

Unity!



▲ Monday 22 September Italian Young communists on the march in Marche



Workers of all lands, unite!
Communist Party September 2025

INSIDE

Communist Party Congress discussion

Andy Bain, Martin Levy, Charlie Bartlett

Energy argument Mark Jones,

New Left Party Rob Griffiths interviewed

No ICE here Alex Gordon & Tony Conway

Reform UK & fascism Tam Morrison



End UK collusion with genocide

Jennie Walsh

GAZA SOLIDARITY

AS WE APPROACH the two year anniversary of Israel's war on Gaza, join us in Liverpool this Saturday 27 September at Labour's conference to demand our genocide-complicit government to stop arming Israel.

And our message from Liverpool must also be clear: All to London on 11 October! In coinciding with the second anniversary of the genocide, 11 October must be the biggest demonstration for Palestine in British history.

The Palestine movement is making a difference. Last week, the United Nations International Commission of Inquiry found that Israel is committing a genocide. And now the prime minister has confirmed the British government will recognise a Palestinian state – an act that does not stop the genocide, but is a result of the global campaign for Palestine in which our movement has played a major part.

Of course, we know that Labour conference fixers are still trying to stifle debate on Palestine and prevent calls on the government to take more meaningful steps to end its complicity in Israel's genocide. Which is why our voices for a Free Palestine must fill the streets of Liverpool on Saturday.

Earlier this month the TUC congress demanding that the government cut all ties with and stop arming Israel, along with one reaffirming that the trade union movement's priority must be welfare and wages, not weapons and war.

So it's fantastic that the Peoples Assembly against Austerity is mobilising for people to join the Welfare Not Warfare bloc in Liverpool.

None of these things would have happened without the strength of every single person who has joined our demonstrations and got involved in other actions up and down the country.

This movement is unprecedented, probably the biggest on any issue in British history. It has won the support of the overwhelming majority of people in this country. Pro-Palestine sentiment now exists in every community in this land.

Our job now is to turn that sentiment into a social force so great that we make it impossible for our government to collude with Israel's genocide. We know 11 October is going to be massive. It must send the loudest message ever to our government to end its complicity.

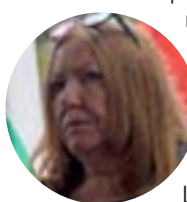
The whole movement is urging people to come to London. There will be a cab drivers' convoy coming from the North West, cyclists coming from the South, a flotilla of sailboats from Southend, a

convoy of narrowboats on the canals of East London and a cavalcade of motorcyclists from the Home Counties.

Local groups and organisations should also aim to increase the number of coaches they put on to London. And as individuals, we must urge friends and family members, even those who have never marched for Palestine before, to join us.

The state is continuing to try to demonise and criminalise our movement, and our answer must be to bring the streets of London on 11 October to a halt. We have a few weeks to mobilise for that, and it requires a massive effort. We need to be leafleting in every city, town and community, at every workplace. The next on 9 October is the opportunity to urge colleagues to join us.

This isn't just about a massive show of solidarity with the people of Palestine, as important as that is. We



must make 11 October a hammer blow that can break the government's collusion with Israel. So get busy. All to London on 11 October!

JENNIE WALSH SPEAKS FOR THE STOP THE WAR COALITION

The obscene pageantry of Donald Trump's state visit to Britain stands as a monument to ruling class priorities while millions of working people endure the brutal reality of austerity. **Page 9 Victoria Holmes** on Trump's gilded circus

Break the link with US capital

Nick Wright

SUBMISSIVE STARMER

KEIR STARMER'S declaration that security remains the cornerstone of the so-called 'special relationship' with the United States is the clearest statement yet that under Labour the world's most powerful and predatory imperial power has Britain as its junior partner.

If anyone thought that the 'special relationship' was grounded in shared human values, a common language the prime minister made the martial nature of this profiteering relationship clear: "Our industries build together, everything from fast jets to the new Aukus-class submarines.

"So now, as we drive up defence spending we're going to sweep away the barriers to working together on new defence technologies so we can stay ahead of our adversaries."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



REVOLUTIONARY PRACTICE

‘Time was when every Englishman had a musket in his cottage, and along with it hung a flitch of bacon; now there was no flitch of bacon for there was no musket; let the musket be restored and the flitch of bacon would soon follow. You will get nothing from your tyrants but what you can take, and you can take nothing unless you are properly prepared to do so. In the words of a good man, then, I say Arm for peace, arm for liberty, arm for justice, arm for the rights of all, and the tyrants will no longer laugh at your petitions’. Chartist **George Julian Harney** 1839



Top left: in solidarity with Palestine; **Above:** in action against fascists in Peterborough; **Left:** at the Portuguese Communist Party's Avante Festa; **Below:** at the Fete l'Humanite in Paris
Bottom: at the Burston School Strike rally

Hijacked by fascists and the far right

Unity News Team
UNITE THE KINGDOM

GENUINE CONCERNS about housing, jobs, living costs, security and the NHS are being hijacked by right-wing and fascist forces who will do nothing to improve the lives of working-class people, Alex Gordon told the September meeting of the Communist Party's executive committee.

He was speaking the day after many thousands of 'Unite the Kingdom' demonstrators marched through central London led by Stephen Yaxley-Lennon protesting against immigration and asylum-seekers.

Alex Gordon warned that the event was part of a "sophisticated strategy using well-funded networks to link every major social and economic problem to incomers seeking, refuge and a decent life in Britain alongside their neighbours and workmates". The world's richest person, US and South African multi-billionaire Elon Musk, was among the guest speakers at Saturday's anti-foreigner demonstration.

"Instead of uniting people against big business profiteering and rip-off landlords, the intention is stigmatise migrants, peddle a false patriotism and divide people along ethnic and religious lines", the Communist Party's industrial organiser charged.

In particular, he attacked the policy of successive governments to concentrate large numbers of asylum seekers in state-funded, privately-run hostels and hotels,

isolated from the community and easy targets for bigots. The former rail union president called for trade unionists and housing and anti-austerity campaigners to defend migrants under siege, offering aid and assistance where possible.

"The main beneficiaries of government policy have been the hoteliers, three main corporate contractors – Clearsprings, Serco and the Mears Group – and slum landlords such as a notorious fascist in Brighton", Alex Gordon accused. He urged a return to a community-based integration policy involving local authorities and housing associations, properly funded by central government.

Britain's Communist Party also demanded speedier processing of current asylum claims and a safe system for migrants – especially unaccompanied children – to claim asylum while abroad or upon arrival, recognising that Britain has a legal and humanitarian duty to accept its fair share of refugees.

"This crisis cannot be separated from the Labour government's failure to begin a massive public sector house-building programme", the party leadership declared.

Alex Gordon welcomed the 17 September demonstration by unions outside the Home Office in London, against new visa reforms that threaten the jobs of migrant workers in vital social care, prisons and public transport sectors.

Alex Gordon and Tony Conway on the far right threat Pages 6&7



Unity!

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SCIENCE & SOCIETY

The organization of science in capitalist countries has gradually molded itself in the service of big business, but because the process is not understood or appreciated its service is poor and incredibly wasteful. In any case production for profit can never develop the full potentialities of science except for destructive purposes. The Marxist understanding of science puts it in practice at the service of the community and at the same time makes science itself part of the cultural heritage of the whole people and not of an artificially selected minority. **JD Bernal 1937**

Over the next few months Unity! is carrying feature articles which open up controversial questions for serious reflection and debate.

In addition discussion contributions around 400 words are invited as commentary on the Executive Committee resolution which is up for debate and amendment. Send to nickbwright@mac.com

Each issue in September, October and November will carry congress discussion.

Make sure you add your name and branch

Energy



The strategic imperative jobs, skills, and sovereignty

Mark Jones

OPINION

MAINTEINING AND expanding this skilled workforce is of strategic importance.

Furthermore, the entire nuclear fuel cycle—from uranium mining to decommissioning—is critical for ensuring true energy security. Democratic control over all these stages is essential to prevent exploitation, environmental harm, and reliance on unstable global markets.

Nuclear power is essential for a balanced, mixed energy system. It complements renewables and provides stable baseload power to ensure energy independence. The proposed expansion is twofold:

- Large-scale projects, such as Hinkley Point C, Sizewell C, and new plants at Wylfa in Anglesey and Bradwell in Essex, are needed to replace decommissioned sites and provide gigawatt-scale power.
- A geographically spread fleet of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) would help decarbonise industrial clusters and provide resilient power across the nations and regions.

This must be coupled with public investment in Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs) and research into nuclear fusion to develop next-generation technology.

Public ownership: the non-negotiable foundation

At the heart of this vision is a fundamental principle: the entire civil nuclear programme must be under full state ownership. From generation and the fuel cycle to decommissioning, public ownership and democratic control are essential to ensure projects serve the national interest, not private profit.

This model stands in stark contrast to the failures of privatisation, which have often placed profit above public good. It demands full state ownership of the entire

nuclear infrastructure, including all new build, fuel cycle activities, and the existing decommissioning authority, rejecting all forms of privatisation and PFI.

