



Workers of all lands, unite!  
Communist Party  
January 2025

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# Unity!

## REFORM UK IS A SELLOUT TO US BIG BUSINESS



**Nick Wright**

### BIG BUSINESS

**DOUBTS about the patriotism of the people behind Reform UK can no longer exist. This is a transatlantic party of big business, bankers and bosses completely in hock to the very rich.**

Elon Musk's now abandoned donation of \$100 million was the bonkers billionaire's bid to buy into the plutocratic privatisers of Reform UK PLC.

Just as we got used to laughing at the antics of Reform UK's saloon bar pisspot and his tangerine transatlantic tag team we now get a ringside seat to Farage being dumped by his billionaire buddy.

Ever dependent on US patronage Farage still hopes Trump will intercede with Musk on his behalf. Reform UK wraps itself in the Union Jack but the chance of a golden shower of dollars shows just where their loyalties lie.

Westminster Labour cannot criticise Reform UK's dependence on the rich when itself is in hock to a handful of millionaires.

### Trade is the test

Any trade deal between the incoming Trump administration and Britain will be agreed on Trump's terms.

Listen to the language of Labour's health secretary Wes Streeting and we can see NHS patient data being sold off to one of the many US health corporations which

see rich pickings from our health service in crisis.

Reform UK's enthusiasm for a US trade deal on terms that further tie the British the Tories and many in Labour.

Of course, there are real differences of interest between the traditional Tory ruling class and this buccaneer breed that Trump and Musk exemplify.

We can see it in the abandonment of the notionally liberal bourgeois who felt obliged to dress their imperialism as liberal interventionism in the service of open markets and adorned with allusions to women's liberation.

### Foreign money

The 2008 financial crash, the defeats sustained by the imperialist militaries – principally the US and British – and the deepening global crisis of capitalism manifested in falling profits, inflation, collapsing markets and runaway energy prices has undermined earlier orthodoxies.

We see in Elon Musk's venture into British politics – from his scabrous assaults on Keir Starmer and Jess Phillips to his backing for the fascist Tommy Robinson – a breach with conventional bourgeois politics. The prediction that 'civil war is inevitable' in Britain is a step towards bringing it about.

Musk inhabits this ideological zone where imperialist coups, government by billionaires, violent street politics and rampant racism are the instruments of a

new political dispensation in which the people lose power of any kind.

The incoming US administration has Musk as a member of Trump's leadership team. Thus we have a top government official of notionally what is British capitalism's main ally taking his political lead on our politics from a coked-up neo nazi in a British jail for contempt of court.

### Fascist talking points

If that was not poisonous enough we now have Robert Jenrick – a shadow minister in the official opposition Tory Party and a contender for party leadership – picking up on Tommy Robinson's talking points as amplified by Elon Musk with Kemi Badenoch refusing to distance herself from rampant racism.

Mosley's pre-war British Union of Fascists was hit hard by public order legislation which banned his uniformed thugs and ended his reliance on foreign cash from Mussolini's fascist regime.

Elon Musk represents something more poisonous even than Donald Trump. The re-elected US president is electorally dependent on an implicit contract with US workers that he would repatriate American jobs and stand against the global market.

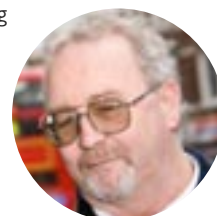
His rhetorically championing of the transactional value of tariffs is part pantomime and part recognition that the capitalist crisis necessarily entails a radical reordering. **Continued on page 2 >>>**

## Block Reform UK and the far right

Unity! reporter

### NEW YEAR MESSAGE

**I**N A NEW YEAR message to the working class and labour movement Communist Party leader Robert Griffiths (right) has called for a left-wing programme to counter the threat of Reform UK and the far right.



In a sweeping condemnation of the consensus policies shared by the so-called 'parties of government' Rob Griffiths said the British economy was 'severely unbalanced, unplanned and under-invested; and over-reliant on the City of London, a parasitic property market, inward foreign investment, and income from overseas operations.'

'Moreover, this is an economy shot through with financial corruption that increasingly infects our political system.'

'No wonder millions of people are disillusioned, cynical and even defeatist about the prospects for real change.'

'Labour is feeling the backlash against more broken promises as nothing really changes.'

'The big danger now is that right-wing, far-right and fascist forces see an opportunity to capitalise on the political vacuum that has existed since before the last general election. Labour's vote fell by half a million back in July; only one in three voters and one in five electors plumped for Starmer's pink elephant.'

'It won't be enough to attack Reform UK and the gutter press only, or even mainly, on vital issues of immigration and racism. The Communist Party will continue to expose the class character of Reform's billionaire, pro-City, pro-Trump leadership and its right-wing views.'

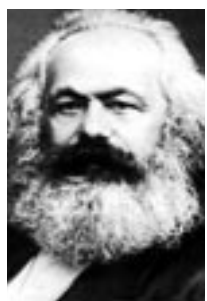
Rob Griffiths said no amount of attacks on Reform would pay off unless the left was in a position to offer hope.

'The only alternative in the interests of working-class people is a left-wing programme: tax the super-rich and big business; renationalise energy, water, steel and mail; cut carbon emissions and create jobs; impose price controls on the monopolies; invest in public services; scrap Britain's nuclear arsenal and rebuild manufacturing.'

Noting that the Communist Party had grown in the last year and would mobilise for the English local elections in May he said: 'Unlike Sir Keir Starmer's Labour Party, we are not silent in the face of Israel's genocidal destruction of the Palestinian people of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.'

'That's why we proclaim: 'Palestine will be free! Build the Communist Party of Britain! Long live the international communist movement!' ★





# DEMOCRACY & CLASS

“We now come to the Chartists, the politically active portion of the British working class. The six points of the Charter which they contend for contain nothing but the demand of Universal Suffrage, and of the conditions without which Universal Suffrage would be illusory for the working class; such as the ballot, payment of members, annual general elections. But Universal Suffrage is the equivalent for political power for the working class of England. **Karl Marx** 1852 *New York Herald Tribune*

Continued from page 1

Where this leaves Britain – now downgraded to the sixth largest economy and with a productivity crisis endowed us by a capitalist elite addicted to quarterly profit returns, indifferent to investment and hopelessly reliant on imported migrant labour – is the question before the political left and the labour movement.

Farage, ever the opportunist, now shifts his flexible rhetoric to present himself as anti-establishment with a hypocritical nod to Jeremy Corbyn’s positioning.

No foreign capitalist or capitalist entity should be able to donate to British political parties.

Until the working class begins to act in its own interest, with a united approach to day to day battles and a measure of strategic vision, the initiative will lay in the hands of the class enemy and their divisions will not be enough to spare us from the consequences of capitalism’s crisis.

Historical experience teaches us that divisions in the class enemy are a strategic reserve for the working class. But only if we take advantage of them. ★

NICK WRIGHT IS EDITOR OF UNITY!



## Unmasking Reform UK

In this pamphlet, by Phil Katz and Nick Wright, the Communist Party turns the spotlight on Reform UK.

Even though Britain’s mass media give huge publicity to Reform UK policy on one issue alone – immigration – the authors warn of the dangers of seeing it as a single-issue party.

Reflecting the split in Britain’s ruling class the people who own and run Reform UK are committed to an anti working class policy agenda that would mean more privatisation, starving public services of funding and tying Britain’s economy and foreign policy to a Trumpian agenda no less subservient to US imperialism than that of Biden and Harris.

£2 from [www.communistparty.org.uk](http://www.communistparty.org.uk)



Judith Cazorla  
CAMPAIGNING

COMMUNISTS throughout the country have swung into action in the Communist Party’s national Winter Campaign now underway.

Responding to a call for all communists and their allies to play their part to build the class struggle – and to build the Party and the YCL local – party organisations have stepped up public campaigning.

The focus is on activity across the board, firstly with increased public, propaganda and agitation work, and secondly local solidarity and community aid work.

Party organisations will be active on all fronts between now and the end of the Campaign at the end of February 2025.

Keir Starmer’s new Labour government has brought a new dynamic to the class struggle, by failing to provide any respite to the ruling class attack on workers’ living standards and rights, facilitating the rise of the far right.

This has opened up the opportunity for the organised working class to push for more radical policies and strengthen the whole trade union movement and left for the battles ahead. But only a united front of working class organisations fighting together and building alliances against monopolies and finance capital can force real change.

While the Communist Party fights for these policies in the trade union movement and in our communities all year round the Winter Campaign aims to take this message out into the streets at a period when working people are facing frozen incomes,

reduced benefits, rising rents and runaway energy bills.

The party leadership called on all comrades and party organisations to take part in this campaign, taking up the Party’s key messages, developing their own initiatives, adapted to their own local circumstances.

The collective aim is to raise class consciousness, show that capitalism and the ruling class are the source of society’s problems, both local and national, and raise working class confidence and unity through practical solidarity.

We are working to strengthen the campaigning culture and capability of the Party at every level across Britain for the struggles that lie ahead. The Winter Campaign is a concrete step in that process.

### How you can get involved

Party members can find all the relevant information in the most recent Party mailings, *Party Organiser* and from their branch. The Party has provided a growing new suite of campaigning materials to support the campaign including leaflets, posters, stickers etc.

If you’re not a Party member but want to get involved in the Campaign locally or want more information please contact: [organiser@communistparty.org.uk](mailto:organiser@communistparty.org.uk).

