



2	Rail profiteering
2	Stop the War!
3	Union freedom
4	Events & books

Unity!

KILL THE BILL

All out on the first of February

ANDY BAIN
STRIKES

NO SOONER had Britain's Communist Party sounded the alert on the Conservative government's plans for new anti-strike, anti-union legislation than the TUC called a day of action for 1 Friday February.

The Bill seeks to undermine strikes in any transport services which affect travel for work, health or education purposes or threaten to damage national security, the economy or the environment.

In selected industries, employers and unions would be compelled by law during an industrial dispute to operate a 'minimum service agreement', empowering bosses to issue 'work notices' forcing employees to break strikes.

The trade union movement must draw up

a united response to the Transport Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill before it becomes law

This is a 'slaves charter', punishing unions and removing the few remaining protections from dismissal for striking workers and while unions will explore the possibilities for legal challenges, they also need to draw up a united strategy to frustrate the new law in practice'.

The Bill gives wide powers to government ministers to interpret its content, threatening unions and workers in a wide range of industries and services including Border Control and the Environment Agency, oil and gas supplies, the utilities and food distribution.

The Communist Party urges the British, Scottish and Welsh TUCs and their affiliated unions to organise a mass campaign to explain the Bill's contents to workers.

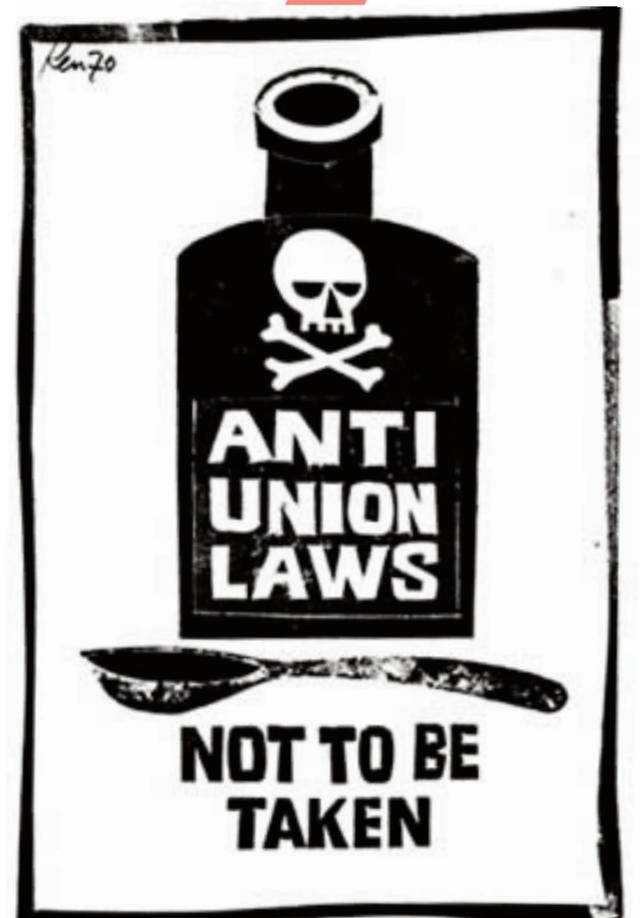
An all-Britain militant 'day of action' on the day it receives its Second Reading in the House

of Commons is a welcome step forward. The campaign could even be called 'Kill the Bill 2', recalling the successful struggle to defeat the notorious Industrial Relations Act in the early 1970s. see *Ken Sprague's famous poster right*

The news that that prime minister Rishi Sunak and business secretary Grant Schapps had originally favoured banning union membership altogether in transport industries makes the need for action even more urgent.

Keir Starmer's pledge to repeal any new legislation should his party take office after the next General Election is the minimum needed. The whole labour movement should 'hold his feet to the fire', not only to keep his promises but also to reverse 40 years of anti-strike, anti-union and anti-worker legislation.

ANDY BAIN IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S INDUSTRIAL ORGANISER AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF RAIL UNION TSSA.



