key refrain was the Sandinista doctrine of Socialism, Christianity and Solidarity.

The atmosphere at the rally was electric and characterised by revolutionary music, chanting and a sea of red/black FSLN and national flags in the vast over 100,000 crowd representing all sections of Nicaraguan society and state but with a strong core of FSLN youth – confident, patriotic, proud and resilient in the building of an alternative political system to exploitative capitalism.

KEVAN NELSON IS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY



▲ Stop the War urges people to book coaches, distribute leaflets and publicise the demonstration as widely as possible. Almost 11 months in and Israel's genocide in Gaza continues to accelerate. Schools and hospitals are still being continually struck by Israeli attacks. Meanwhile, Israel's murderous oppression is rapidly escalating in the West Bank and despite Netanyahu's clear sabotage of the peace negotiations, the Western powers continue to back Israel's genocide.



AGAINST GENOCIDE

‘Madam Vice President Kamala Harris: . If you mean what you say about wanting to end the in Gaza and securing the Palestinian people’s inalienable rights to dignity, security, freedom and self determination, then you need to take one first step: Stop supplying the arms and munitions Israel is deploying in its war of extermination.’
Hasam Zomlot is the Palestinian ambassador to the United Kingdom

EU complicity in Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza



▲ The Geneva International Peace Research Institute (GIPRI) has accused Ursula von der Leyen, (above left) the President of the European Commission, of complicity in Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinians in Gaza.

The complaint was filed at the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 22 May urges the ICC prosecutor to initiate investigations based on the information provided against von der Leyen.

Niamh Ní Bhriain WAR CRIME

AS EUROPEAN institutions begin another five-year term in Brussels, it’s worth highlighting the extent to which the EU is complicit in genocide.

Political support

Following 7 October 2023 attacks, European Commission (EC) President Ursula von der Leyen posted an image of the EC headquarters in Brussels lit up in the colours of the Israeli flag, declaring: ‘Israel has a right to defend itself – today and in the days to come. The European Union stands with Israel’.¹ This signalled EU approval for Israel to begin its military campaign in Gaza. In the first 24 hours, 400 Palestinians were killed.

On 11 October 2023, Ursula von der Leyen joined European Parliament President, Roberta Metsola, European Council President, Charles Michel, and Haim Regev, Israel’s ambassador in Brussels, in a ‘solemn moment’ held in the forecourt of the European Parliament to commemorate Israeli victims only, even though by then 1,100 Palestinians had been killed. Two days later on 13 October, von der Leyen and Metsola

touched down in Israel for a photo-op with Israeli leaders telling them that Israel has ‘the right and duty to respond to Hamas’ act of ‘war’.

For weeks, European leaders wrangled over semantics before eventually calling for ‘humanitarian corridors and pauses’, suggesting that genocide is fine as long as Israel takes a break every now and then.² It took the bloc until 21 March 2024 to call for a ceasefire, a move that President Charles Michel claimed made the EU ‘a credible actor’.³ By then over 31,000 Palestinians had been killed, Gaza had been reduced to rubble and starvation had taken hold affecting the Strip’s 2.3 million people. The European Parliament was marginally faster, having called for a ceasefire on 28 February 2024 but a day later it overwhelmingly rejected a resolution that called for an arms embargo.

Following the European elections in June, EU leaders returned von der Leyen and Metsola to their positions at the Commission and the Parliament, while Charles Michel still holds the presidency of the European Council. As recently as 13 August 2024, he held a phone conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu.⁴

Material support

Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza is possible only because of the arms supplied by Western states. While much attention is given to the US as Israel’s main arms supplier, EU member states come in second. Germany provided 30% of Israel’s arms between 2019-2023 and its exports to Israel in 2023 were worth €326.5 million, having increased tenfold from the previous year, with the vast majority of licences being approved after 7 October.⁵ Moreover, much of the weaponry supplied by the US is fitted out with European manufactured components. In addition, EU member states facilitate the transit of US arms shipments through their territory on the way to Israel.

For years, Israeli entities have been given a free reign to access EU research funding, even though those in receipt of this money are often directly connected to Israel’s apartheid state and military apparatus. This has continued since 7 October, with at least two research projects directly funding Israel

Aerospace Industries (IAI), one of Israel’s largest arms companies. As well as funding Israeli arms companies directly through research grants or from the purchase of military equipment such as drones, at least €426 million of European public money goes to European arms companies that arm Israel.⁶

EU Complicity in genocide to continue

Although EU-Israel relations are underpinned by the Association Agreement,⁷ which contains a human rights clause, the EU has failed to invoke it, preferring instead to adopt a ‘business as usual’ approach to Israel as it commits a genocide. In doing so the Union has abandoned the façade of being concerned with human rights and the rule of law and has exposed its racist and imperialist core.

