

Britain plans to buy 138 F-35 jet from the USA at \$109 million each  
The estimated lifetime cost is over \$1.7 trillion each  
Cost of a new hospital £1.5 billion



Workers of all lands, unite!  
**Communist Party** April 2025

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# Unity!

# WAR PLANS MEAN MORE AUSTERITY

Labour's welfare cuts means millions of families will lose an average of £1,720 a year, says the government's own impact assessment

Robert Griffiths

## SPRING STATEMENT

CHANCELLOR RACHEL Reeves has put on her tin-foil hat to announce the government's intention to make Britain a 'defence-industrial superpower'.

Her Spring Statement confirms Labour's aim to be the war-mongering party of the military-industrial complex.

Spending plans to assist the unemployed, poor and disabled are being chopped by almost £5bn, while military spending next year will rise by an extra £2.2bn. Overseas aid to the world's most vulnerable people is being slashed while subsidies for British arms exports to overseas

buyers are to be increased.

Relying on the inefficient, greedy and corrupt arms industry to boost the economy is as barmy as relying on inefficient, greedy and corrupt property developers to meet people's dire housing needs.

Nor will taking an Elon Musk-style chainsaw to thousands of civil service jobs end economic stagnation and the threat of increased unemployment.

All the Chancellor's bluster about 'fiscal rules' and higher growth (in four years' time!) is really a diversion from the policies needed to boost investment, modernisation, employment and working class living standards.

The government's surpluses, deficits and so-called 'headroom' of around

£10bn are chicken-feed compared with the extra £50bn a year that could be gained from a wealth tax on assets of more than £10m, a financial transactions tax, and the equal application of income tax rates to capital gains and investment income.

The Labour government plans to increase military spending up to 2.5% of GDP by 2027.

Starmer is leading the pack among a group of European Union leaders who want to ramp up tension in Ukraine and risk a conflict with Russia on its borders by deploying troops from NATO countries in Ukraine despite Putin warning that is a red line for Russia.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

## Unite against capital's resource wars

Unity Reporter

COMMUNIST PARTY

RUTH STYLES has accused 'capitalism's resource wars' of creating tension, confrontation and violent conflicts around the world. Addressing the party's March executive committee the Communist Party chair pointed to genocide in Palestine, catastrophic conflicts in Africa, the carve-up of Syria, and US threats to seize mineral resources in Ukraine, Greenland and Canada as evidence that the imperialist powers are the real 'rogue states' threatening the existence of the planet and its peoples.

'Their drive to exploit the earth's natural resources for profit lies behind the trade wars, the massive rearmament programmes, the support for Israeli state terrorism, and the Western backing of sectarian and anti-democratic forces from Latin America and Africa to the Middle East and the Asian Pacific' she argued.

'Instead of defending the poor, the vulnerable, the oppressed and super-exploited in their own countries and around the world, the leading capitalist states are cutting social programmes at home and aid projects in some of the world's poorest countries, and all to fund some of the planet's biggest carbon polluters, namely, the military-industrial complex'.

Keir Starmer is now 'beating the drums of class war' against working-class pensioners, low-income families, the sick and the disabled" she said, while 'Chancellor Rachel Reeves is imposing cuts and restrictions in social security benefits.

'Captain Starmer is busy reorganising deckchairs in the NHS as public and local government services collapse, refusing to boost investment through a wealth tax on the super-rich while sacking tens of thousands of public sector workers' she said.

The Communist Party executive declared that working-class unity and solidarity – nationally and internationally – is as vital as ever in order to build broad fronts for peace, social progress and environmental security against monopoly capital.

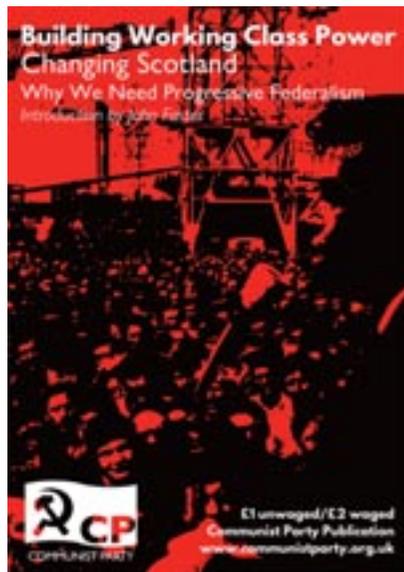


# POLITICAL ACTION

'Natural science has invaded and transformed human life all the more practically through the medium of industry; and has prepared human emancipation, although its immediate effect had to be the furthering of the dehumanisation of man. Industry is the actual, historical relationship of nature, .... The nature which develops in human history — the genesis of human society — is man's real nature; hence nature as it develops through industry, even though in an estranged form, is true anthropological nature. **Karl Marx, *Private Property and Communism* 1844**



Poster left by Robert Streader who is a member of the Young Communist Leaflet AGITPROP collective



## Building working class power

### Changing Scotland, Why We Need Progressive Federalism

In its new pamphlet the Communist Party makes the case for progressive federalism as the answer to the national question in Scotland and across Britain. It discusses and highlights key examples and lessons of working class struggles across Scotland and Britain and makes the case for a united working class challenge to capitalism in Britain.

In the introduction John Foster writes: 'This pamphlet looks at what many people have forgotten: how workers in Scotland won – over the past century and a half – a

measure of democratic control over housing, education, health care, energy, transport, and conditions of employment.

None of this was 'given' from on high. It was secured collectively by working people uniting together – trade unionists and local communities – and by directly challenging governments. In doing so they did something more. They also changed the balance of power between rich and poor. Greater material security provided the strength that enabled people to fight for a bigger share of what they produced.'

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continued from page 1

Governments of EU states in east and central Europe are markedly unenthusiastic about this and even Germany, where war fighting rhetoric is common currency among government parties, is yet to translate into a direct commitment to deploy troops.

Together, Macron's machismo and Starmer's hunger for a hot war will make our world far more dangerous and push millions more into greater poverty.

Britain's nuclear weapons programme adds up to 14% of the Ministry of Defence budget. The ten-year budget for this weapons system has ballooned by £38.2 billion in just one year, pushing the total estimated cost of Britain's nuclear weapons to at least £99.5 billion over the decade.

That is nearly £10 billion annually – wasted on weapons of mass destruction that if ever used would mean the end of sustainable life on this planet. £10 million could be used to reverse Rachel Reeves' first cuts and make Winter Fuel Allowance universal, ensuring all pensioners don't freeze to death in their own homes – this costing £1.5 billion.

It could take over a quarter of a million children out of poverty by lifting the Child Benefit Cap – this costing £2.5 billion

Labour's cuts to benefits for disabled people, including Personal Independence Payments (PIP) could be reversed costing £5 billion.

ROBERT GRIFFITHS IS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

## Constructive engagement with China is welcome



Communist Party chair Ruth Styles spoke on 20 March at a symposium organised by the Chinese Embassy for friends of China to learn about and discuss China's recent 'two parliamentary sessions'.

'2025 is a momentous year as we all celebrate the defeat of fascism and the victory of the Chinese People's war of resistance against Japanese aggression. We congratulate our comrades of the CPC on that important anniversary' she said.

CAPITAL'S drive to wage imperialist wars for natural resources and geopolitical control rages across the globe. The Western-backed genocide in Palestine, catastrophic conflicts in Africa, the carve-up of Syria, and US threats to seize valuable mineral resources in Ukraine, Greenland and Canada are evidence that the imperialist powers are real 'rogue states' threatening the existence of the planet and its peoples. Those who oppose them are bombed or suffer economic warfare by tariff and sanction. The U.S. now threatens to sanction any nation that benefits from the Cuban health brigades.

The EU threatens to take unused savings of EU citizens to continue arming Ukraine and drive rearmament and militarisation over an un-evidenced threat of a European invasion by Russia. A meeting of a 'coalition of the willing' of 25 nations was held, led by Kier Starmer to 'support' Ukraine. It was stated that the agreement would move to the action phase. And French E-3F AWACS flew over Eastern Europe, flanked by two Rafale fighter jets.

There is a danger of spiralling tensions and regional conflicts turning into a catastrophic confrontation that could become possibly nuclear. This is a rallying cry for peace campaigning.

Capital's drive to exploit the earth's natural resources for profit and maintain hegemony lies behind the trade wars, the massive rearmament programmes, the support for Israeli state terrorism, and Western backing of sectarian and anti-democratic forces from Latin America and Africa to the Middle East and the Asian

Pacific.

Instead of defending the poor, the vulnerable, the oppressed and super-exploited, the leading capitalist states cut social programmes at home and aid projects in the world's poorest countries, all to fund the biggest carbon polluters, the military-industrial complex. Capital risks humanity and planetary survival in their pursuit of wars for profit and hegemony.

In this world of escalating and relentless violence and war, China has been a consistent voice for peace in Palestine and Ukraine as well as in African conflicts.