Legitimate concerns: safety, waste, and militarism

No discussion on nuclear power is complete without addressing its historical baggage. There are legitimate concerns regarding the links between civil and military nuclear programmes. This policy pertains solely to a civil nuclear programme for energy generation, not one for military uses, and insists on strict safeguards to prevent weapons proliferation under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Energy (NPT).

Furthermore, the unresolved challenges of nuclear waste storage are met with a call for robust, publicly owned solutions that prioritise long-term safety and environmental justice. The current public ownership of decommissioning and waste management must be maintained and expanded.

The position is unequivocal on safety and ethics:

- Nuclear development must be strictly and transparently separated from military applications.
- Safety and waste management are non-negotiable. No corners can be cut in reactor design, maintenance, or decommissioning.
- The publicly owned National Waste Solution must be strengthened, rejecting private profiteering.

There must be vigorous opposition to any attempt by the British state or private capital to use the civil nuclear program to subsidise or legitimise the Trident nuclear weapons system.

A just transition and international solidarity

This is not merely an industrial strategy but a vision for a just transition. It calls for

working with trade unions to promote nuclear as part of this shift, ensuring retraining and job guarantees for workers in fossil fuel industries. It champions a worker-led approach, where strong trade union involvement guarantees safe, fair working conditions, and equal opportunities.

The vision must also extend beyond national borders, advocating for a Global Socialist Green New Deal. This links Britain's energy transition to anti-imperialist solidarity—rejecting exploitative uranium extraction and advocating technology transfers to liberate oppressed nations from energy dependency.

A working-class energy policy

Nuclear energy is framed as a transitional necessity to break from fossil capital. It acknowledges that future advances in renewables and storage may alter the energy mix, but asserts that today, nuclear is materially essential for net-zero.

We can be inspired by the China energy policy which includes nuclear power as part of a balanced mix, which underpins manufacturing and economic activity, is sustainable and cost effective.

This is a call for a sober, practical, and principled energy strategy. It rejects the false choice between climate action and economic justice, arguing instead for a democratically planned, mixed-energy system under public ownership. It is a policy for energy sovereignty, for high-quality jobs, and for a liveable planet—a true working-class energy policy for jobs, sovereignty, and climate justice.



MARK JONES IS CHAIR OF THE UNITE LONDON AND EASTERN ENERGY & UTILITIES INDUSTRIAL SECTOR COMMITTEE AND A MEMBER OF THE SUFFOLK COMMUNIST PARTY.

BREAK WITH US CAPITAL

Continued from page 1

As the improbably-hued POTUS sat among our most royally-supported benefit claimants he was confident that the posse of big business bandits who made up his entourage were on to a winner.

As the bosses of Nvidia and Google, Microsoft and Apple, Blackstone and OpenAI tucked into a classy menu of English classics (see page 9) they knew that for a while they had the prospect of contracts that would tie the two economies – both shifting to enhanced arms spending – even closer together.

Tying Britain's economy to US arms and information technology companies is clearly against the interests of the British people.

This month the Trades Union Congress junked its earlier policy in favour of increased arms spending.

Spending on arms gives a short term boost to an economy with the added bonus for the capitalist class that it ties a section of the skilled working class more closely to big business. A further downside is that unlike investment in productive industries – which produce things that are of value and enhance production and consumption – arms spending is completely unproductive and its products lie inert until used to destroy human lives and property.

But it benefits the super-rich. The result is seen in the massive profits the arms industry, especially joint US/British companies, and German firms, are making out of the slaughter in Ukraine.

The new TUC policy of opposition to increased arms spending makes the immensely popular claim that spending should be on wages and welfare, on raising living standards for all and investment in jobs, training and productive branches of the economy.

With Starmer's Labour even more closely tied to the toxic mix of arms profiteering and ramped up 'defence' spending Labour's crisis of credibility is getting worse.

Where people hold out the hope that a revival of a social democratic politics in Labour – possibly invested in a challenge for leadership by Andy Burnham – it is clear that a radical reorientation of Labour can only come about with a break from the Atlantic alliance, and end to privatisation entailing a decoupling of our politics and economy from the united states and a radical turn to the fast growing economies that have emerged outside of the poisonous partnership with US capital.



MATERIALISM & IDEALISM

'The great basic question of all philosophy, especially of modern philosophy, is that concerning the relation of thinking and being.... The answers which the philosophers have given to this question split them into two great camps. Those who asserted the primacy of spirit to nature and therefore in the last instance assumed world creation in some form or another ... comprised the camp of idealism. The others, who regarded nature as primary, belong to the various schools of materialism.' **Friedrich Engels** *Ludwig Feuerbach and the End of Classical German Philosophy* 1888

at the TUC sex and gender A matter of biology

▲ A sperm cell fertilizing an egg cell
Creative Commons



Lorraine Douglas

TUC DEBATE

AN UNSATISFACTORY debate at the September conference this year has left the TUC with a policy that is incoherent, flatly contradictory to the law and deeply divisive among trade unionists and the wider public.

The policy passed commits the TUC to oppose and campaign against the Supreme Court judgement in *For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers*.

The first two assertions made by the movers; that transgender rights are human rights and that transgender, non-binary and gender diverse people are entitled to live and work free from prejudice and harassment are unarguable and entirely deserving of support.

Unfortunately the policy goes downhill from there on. It claims that 'rigid gender conformity' oppresses all women.

This completely misunderstands the role the ideology of gender plays in women's oppression, which is connected materially to women's biological sex, specifically their reproductive system.

Under late-stage capitalism 'gender' helps normalise the economic and political systems under which we live by establishing the normative expectations of behaviour, role, appearance and status in peoples' public and private spheres based on their sex.

The ideology of gender defines the social worth of women based on their relationships with men. These constructs are pervasive, appear 'natural' and are reinforced through the hegemonic agencies of the state – from the national curriculum to the mainstream and social media, maintaining divisions within the working class that impede the development of class consciousness.

The central question for the High Court judgement was 'whether the Equalities Act 2010 treats a trans woman with a Gender recognition certificate (GRC) as a woman

for all purposes within the scope of its provisions, or when that Act speaks of a "woman" and "sex" it is referring to a biological woman and biological sex.'

The Equality Act 2010 is a consolidation of 116 pieces of equalities legislation passed since the 1970 Equal Pay Act and was forensically examined by the Supreme Court in its 88-page judgement. It concluded that for the purposes of the Equality Act the protected characteristic of sex refers to biological sex, and that this is the only logical interpretation given the context that provides for nine different protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

The claim that the Supreme Court ruling 'goes against both recent and past European Court of Human Rights judgements' is a fiction.

The EA mirrors Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights which contains exceptions where discrimination can occur when there is an 'objective justification'.

These provisions were first introduced in the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Race Relations Act 1976 and allow, for instance, jobs to be reserved for people of a particular protected characteristic – where a genuine occupational requirement/qualification (GOR/Q) can be shown. The Supreme Court judgement has confirmed that jobs carrying a GOR/Q for a woman must be for a biological woman (including trans men, so offering employment protection for someone who subsequently transitions).

The resolution is principally concerned with the exclusion of trans people from single sex spaces in workplaces and public life, which if accepted would undermine the hard-fought provisions of section 20 (2)(c) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work regulations 1992: 'separate rooms containing conveniences are

provided for men and women except where and so far as each convenience is in a separate room the door of which is capable of being secured from inside'.

The EHRC's original guidance, developed following extensive lobbying by Stonewall, whose former chair, David Isaac went on to chair the EHRC until replaced in 2020 by Baroness Falkner, stated that trans people should be able to use and access single sex facilities, jobs and sports that matched their acquired gender. The Supreme Court judgement has confirmed what women have known all along – that the guidance was unlawful.

The interim guidance following the judgement failed to address the duty to ensure the provision of suitable facilities for trans people. The TUC should campaign for gender neutral facilities to be developed in accordance with the MHSAW regulations and instead of ignoring women's sex-based rights to campaign for dedicated provision for trans people in the workplace and public life.

Despite claims to the contrary – the right to gender self-declaration is enshrined in the Equality Act which does not require trans people to have a Gender Recognition certificate. The TUC resolution implied that legal rights for trans people have been undermined by the judgement, requiring a campaign to 'update and improve' the Equality Act, but fails to provide any evidence to substantiate this claim. What updates and improvements are required, what legal rights are missing, other than outlawing the sex-based rights of women that are protected by the exceptions permitted under Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights?

The policy adopted is factually incorrect, divisive and discriminatory and should be reversed at the earliest opportunity.

LORRAINE DOUGLAS IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ITS WOMEN'S COMMISSION

at the TUC defence

Unity news team

WAR SPENDING

A CONTROVERSIAL policy supporting the Labour government's increase in military spending – adopted two years ago by the Trades Union Congress has been reversed. A Wages not Weapons motion was put forward by the universities union UCU backed by the rail and sea transport union RMT, the National Education Union, communications workers, firefighters and the public service union PCS. It was opposed by Unite, the GMB and the Prospect professionals' union.