Combat Britain's cost of profits crisis

UNITY NEWS TEAM
NEW YEAR ACTION

BRITAIN'S COMMUNISTS have emphasised the need for unity in each sector of the economy between trade unions taking action. Johnnie Hunter told the Communist Party's executive committee that unions in the health, rail, postal and education sectors have a golden opportunity to replace past divisions with a united, coordinated approach.

The industrial battles now taking place should be supported and broadened as they demonstrate their relevance to a new generation of workers, the general secretary of the Young Communist League declared, urging trades councils and unemployed and retired workers to visit local picket lines to show their solidarity.

The YCL leader also said that socialists and communists had an essential role to play in winning the labour movement to a class understanding of what is in reality a 'cost of

profits. crisis in Britain.

Faced with the spiralling costs of food, energy and transport, the left must put the case for the kind of left-wing programme of measures such as pay rises, price controls and public ownership as the only real alternative to Tory-backed big business profiteering', Johnnie Hunter insisted.

He warned that workers and their unions face a new round of anti-strike, anti-union legislation that would have to be resisted by working class unity and mass action.

'That's why the current industrial and anti-cuts battles must be a springboard for building a united front that can remove the Tories from office and win a progressive government committed to expanding workers' rights, taxing the rich and big business, investing in industry, saving the NHS and enhancing public services', he added.

The party's executive committee emphasised that an incoming Labour government would have to be compelled by the labour movement to implement its 'New

Deal for Workers' policy. This pledges to 'outlaw 'fire and rehire' and zero-hour contracts, repeal anti-union laws – including compulsory postal ballots – and promote trade union recognition, sectoral collective bargaining, Fair Pay Agreements and full employment rights from day one of a job.

In flat contradiction to EU law, Labour's public procurement policy proposes to discriminate in favour of in-house provision, workplace trade unionism, collective bargaining, environmental standards and corporate tax compliance.

The Communist Party welcomed the widespread distribution of its own pamphlet, *The fight of our lives*, with its call for the formation of non-sectarian broad left organisations in the unions. Britain's Communists also called for a big attendance at the Stop the War trade union conferences on 21 January and for a massive turnout on the Day of Action of Friday 1 February.

Full speech Page 3

New Year Greetings

Dear comrades and friends,
 On behalf of the Communist Party, New Year greetings and best wishes to you and your family. It is going to be a busy and action-packed 2023:

Solidarity with the strikers! Who now denies the existence of the working class – the people whose labour creates, stores, transports and delivers society's goods and services?

Who now would question how essential their work is to the functioning of a modern civilised society?

The current strike wave reinforces the point. Not only does the working class still exist – despite all claims to the contrary – but it has its own demands, and fights for them with its own organisations.

In doing so, we now see glimpses of the potential power of the working class. Without their labour power, society cannot function. But we could manage without the super-rich shareholders and landowners whose income takes the form of share dividends, interest on bonds and savings, or rent from land and property.

Our duty at the start of 2023 is clear: to do everything possible to help mobilise and support workers in struggle. On the streets, on marches and demonstrations, in meetings and when talking to friends and neighbours.

Conservative government strategy is to avoid settling the strikes in the hope that public support will evaporate and trade unionists will not want to lose more money by striking.

continued overleaf

Picture above Communist artist Ken Sprague's 1970 poster



STRIKES AND STRIKING

'A strike teaches workers to understand what the strength of the employers and what the strength of the workers consists in; it teaches them not to think of their own employer alone and not of their own immediate workmates alone but of all the employers, the whole class of capitalists and the whole class of workers.'

VI Lenin On strikes 1899

The Tories hope to turn the industrial action back on the strikers, their unions and the Labour Party, further restrict rights to strike and protest – and regain enough public support to win the next General Election. Behind that lies the ruling-class strategy to maximise profits, including through privatisation.