In July 2024 China hosted important discussions between 12 other Palestinian organisations, who agreed an 'interim national reconciliation government'. Such national unity is essential to securing Palestinian control of Gaza in the light of US designs to force out the population. China's support for the initiative of the Arab nations for Gaza's future is critical as is its unstinting work to ease tensions between Israel and Iran. Little of this is acknowledged in the British media.

For over two years China has pursued a 12-point plan for peace in Ukraine which is likely to prefigure the eventual peace settlement as talks get underway between Russia and the US. More recently, in May 2024, Brazil and China presented a 6-point plan for the de-escalation of the conflict.

These painstaking political initiatives are crucial for the peace process and are an important antidote to western warmongering, particularly in recent weeks from Western European NATO states, including Britain.

Last week's Two Sessions meetings in Beijing showed the robustness of China's socialist democracy. I was impressed by the comments of the Sri Lankan ambassador to China present at the Two Sessions. As reported by *China Daily* he said that: 'China's democracy starts from the townships to the major cities where interaction is done at all levels, and where people are engaged. You can see the representation in every angle, from the grass root to the top. In every single field, people are interacting.'

Delegates received the Government's report of work and big decisions were taken from economic planning (a steady 5% growth target) to defence spending, (up by 7% but at 1.5% of GDP well below the global average). The British people do not understand Chinese democracy or the two sessions as our media does not report anything positive about China.

We thank you for your briefing today on the latest political developments in China.

We can be encouraged by recent developments in UK China relations. We await the outcome of the Government's strategic defence review but it seems that the sustained period of politically inspired attacks against China over the past five years have abated, at least for the time being, and we have seen constructive engagement since the General Election. It is very welcome that the British Government maintains it wants a positive trade and investment relationship with China, which will benefit the working class of both countries



# LABOUR & CAPITAL

'The precondition for the production of surplus value is the transformation of labour power into a commodity. Workers who are free of the means of production and forced to sell their labour power are available on the market to the owner of money only at a particular stage of social development. The consumption of this commodity (labour power) is equivalent to the creation of new value.'

**Vitaly Vygodsky** *Great Soviet Encyclopedia*



## Labour is balancing the books on the backs of the poor

Starmer, Reeves, Kendall, Lammy, Cooper, Streeting are a real nightmare.  
**Alex Gordon** on the roots in economic policy of Labour's leadership crisis

**W**HATEVER YOU say about Blair, he was good at politics. He made criminal policy decisions such as illegally invading Iraq at the cost of a million Iraqi lives, overthrowing Gadafi to install warlords in Libya, keeping Tory anti-union laws, failing to renationalise Railtrack and the Train Operating Companies after the Southall, Ladbroke Grove, Hatfield and Potters Bar rail crashes killed 49 people,

privatising London Underground infrastructure, the list goes on. But for all his monstrous political crimes, Blair had the charm of a psychopath and he could read the room.

Starmer's bunch of third rate HR managers don't have these advantages. They are rubbish at politics and everyone can see it. That's why Morgan MacSweeney (reputed to be Peter Mandelson's man in

No.10) reportedly told journalists he likens Starmer to a man riding in the front seat of a DLR train who thinks he's driving it.

They are desperate to get rid of Starmer and get another clone into No.10, but the quality is so low.

Those who complain loudest about Starmer betraying Labour values are those who were dumb enough to believe that he and his mob had anything to do with those values in the first place.

Starmer, as those who know him and have first hand experience of working with him in his CLP have attested, is a consummate liar. But he has more or less killed off any left in the Labour Party at a time when the old certainties of the Labour right are collapsing.

Trump looks like ending the so-called 'Special Relationship' and preparing to withdraw US protection from NATO.

The EU is falling apart as Germany deindustrialises and France loses its African empire. The cost of living in Britain is about to skyrocket as Richard Murphy explains in his very good video.

According to the Office for Budget Responsibility, the Bank of England base rate is forecast to fall to 4% this year and then flatline until 2029, while CPI inflation is predicted to fall from 3% to 2%. With the BoE base rate at 4% and CPI at 2%, the real cost of borrowing is the difference between them (ie 2%, which is high).

The overall cost of UK government borrowing is going to rise significantly to

over 5%. This is going to be financed by an increase in mortgage interest rates from below 4% to above 5% over the next five years as house prices increase sharply, which will massively impact us all through increased mortgage repayments and increased rents.

Household savings in Britain are collapsing as workers and families eat through their reserves or any wage rises. According to the OBR all this will be balanced by an increase in foreign currency spending and saving in the UK economy (in reality, this is hot money flowing into the City of London and foreign investors speculating on house prices in the UK economy).

So, to balance her budget, Rachel Reeves is depending on foreign investors attracted by high interest rates that cripple the domestic economy. She is balancing the books on the backs of the poor.

This is the perfect time to tax the rich, but Rachel Reeves won't do that because it might scare them away.

A progressive government would ruthlessly chase down the Non Doms and tax avoiders and lower interest rates to stimulate the domestic economy. Instead we have another government run in the interest of the bankers in the City of London and the global oligarchs. , racism and war!

ALEX GORDON WAS PRESIDENT OF THE RAIL, MARITIME AND TRANSPORT UNION

## Starmer discovers the 'magic money tree' in time to finance war

**Nick Wright**  
**OPINION**

**T**HE TUC response to Chancellor Rachel Reeves' Spring Statement carefully avoided criticism of the main feature of Labour's economic policy which is to double down on its austerity plans to meet its arbitrary fiscal rule.

On the government's social security cuts, TUC general secretary Paul Nowak offered mild criticism: 'Ministers need to rethink their plans. Decisions that affect millions of people's lives must be made with care – not as a last-minute response to changed fiscal forecasts.'

He said that these changes mean many disabled people – in work or not – will be pushed into hardship and removing support could even make it harder for some people to stay in their jobs.

'Disabled people need timely access to high quality healthcare, and accessible jobs – particularly in the towns and

communities where there are fewest opportunities' he said.

The TUC is hobbled by its consensual approach which means that sharp criticism of the austerity drive made even more damaging by the drive to ramp up war spending is dampened by the near veto defence industry unions exercise.

The TUC position – that Labour inherited a toxic economic legacy from the Conservatives but the Chancellor took the right call to invest in repairing our public services and infrastructure – flies in the face of the reality that far from repairing public services the ludicrous posturing over rearmament damages any prospect of renewing public services after years of Tory cuts.

The TUC makes the entirely correct point that: 'As the last 14 years have shown us – you cannot cut your way to growth. UK taxes are low as a share of GDP. Those with the broadest shoulders must continue to contribute more through

a fairer tax system.'

But the reality is that without a challenge to the financialisation of our economy – without a restoration of public ownership for transport, mail, utilities and energy – the never ending big business robbery of public revenues will continue.

It is absolutely true, as Paul Nowak argues, that public sector workers are key deliverers of national renewal, that after 14 years of Tory chaos and ruin, many feel burnt out and demoralised and that it is vital the government invests in these workers and recognises the key role they play in improving the services we all rely on. And while it is true that any approach to transforming our public services must include clear workforce plans for every part of our public sector, developed in partnership with staff and unions, this merely scratches the surface of the problem without a fundamental shift to public ownership.

The TUC is on the right track in calling

for a review of both the role of the Office of Budget Responsibility and how it models the long-term impacts of public investment and that short-term changes in forecasts should not be driving long-term government decision-making.

But the OBR is merely the instrument of the bipartisan government policy which subordinates economic decision making to big business imperatives, the banks and the bond markets.

All discussion of economic policy that takes Reeves' 'fiscal' responsibility as its foundation is so much hot air now that our ruling class has, at last, discovered the long lost magic money tree just in time to fund a massive expansion of military spending.

There has never been a time in recent history where the well being of working people has been so dependent on stopping the drive to war and diverting funds to reinforce the welfare state

NICK WRIGHT IS EDITOR OF UNITY!



# LABOUR & CAPITAL

“There is a drowsy state, between sleeping and waking, when you dream more in five minutes with your eyes half open, and yourself half conscious of everything that is passing around you, than you would in five nights with your eyes fast closed, and your senses wrapt in perfect unconsciousness. At such time, a mortal knows just enough of what his mind is doing, to form some glimmering conception of its mighty powers, its bounding from earth and spurning time and space, when freed from the restraint of its corporeal associate.” **Charles Dickens**, *Oliver Twist*



**‘In this debate I appear as Oliver Twist ... I ask for more’**

## Lord John Hendy on two of the gaps in the Labour Government's Employment Rights legislation

This is the text of Lord John Hendy's speech to the House of Lords on Thursday 17 March 2025, in the debate on the Employment Rights Bill:

<https://tinyurl.com/5ym9un5w> or go to [ier.org.uk](http://ier.org.uk) to follow the link to view the debate

‘My Lords, I congratulate my noble friend the Minister on her elegant exposition of the Bill in opening today's debate. I also congratulate our four maiden speakers on their excellent contributions. Like the noble Lord, Lord Balfe, I enjoyed the contributions of no less than three former general secretaries and one former AGS of the TUC.