With unions casting votes in proportion to their membership it was carried by 2,871,000 votes to 2,291,000.

The vote is a setback for the government's standing among trade unionists. It's defence minister is a former TUC official

It runs counter to the policies adopted by NATO and the European Union under pressure for US president Donald Trump.

The new policy will undoubtedly meet strong resistance from those committed to ramping up tension in Europe in the US-led offensive to divide the Russia/China partnership and isolate China.

University staffs leader Dr Jo Grady said: "We are living in a country where thousands live on the streets, millions of kids go to school hungry, we have a mental health crisis but we do have billions for defence," adding that Britain and other countries around the world were using investment in arms companies to sell weapons that are "raining down hell on earth" on some of the world's most vulnerable people.

From the Communications Workers Union Tony Kearns compared the government's £58 billion military budget to the £11.3 billion spent on climate change mitigation with 35% of all research and development going to military technologies. "There is an alternative" he added, and pointed to CND's Alternative Defence Review.

RMT's Alex Gordon said rather than increasing skills and jobs in Britain, the ramp up in military spending was a 'smash and grab' on public sector jobs and wages. "As Donald Trump has made abundantly clear, the jobs and profits from military spending in the UK will flow across the Atlantic" to buy US arms.

The vote is a slap in the face for prime minister Kier Starmer who just days later prostrated himself before Donald Trump and committed Britain to a subservient defence manufacturing arrangement with the US and a commitment to spend much of the new taxpayer funds devoted to military spending with US arms and aerospace corporations.

How this fits in with the government sell for its military spending – the suggestion that this will directly benefit communities in Britain that have military industries located within them – is unexplained

CND argues that we shouldn't believe the hype on these "defence growth deals." The jobs boost that the government is promoting is tiny in comparison to the huge levels of public funds being spent.

CND's analysis takes the media spin from ADS, the aerospace, defence and space trade body, that increasing military spending by £17 billion to 3% of GDP would add 50,000 jobs to a sector that already employs 180,000. That's £346,000 per job.

CND points out that people aren't getting paid such huge salaries. So, this means that billions of pounds of public money is going directly into the profits of arms companies and their shareholders. In contrast, Transport for London, between 2023-2024 created 50,750 direct jobs at a cost of just £5.95 billion.

CND's Sophie Bolt, said: "It's clear that the government's arguments to justify its war drive are crumbling. We need to build on this important vote at the TUC and increase the pressure on Starmer to reverse the military spending hikes and halt this deadly war drive and nuclear expansionism that risks us all.

The government needs instead to prioritise real human security. That means eradicating child poverty, serious action to end climate breakdown and rebuilding our public services. We need to take this debate out into the wider public now."



DEBATE & DISCUSSION

'The leadership has failed. Even so, the leadership can and must be recreated from the masses and out of the masses. The masses are the decisive element, they are the rock on which the final victory of the revolution will be built. The masses were on the heights; they have developed this 'defeat' into one of the historical defeats which are the pride and strength of international socialism. And that is why the future victory will bloom from this 'defeat' **Rosa Luxemburg** 1918 *Collected Works*: her last letter before her murder



'...the importance of this book is that it needs to be read not just as an historical account and political analysis but as a tool and guide to action for trade union activists and socialists in navigating a path through these difficult times we are in.' Mark Serwotka

Now available to order at the Manifesto Press website *State of Struggle* by John McNally is a vital new work in the work/class/unions series that provides an account and analysis of the development of the union movement from a Marxist perspective within the context of the wider class struggle.

Drawing on fifty years experience – from the Winter of Discontent to the present day – McNally chronicles historic industrial and political conflict from the very centre of events.

The book offers a detailed examination of the profound shifts in the structure of class in Britain, analysing the different ideas, allegiances and political legacies that have resulted. It gives urgent new meaning to once unthinkable terms like disaffiliation, as well as to fundamental concepts such as finance capital, the class character of the state, reformism, revolution and independence.

This is not just a historical analysis but a crucial guide to action. McNally, who helped build a union at the forefront of confrontations with Thatcher and Blair's New Labour, asks not just who to fight but how to organise a labour movement effectively. His analysis is particularly vital now given the rise of Reform UK and its aim to complete the Thatcherite counter revolution.

While focused on the PCS, the book's lessons are essential for all trade unionists. As McNally writes, "The fault lines between collaboration and militant struggle have been exposed." He states powerfully that "the emancipation of the downtrodden millions can no longer be understood as an aspiration for the future but as an imperative and urgent necessity for today."

Born in Glasgow, **John McNally** became a union activist in 1977. He led numerous strikes, co-founded the Bristol Anti-Poll Tax Federation, and served as PCS vice-president from 2007 to 2017, shaping union strategy. He now writes for socialist publications including the *Morning Star*.

Manifesto Press publishes works on working-class struggle, socialist theory, and progressive culture. For 15 years, it has produced nearly 100 titles, hosted global events, and championed democracy, anti-imperialism, and workers' power. Now a worker-owned cooperative, it offers books, ebooks, podcasts, and audiobooks—tools for movements fighting racism, war, climate crisis, and capitalism.

www.manifestopress.coop

CONGRESS 2025

A few issues:

Far Right In most places SUTR, lacking democratic structures, is the main organisation against the far right. Sometimes it works hard to build the movement, other times to build the SWP and sometimes these conflict. Wider campaigns should be built. Otherwise we should get involved.

Conspiracy theories When governments are not trusted people look to alternatives. During the pandemic, many conspiracies, often critical of government but fitting the interests of the establishment emerged.

Had there been a wide pool of 'experts' on to counter these, then their spread through far right networks could have been less. So could the far right. It is not too late to do this, though previously this was seen by some to give credence to conspiracies.

Resources and Priorities My branch has had three Congress meetings with around 15 people, so around 70 communist-hours. The party is good at getting comrades to important memorials such as for Karl Marx and Claudia Jones but we have been slow to reverse our decline. We are now growing in numbers, education, organisation and influence, with examples of successful initiatives, eg in South London via the Peoples Assembly. We need to get our new and younger comrades active in trade unions and local campaigning.

Congress makes dozens of commitments. As a party of 1200 members, many already over-committed, we must set objectives and prioritise key issues and not mislead members by implying we will do everything.

The difficult Trans issue Communists should aim to be recognised as pro-trans: • promoting equal rights, no discrimination in work and housing; • recognising the high risks of violence and campaign against it, • recognising gender dysphoria and supporting victims • Understanding most trans people are working class and so can be won to the class struggle

We prioritise the struggle for equality for women, half the population; we fight against oppression and discrimination and are aware of the risk of identity politics conflicting with the class struggle and oppose this where it happens.

We understand that people can feel that they are a different sex and we will treat them as such, but do not accept that sex can be changed as a fact.

There are areas requiring ongoing discussion for a better resolution of differences. These include: • any conflicts in the rights of women and trans people • rules in respect of trans and also intersex people in sports, • the age and circumstances for access to irreversible medical interventions • the age and circumstances of having to affirm a child's comments about being, or wanting to be, the other sex • rules in relation to trans people in prisons and women's refuges and safe access for all to toilet facilities

Andy Bain
North London

CONGRESS 2025

Hyper-imperialism?

I wonder if it is true that "The major imperialist powers ... are in sharper competition with each other" (line 40 of the Congress resolution). Britain and the EU basically caved in on the principle of Trump's tariffs, even if they secured charges less than originally threatened. There is still rivalry, but it has become secondary.

The resolution correctly states at the outset that "US imperialism has adopted a strategy of aggression, confrontation and subjugation". However, it is too vague to say that this just reflects the intensification of capitalism's general crisis.

The main specific driver is the fall in the US's share of global GDP (based on purchasing power parity) from 20% to 15.5% since 1993, while China's is now 18.4% and the whole Global South's is 59.4%, and rising. The US's loss of productive hegemony threatens a loss of political hegemony.

To reverse that, the leaders of the US ruling class at the Centre for New American Security have defined US geo-strategy as the dual defeat of Russia and China, which would mean that the Global North would gain control of Eurasia, breaking up Russia and China into smaller, vassal states.

The Tricontinental Institute argues that developments over Ukraine and the escalations in Gaza reflect the start of imperialism's transformation to a new stage: Hyper-imperialism. The US has rapidly established itself as the open military hegemon of the Global North, embodied not only in NATO, but in NATO Plus – ie plus Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea and Israel.

The dangers of this are seen in the joint declaration on EU-NATO Cooperation published on 9 January 2023:

"We will further mobilise the combined set of instruments at our disposal, be they political, economic or military, to pursue our common objectives to the benefit of our one billion citizens."

Beware any independently-minded state in the Global South – let alone the Palestinian people, who will be sacrificed to the India-Middle East-Europe-Economic Corridor, intended to challenge China's Belt & Road Initiative.