The Tories and their media will also play the 'race card', playing up questions of immigration and asylum seekers, falsely accusing Labour of being in favour of 'open borders' (as well as being 'soft on crime'). This makes it all the more important to support picket lines, distribute the *Morning Star* and organise solidarity public meetings.

Class politics in a class-divided society. We must bring to the fore the class content of the major issues facing the working class and peoples of Britain. The cost of living is a class question: it's wages and living standards vs. the energy monopolies and their state-subsidised super-profits!

Health is a class question: it's protecting and enhancing people's lives and the NHS vs. capitalist profiteering (PFI, Big Pharma, creeping privatisation) and the under-funding which protects the big business and super-rich tax dodgers.

Housing is a class question: it's decent, affordable homes for all vs. the property companies, banks, developers, speculators and big landlords and landowners who see the housing 'market' only as a source of profit and rent.

Immigration and asylum is a class question: it's working-class unity, trade unionism, decent wages and conditions for all vs. imperialist super-exploitation and war, and corporate profiteering in the labour 'market'.

Racism is a class question: it's the unity of workers and their communities vs. racist discrimination, inequality and division.

Sex, gender and identity is a class question: it's working class and people's unity in defence of women's rights, gay rights and human rights for all vs. oppression, inequality at work, and prejudice used to discriminate and divide.

National self-determination is a class question: it's national rights, economic power, wealth redistribution and working-class unity in a federal Britain vs. national inequalities, national antagonisms and a divided labour movement.

Global warming is a class question: it's sustainable development in the interests of people everywhere vs. corporate profits and the impact of climate change on our environment, eco-systems and the future of life on earth.

Peace is a class question: it's investment in homes, health, education, transport, the environment vs. militarism and wars of aggression in the interests of monopoly capital, its military-industrial complex and their paid-for politicians.

The future is socialism!

2023 offers the Communist Party, in unity with the Young Communist League, numerous opportunities to put the case against the exploitative, grossly unequal, crisis-ridden, war-mongering society that is capitalism. The only alternative to it is socialism, as set out in our programme *Britain's Road to Socialism*.

Local elections in many parts of England are scheduled for May 4. Why not a big push this year for Communists to fly the red flag?

We cannot rely on Labour to argue and campaign against austerity, privatisation, militarism and war. For the reasons set out above, we must redouble our efforts to strengthen campaigning bodies such as the People's Assembly, CND, Stop the War, the National Assembly of Women and the movements in solidarity with Cuba and Palestine.

There will also be important anniversaries to mark this coming year, drawing out the lessons for today. These include the death of Karl Marx (1883, 140th), publication of the *Communist Manifesto* (1848, 175th), Hitler-Nazi victory in Germany (1933, 90th), Marx Memorial Library opened (1933, 90th), victory at Stalingrad (1943, 80th), the coup against President Allende (1973, 50th), Cuban victory over apartheid South Africa at Cuito Cuanavale (1988, 35th).

Rounding off the year, the Communist Party will hold its 57th Congress on November 3-5th. So this will make 2023 a year of discussion, debate, and action.

So we will end the New Year as we begin, inspired by the slogan of former Communist MP Phil Piratin: Our flag stays red!

Yours in comradeship,

Robert Griffiths general secretary Communist Party

Unity!

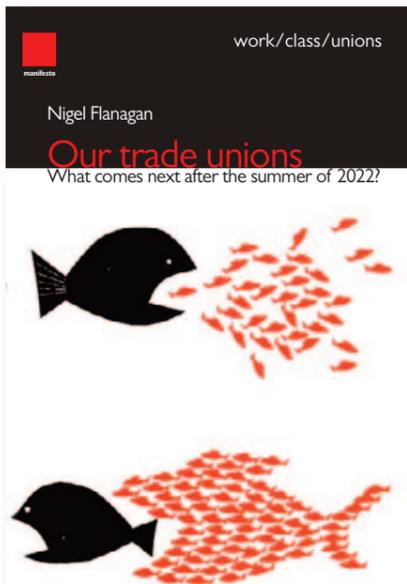
Unity! is the newspaper of the Communist Party published every month, daily at the TUC conference and with supplements for labour movement events, solidarity demonstrations and strikes. It appears in print, online and can be found at www.comunistparty.org.uk/unity/ and https://issuu.com/communist_party
Ruskin House, 10 Coombe Road, Croydon CR01BD

Download the pdf and/or send the link to friends, family and comrades.