In this debate I appear as Oliver Twist. Although, like others, I express gratitude for the Bill in place of the starvation rations given to workers by the previous Government, I ask for more.

The Bill will confer many benefits on our 34 million-strong workforce, but it is a long way short of the full—but hardly gastronomic—menu in Labour's Green Paper, *A New Deal for Working People*, drafted by a committee to which I had the honour to be legal adviser and which was chaired by Andy McDonald MP. *A New Deal for Working People* was adopted by the Labour Conference in 2021, reaffirmed in 2022, reiterated in Labour's *Plan to Make Work Pay: Delivering A New Deal for Working People*, and referenced in both the election manifesto and the King's Speech.

Time permits me to raise only two of the many items left off the bill of fare. Both are essential to increase pay, and hence demand, in the economy. Both are vital to substitute negotiation for litigation. The first is sectoral collective bargaining: in other words, collective bargaining between unions and multiple employers to reach a collective agreement setting minimum terms across a particular sector called a “fair pay agreement”. *A New Deal for Working People* committed to introduce them across the economy. Labour's *Plan to Make Work Pay* promised to “start by establishing a new Fair Pay Agreement in the adult social care sector”.

The election manifesto referred to this fair pay agreement as a “sector collective agreement”. In contrast, the Bill makes no provision for sector-wide collective bargaining in any part of the economy. Instead, it expressly provides that the School Support Staff Negotiating Body

does not constitute collective bargaining, and that its outputs are not collective agreements. For the Adult Social Care Negotiating Body, the Minister has regulatory power to so rule.

In any event, ministerial control over these bodies' membership, terms of reference and manner of working, with unfettered power to override any agreement or disagreement, completely negates the definition of free collective bargaining, both in statutory and international law.

My second issue is the right to strike. The Bill sweeps away the minimum service level Act, and most of the Trade Union Act 2016; it simplifies notice and extends ballot mandate. The Government are to be congratulated. But the Bill does not remove the anti-union legislation of the 1980s, which hamstring unions and has led to a near collapse in collective agreement coverage. That legislation is incompatible in a number of respects with our ratified obligations under ILO Convention 87 and Article 6(4) of the European Social Charter. This is not a matter of opinion. The supervisory bodies have so held consistently since 1989, as my noble friends Lord Barber and Lady Boustead have mentioned. A new deal committed this party to bringing our law on industrial action into line with our international legal obligations. It is a rule-of-law issue. The Bill will need to be amended accordingly.

Nevertheless, the grace and eloquence of the Minister make her singularly ill-fitted to play Mr Bumble.’

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# DEMOCRACY & CENTRALISM

The Party is centralised, so that it can intervene in the class struggle as a disciplined and united force, once policy is decided. These points embody the principles of democratic centralism which “combines the democratic participation of the membership in Party life with an elected centralised leadership capable of directing the entire Party.”

**Aims and Constitution of the Communist Party**

## Communist Party Congress 2025

‘The congress will deal with the main contradictions and problems in Britain: inequality, cost of living, poverty and deprivation, public services including health and social care; housing, energy, pollution, transport, media monopolies; and the role of the Alternative Economic Strategy’



**Judith Cazorla**

**CONGRESS 2025**

**T**HE 2025 COMMUNIST PARTY Congress will be held this year on Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday, November 14-16.

The congress takes place at **Wortley Hall, Sheffield, widely known as the workers' stately home.**

### Main issues

At their January and March 2025 meetings, the party's Executive and Political committees identified the main issues which the leadership believes should be at the centre of debate.

These would form the major part of a single, main political resolution dealing with both international and domestic issues.

The opening, international section is to consider the re-assertion of capitalism's general crisis; its inability to meet people's needs for a decent life, sustainable development, peace and environmental security; capitalism's inability to meet carbon emissions targets and combat global warming; the intensified drive by the main imperialist powers to dominate the world's resources, markets and communications; implications for space exploration; contradictions between the main capitalist powers, including within NATO and the EU; marginalisation of the United Nations, its agencies and international law – the disintegration of the post-WW2 settlement and of capitalism's neoliberal phase?; the rise of China as an economic and ideological force for peace and progress and of BRICS as an economic bloc; the return to re-militarisation and resource wars (Ukraine, Palestine and Africa); the expansion of the military-industrial complex in Britain, Europe, the US, Japan, etc.

The resolution will deal with the Labour government's foreign and military policies; representing British imperialism – nuclear rearmament, military spending, China, rapprochement with EU and alignment with US imperialism (NATO, Israel/ Palestine, Middle East, UK and Cyprus bases, Diego Garcia, AUKUS).

Congress will consider the vital role of the peace and anti-war movement internationally dealing with the role of the World Peace Council and domestically, CND, Stop the War and the British Peace Assembly; the role of trade unions in the struggle against militarism, for socially useful production and jobs.

### Crisis

A central theme will be capitalism's general crisis and its key features today as the main source of economic, social and political instability: monopoly power, marketisation, deregulation, privatisation, financialisation, ideological offensive (including racism, xenophobia, anti-trade unionism, anti-socialism/communism).

The congress will deal with the main contradictions and problems in Britain: inequality, cost of living, poverty and deprivation, public services including health and social care; housing, energy, pollution, transport, media monopolies; and the role of the Alternative Economic Strategy.

There will be a focus on the exploitation and oppression of women; inequality, in particular wages and pensions; violence against women and girls; prostitution and the 'Nordic model' and building the women's movement for liberation.

Racism, the far right and the fight for anti-racist laws and policies; super-exploitation of migrant labour; exposing Reform UK with class politics. The threat to democratic rights; local government and progressive federalism; anti-protest laws and rulings; policing, SpyCops, the intelligence services.

A future for youth: education, housing, employment rights, trade unionism, work and new technology.

Political consequences, including the rise of the far right and neo-fascists; disintegration of social democracy; ultra-leftism and sectarianism; strengthening the international Communist movement.

The Labour party and government – current direction and prospects; the Communist Party's response – which way forward for the labour movement and the left?; building the trade union movement, Broad Lefts, a united front and the *Morning Star*; electoral tactics and strategy; campaigning in working class communities; the role and work of the Communist Party, notably among workers, women and youth.

### How is the congress constituted?

The July 5-6 meeting of the EC will decide the total number of Branch delegates to Congress from each District and Nation, according to the District and National (Scotland and Wales) dues-paying membership figures at Party centre as at June 30, 2025.

These allocations will be calculated on the basis of a standard ratio, e.g. one delegate per 10, 12 or 15 members. The English District, Scottish and Welsh National Committees will then allocate these delegates to the Branches, or groups of Branches, within their area. In addition, each District and Nation committee is entitled to elect two delegates to Congress.

The EC will also decide the basis on which Consultative delegates and guests and observers may attend the Congress.

### Costs

An element of central funding will be used to keep the Branch, District and Nation delegate fee as low as possible and travel costs will be reimbursed. The choice of venue will have no significant impact on the total number of delegates entitled to attend the November 2025 Congress.



### International guests

In addition to representatives from Communist and workers' parties domiciled in Britain, our Congress will also be hosting guests from parties overseas. This year, we are inviting them from the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Communist Party of Ireland, the German Communist Party (DKP) and the Communist Party of South Africa.

### Amendments To Rule and nd Congress Standing Orders

Branches, and District and Nation Committees may propose amendments to the Party's Rules and Congress Standing Orders (copies attached). Any such amendments must be submitted in writing to Party centre no later than noon on Friday, May 2.

### Your views

Party organisations are invited to submit their views on the above proposals to Party centre by post or email () on any of the matters outlined herein by Monday, May 15.

### Timetable

**2 May:** deadline for receipt of Branch, District and Nation (BDN) amendments to Party rules and Congress standing orders.

**9 July:** Party centre to issue EC resolutions, rules amendments, EC attendance record, Congress agenda, and BDN delegate allocations to Party organisations.

**2 October:** deadline for receipt of BDN resolutions and amendments to the EC resolutions and of nominations for the EC, Appeals Committee and Auditors.