For further information or to arrange a discussion contact Johnnie Hunter, Communications Director, [johnniehunter@communistparty.org.uk](mailto:johnniehunter@communistparty.org.uk).

★ Participate in the National Foodbank Collections 1-2 February 2025 and the National Propaganda Weeks on 13 – 19 January 2025 and 17 – 23 February 2025.

JUDITH CAZORLA IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY’S NATIONAL ORGANISER



## US democracy?

Kevan Nelson  
OPINION

US DEMOCRACY is a billionaire’s playground and a paradise for the rich. Capitalism and democracy are incompatible. A Financial Times analysis of declared expenditure in the recent US presidential election confirmed it to be the most expensive in history. 21st century hyper-capitalism has no use for past charades of bourgeois democracy such as ‘free speech’, ‘level playing fields’ and ‘division of powers’ between the executive, judiciary and legislative. Instead, we have an unbridled spending race by billionaires and corporations to secure absolute political power through saturation advertising and propaganda.

In the 2024 election over \$4BN were raised (with Democrats outspending the Republicans) and a majority – \$2.3BN – came from ‘Super-PAC’s’ which enable individual millionaires and billionaires to make unlimited contributions such as Elon Musk’s \$118MN donation to the Trump campaign. Most of the money was spent on media and advertising.

Only a small fraction was spent on canvassing and field operations. Unsurprisingly turnout was as low as 58% with fewer than three in five voters supporting any candidate. The US political system is corrupt, dysfunctional and dominated by the rich. The US model is increasingly the norm in all capitalist countries and media commentators have no problem accepting it as legitimate with the Economist magazine heralding Trump’s victory as defining a ‘new political era, for America and the world’.

As Lenin wrote in 1918 ‘bourgeois democracy, although a great historical advance in comparison with medievalism, always remains, and under capitalism is bound to remain, restricted, truncated, false and hypocritical, a paradise for the rich and a snare and deception for the exploited, for the poor.’ ★

KEVAN NELSON IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY’S INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY





# PROBLEMS OF POWER

“The perks of a new government are not really appealing to me. Everybody would like to have a good job, a good salary.....but for me that is not the all of struggle. What is important is the continuation of the struggle... the real problems of the country are not whether one is in Cabinet ...but what we do for social upliftment of the working masses of our country”. **Chris Hani** General Secretary of the South African Communist Party assassinated 25 years ago.



Left: Delegates to the South African Communist Party's 5th special congress break out into spontaneous song. SACP picture

## UNITY REPORTER SACP CONGRESS

**L**EADING BRITISH communist Liz Payne told delegates to the South African Communist Party's 5th special congress that British communists were confident that the Special Congress was a step forward in reviewing the work of the SACP and strengthening their essential role in building unity for peace, democracy, and socialist advance. Britain plays a major role in the global imperialist system.

‘Our Party is devoting our efforts in the struggle for peace, against NATO and war, in solidarity with those people worldwide that face imperialist aggression and intervention and against our own ruling class's complicity in the

crimes that are being perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian People’ she said.

‘Like your Party, one of our main priorities is to campaign for an end to the genocide in Gaza and for an independent Palestinian state.

‘We will continue to strengthen our cooperation forged in over a century of joint struggle fighting colonialism, imperialism and racism’ she said.

‘Together we will advocate for communist unity and for an international policy of peace, friendship, and cooperation between all peoples.

‘We wish you every success in building a stronger South African Communist Party, developing revolutionary unity and advancing the National Democratic Revolution.’ ★

Britain's communists have joined sister parties in Europe and beyond in condemning the escalation of NATO's war policy.

The plan is for the peace forces in each of the countries to coordinate protests and put pressure on the respective governments.

The full statement appears right and the growing list of signatories can be viewed at [www.solidnet.org](http://www.solidnet.org)

## Call for unity and discipline

### Unity reporter Unite/GMB clash

**C**OMMUNISTS IN industry, services and transport have called for unity and discipline across their sectors and warned that sectarian and divisive forces must be repudiated and resolutely opposed

The Communist Party's industry, services, transport (IST) advisory committee sent solidarity to Unite members currently engaged in industrial action, from Oscar Mayer food production workers fighting fire and rehire in Wrexham, to Livv Housing repair and maintenance staff on strike alongside Unison members for improved pay and conditions in Knowsley, and care workers for vulnerable adults resisting disgraceful management practices by Plymouth council.

Communists in Unite noted with deep concern recent internal events within the union and between Unite and GMB unions being played out in public.

‘These developments undermine confidence in our union and are corrosive of the good union organisation, discipline and solidarity that our members demand and deserve’ said joint convenor Mark Jones..

Communists pledged to work to rebuild a broad-based left unity in Unite amongst and between workplace reps, leadership and staff.

The meeting also called on Unite members, reps and officers to reach out to GMB members and representatives across public and private sector employers where the two unions have joint recognition and joint negotiating structures.

‘The priority must be to reaffirm our members’ determination to reject divisions at the workplace between our trade unions and to work in unity and solidarity in our best traditions. Unite members and representatives must step up to show the leadership and maturity our movement needs’ said joint convenor Drew Gilchrist.

In a statement a spokesperson for the Communist Party's overarching industrial committee said the party's call for unity and discipline across and between the two trade unions was in the interests of members of Unite, other trade unionists and the entire working class.

‘The Communist Party stands for working class unity, discipline and militant class struggle. We call on trade unionists who accept these principles to join us’ she said. ★

## Put a stop to NATO's war policy.

### Joint statement WAR DANGER

There are military bases of NATO and its leading force USA in many states of the world, in some of them US nuclear weapons are stationed. They are an immediate danger for all countries that do not subordinate themselves to the USA and its allies. From 2025, it is planned to station additional SM-6 medium-range missiles, Dark Eagle hypersonic missiles and Tomahawk cruise missiles, to begin with in the FRG. These are being announced as conventional missiles, but all of them can be equipped with nuclear warheads. These are offensive weapons that threaten the strategic balance. This is a further step towards escalation and increases the danger of a nuclear war.

NATO has been an aggressive imperialist war alliance since its foundation, initially directed against the socialist states. The number of wars of aggression waged by NATO states since its foundation runs into the dozens; in addition to a few other states, it has been mainly the United States that has been responsible for them.

After the defeat of socialism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, NATO expanded continuously and against all agreements to the Russian border.

A further step was to be taken in 2014 with the *coup d'état* in Ukraine by nationalist and fascist forces. When this was met with

resistance in parts of the country, Ukraine became a military staging area through which NATO is now waging a war against Russia, with NATO weapons as well as financial and political support.

In October 2024, a NATO tactical headquarters (Commander Taskforce Baltic) was officially opened in the German Baltic Sea port of Rostock, in violation of the provisions of the ‘Two Plus Four Treaty’.

NATO supports Israel politically and with weapons in its genocide in the Gaza Strip and its terrorist war against Lebanon.

In Asia, too, NATO is pursuing an aggressive policy of provocation against the PRC in Taiwan, with the expansion of aggressive military alliances such as AUCUS.

NATO countries are militarily active in Africa and Latin America to enforce their imperialist interests there.

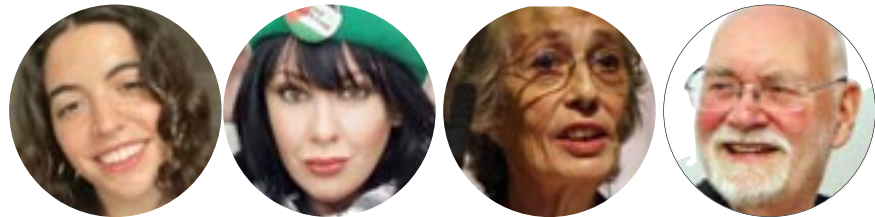
NATO's war policy, which is the military expression of the efforts of the USA and its allies to achieve imperialist dominance and subjugate other states and peoples, is responsible for millions of deaths, it endangers world peace, and it causes poverty and misery worldwide.

★ We want to protest in our countries coordinated, so on a common date, against NATO war policy!

★ Withdrawal of all US nuclear weapons from Europe!

★ No deployment of new medium-range missiles in Germany! ★

## Meet the Unity! team



Trade union, youth and solidarity activist **Micaela Tracy Ramos** left deals with international solidarity and foreign affairs. Music journalist **Victoria Holmes** inside left handles news and home affairs. Veteran TUC general council member and former party chair **Anita Halpin** inside right keeps a sharp eye on the labour movement and is first call on journalistic and production standards. Editor **Nick Wright** right also handles production/design.

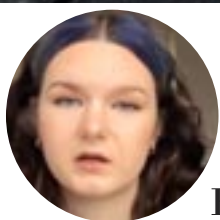
We are keen to develop better connections with party commissions and are actively seeking comrades to work with us on environment, home, labour movement, youth and students and especially Scottish and Welsh affairs with the prospect, given time and resources, of national editions.





# TASKS OF THE YOUTH

‘We can build communism only on the basis of the totality of knowledge, organizations and institutions, only by using the stock of human forces and means that have been left to us by the old society. Only by radically remolding the teaching, organization and training of the youth shall we be able to ensure that the efforts of the younger generation will result in the creation of a society that will be unlike the old society, i.e., in the creation of a communist society.’ **VI Lenin** *Tasks of the Youth Leagues* 1920



**The Young Communist League sends revolutionary greetings to the young workers and students of Britain and the world, our**

**members, allies, and supporters in 2025. This year is marked by the deepening of the capitalist crisis for young and working people, both in Britain and abroad. The genocide in Gaza and the war in Ukraine rage on, fuelled by NATO's imperialist agenda and British complicity in pursuit of profits, markets, and resource dominance.**

**A**T HOME, increasing youth unemployment and the so-called ‘cost of living’ crisis continue to push many young workers and students into poverty. We are reminded that this is not a ‘cost of living’ crisis, but a ‘cost of profits’ crisis—a symptom of the capitalist system’s inherent contradictions.