NEW HEALTH CAMPAIGN RESOURCES

The party has produced a new four-page leaflet for public distribution on campaign stalls and during the run-up to local elections in England. The leaflet is available to order via branch and/or district/nation secretaries or direct from the 'Resources' section of the membership centre.

Leaflets come in packs of 100,250 and 500, priced at £20, £30 and £35, respectively, which includes postage to your door. They can be ordered via the 'Resources' section of the membership centre, where you can also download the artwork in Portable Document Format (PDF), for local printing.



Our trade unions What comes next after the summer of 2022?

The hot summer of 2022 anticipated an even hotter autumn. Railway workers, post and telecom staff, train drivers, teachers, health workers, higher education staff all took their place in a wave of strike ballots and – unprecedented in years – a real strike wave.

What is distinctive about this phase of union action is firstly the massive ballot majorities which speak to anger at runaway inflation, fantastical energy prices and rising rents but also to waves of human solidarity.

£15.99 www.manifestopress.coop



Straight Left by Stewart McGill It is a hell of a way to run a railway

THE WILLIAMS-SHAPPS plan for rail was published in May 2021. The 'shared vision' of Keith Williams, the independent Chair of the Rail Review, and Grant Shapps. Williams is the chair of Royal Mail and the former CEO of British Airways. We know about Shapps.

Despite the authors, and it's likely that Williams did most of the work, the report spoke some sense. It purported to show how the government would make railways the backbone of a cleaner, more environmentally friendly and modern public transport system across the country: "By replacing franchising, accelerating innovation and integrating the railways, we will deliver an efficient, financially sustainable railway that meets the needs of passengers and those who rely on rail on a daily basis."

It said that railways lack "a guiding focus on customers, coherent leadership and strategic direction. They are too fragmented, too complicated and too expensive to run. Innovation is difficult. Incentives are often perverse".

It's all sounding a little like the beginnings of a case for public ownership and planning – they of course didn't make that case, they went more for the Transport for London model, a publicly-planned, publicly-fronted service delivered in the background by private operators – and the description on incentives is interesting given Mick Lynch's recent comments about how the way rail companies are financed affords no inducement to settle the dispute.

Lynch pointed out that strike action has no financial impact on the Train Operating Companies (TOCs) as their agreements with government mean they receive a standard fee regardless of train revenues or performance. The RMT estimates the government pays out around £30m to TOCs for every strike day. The government changed how railways are run in 2020. Under the new contract-based system, it pays companies an annual fee for operating lines and bears responsibility for revenue. The previous franchise model meant companies bid to run specific routes and their profits were dependent on how many passengers used each line.

The Office of Rail and Road's (ORR) annual report on the rail industry's finances for 2019-20 shows Government funding of the operational railway increased by 45.2 per cent to £6.5bn, some planned, some due to the impact of Covid-19. The 2020-2 report showed a funding increase of £10.4 billion to £16.9 billion largely due to the use of emergency measures to support passenger train operators. In 2021-22 the government subsidy was £13.3 billion; total costs in that year were £22.8 billion, 58 per cent of which were covered by the government subsidy. Total rail industry income in the year was £21.3 billion.

This is a heavily subsidised industry but one that pays dividends to its shareholders. In June 2022 the UK's largest train operator, FirstGroup, boasted to investors that profits were "ahead of expectation" pledging more dividend payouts. The company handed its shareholders £500m in December 2021, just months after being awarded government contracts for running the South Western Railway and Transpennine Express.