**14-23 October:** Congress committees to meet and formulate proposals.

**14-16 November** Congress takes place at Wortley Hall, Sheffield.

*Pictured above.*

Banner image  
*Hammer and Sickle*  
1935

Tina Moddotti  
Italian actress,  
photographer and  
revolutionary



# KARL MARX ANNIVERSARY 2025

‘The weapon of criticism cannot, of course, replace criticism of the weapon, material force must be overthrown by material force; but theory also becomes a material force as soon as it has gripped the masses. Theory is capable of gripping the masses as soon as it demonstrates *ad hominem*, and it demonstrates *ad hominem* as soon as it becomes radical. To be radical is to grasp the root of the matter. But, for man, the root is man himself.’  
**Karl Marx**, Introduction to the *Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right* 1843



Her Excellency  
Mrs Ismara M.  
Vargas Walter is  
the Cuban  
Ambassador to  
the United  
Kingdom



Alex Gordon



Dr Ashok  
Dhawale is a  
member of the  
Polit Burea of the  
Communist Party  
of India (Marxist)  
and National  
President of the  
All India Kisan  
Sabha, All India  
Farmers’ Union

**D**ISTINGUISHED Chairperson of this august gathering and Secretary of the Marx Memorial Library Professor Mary Davis, Her Excellency the Ambassador of Cuba to the UK Ismara Vargas Walter, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Britain Robert Griffiths, Chairperson of the MML Alex Gordon, Treasurer of the MML Harsev Bains, distinguished representatives from the Embassies of China, Vietnam, Laos, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, and my dear comrades and friends,

At the outset, I profusely thank the leadership of the CPB and the MML for giving me this great honour and privilege of delivering the 2025 Marx Oration to mark the death anniversary of the greatest revolutionary thinker who ever lived, Karl Marx. On behalf of the one million members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), and the 15 million members of the All India Kisan Sabha, I convey my warmest revolutionary greetings to you all.

On 17 March 1883, 142 years ago, the great Frederick Engels was here, close to this very spot, paying homage at the fresh grave of his closest comrade and friend. Engels said, “Marx was before all else a revolutionist... His name will endure through the ages, and so also will his work.”

How prophetic Engels was! The name and work of Marx has not only endured, but has greatly enhanced, through the ages. Marx wrote in his youth, “The philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways; the point, however, is to change it.” His scientific, critical, and revolutionary method of the analysis of society has indeed changed the world, and there is no doubt that it will change it even more.

His discovery of the science of dialectical and historical materialism, the theory of surplus value which uncovers the reality of exploitation, and his stress on the necessity of a political class struggle to achieve revolution, liberation, and socialism, have been borne out by the actual experience of gigantic struggles. The historic saga of various socialist revolutions and their spectacular achievements, and of the iconic and victorious struggle of the Soviet Union against world fascism, will always live on through the ages.

The state of the world today proves the relevance of Marx’ analysis. Let us take just three brief quotes of Marx and see how perfectly they apply today.

In *Capital*, Volume I (1867), Marx writes, “If money, according to Augier, ‘comes into the world with a congenital blood-stain on one cheek,’ capital comes dripping from head to foot, from every pore, with blood

and dirt.” Here, Marx adds a footnote quoting T J Dunning, “With adequate profit, capital is very bold. A certain 10 per cent will ensure its employment anywhere; a certain 20 per cent will produce eagerness; 50 per cent, positive audacity; 100 per cent will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 per cent, and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk that it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged. If turbulence and strife will bring a profit, it will freely encourage both.”

In *Capital*, Volume I, again, Marx writes, “Accumulation of wealth at one pole is, therefore, at the same time, accumulation of misery, agony of toil, slavery, ignorance, brutality, mental degradation at the opposite pole, i.e. on the side of the class that produces its own product in the form of capital.”

In the *Communist Manifesto* (1848), Marx and Engels write, “The need of a constantly expanding market for its products chases the bourgeoisie over the whole surface of the globe. It must nestle everywhere, settle everywhere, establish connections everywhere.” Marx and Engels in this prescient passage, hint at the globalization to come – a full 177 years ago!

With the development of capitalism, Lenin enriched this concept of Marx in his

**C**OMRADES, FRIENDS, and Honored Guests, it is a profound privilege and honor to stand here today at this hallowed ground, Highgate Cemetery, this sacred place of memory and struggle, where Karl Marx, the titan of revolutionary thought, rests, but continues to inspire the struggles of the working class and oppressed peoples across the world.

I extend my gratitude to the Marx Memorial Library and the Communist Party of Britain for this invitation, and I share this platform with pride alongside Dr. Ashok Dhawale, a steadfast champion of India’s farmers and workers.

We gather today not only to honour Karl Marx’s legacy but to reaffirm our commitment to the ideas that ignited the Cuban Revolution and continue to guide our struggle for justice, sovereignty, and socialism.

Marx once wrote, ‘The philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it.’ These words became a compass for Cuba. When Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro, Che Guevara, and their comrades launched the assault on the Moncada Barracks in 1953, a defining spark of

seminal work, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism* (1917).

What do we see in the world today, which underlines the relevance of Marx?

Gross and obscene inequalities abound. The world’s richest 1 per cent own more wealth than the bottom 95 per cent of humanity. Since 2020, the richest 1 per cent have grabbed nearly 67 per cent of all new wealth – nearly twice as much as the bottom 99 per cent. Billionaire fortunes are rising by \$2.7 billion a day, even as inflation outpaces the wages of 1.7 billion workers.

On the other hand, in 2023, 46 per cent of the world’s population, or over 3 billion people, are living under the global poverty line of \$ 6.85 (2017 purchasing power parity) per day. Of these, 700 million people live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$ 2.15 per day. 10.7 per cent of the world population (864.1 million) is affected by severe food insecurity, and of these 60 per cent who go hungry are women and girls.

The global unemployment rate today is 5 per cent, and the global youth unemployment rate is 13 per cent. Newer technologies and artificial intelligence are aggravating unemployment and exploitation, and leading to still greater super-profits for the large monopolies and corporate houses. In 2024, 54 countries

our Revolution, they did so not merely to overthrow a dictator but to dismantle the capitalist and imperialist structures that enslaved Cuba.

The triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959 was not just the fall of a tyrant; it was the birth of a socialist project inspired by Marxism, by the belief that the workers and peasants must be the true owners of their destiny. It was a victory against not just Batista, but against an entire system designed to keep Cuba subjugated as a neo-colony of the United States. It was an affirmation that revolution is not only necessary but possible, even in the face of overwhelming odds.

The Cuban Revolution was born from Marxist analysis. We understood that our island, exploited by U.S. imperialism, could only achieve liberation by uprooting the class divisions and foreign domination Marx so rigorously dissected. The Granma expedition, the Sierra Maestra guerrilla struggle, and the triumph of January 1, 1959, were not just military victories; they were the culmination of a Marxist-Leninist struggle tailored to our material conditions.

Marxism is not a relic in Cuba; it is a living practice. The U.S. blockade, now living its seventh decade, was designed to strangle our economy and demoralize our people. Despite the relentless attacks against our right to self-determination, Cuba stands firm, proving that socialism is not only viable but necessary in the face of capitalist crises, growing inequality, and

were in a debt crisis, and net resource transfers from developing to developed countries have averaged \$ 700 billion per year.

There is not a shadow of doubt that all the above stark facts are a direct result of the policies of neo-liberalism and imperialist globalization, which have intensified in the last four decades. These policies met with a rude shock in 2008 with the global financial crisis which began in the USA, spread to Europe and all over the world, and forced many capitalist world leaders to turn to none other than the 'best hated and most calumniated' Marx to get a credible explanation for these events! What a poetic irony that was!

The rising social unrest as a result of these extreme global inequalities between the Global North and the Global South, economic and social inequalities within each nation, and the attacks of the ruling classes on the working people through 'austerity measures', is being broadly channelized in two directions, depending upon the concrete situation in each country.

One is the rightward shift in many countries, which sometimes takes the form of far-right and neo-fascist attacks on racial, religious, and other minorities, including immigrants. Ironically, this same policy of Hitler then is being faithfully copied by

environmental destruction. The blockade is not just an economic measure; it is an act of war, an attempt to crush a people who refuse to kneel before the empire.

Our youth learn Marxism not as dogma but as a tool for critical thinking. In classrooms, workplaces, and community debates, we ask: How do we reconcile globalized technology with socialist values? How do we combat climate change within a U.S.-dominated capitalist world order?

The answers lie in Marx's emphasis on collective action and scientific planning. Cuba's advances in biotechnology, universal healthcare, and education, achieved under a true siege, are testaments to this approach. When Cuba sends doctors, not bombs; when we develop vaccines, not monopolies; when we educate, not exploit, this is Marxism in action.

Marxism is not a dogma; it is a tool for liberation.

The challenge we face today is how to make its lessons accessible and relevant to new generations, both in Cuba and worldwide. We must continue to innovate in how we teach and apply Marxist principles, ensuring that they speak to the challenges of our time: digital capitalism, climate change, and the need for a multipolar world.

The digital age has brought new forms of exploitation, platform capitalism, algorithmic oppression, and the commodification of human attention. But it has also created new avenues for resistance, for organizing,

Netanyahu now, and also by some others. In many countries, the political-ideological bankruptcy of social democratic parties and their unprincipled compromises have helped the far-right to advance.

The opposite trend is the leftward shift in some countries of Latin America, Asia, and Europe, where left forces could win over sections of the people.