At every turn, the EU has shown itself to be entirely unwilling to impose sanctions, an arms embargo or to prohibit the flow of US arms through Europe on their way to the Middle East. Considering the same genocidal warmongers have been returned to their positions in Brussels, it’s unlikely that the EU’s institutional support for genocide will change any time soon.

★ For further information see *Partners in Crime: EU complicity in Israel’s genocide in Gaza* from the Transnational Institute

Notes

- 1 <https://x.com/vonderleyen/status/1710777462391443590?lang=en>
- 2 <https://www.euronews.com/myeurope/2023/10/26/eu-leaders-issue-call-for-humanitarian-corridors-and-pauses-in-gaza-after-hours-of-wrangling>
- 3 https://euobserver.com/world/158265?utm_source=euobs&utm_medium=email
- 4 <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/president/calendar/?DateFrom=2024%2F07%2F25>
- 5 <https://www.tni.org/en/publication/partners-in-crime-EU-complicity-Israel>
- 6 <https://www.tni.org/en/publication/partners-in-crime-EU-complicity-Israel-genocide-Gaza>
- 7 https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/israel/documents/eu_israel/asso_agree_e_n.pdf

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Notes

ISRAELI REPRESSION The district HQ of the Communist Party of Israel (CPI) in Haifa was closed by the police for ten hours last week. The Israeli Minister of Public Security, Itamar Ben Gvir, was responsible. The repressive apparatus wanted to prevent the screening of the film *Jenin, Jenin* by Muhammad Bakri and the planning of further actions against the genocide and war in Gaza. The police had previously interrogated the CPI secretary for Haifa, Reem Hazzan.

CPI and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (Hadash) condemned the attempted intimidation in a joint statement. The repression shows ‘the depth of the fascist practice that affects the political and party work in the country, which is directed against the war and the policies of this government.’ The parties will continue their anti-war actions until the criminal war against Gaza is over.

In a letter of solidarity from the Palestinian People’s Party to the CPI, it says: ‘All criminal repressive practices directed against the status, activities and headquarters of your party and of Hadash are part of the fascist policy of the occupation government and the apparatus against our people and against the forces that oppose war and occupation.’

The Communist Party of Israel is the only party in the country in which both Palestinians and Jews are members. For the communists of Israel, the Middle East conflict is not an ethnic-religious conflict, but a class conflict



Junge Welt reports As a survey commissioned by Alice Schwarzer and Sahra Wagenknecht showed, 68% of Germans are in favor of peace negotiations with Russia – in the east as much as 76%. A majority calls for a ceasefire (65%), almost half of those surveyed complain about a lack of diplomacy (46%) and speak out against Taurus deliveries (48%). In the east, 52% also think that the demand for peace negotiations will be electorally decisive in the election.

Despite all the contradictions, the figures show that the opinion leadership claimed by the federal government and other warmongers has suffered. The elections in the East could become a symbolic vote on the war course – if the rulers do not succeed in putting the migration issue at the centre of all interpretations and thereby driving the division. After the media outcry of the past few days, there can hardly be any doubt that the latter is likely to be the approach. With the agitation following the deadly knife attacks in Solingen, the traffic light coalition and the CDU – with the help of the AfD – are preparing the justification for a continuation of the war policy after the lost elections in the East. Because instead of arms deliveries and an end to the war against Russia, the only things that will be discussed afterwards will be asylum policy and deportations. It is not very helpful that protagonists of the BSV, which is important in the peace issue, also loudly participated in this diversionary maneuver.

Junge Welt daily is the partner paper to the *Morning Star* in Germany

Respect the results of the presidential election



Communist Party statement VENEZUELA

IN THE WAKE of the presidential elections in Venezuela, the Communist Party’s international commission issued the following statement: ‘The presidential elections in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela took place on Sunday 28 July 2024, where it was noted, there was a high citizen turnout. The Communist Party of Britain welcomes the announced defeat of the far right in the Presidential election-whose political agenda would have been catastrophic for the people of Venezuela and the wider region of Latin America.

The election was concluded in peaceful conditions and free of interference/irregularities as confirmed by the large body of independent international observers. Furthermore, the right wing opposition in Venezuela had stated in advance of the election that they would refuse to accept any outcome other than

the defeat of the incumbent.

The Communist Party notes however the significant reduction in support from 67% in 2018 to 51% in 2024. Primarily this can be attributed to the devastating economic impact of US led sanctions imposed on Venezuela in recent years. But divisions in Bolivarian forces have undermined internal solidarity, as well as the counterproductive, draconian, and undemocratic judicial and state attacks on the Communist Party of Venezuela (Partido Comunista de Venezuela PCV).