Through NATO and other means, the US controls 74% of all military spending worldwide, over US\$2 trillion. On top of that it has a vast 'soft power' infrastructure, based on advanced social media under the control of US monopolies, all explicitly integrated into the US military industrial complex.

An intense ideological and cultural struggle will be needed to expose the nature of modern imperialism and to challenge its 'soft power'.

Martin Levy
Newcastle upon Tyne

CONGRESS 2025

Nepal update

This September, Nepal has been overcome with chaos, which erupted on the 8th, with protests breaking out against a ban on social media, fuelled by anger that was already caused by the widespread corruption amongst the government. On the 12th, Sushila Karki was appointed as Interim Prime Minister, after the resignation of former PM K.P. Sharma Oli three days earlier. The USA and the EU have both welcomed the new interim Prime Minister. This has confirmed suspicions from those who characterized the recent uprising as a colour revolution, accusing Hami Nepal, the leading protest group, of taking the protestors for fools. But with the CPN (UML) losing political power as well as the support of the working people, and reactionary voices calling for a return to the monarchy, what is next for the class struggle in Nepal?

After the massacre of 19 civilians by the police, the Safal Committee emerged. This group, formed by Marxists independent of the existing communist parties, declared they have formed to defend the working class against state repression, calling the massacre an example of class struggle. They have several demands: arming the masses for the defence of the working class, general strikes and demonstrations, and an elected workers' assembly in place of the bourgeois parliament.

The Safal Committee looks promising, seeming to subscribe to a Marxist and revolutionary outlook, proclaiming their task to prevent the reproduction of bourgeois democracy, and to form a Workers' Front with like-minded Marxists, encouraging others to set up their own committees.

Could the class struggle in Nepal now be led and pushed on by the Safal Committee with like-minded Marxists in Nepal? It is too early to say. However, the formation of this group is certainly inspiring. Could this new committee gather support from the workers, maybe even perhaps set up an assembly opposed to the House of Representatives? A development of this kind would certainly grab the attention from Marxists all over the world. Or could the CPN (UML) come back from this? This outcome seems very unlikely, with Hami Nepal dominating public opinion.

As Congress is coming around the corner, and with an influx of new resolutions and ideas coming to the forefront, the formation of the Safal Committee, and the turmoil we have seen in Nepal (and other countries) may give us food for thought on revolutionary tactics and our relationships with communist parties around the globe.

Charlie Bartlett
Oxfordshire & Berkshire



INTERNATIONALISM & SOLIDARITY

‘Internationalist solidarity is more important than ever before since workers are being squeezed as much as possible for the employers to make maximum profit for themselves. The role of an organized labour movement is for it to be ready to defend the working people against big capital and to try to redistribute that wealth to other people in the society.’

Bob Crow former general secretary of the RMT at the congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions



Defend refugees, no ICE in Britain Build a United Front against racism and fascism

**Tony Conway and
Alex Gordon call on the
trade union movement to build
a mass anti-racist and anti-fascist
movement in Britain**

Above left.
Glaswegians surround a police van
and compel the police to release two
neighbours from being deported

Above Right
Workers join an RMT protest a
gainst the threatened deportation
of migrant railway workers
Picture by Henry Fowler GFTU.



THIS YEAR overt fascists and far-right groups with known fascist links organised street mobilisations and coordinated patriotic flag flying branded as “Operation Raise the Colours”¹ across Britain.

In contrast to 2024’s fascist-instigated racist riots in English towns and cities, the 2025 mobilisations were organised with police permission, well-funded with organised transport, prominent displays of English, Scottish, Welsh and UK national flags and coordinated social media messaging.

This political operation bears the hallmarks of a sophisticated far-right populist strategy at a symbolic level using flags and social media memes and by scapegoating “illegal migrants”. Longstanding problems of crime, housing, insecurity, loss of local services and amenities all blamed on asylum seekers, reframing ‘legitimate concerns’ through a xenophobic, Islamophobic, or racist lens.

Reform UK’s Trumpian ‘Operation Restoring Justice’² plan to deport up to 600,000 people over the next parliament would require a UK version of the hated US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) force to round up undocumented people and disappear them. This is why defending refugee rights and the UN Refugee Convention is a cornerstone of our call for a united front against racism and fascism.

Reform UK’s plans will mean paramilitary, non-uniformed snatch squads operating beyond the law to terrorise working class communities in Britain as they are doing in cities across the US. To achieve this, Reform UK proposes to “disapply” international treaties to which the UK is a signatory such as the UN Refugee Convention and to leave the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The far-right’s chosen target – so-called ‘migrant hotels’ – are often dilapidated hellholes run by corporate hotel chains. People awaiting decisions on their refugee status after fleeing violence, persecution and torture are crammed into damp, mouldy, infested, insanitary conditions four to a room, often without any natural light. Reports from inside tell of heat and water cut-off, lack of privacy and safety for children and women and dehumanising treatment.

These state-funded, privately run incarceration centres provide ideal flash points for far-right provocateurs. But the very existence of such conditions in Britain in 2025 is the real migrant scandal.

The Refugee Council, Care4Calais, and other campaigning organisations have long called for an end to the use of hotels to house asylum seekers. Anti-racists who mobilised counter-protests to the far-right at hundreds of asylum hotels in recent weeks must be clear with local communities confronted by hundreds of demonstrators that we defend refugees. We don’t defend the appalling conditions in which they are being held. We support refugee campaigners calling for an end to asylum hotels.

In October 2023, Rachel Goodall, Refugee Action head of asylum services, said: “Private companies are pocketing outrageously large taxpayer-funded profits ... This gravy train must stop. It’s time the government funded local authorities to run the system on a not-for-profit basis and spent every penny of this public money to protect refugees and strengthen services for all of us.”³

In 2024, the Starmer government inherited Tory Home Secretary, Theresa May’s 12-year-old asylum seeker dispersal policy. In March 2012, the Tory/Lib Dem coalition government signed six COMPASS⁴ (Commercial and Operating

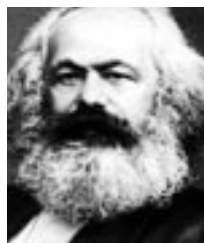
Managers Procuring Asylum Support) contracts to provide ‘no choice’ housing to asylum seekers and their families.

In 2012 COMPASS transferred responsibility for asylum accommodation from local authorities, social housing associations and some private providers to three private contractors – G4S, Serco and Clearrel. G4S already managed Brook House and Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centres (at Gatwick) until they were taken over by Serco in 2020, following a BBC Panorama investigation⁵ into abuse at Brook House. Serco has managed Yarl’s Wood since 2007.

By July 2024, a *Sunday Times*⁶ investigation revealed three contractors, Serco, Mears and Clearsprings controlled government contracts worth £3bn per year to house asylum seekers with a guaranteed profit of £7 per person per day. Middlemen received a 15 per cent cut to source rooms from run-down hotels whose owners are eager to profit from guaranteed bookings.

Hotel owners themselves have no direct contracts with government and are not even vetted. They include notorious slum landlord Nicholas Adolf von Hessen (formerly Nicholas van Hoogstraten), a self-confessed fascist who owns three hotels in Brighton used for asylum seekers, including one used to house unaccompanied children from which 136 children went missing in 2023.

The 1951 UN Refugee Convention⁷ confers a legal obligation to house people waiting for a decision on their refugee status. The core principle of the 1951 Convention is ‘non-refoulement’, so a refugee may not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom. The minimum standards for treatment of refugees include the right to housing, work and education while displaced so they can lead a



WORK, AI & REVOLUTION

‘The development of the productive forces which would reduce the absolute number of labourers, that is, which would enable the entire nation to accomplish its total production in a shorter time, would cause a revolution, because it would render the majority of the population superfluous.’
Karl Marx Capital, III, p. 309.)

dignified and independent life.

Until recently, hotels were only used for short-term emergency cover, but during the Covid pandemic hotel use spiked with contractors unable to find enough “dispersal accommodation”. At the peak of hotel use in June 2023, the Home Office was housing 51,000 asylum seekers in over 400 hotels across Britain. Tory ministers gaslit asylum seekers, blaming them for the £8 million a day hotel bill. By March 2025, the number reduced to 32,345 asylum seekers in 218 hotels. Annual asylum applications to the UK peaked in 2024 at 108,138.

In 2024, the total UK asylum accommodation bill was £4.7 billion of which £3.1 billion (66%) went on hotel accommodation, costing on average £158 per night. Three contractors (Clearsprings, Serco and Mears) made £380 million⁸ in profit from accommodation contracts (a seven per cent profit margin) over the five years from September 2019 to August 2024. Britannia Hotels alone has made over £150 million in profit from asylum accommodation since 2014.

When Labour came to power in July 2024, Chancellor Rachel Reeves pledged to “end the costly use of asylum hotels in this parliament” saying it would save the Treasury £1 billion a year⁹. Her own ‘fiscal golden rule’ is the main obstacle to this. Ending the use of asylum hotels and integrating asylum seekers into communities requires public spending now and an end to austerity in local government, even as it reduces the amount of public money wasted on private contractors in the medium term.