Donald Trump of the USA is the latest and classic example of the far-right, neo-fascist, authoritarian offensive. There is a method in his madness. It is a systematic last-ditch attempt to arrest the inexorable decline of the USA. This attempt is bound to fail. Under Trump, the likes of Elon Musk and other large corporate cronies are now directly calling the shots in the US government. This will make it even more plutocratic, neo-liberal, anti-people, and anti-democratic. Neo-liberalism thus creates the conditions for neo-fascism.

Trump's ridiculous claims on Greenland, Canada, Panama Canal, and Gaza, and the tariff and trade wars that he has unleashed, are being strongly resisted all over the world. His severe attacks on, and cutting off funds to, the United Nations and its affiliated organizations, and his disastrous steps to undermine the crucial global issue of climate justice are also being opposed tooth and nail by many forces. His stand on

**From Havana to Gaza, young people are rediscovering Marxism not as a 19th-century doctrine but as a roadmap for survival and resistance. And they are proving that the fight is not over; that the revolution is not a relic, but a necessity.**

In the *Communist Manifesto* (1848), Marx and Engels write, "The need of a constantly expanding market for its products chases the bourgeoisie over the whole surface of the globe. It must nestle everywhere, settle everywhere, establish connections everywhere." Marx and Engels in this prescient passage, hint at the globalization to come — a full

for mobilising, for spreading revolutionary consciousness. Our task is to harness these tools for the people, not for profit.

In our modern era, the struggles have evolved. We now face the crises of rampant digital surveillance, ecological degradation, and uncontrolled artificial intelligence development, challenges that the founders of Marxism could scarcely have imagined.

Marxism, for Cuba, has always been internationalist. Che Guevara reminded us that 'the true revolutionary is guided by great feelings of love,' not just for one's own people, but for all humanity. It was this love that sent Cuban doctors to fight Ebola in Africa, that saw us defend Angola against apartheid South Africa, that compels us today to stand in solidarity with Palestine.

The capitalist system, in its latest stage of neoliberalism, continues to push millions into poverty while a handful amass unimaginable wealth. Wars are waged for profit, and entire nations are subjected to unilateral measures and economic warfare to break their resistance. Imperialism has adapted, but it has not changed its essence. It still seeks to divide, to plunder, to dominate. And we must stand united against it.

Cuba's Marxist Revolution stands with Palestine, demanding an end to genocide. Cuba's Marxist Revolution stands with Venezuela and Nicaragua against U.S. criminal unilateral coercive measures. Cuba's Marxist Revolution

the Ukraine war has now ranged Western Europe against him. But on the inhuman Imperialist-backed Zionist genocide by Israel against the courageous Palestinian people of Gaza, leading to the deaths of nearly 50,000 people, with 60 per cent of them being women and children, the entire imperialist camp is fully united.

On this occasion, we salute the socialist countries like Cuba, China, Vietnam, Laos, DPRK, and the left-led countries of Latin America and Sri Lanka, who are working hard to ensure the rapid and just socio-economic progress of their people, and many are also boldly opposing Imperialism and Zionism.

In other countries too, struggles and resistance are increasing. In my country India, we saw in 2020-21 a truly iconic and united nationwide struggle by millions of farmers who blocked the national highways leading to the nation's capital Delhi for a full one year and fifteen days. They were fighting against the three pro-corporate, anti-farmer Farm Laws imposed by the central government at the height of the Covid pandemic. Over 700 farmers were martyred in this struggle, which eventually forced the government to repeal the three Farm Laws, leading to a historic victory. Now the same government is trying to implement the draconian four Labour

stands with all nations resisting imperialism because Marx taught us that capitalism's exploitation is global, and so too must be our solidarity.

Marxism teaches us that the working class has no borders, that the struggles of the Cuban people, the Indian peasantry, the striking workers around the globe, and the youth rising against imperialism all share a common goal. The unity of our struggles is the key to building a future beyond capitalism.

From Havana to Gaza, young people are rediscovering Marxism not as a 19th-century doctrine but as a roadmap for survival and resistance. And they are proving that the fight is not over, that the revolution is not a relic, but a necessity.

To them, we say: Study Marx not to memorize quotes, but to grasp the method. Organize not just in parties, but in unions, schools, and digital spaces. Fight not only for better wages, but for a better world where 'the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all.'

Let us return to Marx's grave with renewed resolve. As José Martí, Cuba's national hero, declared: 'One just principle from the depths of a cave is more powerful than an army.'

Today, Marx's principles are not in a cave but in the hearts of millions. Let us carry them forward, until dignity, solidarity, and socialism prevail.

The future belongs not only to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams but also to those who dare to strive for it.

Thank you.

Codes, which are equally pro-corporate and anti-worker. A massive united nationwide general strike by the working class, supported by a rural strike of the peasantry, in which several million workers and peasants will participate, is being planned for next month against this serious assault.

The World Social Forum (WSF) has an attractive slogan signifying hope: Another World is Possible! At the graveside of the towering revolutionary Karl Marx on his death anniversary, we need to modify it a bit to: A Socialist World is Possible! Socialism for the 21st Century is the only Alternative!

Marx and Engels concluded the *Communist Manifesto* with these resounding words, "The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win."

Comrades and friends: Let us work unitedly to prove Marx right yet again! Let us bend all our efforts to win over the minds and the hearts of our people! Let us fight with all our energy, strength, power, intelligence, and imagination, to win this world! Thank you very much. Down with Imperialism! Down with Capitalism! Down with Feudalism! Long Live Democracy! Long Live Socialism! Long Live Marxism!



# CULTURE & CLASS

'How many times have I wondered if it is really possible to forge links with a mass of people when one has never had strong feelings for anyone, not even one's own parents: if it is possible to have a collectivity when one has not been deeply loved oneself by individual human creatures. Hasn't this had some effect on my life as a militant--has it not tended to make me sterile and reduce my quality as a revolutionary by making everything a matter of pure intellect, of pure mathematical calculation?' **Antonio Gramsci**

## Culture as a force for change: Reclaiming working-class cultural democracy



The conference proposed a series of actions for the consideration of Communist Party organisations:

- Appoint Cultural Officers in each branch and inclusion of culture on meeting agendas
- Ensure branches discuss the Class and Culture pamphlet
- Promote website and publications across social platforms
- Organise independent cultural events through Party/YCL channels
- Host film screenings with discussions
- Arrange regional cultural festivals
- Organise community activities like 'Walk the Tyne for Palestine'
- Establish Party presence in cultural venues and hold branch meetings in cultural spaces
- Develop effective social media strategies across multiple platforms

Initiatives which the wider labour movement might undertake included proposals for trades councils to

- Establish a cultural issues sub-group
- Influence local cultural schemes to build mechanisms for cultural democracy and working-class participation

- Support cultural development in working-class communities by helping save community centres and libraries as accessible cultural hubs
- Collaborate with trade unions to organise cultural events, including events.

- Support progressive cultural organizations like the , , and
  - Propose Trade Union scholarships for working-class creative people
- Education initiatives include:
- Support for the NEU's campaign to prioritise creativity in school curriculum
  - Campaign for expanded arts training through professional apprenticeships
- Broader-Based Campaigning
- Save a local public library by joining the
  - Organise community fundraising events for cultural activities
  - Campaign for affordable football tickets and fan ownership through the
  - Create a cultural event as part of the United Front campaign
  - Identify a cultural issue your local People's Assembly can rally around
  - Set up a cultural platform for your local Morning Star Readers' Group
  - Host Palestine/Cuba solidarity events with cultural elements (films, food, music)
  - Connect with existing cultural interests, especially what young people care about
  - Support Black community events
  - Fund and commission progressive films or documentaries
  - Find relatable issues that spark action – like how "Cathy Come Home" led to the establishment of Shelter
  - Add cultural dimensions to May Day



**Ron Brown**  
**CULTURE**

**T**HE CLASS and Culture conference – perfectly situated at the miners' union head offices in Barnsley– explored how culture can be a powerful catalyst for social transformation. Centred on building cultural democracy and embedding cultural work within the Communist Party and wider labour movement, the gathering highlighted culture's essential role in liberation and resistance.

Ruth Styles, the party's chair, delivered a keynote speech emphasising how culture – particularly music – unites people in a common cause and communicates our movement's history. She highlighted that occupational and financial colonisers deliberately destroy indigenous cultures to

demoralise and undermine united resistance, replacing them with a sterile consumerism and alien capitalist values. Under capitalism, cultural activities become corrupted by profit motives and are forced to conform to dominant social orders. Ruth argued that culture is fundamentally a class issue, requiring liberation and promotion of working-class cultural expression alongside economic and political struggles.