The company further boasted that the contracts have "no revenue risk and very limited cost risk." They had a point.

Abellio, which runs Greater Anglia, East Midlands Railway and West Midlands Railway, contributed €355m (£305m) to the profits of its sole shareholder – the Dutch state railway – according to latter's 2021 annual report. Abellio said it had expected to pay hundreds of millions of pounds in termination fees to the British government after rail franchises were replaced with contracts; but the Department of Transport waived part of the fee, allowing it to return the cash to the Dutch treasury coffers instead.

Recent analysis by the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union last year claimed foreign-owned train operating companies had extracted an estimated £3.2bn from Britain's privatised railways from 1996 to 2019.

By any set of measurements, the UK has one of the most expensive railway systems in Europe despite the significant public subsidy. Straight Left has no issue with rail subsidies per se: subsidies to a publicly owned railway system, aimed at getting people out of their cars and more freight transported by rail, form an important part of any plan to save the environment. Huge subsidies that award already wealthy shareholders and the coffers of overseas government? that limit any incentive to innovate and invest? and settle labour disputes? That is a hell of a way to run a railway.



At the end of February it will be one year since Russia invaded Ukraine. To mark the day, we have called a national demonstration in central London on Saturday 25 February at midday to say No To War.

From the very beginning, the Stop the War Coalition demanded 'Russian Troops Out,' we also opposed the **NATO expansion**, which was one of the causes of the war and the rapid military escalation in the conflict.

One year on, the situation is deadlocked and it is clear there can be no winners in this war, that is why we need to be on the streets to demand **Peace Talks Now**.

The death toll is huge. Casualties are in the hundreds of thousands, with millions displaced. Instead of banging the drums of war, the west should be advocating and encouraging negotiations, diplomacy and peace.

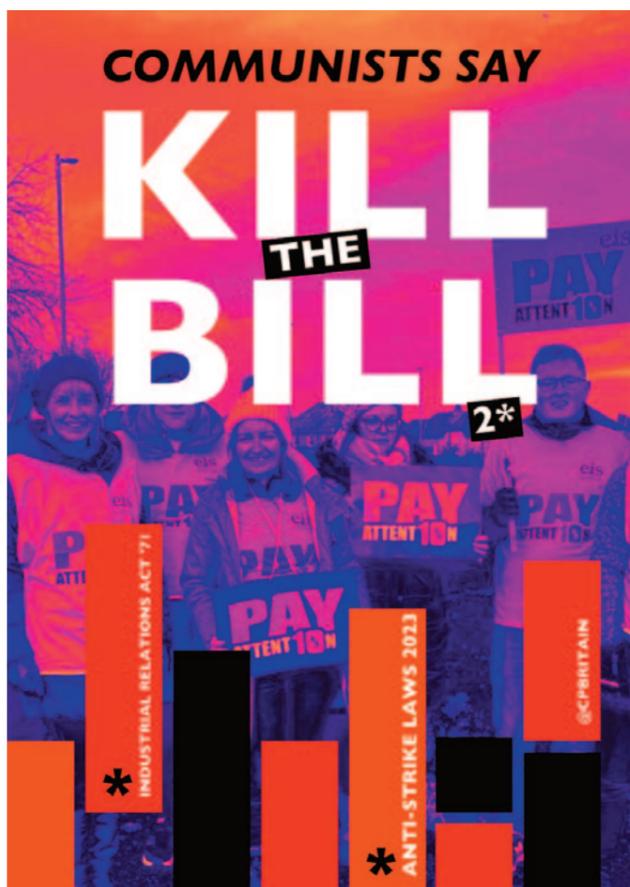
Commit now to join the demonstration. But also promote this widely, we need to make this as big as possible.

In the run up to the demo, share, share, share on social media, in your Whatsapp groups and to your mailing lists.