In the face of these challenges, the YCL has continued to struggle against capitalism and its catastrophic impact on the working class, demonstrating what the working class is capable of if we are united together in the class struggle against capitalism.

As we reflect on both the challenges and the successes of the past year, let us redouble our commitment to fighting for peace, jobs and socialism in the lead up to our 52nd Congress. Together, we can grow stronger, more determined, and more united in our efforts to win new battles for young and working people.

In 2024, our Industrial Commission, working in partnership with the Communist Party, is developing and solidifying its strategy in recruiting, organising, and educating young

workers, providing ample support to our members who are active in the trade union movement. Increasingly, our members are becoming reps, officers and organisers in the labour movement, garnering recognition, and respect for the work that we do in our workplaces and communities. Many members have also participated in regional and national conferences, distributing copies of the *Morning Star*, contributing to political debate, and raising the political consciousness of trade union members.

Our student members were key in the student encampments for Palestine over the summer, camping on university grounds to demand the end of universities’ complicity in the genocide in Gaza. YCL members steered political action and discussion to expose students and wider communities to the brutality of imperialism meanwhile targeting the university bosses who profit from it. Encampments were vibrant with education, community organising and solidarity, offering many young people their first chance at political action and unity.

In April, we hosted a resounding Harry Pollitt School, marked by the wider labour and progressive movement’s attraction to it. This demonstrated the League’s reach and recognition in the broad left movement, cultivated by the hard work and widely felt contribution that the YCL is making to building the class struggle in Britain. Members, allies, and supporters had the opportunity to learn, discuss and put into action many ideological and practical topics delivered by a variety of excellent speakers. I left the school with a renewed resolve to build the case for socialism in my workplace, community, and campus, as I am sure everyone else did.

On the cultural front, we sent delegations to festivals in Britain and abroad, including Glastonbury, Durham Miners’ Gala, and *Odigitis* in Greece, plus members attended and participated in James Connolly Festival, La Fête de *l’Humanité* and *Avante* as well as many more festivals. As communists, we understand the vital importance of art, literature, music, and other cultural forms in promoting socialism and the class struggle. At these events, members created, maintained, and strengthened our ties with our sister organisations, allies, and supporters around the world in the fight for socialism.

The actions of the Labour government remind us of the need for socialism to truly advance the struggle for the working class. The new Employment Rights Bill represents scraps from the table which do little to undo the damage of decades of attacks on our trade unions. The fact that neither this nor the previous Labour

governments have shown any interest in reversing the onslaught on our labour rights during the Thatcher period also exposes the tacit complicity of both wings of British capitalism and the urgent need for Britain’s young workers to resist. Concessions to the working class must be fought for and won to alleviate the poverty that over twenty million people in Britain face, nearly of a third of whom are children, whilst calling for the overthrow of capitalism.

In the year that the newly elected Labour government voted to maintain the child benefit cap, scrap the winter fuel allowance, and maintain and impose austerity, it is clear which side of the struggle this Labour government is on. Increasingly, young and working people will be impoverished by these policies if they have not been already. Whilst many might despair, this is an opportunity to build the united front against monopoly capitalism, austerity, and war, as workers become disillusioned with the Labour Party. Young communists are recruiting, organising, and educating young workers to join their trade unions and community unions to challenge exploitation, which is a crucial activity in building the united front that we must continue to develop in the new year.

Young communists continue to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and oppose the escalation of conflict in the Middle East by imperialist forces. We call for the British government to recognise the independent State of Palestine, and the right to return to end the oppression and occupation of the Palestinian people. It is our internationalist duty to oppose the British State’s critical role in arming, funding and defending Israel’s genocide of Gaza and conflict in the Middle East. We are united together with the Palestinian people and our sister organisations in the fight against imperialism, capitalism, and war. Together we can build a future where people, not profits, are put first. The YCL renews its commitments to international solidarity in the new year and reaffirms our ties with sister organisations to cooperate on joint solidarity work.

As we approach our 52nd Congress, the obstacles that we must overcome are immense but so too will be our victories. Congress is a time to make deep reflections on our glorious League, analysing what we have done so far and what our priorities for the next two years will be. Serious strategic planning is a necessary part of this period, and I implore all members, branches, districts, and nations to engage with and contribute to the pre-Congress period. This will give us the direction upon which we can win for the working class and advance the case for socialism in

Britain, whether that is through organising in our workplaces, communities, or campuses, developing our international solidarity activity, or through other means. Let us enter our next Congress with renewed energy and wins to shape the future we want to create.

For over a century, the YCL has united young workers and students in fighting imperialism, capitalism, and war. From fighting fascism in the 1930s to supporting the miners’ strikes in the 1980s, the YCL, as the youth wing of the vanguard party, has always promoted revolutionary politics and solidarity as we build the class struggle. Today, our place in the movement is as vital as it has ever been to oppose capitalism’s strangulation of young and working people. This year, we have supported picket lines, campaigned for public ownership, led protests against genocide, imperialism, and war, and organised women’s liberation events. We are the fighting force of young students and workers; therefore, it is our duty to recruit, organise and educate the next generation of communists. Together, we will build a League that is capable of meeting the ruling class head on, not just for the working class in Britain, but for our brothers and sisters abroad too.

To all members of our glorious League, I wish you a happy, successful, and revolutionary 2025. Let us march into the new year with renewed determination, dedication, and commitment to fight for and win a better future for young people.

The future belongs to those who dare to fight for it.

So, comrades, conquer your future.

For Peace, Jobs, and Socialism in our Lifetime! ★

GEORGINA ANDREWS IS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE



Challenge is available online and, occasionally in print. [challenge-magazine.org](http://challenge-magazine.org)





# INTERNATIONAL bulletin

‘there is no painting or sculpture to be made, I cannot make it. I can only make out of what is valid and urgent to me. If painting or sculpture were more valid or urgent to me than the earthquake which is happening in the revolution, or if these two were reconciled so that the demands of the one didn’t conflict (in time, even, or concentration) with the demands of the other, I should paint or make sculpture.’ The artist **Felicia Browne** (1904-1936) was the first British volunteer to die fighting in Spain.



## The Government must immediately recognise the State of Palestine

▲ Palestinians inspect the ruins of a building destroyed in Israeli airstrikes in Khan Younis in the southern of Gaza strip, on October 8, 2023. Photo by Mahmoud Fareed



**ROBERT WILKINSON**  
**NATIONHOOD**

THE LABOUR PARTY’S lack of meaningful action to end the Israeli genocide of the Palestinian people has exposed the complicity of the British government. The government has been selectively applying international law to Israel, not committing to a full arms embargo, militarily and politically supporting Israel and finally denying recognition to the State of Palestine in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.

At the end of a session held on 8 November, the UN General Assembly

adopted a resolution affirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state of Palestine.

The UK government was one of the 170 members of the General Assembly that voted in favour of the motion with only the USA and five of its client states voting against and another nine abstaining.

It is not the first time that the USA and Israel have found themselves virtually isolated in voting in the UN General Assembly. Almost as isolated as the voting over the illegal blockade of Cuba.

The Labour government must act now to implement its promise made by David Lammy

in February when Labour was in opposition to accord full ambassadorial status to the Head of the Palestinian Mission to the United Kingdom, Husam Zomlot.

Dr Zomlot was interviewed by the Scottish newspaper *The National* on 4 December in which he said that Keir Starmer’s government must recognise the state of Palestine ‘now’ and stop ‘sitting on their hands’. He went on to say that ‘Parliament, as far back as 2014, voted overwhelmingly for it .... Also, look at the opinion polls, one after another, the UK public is fully supporting that recognition’.

‘Recognition is such a clear indication by the UK and other governments that they mean what they say’. There is little doubt that he had in his mind the recent decisions of Armenia, Slovenia, Spain, Norway and Ireland to join over 140 countries throughout the world in extending recognition of the State of Palestine.

He went on to say that ‘The impact of recognition will be immediate; it will send a message to the Israeli settlers that stealing land and undermining any possibility of a Palestinian state is not going to be supported by the international community – not now and not forever’.

The call for recognition made by Dr Zomlot is even more appropriate now as a consequence of the Reconciliation Agreement made by 14 factions of the Palestinian forces concluded in Beijing in July 2024. It commits the signatories to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with United Nations resolutions, and to guarantee the right of return in accordance with Resolution 194.

The Declaration to End the Division and Strengthen Palestinian National Unity stated that ‘In light of the war of extermination and criminal Zionist aggression that our people are being subjected to, the Palestinian factions affirm the positive, constructive spirit that prevailed in the meeting, and they agreed to reach a comprehensive Palestinian national unity that includes all Palestinian forces and factions within the framework of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people’.

The statement went on to say that ‘The Palestinian factions welcome the opinion of the International Court of Justice, which confirmed the illegitimacy of the Israeli presence, occupation and settlement on the land of the of the State of Palestine and the necessity of removing it as soon as possible’.