The Home Office must also invest in safe and legal routes for refugees. A ‘safe and legal route’ is a formally approved journey, meaning immigration rules permit the journey without a visa, or the journey is made with a visa granted for that purpose.

The 2022 UK Nationality and Borders Act forbids asylum claims unless a person is physically present in the UK. In a Catch 22 worthy of Joseph Heller himself, it is impossible to come to the UK for the purpose of seeking asylum in any way allowed by the government’s own immigration rules. No safe and legal routes are available to any refugees other than those from Ukraine, or who worked for the UK in Afghanistan (including for the British Army).

UN Reports continue to warn that Britain is in danger of breaking UN Conventions and that it must do more to curb hate speech. More far-right provocations are planned in September and beyond. So, how should the labour and trade union movement respond?

Naming the problem: state racism and imperialism

We celebrate the magnificent mobilisations by tens of thousands of antiracists in recent weeks. Our successful antiracist, antifascist mobilisations brought together pro-Palestinian and Black Lives

Matter campaigners, with trade unionists, faith and anti-racist groups, and political parties. We stopped fascist-inspired attacks in many towns and cities, but not all. Several vulnerable asylum seekers were targeted and physically attacked.

Violent provocations on our streets are a consequence of years of state racism - years of racist, Islamophobic, anti-migrant state policies and media narratives dehumanising and dividing those whose lives are deemed disposable. By recognising and naming this connection between official state racism and the opportunist far-right we connect our struggles and strengthen our resistance.

We support trade unions campaigning for their members threatened by deportation due to recent Home Office changes to working visa income thresholds. Since 22 July 2025, more than 60 London Underground staff who have lived and worked in the UK for years were put at risk of deportation when the Home Office raised minimum salary thresholds for skilled worker visas to £41,700. Safety critical job roles for Station Assistants were removed from the skilled worker list, cutting off visa pathways for many.

Their union, RMT called the threshold changes “arbitrary”, pointing out that it unfairly punishes people who built their lives and pay their taxes here and who help keep London running and pledged to continue supporting affected workers and to push for a fairer outcome.

The Communist Party’s Anti-Racism, Anti-Fascism Commission welcomes the role of trade unions, community groups and anti-racist organisations such as Stand Up to Racism in defending migrants. We welcome the call for a broader anti-racist and anti-fascist campaign.

To succeed, such a campaign must not only defend our communities against fascist-inspired, racist mobs. We must fight to end the politics of austerity and low-wage exploitation in Britain. We must demand investment in public services, decent union jobs and above all decent, affordable housing.

Racists see society through the prism of race. Socialists see it through the prism of class. This means challenging racism at its roots, namely the government policies and media narratives that demonise migrants and confine them in detention centres and hotels. Calls to “take back our hotels” serve to heighten racist discourse. Our communities never owned these hotels.

Fight racism, austerity and war

Anti-racist campaigners must link our demands with anti-cuts campaigners calling for an end to government austerity policies. Cuts to local authority funding must be opposed and reversed.

The Labour government’s failure to lift the two-child benefit cap to alleviate child poverty, while allowing privatised energy and water companies to record massive profits, must be challenged politically, industrially and locally by Trades Councils



▲ **PROTESTING AGAINST ICE** Picture and story from from the CPUSA’s *People’s World*
MAGA INSPIRED RACISM: ‘But this is not a numbers game. This is about striking fear into the hearts of working-class people. When a worker is constantly looking over their shoulder for plain clothes officers and unmarked vehicles, do they have the confidence to stand on a picket line? When workers are constantly on edge that ICE agents could break into their home at any moment, do they have the energy and confidence to organize at the job site? This isn’t about having the largest mass deportation event in history. It’s MAGA terrorists signaling they can deport whoever they want, whenever they want, wherever they want.’

and the People’s Assembly Against Austerity.

Trades unions and trades councils must build strong links with longstanding organisations of diaspora communities, such as the Indian Workers Association, Bangladeshi Workers Council and Caribbean Labour Solidarity and black led anti-racist organisations including the Liberation Movement.

Anti-racism is linked with opposition to war. Interventionist wars are proceeded by denigration of the people due to be invaded. Racist rhetoric is used to legitimise western imperialism’s resource wars on poorer resource-rich countries, that they subjugate by force of arms. Anti-racist movements must act internationally to oppose imperialism, war and sanctions. Sanctions are war by another name, imposed by rich nations for their own economic and political gain.

We must do whatever it takes to broaden our campaigns to develop a united front against racism and fascism and for progressive policies based on working class demands.

The reaction by our communities against the far right and the actions of trade unions and trade unionists in our support, gives us hope that we can develop a united front against racism and fascism. Let’s grasp this opportunity.

TONY CONWAY IS CONVENOR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY’S ANTIRACIST ANTIFASCIST COMMISSION AND A FORMER PCS NATIONAL OFFICER. FORMER RMT PRESIDENT ALEX GORDON CONVENES THE PARTY’S INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

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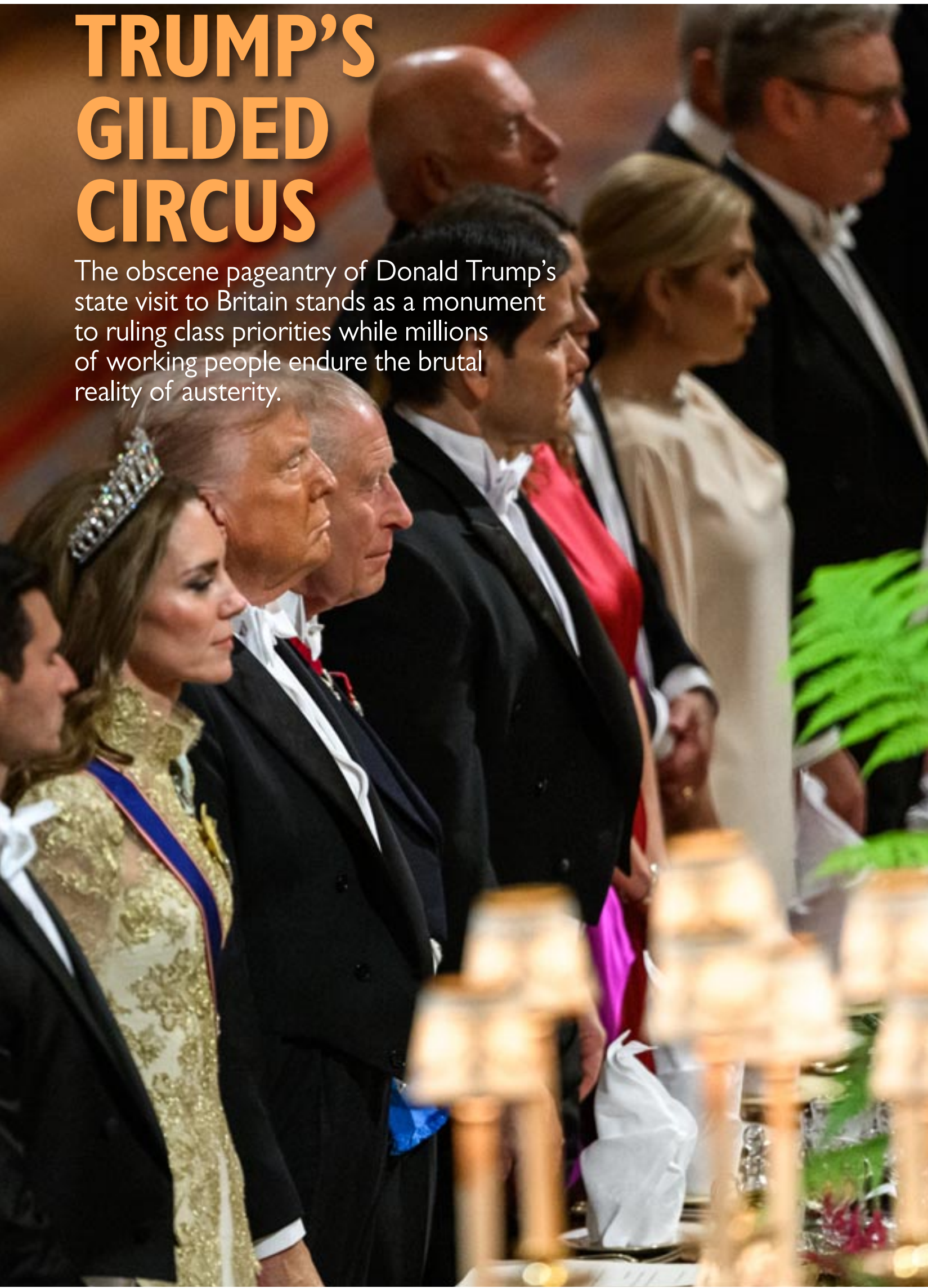


A PRESIDENT PRAISED BY MARX

‘Sir: We congratulate the American people upon your re-election by a large majority. If resistance to the Slave Power was the reserved watchword of your first election, the triumphant war cry of your re-election is Death to Slavery. From the commencement of the titanic American strife the workingmen of Europe felt instinctively that the star-spangled banner carried the destiny of their class.’
Karl Marx who drafted the 1865 Address of the International Working Men’s Association to Abraham Lincoln.