TRADE UNION FREEDOM

‘These bills demonstrate how seriously the ruling class and their government are taking the increasing militancy. Only a mass movement across Britain could successfully resist such an anti-democratic move. The Party must fight to ensure that the current situation be developed into a proactive campaign for trade union freedom, and to roll back all existing anti union laws.’ **Johnnie Hunter** Young Communist League general secretary



Johnnie Hunter's political report to the November meeting of the Communist Party's leadership

IMAGE Communist Party poster now available

THE RATE of inflation has continued to gallop away. As we enter the new year this looks to intensify with investments down and a potential recession looming.

Comrades, we can't lose sight of the real impact of spiralling inflation and stagnant wages for working people across Scotland and Britain. The rocketing poverty and indebtedness are clear to see in our communities. There is little need to elaborate on this reality for working people.

Even the bourgeois and state media reluctantly acknowledge the situation, with the BBC and the newspapers devoted to tokenistic cost cutting measures. The economic realities are having a disproportionate effect on women and black workers. As we enter the particularly cold winter months, with vast sections of the population unable to heat their homes, no doubt we will see thousands of needless deaths, particularly of the elderly, the disabled and the vulnerable.

The Party has been one of the few forces on the left which rejects the ruling class narrative of a 'Cost of Living Crisis' attributable solely or chiefly to the war unfolding in the Ukraine. But we do something more - we also provide a clear analysis of the actual forces and the ruling class interests behind spiralling inflation. Prices are skyrocketing because the monopolies and big business are seeking to maintain and increase their rate of profit. In addition they use the excuse of the war in Ukraine to profiteer - this is particularly so of the energy monopolies, which in turn has a marked effect down the supply chain.

We see the energy monopolies posting 3, 4, 5 and 6, times increases in year on year profits. We see major employers, such as those in rail and mail, handing massive dividends to shareholders at the same time as they plead poverty in national disputes and, like the government, refuse to even meet their employees in negotiations.

Inflation continues to spiral because to even countenance a reduction in profit is anathema to the financial interests in the City of London and their political

representatives. Profit moderation has not and will not be allowed, only 'wage restraint' enforced backed by the bourgeois state.

In this context the Party must win the labour movement to our understanding of this situation as a Cost of Profits crisis, particularly important now current rising wave of industrial militancy. We must sharpen the class understanding of working people to the current industrial battles. The labour movement must be clear that these attacks on pay and conditions are not caused by Russia or Putin, or by some potent force known as 'inflation' but by the ruling class imperative to maintain the rate of profit by suppressing the value of pay - in other words, this is a class struggle.

The most important development for working people at present is the rising wave of industrial militancy across Britain. Hundreds of thousands of workers, in both the public and private sectors, are set to strike in local and national disputes to defend jobs, pay and conditions. These include rail and mail workers, nurses, civil servants, border force staff, ambulance drivers, teachers and many more. These battles will continue into the new year and, even in the face of some of the most restrictive anti-union laws in Europe, there are signs of growing coordination and confidence between workers in different sectors. The scale of these disputes, the resolve demonstrated by workers, the increasing number of disputes and the public support for them is clearly a cause of great concern for Britain's ruling class.

The strategy of the Tories under Hunt and Sunak has been to impose and support wage cuts and massive cuts to public spending across the board. In the face of further scandals including the Michelle Mone PPE scandal, the Sunak government is scrambling to reassert some order and confidence among its own MPs but popularity with the public with polls is still very much in Labour's favour. The Tories' main efforts appear to be diversionary - more sabre rattling over Russia, more stigmatisation and attacks on migrants and more culture wars - and also of course vociferous denunciations of strikers both through the state and the monopoly owned media.

Two of the current developments are the proposed "tough new laws" restricting the right to strikes and the so called "Edinburgh Reforms", a package of measures set to cut so-called red tape on activities in the City of London.

The new anti-union laws current being pursued by the Tories include the legalisation of the use of agency staff to scab and a bill currently passing through Parliament to force "minimum service levels" in transport and other strikes. Further measures based on Grant Schapps' 16 point plan include a higher strike ballot threshold, forcing unions to provide even more notice of strike action, tighter rules on picketing and allowing employers to bypass unions and put pay offers directly to workers. This amounts to a fundamental anti-democratic attack on the right to strike.