Without recognition, the British government denies the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and sovereignty. Britain has a historic as well as present responsibility for the present-day role that Israel takes in the region and for the genocide and oppression of the Palestinians. It is time that the British government takes tangible action to begin to make amends, to end Israeli impunity and stop denying the Palestinian people their sovereignty and rights.

As communists, trade unionists and solidarity activists, we must do everything we can to ensure that the British government acts and recognises the independent State of Palestine. ★

ROBERT WILKINSON REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY MIDDLE EAST GROUP

## Cold war hysteria is designed to raise tension with Peoples’ China

**LOGAN WILLIAMS**  
**SINOPHOBIA**

IN RECENT MONTHS, we have seen the full weight of the British ruling class and its allies in the media build up anti-China hysteria, fulminating against bogeymen figures of supposed ‘Chinese infiltrators’ into the highest levels of the British state through their friendships with disgraced members of the British royal family.

These efforts join countless others spread by the media as part of the New Cold War against China, led by the US and followed closely by the British establishment.

These efforts are intended to slow and reverse China’s rise as a force in global politics whilst ensuring the economic and military dominance of the US.

The latest propaganda used by these forces in their attempt to grow hysteria about the role of China centre on stories about the nefarious activities of the alleged agent H6.

It isn’t entirely clear how and why this story is running since the no longer anonymous businessman was banned from the country last year by the previous government.

These stories about Chinese secret agents sparked ravings from the shadow home secretary on the Sunday morning political TV shows about how the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has been plotting for decades against Britain.

This has sparked some Labour MPs to stress the need for the government to protect our supply chains from Chinese products.

This flies in the face of the clear logic that close relationships with China can only benefit the British economy. This is a fact even recognised by former Tory Chancellor Philip Hammond who argued that ‘China should be encouraged to build electric cars and renewable energy tech in the UK as part of a new pragmatic trading relationship that would benefit both countries’.

And Rachel Reeves’ recent visit to China shows the contradiction between the clear

economic benefits for Britain of trade with China and the US inspired New Cold War.

The hysteria around Agent H6 joins the range of underwhelming previous China spy scares including that of the lawyer, whom Westminster’s sinophobe-in-chief Iain Duncan Smith wanted to expel from the country for seeking to form a parliamentary group of MPs favourable to better relations with China. Then we saw another faked up story leading to the US military shooting down a straying Chinese weather balloon.

These laughable stories can be derided as clumsy attempts to create a new ‘reds under the bed’ scandal around secret Chinese agents seeking infiltrate and destroy Britain from the inside but they have a clear political purpose.

We must understand that these stories a play a role in trying to prevent the recently elected Labour government from forming better relations between Britain and China. And Labour does seem marginally more willing to consider co-operation with the world’s second-largest economy.

It is vital therefore that the labour movement and the left counter this New Cold War offensive especially in the context of the re-election of Donald Trump.

Many of these stories imply that the government of the Peoples Republic of China seeks to follow the lead of the West in forcing its way into dominance on the global stage. In reality, the PRC and its government is more focussed on building a multipolar system of international relations where every nation cooperates and engages on the basis of mutual respect.

Domestically, China implements policies designed to eradicate extreme poverty and avert the growing threat of climate catastrophe.

The *Morning Star* has stood solidly for normal and productive economic and diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China for decades and the recently formed Friends of Socialist China seeks to educate the labour and progressive movements of the Global North on the reality of Chinese policy. ★





▲ Cubans filled the Malecón on Friday December 20 in a massive march against the US blockade. Photo: Presidencia Cuba

## Blockade defied

Micaela Tracey-Ramos  
**SOLIDARITY**

**S** EVEN HUNDRED thousand Cubans took to Havana's Malecon on 20 December to send a message to the government of the US against the illegal US blockade and against Cuba's spurious inclusion on the US' 'States Sponsor of Terrorism' list.

The president of Republic of Cuba and first secretary of the Communist Party, Miguel Diaz Canel led the march alongside army general Raul Castro Ruz, finishing the march in front of the US embassy.

Diaz Canel condemned president Biden for continuing Trump's hostility against Cuba and the arrogance and hypocrisy of the US for keeping Cuba on such a list particularly when the US is responsible for promoting violence against Cuba and also has become an place of asylum for members of as Diaz Canel put it 'machinery of hatred'.

Cuba's inclusion on this list is even more outrageous given the US' international policy of financing and profiteering from the genocide in Gaza and turning a blind eye to Israel's increasingly aggressive assault on the entire region of the middle east.

Diaz Canel added in his speech to the people of Cuba that 'the Cuban people will not tire of fighting against fascist and capitalist tendencies and will continue to bet on a Marxist model.'

Cuba has continued to show resilience as they have faced a particularly difficult year. The hurricanes and earthquakes that hit the country, the energy crisis in which Cuba's main generators failed, along with the economic impacts of the blockade, Cuba's has had its infrastructure damaged and the ability for Cuba to deliver their essential public services hampered. Despite the blockade impacting their recovery from these events, the electrical infrastructure has been recovered and they are still ongoing with repairing damaged infrastructure and housing. Diaz Canal noted 'This is not the first time that the heroism of the Cuban people has been demonstrated in all its value' as Cuban workers have been tireless in the recovery efforts.

Into the coming year, food production, strengthening the national energy grid and the stabilisation of the Cuban economy are the governments main priorities.

All those who marched in Havana showed their dedication to Cuba's sovereignty and revolution and to celebrate sixty-six years since the triumph of the revolution.

Whilst the empire continues to wage war on Cuba, the Cuban people remain defiant. In the words of their president 'Heroes are all, absolutely all those who do not believe in defeat. They are invincible heroes.'

We must continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Cuban people and fight until victory is theirs. ★

MICAELA TRACEY-RAMOS IS UNITY'S INTERNATIONAL EDITOR



## Iran at the crossroads

### The struggle for peace is the only way forward!

The fall of the autocratic Baathist regime in Syria, with the clear intervention of Turkey, Israel, and United States-led imperialism, and at the hands of terrorist groups under the umbrella of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), has created a new situation in the Middle East region.

Navid Shomali  
**IRAN**

**I**T HAS ALSO fundamentally exposed the failure of the adventurist foreign policies of the theocratic regime in Iran in the region. Ever since the Islamists consolidated their domination in Iran and completely abandoned the core economic and social tenets of the 1979



national democratic revolution, the forming and maintaining of an 'Axis of Resistance' has been the bedrock of the regime's policies.

Thus, the clerical regime openly declared that its main strategy for survival, against the backdrop of a volatile Middle East, was to confront any challenge to its influence extraterritorially in the heart of region. Key to this were the creation and development of Hezbollah in Lebanon; the strengthening of its influence in the Palestinian movement through the Islamic Jihad group; regime change in neighbouring Iraq; and the full utilisation of its alliance with Syria. Tens of billions of dollars in the country's oil revenue were squandered to these ends.

Of course, these were not hidden from the imperialist countries who used such behaviours to paint the Islamic Republic as a pariah state. Of course, Western imperialism was not oblivious to this and the people of Iran have paid - and continue to pay - a heavy price through economic sanctions and the country's punishing isolation.

The adventurous (read reckless) foreign

policies of the theocratic regime, which was founded on the vision of 'exporting the Islamic Revolution' and 'Political Islam' to the region, have exposed the country to grave danger. Billions of dollars of Iran's wealth have been spent on this path, including the creation of an all-powerful ideological entity named the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) as well as the providing of weapons and finance to loyal states and non-state entities in the region – all while tens of millions of our hardworking compatriots struggle in poverty and deprivation.

Of course, the Middle East has borne witness to cataclysmic upheaval over the past eighteen months. It was an open secret that the Israeli government desired and sought a major war in the region so as to be able to redraw its map for many years thereafter. Progressive Israeli MK Ofer Cassif made clear reference to this reality in a webinar organised by Liberation on 20 January 2023.

And now the sudden fall – over just eleven days – of the Assad government has filled the theocratic regime in Iran with existential dread. The situation is undoubtedly critical for Tehran.

Another major factor for consideration by the regime is the imminent return to high office of Donald Trump and the looming spectre of a sharp change in direction *vis-à-vis* US foreign policy, particularly regarding the stance to be adopted towards Iran and the wider Middle East – especially given the incoming presidential administration's much closer relationship with Netanyahu and their Israeli counterparts and what this could portend in terms of a hot conflict with Iran, one in which the country's nuclear infrastructure could be directly targeted.

Based on what is known so far, Trump's

proposed cabinet will comprise a mixture of quasi-fascists and fanatical supporters of the Israeli government's crimes in the region.

Elsewhere, a growing number of political analysts believe that Russia's abrupt ending of its support to uphold the Assad government in Syria could be the signal for a strategic shift in Russia's policies in the region encompassing a similar weakening in its relations with the Islamic Republic.

Meanwhile, the dire socio-economic conditions inside Iran, drawing an ever-wider swathe of the population into the popular struggle against the dictatorship – and which continues despite brutal repression by the regime's security apparatus – poses another key existential dilemma for the regime's leaders.

Widespread daily demonstrations by workers, retirees, nurses, educators, and students across Iran, protesting the acutely deteriorating economic situation and choking environment of oppression, have made it very difficult for the regime to even project its control in the country.

All available economic indices, including the regime's official statistics, point towards a worsening of this situation and the country's hurtling inexorably towards another massive societal explosion. According to a report by the Majlis Research Centre, Iran's economy will face serious challenges next year, including a decline in economic growth, sharp rise in inflation, and the spread of acute poverty.