TRUMP’S GILDED CIRCUS

The obscene pageantry of Donald Trump’s state visit to Britain stands as a monument to ruling class priorities while millions of working people endure the brutal reality of austerity.



Victoria Holmes

SUBMISSION

THE SPECTACLE – golden carriages processioning through London streets and champagne flowing at Buckingham Palace – unfolded as pensioners faced another winter in unheated homes, stripped of the Winter Heating allowance by Starmer’s treacherous government. –

Five million pounds they spent on this circus. Five million that could have restored heating support to thousands of elderly Britons. Instead, Starmer chose pomp over pensioners, pageantry over people. The man who promised "change" delivers the same old establishment priorities - bread and circuses while they pick our pockets.

This is Starmer’s Labour Party in action - more concerned with impressing fascist sex offending billionaires than protecting vulnerable pensioners. The same Starmer who campaigned on ending austerity now enforces it with a smile, proving once again that social democracy always betrays working people when the chips are down.

Imperial bootlicking

This vulgar display of subservience to American imperialism exposes the true nature of Starmer’s "special relationship." Britain’s ruling class prostrates itself before Washington while ordinary people bear the consequences. We’ve declined from leading global exploitation to serving as America’s poodle, grovelling before Trump while maintaining illusions of sovereignty through royal ceremony.

Starmer’s eagerness to host this monster reveals everything about New Labour’s priorities. While he cuts support for freezing pensioners, he rolls out the red carpet for a convicted felon who brags about sexual assault. That’s the moral compass of Starmer’s Labour - austerity for the poor, luxury for the rich.

The contrast with socialist states proves instructive. Cuba maintains dignified resistance to US pressure despite decades of blockade. China pursues independent development while building socialism. These nations demonstrate real sovereignty by putting people’s needs before corporate profits - something Starmer’s Labour will never do.

Starmer’s austerity agenda

Every working-class gain emerged through struggle, not parliamentary procedure. The NHS arose from post-war militancy when workers refused to accept the old order. Council housing programmes followed rent strikes that terrified the landlord class. Pension improvements resulted from trade union pressure, not government benevolence.

But Starmer’s learned nothing from this history. His first act in power? Attack the most vulnerable - stripping Winter Fuel Allowances from 10 million households while finding unlimited cash for Trump’s visit. This isn’t incompetence, it’s class warfare.



OUR REPUBLICAN TRADITION

'The republican poet John Milton declared that the royalist supporters of the executed Charles 1 were an 'inconstant, irrational, and Image-doting rabble' declaring 'that like a credulous and hapless herd, begott'n to servility, and enchanted with these popular institutes of Tyranny, subscrib'd with a new device of the Kings Picture at his praiers, hold out both thir eares with such delight and ravishment to be stigmatiz'd and board through in witness of thir own voluntary and beloved baseness.' **John Milton** *Eikonoklastes* 1649 (Iconoclast, from the Greek εικονοκλάστης)

The welfare state developed during imperial super-profits, enabling concessions without threatening capitalist power. Once those profits declined, the assault began - Thatcher's frontal attack, Blair's betrayal disguised as "modernisation," and now Starmer's continuation of the same agenda with different rhetoric.

Starmer's mastered Blair's trick - making treachery appear progressive. Wrap every attack on working people in management speak about "tough choices" and "fiscal responsibility." Meanwhile, he's proven there's always money for royal banquets and military adventures, just never for heating allowances or NHS funding.

Socialist alternatives ignored

Global socialist experiments prove alternatives exist. Vietnam's COVID response exposed Britain's chaotic handling. Cuba's medical internationalism shames our aid cuts. China eliminated absolute poverty while Starmer accepts homelessness as inevitable.

These achievements occurred despite constant imperialist hostility. Yet Starmer's Labour remains trapped in parliamentary illusions, seeking salvation through electoral politics rather than workplace organisation and community struggle.

Capitalism's contradictions under Starmer

While Trump feasted at the Palace, NHS workers confronted another winter crisis. Nearly eight million people languish on waiting lists, emergency departments operate in permanent gridlock, social care workers struggle with impossible caseloads for poverty wages. But Starmer claims there's no money - except for hosting fascist billionaires, apparently.

These aren't accidents - they're Starmer's deliberate choices. Resources remain unavailable for public services while royal banquets receive unlimited funding. This is capitalism's logic under Labour management - profit before people, every time.

Starmer's betrayal runs deeper than individual policies. He's systematically abandoned every promise that got him elected - no tuition fee rises, green investment, workers' rights. The man's a walking contradiction, preaching change while delivering continuity.

Building resistance to Starmer's betrayal

Trump's visit concluded, but British workers inherit the consequences - not just the visit's cost, but Starmer's broader austerity programme. Climate catastrophe, social breakdown, imperial subservience - Labour offers only managed decline with progressive rhetoric.

History shows ruling classes never surrender power voluntarily. The Chartists, suffragettes, striking miners all



Trump's dinner

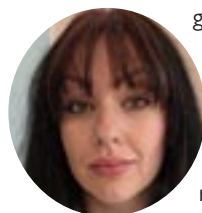
- Hampshire watercress panna cotta with Parmesan shortbread and quail egg salad
- Organic Norfolk chicken ballotine wrapped in courgettes with a thyme and savoury infused jus
- Vanilla ice cream bombe with Kentish raspberry sorbet interior with lightly poached Victoria plums
- And to drink . . .
- Wiston Estate, Cuvée, 2016
- Domaine Bonneau du Martray, Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru, 2018
- Ridge Vineyards, Monte Bello, 2000
- Pol Roger, Extra Cuvée de Réserve, 1998

faced state violence for challenging elite interests. Starmer's proved he's on the wrong side of that equation.

Growing numbers recognise that Starmer's Labour offers no real alternative to Tory policies. The Communist Party's expansion reflects this reality - people understand that reformist tinkering cannot address fundamental contradictions.

The alternative programme remains clear: tax the super-rich, renationalise utilities, scrap Trident, invest in manufacturing and green jobs. Build council housing, fund the NHS properly, restore trade union rights. Everything Starmer promised but won't deliver.

The choice grows starker - socialism or continued barbarism under different management. Starmer's gilded spectacle for Trump while pensioners freeze shows which path Labour's chosen. Time to build the real alternative.



VICTORIA HOLMES IS A JOURNALIST AND MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



▲ Two thousand anti racists outnumbered by ten to one a far-right organised demonstration in central Glasgow.

The far-right rally fell apart with fighting breaking out between their far right factions.

Picture by Matt Kerr

Tom Morrison

COMMENT

NEEDING TO be aware of what the enemy is saying, I forced myself to watch online the whole of the Reform press conference held in Scotland. Loathsome as he is, Nigel Farage is a clever politician who can run rings around the hapless Keir Starmer and Kemi Badenoch.

On the whole, he handled the questions from the press hacks pretty well, albeit some made it too easy for him. A couple did irritate him, which his ego couldn't cope with, exposing the weakness of a thin skin.

It was the final question, which I thought would have come up earlier in the proceedings, that got on his goat. What did he have to say about the self-proclaimed infiltration into his party by the fascist group Patriotic Alternative?

He claimed they were not wanted and if discovered, they would be thrown out. It seems they are too right-wing extremists, even for Farage, or so he claims in public.

Yet on the very same day, the sad individuals that make up the Patriotic Alternative group that blight Clydebanks Shopping Centre with their racist rhetoric had a large banner declaring Vote Reform!

The banner was placed on West Dunbartonshire Council property, it should be noted.

This group's 'leader' has been recorded ranting "Keep Scotland White" among other blatant racist slogans at the recent demonstrations held outside hotels holding asylum seekers.

What has Reform got to say about this outrageous racist conduct?

What are the police doing about this hate speech?

These demonstrations are organised by known fascist activists who have succeeded in drawing in ordinary people who have genuine concerns over the lack of housing, access to medical care, and other public services.

Safety of women and kids is another concern expressed, yet the far right is riddled with individuals convicted of domestic and child abuse.

The finger has got to be pointed at the mainstream political parties, who have implemented an austerity agenda for the last fifteen plus years.

Councils such as West Dunbartonshire, whether led by Labour or the SNP, have carried out Government diktats without any credible opposition.

People who have been injured to such conditions of cuts to vital services are now taking their anger out on people escaping war caused by the west, climate catastrophe caused by the west, and grinding poverty caused by the west.

A simple retort to those who scream Stop the Boats might be Stop the Wars!

The local trade unions have long argued that the council politicians should join with the unions and community activists and refuse to implement cuts to services.

These politicians have created the conditions for the far right to thrive and should hang their heads in shame.

Fascist elements have clearly infiltrated Reform as they said they would. It falls to the trade union movement to cut the ground from under the feet of the fascists and Reform alike.