The Communist Party of Britain condemn external interference in the external affairs of Venezuela by US imperialism and its allied states in Central and South America.

We call in the result of the election to be respected, the reversal of the attacks on the PCV and for unity of anti-imperialist forces in Venezuela to safeguard the Bolivarian revolution and the legacy of Hugo Chavez.’

Following the election persecution of

the PCV has intensified with attack on the international secretary of the PCV- Hector Alejo Rodriguez through a fraudulent administrative process in his work centre in which they are trying to prosecute him for ‘alleged detour and facilitation of fuel to extreme right wing factors, who intend to generate a climate of violence and destabilisation throughout the country during the presidential elections of July 28.’ The evidence presented to support such an accusation is reduced to the review in a media of a statement made by the PCV on national issues. Repeated emphasis was made on Hector’s membership of the PCV making it a clear case of political persecution.

We reiterate our calls against outside interference in Venezuela- however we send our upmost solidarity to the PCV and our comrade Hector and call for the Venezuelan government to end the political persecution of the PCV.



BSW ‘NOW A POWER FACTOR’

‘The state elections in Thuringia and Saxony are a slap in the face for the traffice light coalition. But they are also a lesson for the entire Berlin political bubble: the waste of huge amounts of taxpayer’s money on an endless war and the care of more and more war refugees and illegal immigrants, the US-dependent sanctions policy with which we are not harming Russia but are driving up energy prices and companies into bankruptcy or abroad... all of this cannot and must not continue.’ Sahra Wagenknecht 2024

Unmasking Nigel Farage’s political vehicle

THE 2024 SUMMER riot wave owes much to the climate of racism and Islamophobia stimulated by the billionaire media and many of Britain’s political leaders. In this situation Nigel Farage and his privately owned political vehicle, Reform UK, have played a malign role. Reform UK is the father of the riots that dare not acknowledge its bastard offspring. The riots themselves swiftly assumed an anti-police and anti state character but were one expression of a deep social and political crisis.

In this pamphlet the Communist Party turns the spotlight on Reform UK. Even though Britain’s mass media give huge publicity to its policy on one issue alone – immigration – the party warns of the dangers of seeing it as a single-issue party,

On the main economic and class questions in Britain, Reform UK voters are broadly in line with public opinion as a whole. On some key issues, they are to the left of the Conservative Party, Nigel Farage and his big business and City of London supporters.

On health, education, housing, rights at work, improving democracy, protecting our

planet and on Britain’s place in the world, Farage and Reform UK have policies that directly oppose the interests of working-class people and their communities across England, Scotland and Wales.

The pamphlet shows that while Reform UK attracts support across the different classes and sections of society, it actually seeks to represent particular ruling class interests.

Its cross-class appeal is as deliberate as it is dishonest. For Farage and his wealthy backers, immigration and its dog-whistle appeal to deeply embedded racist ideas is their bridge to mass electoral support for a very right-wing, anti-people agenda – to shape a contemporary capitalism that will intensify exploitation and inequality. Therefore it is vital to explain in plain, straightforward language what Reform UK really stands for.

We will need to bring the people and their working-class organisations together, mobilising them to defeat Reform UK in local communities in the 2025 English local elections, in the Scottish and Welsh elections in 2026 and in the next General Election whenever it comes.



Unmasking Reform UK Ltd.
£2 from www.communistparty.org.uk
Bulk orders: office@communistparty.org.uk
Poster: office@communistparty.org.uk





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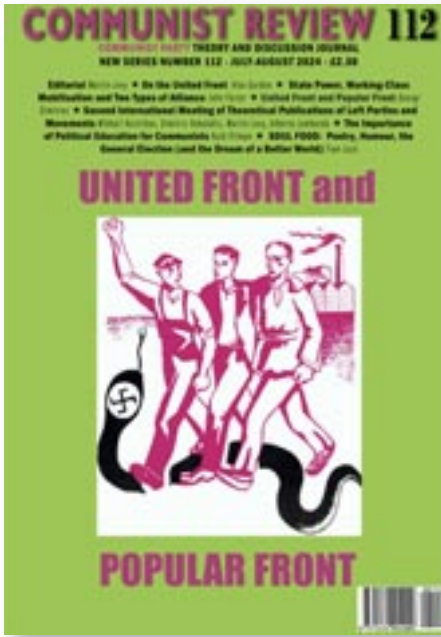


Graham Stevenson memorial event

Saturday 26 October 1-4pm
Unite the union, Regional Office, 30 Jennens Road, Birmingham, B7 4EH

Join us for 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



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