The regime's efforts to stabilise this critical situation by overseeing the appointment to the presidency of Masoud Pezeshkian have not only proved futile, but have served to lay bare the divisions even within the regime's factions.

In such circumstances, the fundamental question posed to the country's left and progressive forces pertains to their responsibility in against such a critical and volatile backdrop... How can the broad struggle of various social spectrums against the dictatorship be organised so as to pave the way for the realisation of the demands of the popular movement for peace, protection of national sovereignty, freedom and social justice?

Over recent weeks, the Tudeh Party of Iran has constantly reiterated that the country is in a gravely imperilled situation, contrary to the false projections on the part of the regime, on account of the growing threat posed by the Trump-Netanyahu alliance Mk. II. The balance of military power in the region remains overwhelmingly in favour of US imperialism.

Therefore, our key task is to organise and mobilise public opinion in defence of peace as well as oppose any discourse of brinkmanship regarding the acquiring of nuclear weapons under the illusion of military deterrence.

In these sensitive and dangerous circumstances, given the grave external threats that our homeland now faces, every effort must be made to unite and coordinate the actions of Iran's genuinely progressive and freedom-loving forces.

The continuation of the policies of the Islamic Republic means only the perpetuation of the current socio-economic disaster, the perpetuation of the endangerment of national sovereignty, and the perpetuation of the misery and tragedy that afflicts tens of millions of our compatriots. ★

NAVID SHOMALI IS THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE TUDEH PARTY OF IRAN





▲ Banner designed by Manchester's Hazel Roberts to be carried by the British delegation to this month's Liebknecht Luxembourg demonstration in Berlin. The annual march, which accompanies an international festival and conference organised by the Morning Star's sister paper Junge Welt celebrates the life of the two founders of the Communist Party of Germany and marks their assassination by fascist Freikorps.

## Solidarity with the Syrian people against the brutal Israeli aggression

### Joint statement of the Communist Parties in the Arab Countries

December 13, 2024

Democratic Progressive Tribune in Bahrain, Egyptian Communist Party, Iraqi Communist Party, Jordanian Communist Party, Lebanese Communist Party, Palestinian People's Party, Syrian Communist Party (Unified), Sudanese Communist Party, Party of Progress and Socialism in Morocco

### Arab Communist Parties ISRAELI AGGRESSION

THE THREATS facing Syria are increasing with the dangerous escalation in the aggressive attacks launched by Israel targeting dozens of military sites throughout the country, the incursion of its troops into the vicinity of the occupied Golan Heights, the violation of the 1974 ceasefire agreement, and the announcement of its intention to impose control over vast border areas, exploiting the extremely difficult and complex conditions, especially in the living and economic aspects, that the Syrian people are facing.

This ongoing aggression, amidst shameful Arab and international silence, and the silence of those who took the reins of power in Syria, aims to strike and destroy its defensive and military capabilities and their associated infrastructure in order to strategically remove Syria from arena of battle with the state of Zionist occupation and terrorism.

It is also aimed at imposing a de facto state of normalization, in addition to playing an active role in shaping the new political reality in Syria.

It is taking place amid blatant foreign interventions and with the support of the United States and its allies in the region, and with the encouragement by the aggressive NATO, to crush the cause of the Palestinian people, implement imperialist schemes to dominate the region and its peoples, and impose the so-called 'New Middle East' plan.

Facing up to these major challenges, grave dangers and the Zionist expansionist plans that threaten Syria requires the unity of its national and democratic forces to confront, resist and thwart this brutal

aggression. While stressing the right of the Syrian people to resist the Zionist occupation, we call on the Communist parties and all the forces of the Left, progress, democracy and liberation in the region and the world to increase their solidarity with the Syrian people, to enable them to exercise their right to determine their own affairs and make free choices away from foreign interference.

We also reaffirm our support for the Syrian people in their struggle to establish the foundations of a pluralistic, democratic and civil system of government that is based on the principle of citizenship, which achieves freedom, social justice, reconstruction of the country, economic development and restoration of national sovereignty.

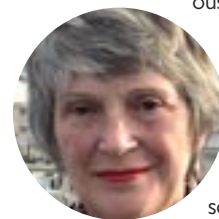
It is essential for this to be coupled with the demand from all forces and countries for respecting Syria's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence, and for the United Nations to ensure this by compelling Israel to implement the 1974 ceasefire agreement, stop its aggression against Syria and withdraw its invading forces immediately.

Failure to put an end to the barbarism of the state of Zionist occupation and terrorism and its expansionist plans, to stop the genocide against the Palestinian people and enable them to determine their destiny and exercise their national rights, and Israel's persistent violation of international law and its continued impunity, and failure to stop its attacks on Lebanon and its aggression on Syria, will expose the world, and especially the Middle East region, to the dangers of the continued eruption of regional and international conflicts that threaten world peace and the future of humanity.

## Solidarity with the struggling women and people of Sudan

Liz Payne  
SUDAN

AT THE BEGINNING of December 2024, the people of war-torn Sudan marked the sixth anniversary of their Glorious December Revolution of 2018, which, within a matter of months, led to the ousting of the Islamist military dictator of 30 years, Omar al-Bashir. Under his dictatorship, women's rights – economic, political, social, and legal – were virtually eradicated.



As reported in the National Assembly of Women's Sisters magazine at the time, huge country-wide demonstrations, with women at the forefront, were mobilised, initially against the exorbitant price of bread and, more generally, the disastrous economic mismanagement by the dictatorship, which had left the masses of Sudanese people unable to afford even the basics of life. This was the beginning of the Glorious December Revolution.

Millions, including thousands upon thousands of women, the latter described as 'astonishing', 'brave' and 'resilient' for the incredible part they played, took to the streets, facing live fire, arrest and torture, as economic demands were replaced by political ones. What had started as protest at a lack of basic necessities – bread, fuel, electricity and transport – soon morphed into the revolutionary demand for the dictatorship to end to pave the way for the establishment of a people's democratic government and for equality and justice.

Al-Bashir was overthrown in April 2019 and an interim military-civilian power sharing agreement was reached with a promise of full democracy and elections to follow. This was too much for the rich and powerful minority in the country, who made a coup in October 2021 under army leader, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, to thwart the movement for civilian rule and suppress the revolutionary demands of the people.

Following the 2021 coup, huge tensions concerning the control of power and wealth developed between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) under Al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This erupted into the catastrophic civil war which has now raged in Sudan since 15 April 2023 and is rightly known as 'The Forgotten War' for the lack of attention accorded to it by the world's mass media.

The profound tragedy is that although the warring sides have some areas of serious rivalry, they both stand accused of perpetuating parasitic capitalism through plunder of the country's resources and the deepening of foreign dependence and are united in the desire to see the mass movement for democracy, justice and progress in Sudan quashed by whatever brutal means necessary. For them, war is the perfect tool. For the same self-interested reasons, the world's leading imperialist powers are willing to turn a blind eye to the continuance of the conflict, while masking their true stance through occasional soothing 'humanitarian' noises. Additionally, according to Sudanese anti-war campaigners, a number of countries

in Africa and the Middle East are actively involved in the conflict through provision of sophisticated armaments to both sides, including military drones and state-of-the-art military hardware.

In its nineteen months, the war has become, according to the UN Secretary General, "an utter humanitarian catastrophe". Eleven million people have been displaced within Sudan and over 3 million have left as refugees, with numbers rising daily. More than half of the displaced are women, says the UN, and about a quarter are children under 5 years old.

Over half of Sudan's population, 25.6 million people, are facing food insecurity. This number has risen from 17.7 million in the few months since February 2024. Four million very young children are facing "acute malnutrition", 730,000 of whom are at risk of death from starvation according to UNICEF. The suffering is compounded by the collapse of healthcare services, contamination of water sources, lack of sanitation and the general devastation of war.

In mid-November, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, assessed the situation as follows: 'Women, children, and the most vulnerable are bearing the brunt of a conflict that has already taken too many lives. Harm to civilians – including appalling patterns of gender-based violence – must stop. Civilians are not a target.'

The level of gender-based violence is almost unbelievable, with 6.7 million women at risk, especially in war zones, including in Darfur, where rape is used systematically as a battlefield weapon of choice, and in camps for the displaced and refugees within Sudan and in neighbouring countries. This is documented in detail by the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA).

An immediate priority is to lift all restrictions on humanitarian aid, especially food and medicines, reaching those in need. Pressure must be put on our government to help make this a reality without delay. Emergency support must also be restored, including access to healthcare and services to support women and children who are victims of violence, including provision of specialist help on a mass scale for those who have had their lives torn apart through rape and sexual assault.