We have got to expose the far right to ordinary people who currently support them.

We need to help people to improve the conditions in which they live, show them who really is responsible for

conditions they find themselves in, and help them organise against the real exploiters, big business and the super-rich, of which Farage is one.



TOM MORRISON IS SECRETARY OF CLYDEBANK TRADES COUNCIL THIS IS TAKEN FROM HIS COLUMN IN THE CLYDEBANK POST



INTERNATIONAL reports

“All this chorus of calumny, which the Party of Order never fail, in their orgies of blood, to raise against their victims, only proves that the bourgeois of our days considers himself the legitimate successor to the baron of old, who thought every weapon in his own hand fair against the plebeian, while in the hands of the plebeian a weapon of any kind constituted in itself a crime.”
Karl Marx on the Paris Commune *The Civil War in France* 1871



Parti communiste français

18 SEPTEMBER

YOUNG PEOPLE, employees, the unemployed, retirees... with more than a million people participating in the 260 demonstrations, hundreds of thousands of strikers in the public and many private sectors, a major movement of social empowerment began today.

The French Communist Party (PCF) salutes the trade unions that organized this powerful mobilization, made possible by their grassroots work and the inter-union framework, as well as all the workers who went on strike.

The new Prime Minister, Sébastien Lecornu, the President of the Republic, and employers must heed the message

being expressed in the streets across the country:

Stop social regression!
 Repeal the pension reform!
 Raise wages for work that pays!
 Expand public services everywhere and for everyone!

Take measures for tax justice! While the National Rally does not support any of the demands put forward in the demonstrations, it is once again demonstrating that it is the enemy of workers and union rights, supports capital, and offers no alternative.

The French Communist Party (PCF) is debating a pact for the future of France with a €500 billion plan for public spending, training, hiring, and investment in industry and public services over the

next five years, thanks to an advance fund funded by the existing public banking sector.

It is time to repair France by taking control of production and giving our country an independent voice for peace.

We call for the creation of a new budget to meet the social needs and challenges of the century, to strengthen social democracy through new powers of intervention for workers, and to put an end to forced passage through the use of Article 49-3 to respect parliamentary democracy.

Together with mobilized workers, unions and associations, and left-wing political forces, let us build an alternative of progress and peace for France.

Paris, September 18, 2025



▲ **Genoa port: September 22, 2025**, The Italian Communist Party reports that the general strike and demonstrations called nationwide by the grassroots unions saw tens of thousands of people take to the streets in all of Italy's major cities.

The PCI said: “Our party demonstrated to forcefully reaffirm our internationalist solidarity with the Palestinian people. The

strike's slogan, ‘Break now with the terrorist state of Israel,’ emphasizes the urgent need for a clear stance from the Italian government, which continues to support Israel's policies of war and occupation.

“The struggle for jobs, wages, and social and democratic rights is inseparable from the struggle against colonialism,

imperialism, and all forms of oppression.

“Our commitment will continue in the coming days and months, strengthening the struggle and building a political and social alternative to a system that breeds war, exploitation, and injustice.

“The Italian Communist Party therefore reaffirms its support for the Palestinian cause”.

International survey

Les Doherty

GLOBAL NOTES

EVENTS AT the international level are fast moving and it is important to focus on the most significant that reflect the fast changing balance of power and influence.

At China's initiative the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was established in 2001 to develop peace and cooperation among its members and is developing into a centre of international diplomacy, an alternative, based on fair international political and economic order: not only for its member states but beyond. Russia, China, and India agreed at the recent summit to challenge US hegemony. This is further evidence that US strategy is challenged.

On 2 September, 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allies, and China declared 3 September as Victory Day in the ‘War of Resistance Against Japan’ and the ‘World Anti-Fascist War.’

Official estimates, puts Japan's colonial campaign from 1931 to have claimed the lives of around 35 million people in China.

This month the People's Republic commemorated its victory 80 years on, drawing bitter comments from the West for doing so. Among the 26 heads of state and government who participated in the celebrations in Beijing, only one was from an EU member state: Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico.

Also, present were the heads of state of Cuba, Russia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Zimbabwe, and Serbia. The People's Republic marked the anniversary with a military parade, unveiling numerous new weapons in a display of unity and justified deterrence.

China's President and Party leader, Xi Jinping, opened the parade with a plea for world peace, saying: ‘Today, humanity once again faces the choice between peace and war, dialogue and confrontation, win-win and zero-sum.’

He went on to say, ‘Eighty years ago, was China's first complete victory against foreign aggression in modern times’ and called on the world to ‘eliminate the root cause of war and prevent a recurrence of historical tragedies.’

The deterrent worked, prompting Donald Trump to post ‘Please extend my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un as you conspire against the United States of America.’

A clear case of the worlds bully complaining that its target of aggression dare stand in defiance.

Meanwhile Trump has expressed his willingness to increase the contingent of US troops in Poland. At a meeting with Polish President Karol Nawrocki in Washington Trump assured his guest that he would keep US troops there. He also stated that he was prepared to send additional troops if Poland so desired.

Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky predictably expressed his dismay at the “horrific murder” of Andriy Parubiy. The 54-year-old politician – a member of parliament for the European Solidarity party – was assassinated at the beginning of the month.

What is being described as a “blow to the heart of Ukraine” is in reality a direct hit to the country's fascist right, which has lost one of its leading figures:

Who was Parubiy? Co-founder of the neo-Nazi ‘Social-National Party of Ukraine’ (now Svoboda) and leader of its paramilitary wing, ‘Patriot of Ukraine.’ He was one of the architects of the 2013/2014 coup and was a commander of the combat troops led by the Right Sector.

It was Parubiy as head of the National Security and Defence Council on 2 May, 2014 who gave the order to

“burn everything down” during an attack by neo-Nazi thugs on the trade union building in Odessa. More than 40 anti-Maidan demonstrators were murdered.

As recently as 2018, Parubiy praised Adolf Hitler's merits for “direct democracy” in a TV program.



LES DOHERTY IS CHAIR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S NORTH WEST DISTRICT COMMITTEE



WORKING CLASS UNITY

'In expressing our confidence that we will realise unity, we are under no illusions as to the character of the obstacles to be overcome. Unity will not fall from the skies. It can only be achieved by hard, patient and persistent work, done in the main by the most class conscious and advanced section of the working class, dedicating their every endeavour to carrying through the fight until we have achieved the victory of unity.'

Communist Party leader **Harry Pollitt** writing in *Labour Monthly* 1948



Croydon Your Party supporters meet in Ruskin House

A NEW LEFT PARTY?

Communist Party general secretary Rob Griffiths answers questions on the party's attitude to the new Left party

Unity! What is the Communist Party's to the new Left party and the latest situation?



Our party's Executive and Political Committees have made a tentative assessment of the position so far.

We welcome the initiative to set up a new party of the left with

the potential to rally and mobilise thousands of politically homeless socialists and social-democrats; to help raise the profile of the left generally and, in particular, on the electoral front; amplify the arguments for key left, progressive and anti-imperialist policies for public ownership, the redistribution of wealth, repealing the anti-union laws, opposing austerity and racism, building a million new homes in the public sector, scrapping nuclear weapons and taking solidarity action for the Palestinian people; and to strengthen the movement to build a United Front of working-class organisations in an alliance with campaigning mass movements.

At the same time, we acknowledge that major challenges face members of the new party who want to create a broad, non-sectarian, left-wing party with popular appeal. The manoeuvring, manipulation and parasitism of left-wing sects will have to be confronted and eliminated while maintaining an open, democratic and participative party structure.

Of course, these sects would prefer a constitutional right to operate as factions within the new Left party, despite the history of debilitating divisions and splits where such a 'right' has ever been tried.

Unity! What are the crucial policy questions to be resolved?

Firstly, what will be the new Left party's policy on immigration: an idealist and free-market 'open borders' approach or an anti-racist solidarity policy of state regulation? What of the controversy surrounding the question of women's rights, trans rights and gender identity? So far, our Communist Party has developed its materialist policy in conditions of tolerance and respect, defending hard-won facilities and protections for women while also

supporting better access to services for trans people. Where Zarah Sultana's social media comments suggest that only one viewpoint should be expressed within the new party our view is that this will be a barrier to its growth, a factor for disunity and a gift to the right and far-right.

Unity! How can the new left party intervene in electoral politics?

Will the new party propose a system of progressive federalism, redistributing power and wealth while strengthening working-class unity across the regions and nations of Britain? Many new Left party supporters call for Scottish and Welsh independence and nothing less.

In the electoral struggle, the new party will have to determine its stance on various kinds of alliances. Will the party seek an arrangement with the Greens, currently pro-NATO but whose new leader Zack Polanski favours Britain joining a European Defence Pact? Or with the LibDems, who do not even support the Employment Rights Bill at Westminster?