The conference addressed three critical challenges as identified in the *Class and Culture* booklet:

- Working people's limited access to cultural experiences due to financial, geographical, and educational barriers
- Rising unequal access to careers in cultural sectors for working-class people
- Lack of representation and respect for working-class lives and experiences in cultural content



# REALISM IN ART

‘To describe a visual mode as realist is by no means to equate it with naturalism. “Naturalism is as much at odds with realism as it is with its ugly sister abstractionism. The one excludes the objective content in painting and the other the subjective. “Naturalism, therefore, can have no higher aspiration than the gimcrack achievement of a ‘trompe l’oeil’ effect — its moment of triumph comes when the birds fly in at the window to peck the grapes in the fresco of Appelles.’ **Lucian Amaral** 1975 writing in *Artery* magazine,



Far left:  
Lucian Amaral  
The Raising of  
Lazarus  
held at the NUM  
head office in  
Barnsley

Middle left:  
Selling the *Daily  
Worker*  
relief print by Ken  
Spague circa 1962

Above  
Watercolour by  
Cliff Rowe. A  
female war  
worker in  
protective clothing  
is shown cleaning  
a locomotive.  
One of a series  
of the St Pancras  
Locomotive  
Cleaning and  
Goods Yard  
between 1940  
and 1945

events and feature *Class and Culture*

- Consider Edinburgh Fringe participation
- Support Workers' Music Association
- Join or promote socialist choirs and street choirs
- Connect with gamers and promote progressive games like 'This War of Mine'
- Use diverse media (graphic novels, folk art, street art, TikTok) to share messages
- Organise cultural exchanges with socialist countries

This conference, organised by the Culture Commission, represents a significant step toward reclaiming culture as a liberating force for working-class communities and building a more democratic cultural landscape that truly represents all people's experiences and values. Special thanks go to all the staff at NUM Headquarters and to all the speakers, performers and event organisers.

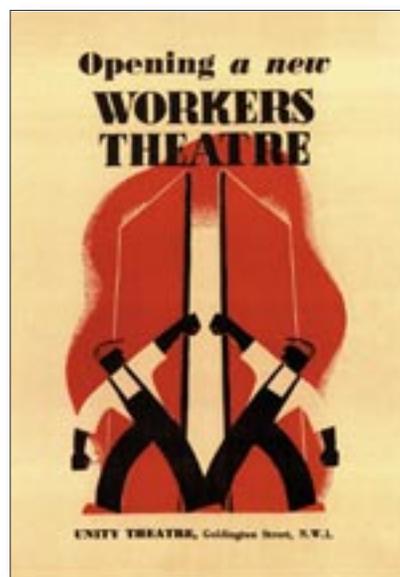
RON BROWN IS A MUSICIAN AND CONVENOR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S CULTURE COMMISSION  
Special thanks to Laura Miller in compiling the report



**CULTURE MATTERS** Co-operative is a collective of writers, artists and activists who work together to promote cultural democracy. Culture includes all learned human activities, including the arts like literature, film, theatre, music etc. but also sport, the media, eating and drinking, and religion. For us, culture matters! It is a vital and fundamental part of human life, bringing us all kinds of entertainment, enlightenment and enjoyment. So the various ways in which cultural activities and experiences are created, distributed and consumed are essential for human development, wellbeing and happiness.

Cultural experiences in class-divided societies like ours are often compromised and commercialised, and manipulated to serve the need for dominant classes to

## culture and class connections



**Unity Theatre Trust**  
147 Myddleton Ave, Finsbury Park,  
London N4 2FP  
<https://unitytheatre.org.uk>

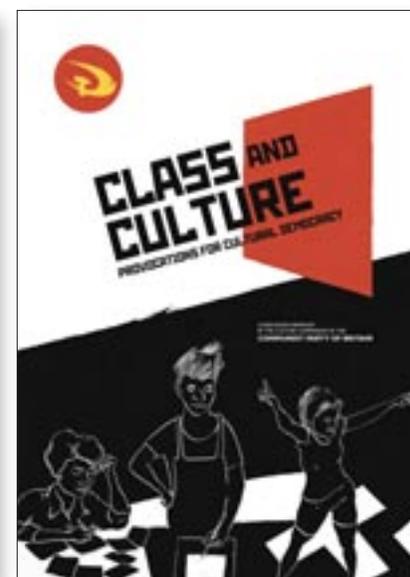
**Workers Music Association**  
136a Westbourne Terrace  
Greater London, W2

justify and maintain their exploitative and oppressive social structures. We want culture democratised – owned, managed and enjoyed by working people.

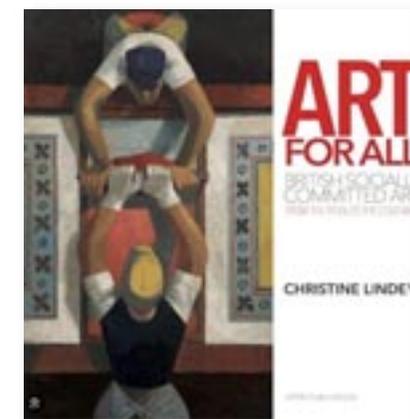
Culture Matters works to promote cultural democracy. It runs a website, publish creative and critical material. It has published over 50 books – mostly poetry, short stories and children's books including books by award-winning poets like Fran Lock, Fred Voss, Martin Hayes, Jane Burn and others.

Together with trade unions, Culture Matters also runs the annual Bread and Roses Poetry Award, which seeks to encourage and support new working-class writers of poetry. And it also works with trade unions to support the cultural education of their members, and to campaign for better representation of the labour movement on relevant cultural decision-making bodies.

The current team of Associate Editors and support staff includes: Alan McGuire, Kevin McCann, Jim Aitken, Attila Ajtai, Dennis Broe, Jenny Farrell, Sally Flint, Martin Gollan, Judith Gordon, Gillian Grant, Brett Gregory, Gemma June Howell, Michael Jarvie, Mike Jenkins, Fran Lock, Rebecca Lowe, Alan Morrison, Mike Quille and Ben Stevenson.



▲ *Class and culture* is published by the Communist Party and obtainable from <https://tinyurl.com/ndyr4n6w>



*Art for All: British Socially Committed Art from the 1930s to the Cold War*  
2018  
Paperback: ISBN 978-0-9558228-8-9  
Hardback: ISBN 978-1-5272310-6-1

*Art for All* reveals a forgotten or marginalised area of 20th century British art. Christine Lindey delves into the fascinating treasure trove of British socially-committed art from the 30s through to the Cold War, and of which most people will be unaware.

[www.arterypublicitions.co.uk](http://www.arterypublicitions.co.uk)



# INTERNATIONAL bulletin

‘This organisation of the proletarians into a class, and, consequently into a political party, is continually being upset again by the competition between the workers themselves. But it ever rises up again, stronger, firmer, mightier. It compels legislative recognition of particular interests of the workers, by taking advantage of the divisions among the bourgeoisie itself.’

**Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels** *The Manifesto of the Communist Party* 1848



## Turkey arrests

**Kevan Nelson**

### REPRESSION

**L**EADING MEMBERS of the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) are among hundreds detained by security forces after joining in mass protests in defence of the right to engage in politics

The TKP said that six party members had been arrested, initially announced to be released, and then referred to the court with a last minute change of decision with a request for pre-trial detention. They included the head of the Istanbul TKP and party council members Ahmet Dincel and Arda Hacıyusufoğlu.

The crackdown began on 19 March with detention orders issued for more than 100 people, including Istanbul mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and journalist İsmail Saymaz.

On the first day, the TKP called on the people to organise against AKP tyranny. The party called for protests in Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir to defend the right to vote and be elected, stand by press workers and the freedom of information, and protest the government’s arbitrary practices. The TKP said their participation was not to support any presidential candidate or political party, but to stand for their country and the future of their people; for the Republic, for secularism, for independence and for socialism!

The TKP also countered the government’s claims that widespread public demonstrations are orchestrated by ‘foreign powers’ with a statement aimed

at strengthening the resistance of these protests: ‘As we have repeatedly emphasized, the crisis of governance in Turkey is deepening by the day. We are witnessing a moment where the government has become so desperate and fractured that it is now attempting to abolish the fundamental right to vote and be elected.

‘According to the government and its loyal media, foreign powers are orchestrating an operation against Turkey. But let’s be clear: The retirees abandoned to hunger, the students robbed of their future, and the citizens deprived of their voting rights have nothing to do with foreign powers. The people of Anatolia cannot be bought, nor can they be made to betray their country.

They are right about one thing—foreign powers do seek to interfere in Turkey, as they always have. And let it be known that it was this very government that made Turkey vulnerable to such interventions.

Privatizations handed the country over to multinational monopolies and TÜSİAD (bosses organisation). The Greater Middle East Project dragged Turkey into imperialist schemes. The fabricated operations conducted hand in hand with the Gülenists shook institutions to their core and took society hostage. The privileges granted to religious sects stripped away the remaining achievements of the Republic

Their meddling in Syria turned the country into a playground for British intelligence—and they called it a ‘victory.’

Today, a vast majority of the country lives in poverty and despair, while a handful of the wealthy hoard all the riches. For years, they justified it all by saying, ‘But the people elected us.’ Now, it seems, they have decided that they no longer even need the people’s vote. Enough!