At the same time, everything must be done to support the people of Sudan who are building a broad, popular and united front to end the war. But this cannot simply be a cessation of hostilities. On the recent anniversary of the December Revolution, the most progressive voices called loud and clear for a reclamation of the revolutionary path for change, and unity around the Revolution's demands for restoration of civilian government without any vestige of dictatorship, and a permanent peace free from the very possibility of war. They also called for the whole world to show solidarity with the people of Sudan. Without peace and full democracy there can be no equality for women and children and no just and secure future for the millions who have and continue to struggle bravely for change. ★

LIZ PAYNE CONVENES THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S AFRICA GROUP. FIRST PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN WINTER 24/25 EDITION





# COMMUNIST WOMEN

‘What does “regression into barbarism” mean to our lofty European civilization? Until now, we have all probably read and repeated these words thoughtlessly, without suspecting their fearsome seriousness. A look around us at this moment shows what the regression of bourgeois society into barbarism means. This world war is a regression into barbarism. The triumph of imperialism leads to the annihilation of civilization.’ **Rosa Luxemburg** was assassinated by protofascist Freikorps



Communist women, by their leadership among the masses of women and learning from them to fight for their demands will fuse the women's peace movement under the leadership of the working class and will thereby help to change the relationship of forces in our land in such a way as to make for a new anti-fascist, anti-imperialist people's coalition, advancing through this struggle to socialism'. **Claudia Jones**



**T**HE CONTINUING work of the women in the Communist Party and YCL on the fight for women's rights and women's safety throughout 2024, culminated in a Women's Conference at the Marx Memorial Library on 7 December 2024. This coincided with United Nations 16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The agenda for the day included sessions on tackling violence, housing issues for women, the role of trade unions, and included an international section.



## Equality

Carol Stavris asked what has fundamentally changed for women 30 years on from the United Nations-sponsored Beijing Conference. The conference which focused on action for equality, development, and peace, including tackling VAWG, and what's changed in the three five-yearly reviews since then?

It is clear from all evidence, that things are getting worse on every front - misogyny, sexism and racism is endemic in capitalist societies; wars rooted in imperialist domination continue to kill, maim, and violate women disproportionately. Female genital mutilation continues.

## Violence



Helen Field produced statistics from UNWomen.org (November 2024) that showed an estimated 736 million women worldwide (almost one in three) have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their life.

Significantly, this figure does not include sexual harassment. It is also estimated that 80% of people displaced by climate change are women, increasing the risks of violence due to food and services insecurity, that 91% of trafficking victims for sexual exploitation are female and for every 10 victims of human trafficking detected globally in 2022, four were women and two were girls.

By the time they are 19 years old, almost one in four girls who have been in a relationship have been physically, sexually, or psychologically abused by a partner. Women with disabilities report a higher rate of all forms of intimate partner violence than women without disabilities. Generation Z and Millennial women are increasingly affected by technology-facilitated violence; pornography is easily accessible on the internet and seen by a third of children as young as eleven; domestic violence and harassment are also on the rise.

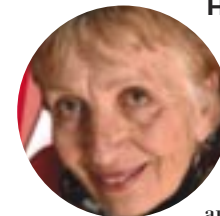
It is truly shocking that the police force in Britain has been shown to harbour those with serious racist, sexist and misogynistic attitudes within their ranks, sometimes leading to Femicide.

Trade unions do not escape criticism of sexism and misogyny. Part of the solution to ending VAWG is to get the trade union movement to back the Nordic Model Now's approach to prostitution instead of attempting to pass motions which would decriminalise prostitution and make it easier for pimps and sex buyers.



Our struggle is to end the 'normalisation' of violence against women and the session finished with Judith Cazorla giving a practical presentation on identifying and combatting violence both for individuals and within society.

## Housing



In the session on how women are affected by the housing crisis, Carrie Hedderwick and Lorraine Douglas expressed the reality that we don't have enough social housing in Britain. In the 1950s nearly half of all housing was provided by local authorities. Since 1980, there has been a 69% reduction in social housing, sold under the Conservatives 'Right to Buy'. Four out of every ten ex-council homes are now owned by private landlords and let out at market rents. There is nowhere in the country where it is affordable for a single woman on an average income to buy or rent a home (Women's Budget Group).

67% of all statutory homeless people are lone women or women with dependent children.

## Precarity

Precarious work can mean reduced hours at work or the loss of a job - resulting in inability to afford high rent costs. Reports show that families have been moved from London to Glasgow, Newcastle, Cardiff. This is traumatising for women because they lose their whole support network, their children lose neighbourhood and school friends.

Two Ken Loach films - *Cathy Come Home* and *I, Daniel Blake* - graphically highlight the issues.

In the films, one woman has her children taken away and the other resorts to prostitution to pay the rent. However, women have always been key campaigners. During World War 1, Helen





# ON STRUGGLE

‘As radical advocates and activists, we don’t often have the opportunity to experience the changes for which we struggle; instead we expect that our work will affirm new starting points for generations to come. But sometimes, if we manage to live long enough, we may also have the good fortune of experiencing the transformative impact of struggles in which we have participated.’ **Angela Y Davis 2024**

Crawford and Mary Barber led rent strikes in Glasgow and fought against evictions.

**Maise Riley** highlighted this when she spoke about the work of ACORN and the need to organise and take direct action to the decision makers.

The condition of all housing stock is directly linked to the climate crisis. – poorly insulated houses leak emissions and force high use of climate damaging heating – but this does not mean that we need to demolish housing. If houses are properly maintained, kept in good repair, insulation and double glazing installed, most of the housing can be retained.

In Climate actions, protests, meetings – it is important to argue on the real issues: Housing, Climate Jobs and Climate Justice. a RETROFIT programme of refurbishment AND a massive council housebuilding programme – all this work can provide valuable skills and stable jobs. The problem is the short-term piecemeal approach to any of these programmes and the lack of good vocational practical courses in housing.

Communist women stress the need for Trade Union membership and the importance of becoming a delegate to the local Trades Council and arguing for setting up a working group on local housing issues, particularly for women.

**Gemma Aspinall** discussed trade union organising in a changing NHS. She is one of two reps in a workplace of 1,600, which faces challenges due to funding cuts, staff shortages and constant restructuring. There are so few reps due to traditional trade union approaches being unable to effectively organise hybrid and geographically spread workplaces. A lack of resources and visibility make efforts to engage staff difficult, which may lead to trade unions losing swathes of members. This is weakening trade union’s abilities to campaign and organise in workplaces. Gemma urged attendees to join their union, become activists and contribute to union strategies to adapt them to evolving workplaces. This will ensure that these trade unions stay relevant, strong, effective, and able to improve worker’s terms and conditions.

## Trade unions



**Micaela Tracey Ramos**, spoke on the crisis of women leaving the trade union movement at a much faster rate than men. The main reasons being the movement’s failure to make meaningful progress on women’s issues such as universal childcare and the gender pay gap - their response has

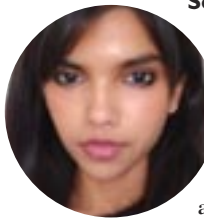
been to pursue claims legally rather than through campaigning and collective industrial action. Women have been left disillusioned and disempowered.

Micaela pointed out that women’s issues are often regarded as ‘fringe’ by many trade unions. Lack of understanding of women’s oppression and a focus on individualism instead of class politics is failing women.

The only way to progress women’s rights is through a labour movement which is class conscious and anti-sexist. We must expose women’s super-exploitation as workers and ensure that women’s issues are seen as an integral part of collective bargaining. We must key in developing class consciousness and fighting against individualism.

One major problem is misunderstanding the nature of prostitution, describing it as genuine ‘work’. Women comrades are urged to submit motions to their union branches on VAWG and Prostitution (the Communist Party has a model for this).

## Solidarity



**Nupur Paliwal** of the Student Federation of India’s speech highlighted SFI’s struggles to end gendered violence and campaigns to demand justice in the R.G Kar incident – On 9 August 2024, a 31-year-old female trainee doctor at R.G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Bengal, was raped and

murdered in a college building. Her body was found in a seminar room on campus. On 10 August 2024, a 33-year-old male working for Kolkata Police was arrested under suspicion of committing the crime. Junior doctors in West Bengal undertook strike action for 42 days demanding a thorough probe of the incident and adequate security at hospitals. The incident amplified debate about the safety of women and doctors in India, and has sparked significant outrage, and nationwide and international protests.

Nupur also highlighted the wider impact of neoliberal policies aggravating gendered violence. As the wealth distributive and social welfare role of the nation-state contracts, a woman’s chance to survive without violence shrinks with it. Imperialist extraction exacerbates domestic abuse and is critical for harnessing women’s reproductive labour to reproduce empire. The fight for women’s liberation is first a fight against class exploitation.

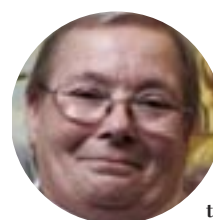
From the Cuban Embassy, **Maite Suarez** emphasised the role that Cuban women had played in the



Revolution, fighting alongside the men.

Women’s rights are enshrined in Cuban law and the Family Code passed in 2022 has greatly enhanced sex-based equality within the Constitution and gave a wide range of rights and protections for women.

The Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), established in 1948, was instrumental in the achievement of Article 44 (amended 2002) which proclaims: “The State guarantees that women will be offered the same opportunities and possibilities as men to achieve their full participation in the development of the country” and this is borne out by high numbers of women working in all areas of the Cuban economy and political system. However, in family life, there is still much to be done to educate men in helping in the home and with the care of children. The FMC support women suffering physical abuse and sexual harassment. The negative aspects of machismo still must be overcome.



In her review, **Ruth Styles** said the working class continues to pay the price of this capitalist crisis here in Britain and across the globe, but it is working-class women who are more affected than their male counterparts because of the historic oppression and discrimination we continue to experience.

‘We also carry a larger burden; the burden created by the Covid Pandemic: lower pay, job discrimination and the continuing cost-of-living crisis. Many women are trapped in poverty by inadequate pay, erosion of essential public services, the lack of affordable childcare and the lack of care service provision. This is the feminisation of poverty, comrades’ she said.