Will the new Left party call for Britain's withdrawal from NATO? Electoral considerations would strengthen the case not to do so. But if what would be the biggest socialist party in Britain refuses to oppose NATO membership – despite the convictions of many of its members – who will, apart from the Communist Party and some other small left-wing parties (but no longer the SNP and the Greens), together with CND and Stop the War.

Will the new Left party seek British rapprochement with the EU and its growing alignment with NATO? What will be the stance on People's China? Ukraine?

Unity! Some communists believe we should be participating in the formation of the new Left party, attending its meetings and trying to shape its structures, procedures and policies. What is the Communist Party's approach?

The problems here are four-fold:

Firstly, the new Left party's roadmap makes clear that only registered party members may participate in the forthcoming regional meetings and all-Britain conference. The new party's constitution or conference may, from the outset, require its members not be members of other political parties (particularly those parties which contest elections and could stand against new Left party candidates). The Communist Party does not operate secretive 'entryism' into other parties, which lay 'entrists' open to charges of dishonesty and bad faith, including from potential allies in our broad movement work.

In any event, membership of the new Left party would appear to be incompatible with the duties required by the Communist Party's own rules.

Secondly, contributions from Communist Party members to internal new Left party meetings are liable to be misrepresented the media, anti-communist parties and sects looking to set party members against

Communist Party policy and against one another.

Thirdly, as new Left party members, Communists would be obliged to promote policies which could directly contradict communist policies (e.g. women's rights, immigration, federalism, the EU, NATO, China, electoral alliances). Comrades are already in a disciplined and democratic centralist party – the Communist Party – with a clear programme, strategy and policies on almost all contentious issues.

Unity! What are the Communist Party's priorities now?

We want to see the new party succeed and see it as an ally. However it proceeds and develops, our priority is the core, strategic work of building a powerful Communist Party, one which is active and offers consistent leadership on different fronts of the extra-parliamentary struggle. Importantly, we are also an integral part of the international communist and revolutionary movement that is an invaluable source of information, analysis, inspiration and solidarity.

The history of the trade union movement, the fight against fascism and in solidarity with Republican Spain, the fight for peace, solidarity with the national liberation movements, against apartheid and the fight against anti union laws shows that a stronger, more influential Communist Party assists the work of left-wing, anti-imperialist and non-sectarian forces that we trust will find a home in the new party

Certainly, only the Communist Party can be relied upon to recognise, support and publicise the struggles and achievements of the socialist countries and Communist and workers parties around the world, past and present.

In Britain, we hope that the new party establishes itself and makes a significant contribution to the class struggle for socialism. The Communist Party and the Morning Star will continue to work closely with our friends and allies in that effort.

We keep an eye on unity processes in other countries. For example, in much of Latin America, in Spain, where a communist deputy prime minister works with socialists in government; in France where communists, socialists, Greens and La France Insoumise work together in local government and fight together in mass actions and elections, in Portugal where democrats, communists and ecologists are united in an electoral front and in South Africa where the SACP is in a long standing alliance with COSATU and the ANC.

Our 58th Congress in mid-November will decide the main lines of our response to the formation of the new party, following a full and free debate.

But for now, the greatest assistance we can give to all those in the new Left party or outside it who fight for progress, peace and socialism is to build the Communist Party, the Young Communist League and the Morning Star, their mass work and the organisations of the working class and the people.

Back on track?

Nick Wright

CORBYN/SULTANA

A DAMAGING DISPUTE between Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana appears to be resolved. A rough timetable has been set out for the formation of the new Left party involving Corbyn, Sultana and the four pro-Palestine independents, together with former trade union leaders including Len McCluskey and Mark Serwotka.

The formal registration of new Left party members is set to begin. Where internal differences emerged brought to a head by Sultana's launch of a new membership portal these seem to be subject to mediation and, hopefully, agreement with Andrew Feinstein, Jamie Driscoll and Beth Winter responsible for the stewardship of the income.

The party's four core documents: its Political Statement, Constitution, Rules and Organisational Strategy are being drafted and are to be published shortly.

This month and next, regional 'deliberative' meetings are to be held across Britain where 'thousands of members come together to listen to each other, debate and revise the founding documents face to face. All members will be able to comment, suggest changes, and track how each document develops'.

In October, an 'online vote' will decide the official name of the new Left party. Then, in November, thousands of 'in-person delegates' will attend the new Left party's founding conference to consider the revised core documents, propose amendments and – joined by all other willing members online – to vote on the final drafts.

At present a disputed proposal is for the in-person founding conference delegates to be 'chosen by lottery to ensure a fair balance of gender, region, and background'.

A number of these proposals are being disputed by new Left party supporters, not least by a myriad of far-left parties and sects (the SWP, Socialist Party, Counterfire, Talking About Socialism, RS21 and micro sects like the self-styled 'CPGB', etc.),

Some of them are busy circulating their own alternative drafts and calling unofficial meetings to launch local new Left party branches.



AGITATION & PROPAGANDA

“... 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*



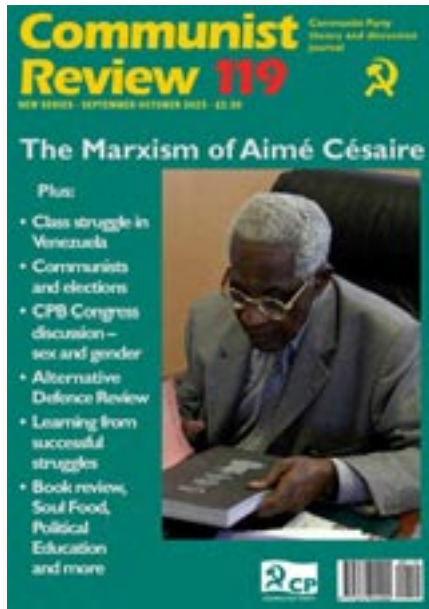
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Don't forget, Communist Party members qualify for your very own Party Mastodon account! If you haven't yet done so, make sure to use the following link to create your own account

<https://pub.communistparty.org.uk/invite/hMH9xcLT>

Please note that registration is only open to Party members. Make sure to register using the email address you use with your membership account, as alternative emails not registered on the Party database will be refused.



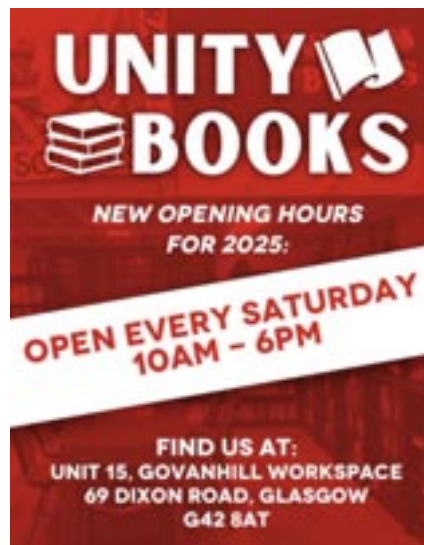
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Theory and discussion journal of the Communist Party

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Bridging the Sex/Gender Debate
Julia Bradley and Mike Nolan
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Maxine Peake
Morning Star Ambassador
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Understanding and combating anti-semitism

Course Starting 12 October 2025

The second Understanding and combating anti-semitism Course will be held over five Sundays from the 12 October until the 9 November 2025, between 7 PM and 9 PM. It is specifically aimed at leading party cadres - executive committee, nation and district leadership, who didn't attend our first course.

The tutors will be James Crossley, Mary Davis and Steve Silver.

Please register in advance for this meeting: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Events September 2025

20 September Marx Memorial Library An Intro to Alan Bush – Radical Composer <https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/event/508>
20 September CND Kick Out Trumps Nukes <https://cnduk.org/events/kick-out-trumps-nukes-national-demonstration-at-raf-lakenheath/>
20 September Make Them Pay Climate coalition demonstration Portland Place London <https://www.makethempay.org.uk/>
23 September TUC Cymru – Building Unity at Work <https://www.tuc.org.uk/events/wales/tuc-cymru-rebuilding-unity-conference-practical-tools-less-divided-workplace>
24 September Communist Party Right Wing Populism & The New World Order https://communistparty-org-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nnE9yKicTRqxL1IzCPL_gg
25 September 2025 to 30 July 2026 GFTU Trade Unions & Working Class History <https://gftuet.org.uk/courses/trade-union-and-working-class-history>
28 September 12 midday Keep Our NHS Public Save Liverpool Women's Hospital
Coinciding with Labour Party Conf. Old Wall Arch, Albert Dock
9 October Marx Library The World Economy in the 2020s Time is Running Out <https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/event/511>
9 October GFTU Activist Corner series essential skills starts with using media & press <https://gftuet.org.uk/courses/activists-corner-using-the-media-and-the-press>
15 October TUC UnionReps Connect workplace reps education & training <https://www.tuc.org.uk/events/unionreps-connect-2025>
16 October Marx Library Trade Unions Councils mobilising for class politics in communities <https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/event/512>
18 October MML Book Sale <https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/event/509>
23 October Marx Memorial Library Reds on the Green William Morris: Politics and Art <https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/event/513>