We say this to the government: Do not try to suppress the people with your rhetoric about ‘foreign powers’ when the country’s economy is controlled by a small elite that serves only itself, when Turkey is a NATO member, and when it has been handed over to religious sects and corporate monopolies.

This exploitative system will not stop foreign interventions. The people will.

Workers, retirees, students, intellectuals, and impoverished farmers who stand for independence, the Republic, secularism, and equality will break the every game.”

Britain’s communists have condemned the actions of the Turkish government and sent a solidarity message to the TKP.

KEVAN NELSON IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY’S INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY



## Cuts spark strike

**Unity reporter**

### BELGIUM

**W**ORKERS ACROSS Belgium stopped work on the last day of March in a protest against budget cuts. The strike was a warning directed at the newly formed government, made up of the right-wing Flemish nationalist party (N-VA), the right-wing liberals (MR), Christian democrats (Les Engagés and CD&V), and social democrats (Vooruit).

This followed a 100,000 strong demonstration on 13 February. With no response from the Prime Minister’s office, this warning escalated into a massive mobilisation from working-class Belgium, leading to the largest strike in 10 years.

Every sector of the country was affected, with over 700 picket lines and actions. The Belgian Workers Party (PTB/PvDA) said the diversity of participants highlights the scale of the movement with workers in metal,

chemicals, petrochemicals, and pharmaceuticals; logistics, agriculture and food, retail, and transport; hospitals, education, care, and non-profit sectors; other public services on strike. Workers in the cultural and community sector mounted a massive gathering of artists and cultural workers at Brussels’ Place de la Monnaie. Young people were also involved, with not only young workers on picket lines but also school and university students were mobilised.

On 29 April, unions are calling for another national day of action.

The PvDA/PTB report that the party’s late April march against social cuts and for peace is gaining strong support, and May 1 is already shaping up to be a major moment of social resistance.

Actions will continue through May, June, and beyond. ‘If the country was at a standstill today, this spring promises to be a stormy one!’ said explains Benjamin Pestieau, PvDA-PTB deputy general secretary.

## The EU at war?

**Starmer plans a new single market for the military industrial complex. The government has floated plans for a European fund to ‘stockpile weapons’. This supranational vehicle would purchase (from the US?) at more favourable borrowing rates reports the Financial Times**





# INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The history and bloody experiences of the world's peoples demonstrate the reality that whenever the cry of indignation and protest and the powerful force of international solidarity meet with the popular struggle and revolutionary forces of any country, prison doors are flung open; the banner of peace is raised higher; the militant and justice-seeking march of the toilers becomes more resolute; and the executioners' tools are dulled, while those of the people fighting for freedom, independence, and social justice become sharper and more well-defined.' **Tudeh Party 2025**



## Iran in revolt

Iran's communists, organised in the Tudeh Party of Iran held an important meeting of its central committee earlier this year. This followed the party's seventh congress in June 2022 and a series of five meetings to further articulate and fine tune its policies. Unity! talked to Navid Shomali, the party's international secretary, to set the meeting in context.

### 27 June, 2024

Iranian workers employed at oil and gas sector projects, at more than 90 worksites including refineries, oil and gas installations and power plants throughout Iran, started striking on 20 June, demanding shift changes, elimination of employment agencies and wage increases.

**Unity! Iran is under enormous pressure from imperialism and its proxy in Israel. In this context how can we understand developments inside Iran?**

**Navid Shomali:** The report of the TPI politburo covered the analysis of the developments inside Iran, as well as regionally and internationally. The TPI emphasises its total opposition to any foreign intervention in Iran under any pretext. It argues that in view of the policies of world imperialism and the deep and widespread crisis in the Middle East region it is necessary to deepen international solidarity with the Iranian people's struggle for freedom, independence, social justice, peace, and the right to national sovereignty. The report emphasises the need to mobilise and prepare all fronts of the struggle in preparation for a 'National Democratic Revolution' in Iran. It also addressed the current international situation including, among other issues, the ongoing devastating war in Ukraine, the crimes of the Israeli apartheid regime in Gaza, the complex and worrying wider developments in the Middle East, as well as the alarming rise of right-wing and quasi-fascist forces worldwide.

**Unity! What can you tell us about the situation inside the country.**

**NS:** The situation is worsening in Iran today. Under the shadow of the authoritarian and theocratic rule of the Islamic Republic, it is facing numerous serious crises. The unfettered implementation of neoliberal capitalist economic policies, including widespread privatisation, the suppression of the labour movement and other socio-economic protests, along with endemic corruption and the crippling unjust imperialist sanctions, have led to a precipitous decline in employment as well as livelihoods for the middle class and have pushed an ever-growing swathe of the country's already struggling population below the poverty line. According to official statistics, more than 40% of the Iranian population now lives below the poverty line. The unequal distribution of wealth has further sharpened class disparities in the country. Workers' strikes for living wages, for job security, and trade union recognition by the employers are now linked with weekly protests by retirees and in all cities. The social base of the regime has significantly shrunk. It has collapsed to less than 20% population.

**Unity! How is the resistance to the regime developing?**

**NS:** A nationwide and powerful 'Woman, Life, Freedom' uprising erupted in September 2022 with the massive participation of women, youth, and popular strata. This forced the regime into significant retreats from positions it had previously been intransigent on.

The central committee meeting looked in detail at the protest movement of the working class and other toilers in the country, who have taken up the struggle on a large scale against the regime's disastrous economic and social policies. Not only did the Woman, Life, Freedom protests transform the political climate of the country, but they also exposed rifts within the regime and sowed serious concerns within the government about its future. The continuation of popular protests in various forms over the past two years - despite all the regime's pressures and crackdowns - demonstrated clearly that the clerical regime remains incapable of resolving its deep political and economic crises, and that through continued and expanding struggle, the regime can indeed be forced to further retreat.

**Unity! The Tudeh Party operates clandestinely inside Iran. What are your party's immediate priorities**

**NS:** The meeting reached agreement on efforts to deepen and expand upon this movement. In its message to the Communist and Workers Parties across the globe it said: 'Drawing upon its practical experience over the past four decades, the Tudeh Party strives to explain the nature of the political dictatorship ruling Iran, which is rooted in the ideology of 'Political Islam'. First of all, our Party seeks to place awareness of this regime's negative impact on developments across the Middle East, as well as inside Iran, at the forefront of discussions and exchanges with fraternal parties. We firmly believe that in the international

campaign to defend peace in the Middle East and to actively support the people's struggle, especially the struggle of the working people of Iran for progress and national sovereignty, it is essential to have an accurate and Marxist understanding of the true nature of Iran's theocratic dictatorship and its economic and social policies.

**Unity! The Iranian people are on the move. In the view of the Tudeh Party what forms of solidarity are most important?**

**NS:** Firstly, our party appreciates the international solidarity with the struggles of the Iranian people and toilers against the deceitful, interventionist, and warmongering schemes of world imperialism concerning Iran. This includes your condemnation of the crippling economic sanctions, whose primary victims are the most oppressed and disadvantaged social groups in Iranian society. The meeting was clear that in building upon solidarity between communist and workers' parties and other progressive forces worldwide with the Iranian people's struggle for freedom and justice against the repressive, unpopular, anti-labour policies of the theocratic regime ruling Iran that the Party must redouble in its endeavours.

Our message to our fraternal parties acknowledges that the reactionary regime in Iran has severely restricted the possibility of any effective, widespread, and powerful grassroots coordinating or organising of political and social activists within the main arenas of struggle inside the country.



# REVOLUTIONARY ACTION & IDEAS

'Photography works upon the human eye: what is seen is reflected in the brain without the need for complicated thought. In this way the bourgeoisie takes advantage of the mental indolence of the masses and does good business as well.'

Photography has become an outstanding and indispensable means of propaganda in the revolutionary struggle. *Arbeiter Fotograf*  
Two quotes from **Willi Münzenberg**. Propaganda chief of the Communist International



▲ Museums, libraries, archive and history groups are looking for trade union backing for a national partnership to mark the centenary of the General Strike next year. Gawain Little, general secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU), co-ordinating the project, said: "The 100th anniversary of the 1926 strike is a critical celebration of the power of workers to defy government and grow union consciousness across the country."



## Unity!

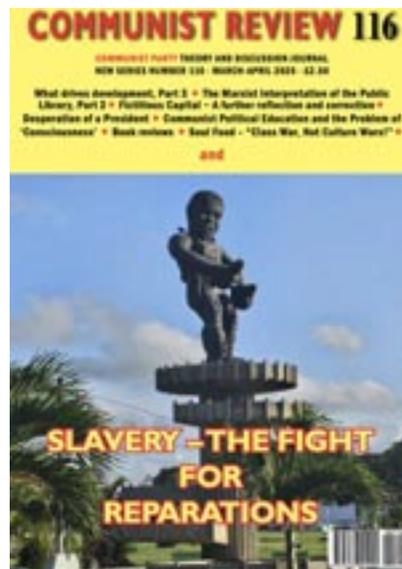
Unity! is published by the Communist Party

It published to a monthly timetable with special editions and extras at labour and solidarity movement events and with daily editions at the TUC conference.