‘Communists understand why working-class women are in this position. As Marxist-Leninists we understand that women are not just discriminated against, they are oppressed, as are black people, and this oppression is integral to the capitalist system. The question comrades and sisters is this: What Is to Be Done - What should be the priorities for communist work on women in the coming year?’

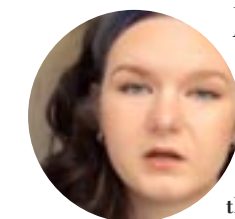
‘Local action and development of campaigns, connecting issues, educating, and engaging working class women and men and linking up local campaigns with trades unions and trades councils can all be major contributors to building the United Front that the Communist Party has called for.’

As Mao Zedong said: ‘Women hold up half th’e sky’, and we will not and must not accept that working class women don’t deserve full opportunities, lives free from misogyny and male violence, equal pay, and properly funded and delivered public health and childcare.

‘We must deliver political education, continue to encourage people to use their lived experience, to organise others, empower

and support them to take their rightful place in the Labour movement and deliver on the agenda that working class women desperately want and need.

‘This isn’t rocket science. Campaigning, organising, linking up issues and campaigns and uniting with other working class organisations and their campaigns is essential if we are to unite the working class.’



In closing the Conference, **Georgina Andrews** referred to Nigel Farage’s recent comments in which he called on parliament to debate imposing stricter limits on abortion, shortening the current timeline. Currently, if a woman terminates her pregnancy after 24 weeks, then she can face up to life imprisonment –

Britain has nearly convicted as many women for this in the last 18 months as it had for the previous 55 years. This is a warning that the oppression of women in Britain will potentially be ramped up further, on top of the upsurge in domestic violence, which has been labelled a national emergency by the National Police Chiefs Council. Working women bear the brunt of repressive social measures to ensure that they remain super-exploited and oppressed in pursuit of profits for the capitalist class.

Meanwhile, rather than restrict abortion access, China is promoting sex education for adolescents as fundamental in preventing unwanted pregnancies and to improve women’s reproductive health. Women are provided with post-abortion care, counselling, and sexual and contraceptive advice to help them process their emotions and prevent repeated abortions. China has made significant steps towards ending sexism and promoting women’s health, education, and participation in society.

This has only happened because socialism puts women’s emancipation before profits, therefore working-class women in Britain have a crucial place in the struggle for socialism.



‘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





# LABOUR & CAPITAL

‘The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas, i.e. the class which is the ruling material force of society, is at the same time its ruling intellectual force. The class which has the means of material production at its disposal, has control at the same time over the means of mental production, so that thereby, generally speaking, the ideas of those who lack the means of mental production are subject to it.’ **Karl Marx**, *The German Ideology* 1845



**Alex Gordon** writes at his inauguration as 47th President of the United States nothing symbolised the re-emergence of capitalism’s general crisis more clearly than Donald Trump’s public refusal to rule out use of military force to occupy the Panama Canal, annex Greenland from NATO founder member, Denmark, and his willingness to make Canada the USA’s 51st state.



This is an edited version of the political situation report Alex Gordon gave to the January 2025 meeting of the Communist Party executive committee meeting

**T**RUMP’S INSPIRATION might appear to be the ‘American-Canadian War of 1990’ from South Park, but he confirms the demise of the ‘New World Order’ proclaimed by every US President since George Bush Snr celebrated the end of the Soviet Union in 1991.

All the leading capitalist economies are gripped by the third great depression. Such depressions are a phenomenon of late capitalism: the Long Depression (1873–1896), Great Depression (1929–1948), and Third Great Depression (2008–present). Great depressions did not occur throughout capitalism’s history. Rather, they are a product of a specific stage of capitalism in which economic crises occur with greater severity and duration.

Communists recognise this general crisis (sometimes called ‘polycrisis’) as the immediate, material cause of the interlinked social, environmental, political, financial and military crises

that Trump is a response to.

In the *Communist Manifesto* Marx and Engels wrote:

“Modern bourgeois society with its relations of production, of exchange and of property, a society that has conjured up such gigantic means of production and of exchange, is like the sorcerer who is no longer able to control the powers of the nether world whom he has called up by his spells. ... It is enough to mention the commercial crises that by their periodic return put the existence of the entire bourgeois society on trial, each time more threateningly. ... And how does the bourgeoisie get over these crises? On the one hand by enforced destruction of a mass of productive forces; on the other, by the conquest of new markets, and by the more thorough exploitation of the old ones. That is to say, by paving the way for more extensive and more destructive crises, and by diminishing the means whereby crises are prevented.”<sup>1</sup>

Marx’s theory of capitalist economy is superior to bourgeois economic theory because of the central role it gives to crisis. Marx situated the dynamic of crises under capitalism in the production and accumulation of capital. Marx’s theory of crisis is not about overproduction, or underconsumption, but a crisis of overaccumulation.

Beyond profits extracted from surplus value, capitalists amass capital via bank credit and stock markets. Fractional reserve banking creates new credit many times the original deposits. Stock markets likewise multiply the value of the original means of production. Marx called this fictitious capital, since it separates from and achieves value far beyond the original productive capital. Fictitious capital feeds the economy and finances debt out of all proportion to the means of production it is based on. When this bubble bursts this is a crisis.

Finance capital can defer, or cushion crises by injecting ever more credit into the economy as in 2008, when the global financial crisis, starting with sub-prime loans in the US housing market, blew apart US, UK and European capitalist institutions deepening contradictions between capitalists and working people.

This contradiction in the historical process of capitalism is embodied in these great depressions. The Third Great Depression today is not only a capitalist crisis, but a crisis of capitalism as a mode of production and of society. It is a general crisis of capitalism.

US capitalism, the dominant economy of the past century, embodies this general crisis. At the end of 2023, US stock market value was over 60% of all world stock markets by market capitalisation.

In 2024 the US stock market reached 74% of the Morgan Stanley Capital International World Index. In August 2024, 20 of the world’s 25 top companies were US monopolies dominated by Big Tech (Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet, Amazon, Meta), pharmaceutical and financial firms.

In November 2024, the top 10 MSCIWI firms were all US monopolies. In Marx’s terms, we are witnessing both unprecedented concentration of capital (growth through capital accumulation) and centralisation (through acquisitions and mergers). US monopolies dominate all internet technology, social media platforms and financial institutions of the world economy in 2025.

The S&P 500 (the 500 largest publicly traded US stocks with around 80% of total US stock market capitalisation) was 683 in March 2009 following the 2008 global financial crisis. In January 2025 it reached 6018, an increase of nearly 900% in under 15 years. Did the productive economy grow nine-fold in that period?

The ‘Magnificent Seven’ Big Tech monopolies (Alphabet, Amazon, Apple,

Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia and Tesla) are now 35% of the S&P 500 by market capitalisation, up from under 10% in 2014. The top 10 companies represent 37.6% of the index. The top 25 make up 50.3%.

One reason US stocks surged is that the US dollar as global reserve currency guarantees global demand for US assets. But this structural subsidy masks a new bubble.

Elon Musk’s Tesla is an example of overvalued US stock. In 2021 Tesla’s market capital was \$1 trillion USD, making it larger than Toyota, Volkswagen, BYD, Daimler, GM, BMW, Ford, Stellantis and Honda combined.

Tesla shares shot up again after Trump’s 2024 US Presidential win because Musk bet on Trump. In December 2024 Tesla shares at \$436 USD topped their previous peak of \$407 USD in November 2021. Tesla produced only 930,000 electric vehicles (EVs) in 2021. With 10 million cars built and sold Toyota’s production was over ten times bigger. Yet Tesla’s market capitalisation was four times Toyota’s.

Why is Tesla so overvalued? Chinese firms make such better, cheaper EVs that the US put 100% tariffs on Chinese EVs to protect Tesla’s US market share. Tesla is in fact a speculative financial vehicle, rather than an electric vehicle manufacturer. Tesla’s economic role is to produce a financial asset called Tesla stocks, which investors expect to go up in price. Like Bitcoin, it is pure speculation. US Big tech monopolies are financial firms with a sideline in producing cars, or phones or designing software. Their real role is maximising shareholder value. They have created the largest financial bubble in the history of the US stock market.

In December 2024, the Willshire 5000 index measuring market capitalisation of all publicly traded companies in the US was at 206% of US GDP, its highest ever. The market value of US companies and stocks is double that of all the goods and services in the US economy. In March 2000 before the dotcom bubble burst, the Willshire 5000 peaked at 138% of GDP. In 1929 US Stock Market capitalisation was 81% of GDP. It collapsed to just 25% in 1933.

The combined value of publicly traded stocks and private equity (not publicly quoted) is now over 300% of US GDP. At the dotcom bubble’s peak in March 2000, it was just over 200%. The current US stock market bubble dwarfs the bubble of 2000 and that of October 1929.

And this is a deliberately engineered bubble. Following the 2008 global financial crisis, the US stock market collapsed to 100% of GDP in 2009. Since then, the US Central Bank (‘The Fed’) has reinflated the bubble to levels never seen before using its ‘easy money’ policy. In March 2020, having already reduced US interest





# COMMUNISM

‘In communist society, where nobody has one exclusive sphere of activity but each can become accomplished in any branch he wishes, society regulates the general production and thus makes it possible for me to do one thing today and another tomorrow, to hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, rear cattle in the evening, criticise after dinner, just as I have a mind, without ever becoming hunter, fisherman, herdsman or critic. **Karl Marx**, *The German Ideology* 1845

rates to zero in response to the COVID-19 shutdown, The Fed restarted purchasing corporate assets through quantitative easing, which has taken its balance sheet from \$865 billion USD in 2008 to nearly \$9 trillion USD by April 2022.

Meanwhile, US oligarchs are selling at the top of the market. Warren Buffett sold \$66 billion USD of stocks in 2023 alone. Then in just 6 months of 2024, his Berkshire Hathaway holding company (the world's sixth largest publicly quoted company valued at over \$715 billion USD) dumped more than \$100 billion USD of stocks. In November 2024, *The Wall Street Journal* published an article ‘Does Warren Buffett Know Something That We Don’t?’<sup>2</sup> noting Berkshire Hathaway is hoarding cash in a pattern seen before the financial crisis.

As of November 2024, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos had sold \$12.5 billion USD of Amazon shares in 11 months. Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook/Meta sold \$2 billion USD of Meta stock in 2024. When Elon Musk sold \$7.5 billion USD of Tesla stock in 2022, he was accused of insider trading. Now all the tech bros are doing it.

In December 2024, head of Rockefeller Capital Management, Rusher Shama wrote a article ‘The Mother of all Bubbles’ in the *Financial Times*,

“In the late stages of a bubble, prices typically go parabolic, and over the past six months US stock prices have outgained others by the widest margin for any comparable period in at least a quarter century. When flying in such thin air, it doesn’t take much to stall the engines. All the classic signs of extreme prices, valuations and sentiment suggest the end is near. It’s time to bet against “American exceptionalism”. ”<sup>3</sup>

The US is now 70% of the global stock market index up from 30% in the 1980s. Sharma wrote:

“Thoroughly dominating the mind space of global investors, America is over-owned, overvalued and overhyped to a degree never seen before. As with all bubbles, it is hard to know when this one will deflate, or what will trigger its decline.”<sup>4</sup>

Donald Trump won the 2024 US Presidential election because he tapped into anger in the US about loss of manufacturing jobs and deindustrialisation. However, Trump has no solution. He nominated 13 billionaires mostly in finance, or pharmaceuticals in the case of Vivek Ramaswamy, for his second administration. Trump picked Wall Street hedge fund billionaire, Scott Bessent as Treasury Secretary.

Within weeks of his election Trump’s billionaire tech-bros split with his ‘MAGA’ voting base over support for H-1B visas for skilled migrants. The political fallout will dominate US politics for the next period and when the current US financial

bubble pops the results will be spectacular.

Each of the three great depressions have fed political and military catastrophies. The first was overcome only by imperialism, which led to WW1. The second led to the rise of fascism and Nazism, the Holocaust and WW2 leaving tens of millions dead. But those great depressions were also the impetus for the 1917 Russian Revolution and the 1949 Chinese Revolution.

So, the political lesson that we can draw from capitalism’s general crisis is that the only path for the survival and advancement of humanity is to organise a socialist order that overcomes the barbarism born from those capitalist crises called depressions.

The antidote to the today’s great depression is socialist China, which has lifted 770 million people out of poverty since 1978 through planned economic growth and which blazes a trail of global investment through its Belt and Road Initiative and by building an alternative trade and investment partnership in the BRICS. China now constitutes the largest economy in the world as measured by Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) surpassing the US.

The exquisitely timed visit to China last weekend of UK Chancellor, Rachel Reeves to discuss ‘investment possibilities’ shows elements in Britain’s capitalist class are seeking a lifeboat in the coming crisis when the hyper-inflated US stock market bubble bursts.

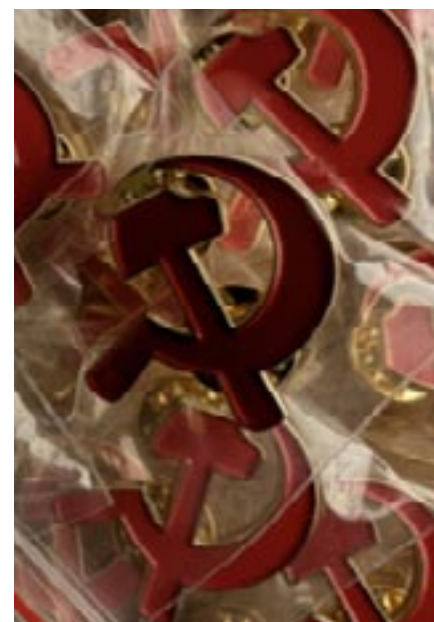
The reassertion of capitalism’s general crisis and demise of the New World Order is a chiaroscuro in which old world is dying, and a new one struggles to be born. Socialism, not Trumpian tech-bro populism, is the only viable alternative to imperialism and war at the end of the neoliberal era.

## Notes

- 1 K. Marx & F. Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, Chapter I. Bourgeois and Proletarian (1848) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ch01.htm>
- 2 Does Warren Buffett Know Something We Don’t?, *WSJ*, 13 Nov, 2024 <https://www.wsj.com/podcasts/the-journal/does-warren-buffett-know-something-we-dont/cad91cef-9f22-45fc-ada2-dfba446f065a>
- 3 How ‘the mother of all bubbles’ will pop: It’s time to bet against American exceptionalism, Ruchir Sharma, *FT*, 16 Dec 2024 <https://www.ft.com/content/9a0da0d6-92b4-4034-ac25-7b4abccb0bbe>
- 4 ‘The mother of all bubbles’, Ruchir Sharma, 2 Dec 2024 <https://www.ft.com/content/49cca8d7-7b6e-47e3-a50c-9557d7c85fc0>

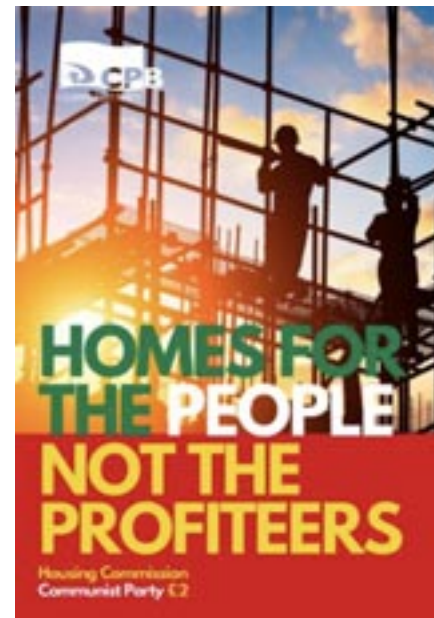
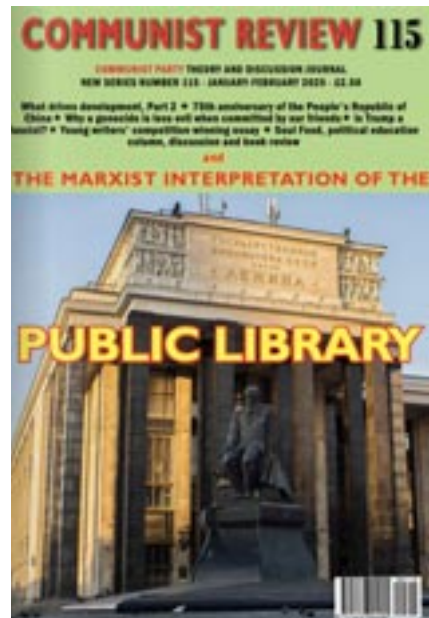
ALEX GORDON IS A FORMER PRESIDENT OF RMT AND IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY EXECUTIVE AND POLITICAL COMMITTEES

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# COMMODITY & CAPITALISM

“It is no accident that Marx should have begun with an analysis of commodities when, in the two great works of his mature period, he set out to portray capitalist society in its totality and to lay bare its fundamental nature. For at this stage in the history of mankind there is no problem that does not ultimately lead back to that question and there is no solution that could not be found in the solution to the riddle of commodity-structure.” **György Lukács** Hungarian revolutionary critic

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## Rob Griffiths berates capitalism's 'general crisis'

**Unity Reporter**  
**CRISIS**

**C**APITALISM'S all-round general crisis is back with a vengeance in Britain and many other countries, Robert Griffiths told the Communist Party's first January political committee meeting. 'On every front from the US and Canada to Britain, France and Germany, ruling classes and governments are in turmoil. As their economies stagnate and the climate crisis deepens, the far right is advancing, liberal democracy is in retreat and social democracy is locked in a deadly embrace with big business market forces, the EU and NATO', he said.

'Monopoly capitalism, its states and its political parties are sacrificing people's basic needs and aspirations on the altar of corporate profit, militarism and war.

In Britain the Labour government was failing to halt the cost of living crisis, confront the chaos of extreme weather events and engage in long-term planning to revive manufacturing, rescue the NHS and resolve the crisis in social care the Communist Party general secretary said.

'Instead of controlling prices, renationalising the utilities and taxing the super-rich and monopoly profits to fund extra public investment, Keir Starmer and his ministers prefer to borrow yet more from the City racketeers and to rely on capitalist privateer', he argued.

In particular, Robert Griffiths condemned the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Allowance from millions of pensioners and the delay in paying pensions to women born in the 1950s.

He also revealed that while wages as a share of national income (GDP) have fallen substantially since the mid-1970s – 'the bad old days when unions were too strong, we are told' – that of company profits has increased, as the rate of corporation tax on company profits has halved.

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