Get it at [www.communistparty.org.uk](http://www.communistparty.org.uk) It is distributed free and readers are encouraged to forward each edition to their circle of friends, family, workmates and comrades.



▲ The April *Socialist Voice*, published by the Communist Party of Ireland is now available at <https://socialistvoice.ie>



★ Editorial *Martin Levy* ★ Slavery: the fight for reparations *Luke Daniels*  
★ The Marxist interpretation of the public library, *Joe Pateman and John Foster* ★ What drives economic development forward, and what holds it back, Part 3: *Jerry Jones*  
★ Fictitious Capital – a further reflection  
★ Reviews: How to sustain and continue the revolutionary process *John Foster*  
★ The escalation of class consciousness *Jonathan White* ★ How 'Western' Marxism came to be reconciled with late 20th-century capitalism *Nick Wright*  
★ Political education and the problem of 'consciousness' *Samuel Mercer*  
★ Soul Food: 'Class war, not culture wars!': building solidarity and class consciousness, one poem at a time *Fran Lock*

## EVENTS

Let Bill Greenshields know of events on Every Monday lunchtime – MML Tours of Marx Memorial Library [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tour-of-the-marx-memorial-library-tickets-395777510187](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tour-of-the-marx-memorial-library-tickets-395777510187)

- 3 – 9th April Stop the War Coalition – local rallies & meetings [www.stopwar.org.uk/events/](http://www.stopwar.org.uk/events/)
- 4 April 4-6.30pm Remove All Asbestos from Schools Suite 5, NEU HQ, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1 9BD
- 5 April – Palestine Solidarity Campaign – Day of Action "Don't Buy Apartheid" [palestinecampaign.org/events/dont-buy-apartheid-day-of-action/](http://palestinecampaign.org/events/dont-buy-apartheid-day-of-action/)
- 7 April weekly until 12 May – MML – Course Historical Materialism [www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/education/current-and-forthcoming-courses](http://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/education/current-and-forthcoming-courses)
- 7 April (and every Monday) Just Stop Oil online welcome [us02web.zoom.us/j/91928C7TdSWN8oG3pF6lg#?registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91928C7TdSWN8oG3pF6lg#?registration)
- 7 April (and every Monday lunchtime) – MML Tours of Marx Memorial Library [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tour-of-the-marx-memorial-library-tickets-395777510187](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tour-of-the-marx-memorial-library-tickets-395777510187)
- 8 April Climate Coalition Burning Parrot Comedy Stand Up [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-burning-parrot-comedy-fundraiser-tickets-1245032508749](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-burning-parrot-comedy-fundraiser-tickets-1245032508749)
- 10 April CND 'The French Connexion' Musicians for Peace & Disarmament concert [cnduk.org/events/the-french-connexion-musicians-for-peace-and-disarmament-concert/](http://cnduk.org/events/the-french-connexion-musicians-for-peace-and-disarmament-concert/)
- 11 April TUC Black Workers Conference [www.tuc.org.uk/events/tuc-black-workers-conference-2025](http://www.tuc.org.uk/events/tuc-black-workers-conference-2025)
- 12 April Stop the War Coalition Newcastle – Welfare Not Warfare! [www.stopwar.org.uk/events/welfare-not-warfare-public-meeting-3/](http://www.stopwar.org.uk/events/welfare-not-warfare-public-meeting-3/)
- 14 – 26th April CND Lakenheath "No Nukes" Peace Camp [cnduk.org/events/lakenheath-alliance-for-peace-peace-camp/](http://cnduk.org/events/lakenheath-alliance-for-peace-peace-camp/)
- 16 April GFTU Strategy Activist Development (apply by 2nd April) [gftuet.org.uk/courses/strategy-series-strategies-for-activist-development](http://gftuet.org.uk/courses/strategy-series-strategies-for-activist-development)
- 16 April – CND – Fundraiser for Lakenheath "No Nukes" Peace Camp [cnduk.org/events/say-no-to-nukes-a-night-of-live-music-to-raise-money-for-the-lakenheath-peace-camp/](http://cnduk.org/events/say-no-to-nukes-a-night-of-live-music-to-raise-money-for-the-lakenheath-peace-camp/)
- 17 April Working Class Movement Library Liaison Committee – A New Rank & File Organisation [www.facebook.com/events/86-wood-lane-le12-8db/liaison-committee-new-rank-file-organisation-with-professor-roger-seifert/1584733909089646/](http://www.facebook.com/events/86-wood-lane-le12-8db/liaison-committee-new-rank-file-organisation-with-professor-roger-seifert/1584733909089646/)
- 24 April – CND – International Conference Resisting US Nuclear Expansion [cnduk.org/events/analysing-and-resisting-us-nuclear-expansion-international-conference/](http://cnduk.org/events/analysing-and-resisting-us-nuclear-expansion-international-conference/)
- 26 April CND Stop US Nuclear Weapons at Lakenheath [cnduk.org/events/lakenheath-alliance-for-peace-vigil-7/](http://cnduk.org/events/lakenheath-alliance-for-peace-vigil-7/)
- 26 April – Kep Our NHS Public – Conference for grassroots Mental Health campaigns [keepournhspublic.com/event/national-conference-for-grassroots-mental-health-campaigns-and-campaigners/](http://keepournhspublic.com/event/national-conference-for-grassroots-mental-health-campaigns-and-campaigners/)
- 28 April TUC International Workers Memorial Day [www.tuc.org.uk/what-iwmd](http://www.tuc.org.uk/what-iwmd)
- 28 April TUC Big Zoom in solidarity with the family of Zane Gbangbola [www.tuc.org.uk/events/big-zoom-solidarity-family-zane-gbangbola](http://www.tuc.org.uk/events/big-zoom-solidarity-family-zane-gbangbola)
- 30 April – Working Class Movement Library – Workers Memorial Talk – Do Workers Need Protecting from AI? [wcml.org.uk/event/do-workers-need-protecting-from-ai/](http://wcml.org.uk/event/do-workers-need-protecting-from-ai/)
- All month – People's History Museum – Collections, Gallery, Exhibits, Events <https://phm.org.uk/whats-on/>
- 1 May – London May Day – International Workers Day [www.londonmayday.org/](http://www.londonmayday.org/)
- 1 May – West Midlands – Wolverhampton – International Workers Day [wolvstuc.org.uk/wolverhampton-workers-day-may-day-thursday-1st-may-2025/](http://wolvstuc.org.uk/wolverhampton-workers-day-may-day-thursday-1st-may-2025/)
- 2 May TUC Women – Mary MacArthur lecture [www.tuc.org.uk/events/2025-mary-macarthur-lecture](http://www.tuc.org.uk/events/2025-mary-macarthur-lecture)
- 5th May – East Midlands – Chesterfield May Day – International Workers Day [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chesterfield-may-day-gala-and-rally-2025-tickets-1243371400329](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chesterfield-may-day-gala-and-rally-2025-tickets-1243371400329)
- 10 May – Working Class Movement Library – Lecture – The Making of the British South Asian Working Class [wcml.org.uk/event/frow-memorial-lecture-the-making-of-the-british-south-asian-working-class/](http://wcml.org.uk/event/frow-memorial-lecture-the-making-of-the-british-south-asian-working-class/)
- 13 May fortnightly until 8th July – MML – Course – Capitalism, Crisis & Imperialism [www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/education/current-and-forthcoming-courses](http://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/education/current-and-forthcoming-courses)
- 15 May GFTU Working Class History Miners' Strike 1974 [gftuet.org.uk/courses/trade-union-and-working-class-history](http://gftuet.org.uk/courses/trade-union-and-working-class-history)
- 15 May – WCML – Miners Strike poetry workshop [wcml.org.uk/event/miners-strike-poetry-workshop/](http://wcml.org.uk/event/miners-strike-poetry-workshop/)
- 17 May – TUC & Royal Historical Society – Levellers Festival Day [levellersday.wordpress.com/whats-happening-2025/](http://levellersday.wordpress.com/whats-happening-2025/)
- 17 – 18th May – Radical Stroud – Chartist Festival <http://radicalstroud.co.uk/counter-heritage/>
- 21 May GFTU Strategy – Worker to Worker Organising [gftuet.org.uk/courses/strategy-series-the-rise-of-worker-to-worker-organising](http://gftuet.org.uk/courses/strategy-series-the-rise-of-worker-to-worker-organising)
- 22 May GFTU Course Political System & Process [gftuet.org.uk/courses/political-course](http://gftuet.org.uk/courses/political-course)
- 28 May – Bristol's Alma Theatre – The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists – [www.tickettailor.com/events/alma-theatre-company/1622850](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/alma-theatre-company/1622850)