These bills demonstrate how seriously the ruling class and their government are taking the increasing militancy. Only a mass movement across Britain could successfully resist such an anti-democratic move. The Party must fight to ensure that the current situation be developed into a proactive campaign for trade union freedom, and to roll back all existing anti union laws.

The proposed Edinburgh Reforms es-

entially appear to be the removal of many of the financial safeguards put in place in the face of the 2008 financial crisis, and even before, including removal of the cap on banker's bonuses and removing many restrictions on risky investment. The Party must be clear in our propaganda that this the rank hypocrisy at a time when the Tories are calling for wage restraint among workers.

Through all this, the Labour Party under Starmer continues to advance to the right. The crusade against the labour left and the labour movement seems to have resumed with Labour parliamentary selection battles so that left and progressive forces continue to be sidelined. Starmer has made some lukewarm promises but broadly agrees with Tory Policy domestically and rattles the sabre just as vociferously abroad. When asked about support for various strikes the response of Labour shadow ministers has been Tory style evasiveness at best and outright condemnation at other times. Starmer has launched a "Prawn Cocktail Offensive 2.0" holding meetings and dinners with FTSE 100 and global giants including Tesco, NatWest and Amazon. Just as Blair and Brown did, we can expect Starmer to take his orders from these same individuals once in number 10. Corporate donations have continued to flow in.

The Party must be clear that a labour government under Starmer is highly unlikely to present a meaningful alternative for working people. Indeed, Starmer seems to promise Tory-lite policies at the very best. There has been no promise to meet wage demands or to repeal all anti-trade union legislation. Wes Streeting, shadow health secretary said this week he would also reject nurses' pay demands if in power and seems determined to advance privatisation of our NHS even more nakedly than the Tories. There is however, a current Labour manifesto pledge to repeal all new Tory anti-union laws since 2010. The Labour leadership must be held to this commitment by the labour movement.

The Party has to combat any complacency creeping into the left and labour movement that a labour victory is merely a matter of time or that under Starmer this would represent a meaningful victory for working people. Any complacency could be a potential threat to dampen the rising wave of industrial militancy and the tentative advances in class consciousness.

Comrades we should be aware of the ongoing campaign by the Scottish Government for a further referendum on Scottish independence. While we would not relish another referendum at this time, not consider it a priority but an active threat to labour movement unity and rising militancy, we must be clear that we reject anti-democratic manoeuvres by the Tories or the use of bourgeois courts to restrict the right to self determination of the Scottish People.

While the Party considers it would be a distraction we are clear on the right of the Scottish People to hold such a referendum and cannot be seen to align with the forces of the British state or right wing unionism. It would be important for the Party to restate our position at this time, work to win more support in the left and labour movement, and incidentally our members, across Britain. Efforts must be made by this NEC to develop a real labour movement campaign in support of progressive federalism, starting now in the run up to the next Congress.

Very briefly, internationally we continue

to see an escalation of the war in Ukraine, NATO appears to successfully have achieved its aim of creating a costly quagmire in Ukraine from which Russia will struggle to extricate itself. The Party must continue to highlight the increasing recklessness that imperialism poses for humanity and the planet. We must restate our demands for peace now, an end to NATO escalation and intensify our work in the peace movement across Britain.

We also continue to see the escalation of the new cold war against China by the United States and her allies including Britain prominently. We must strengthen our work in building an opposition to this new Cold War as well as our efforts to win a better understanding of and support for China among working people and combat anti-communist myths and propaganda.

Finally we should note the coup in Peru, which removed the elected progressive government, and the campaign against Argentine Vice President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner. Both of these episodes show the determination of Washington to resist even the most minuscule change in Latin America by use of constitutional coups and judicial manoeuvring to remove democratically elected heads of state.

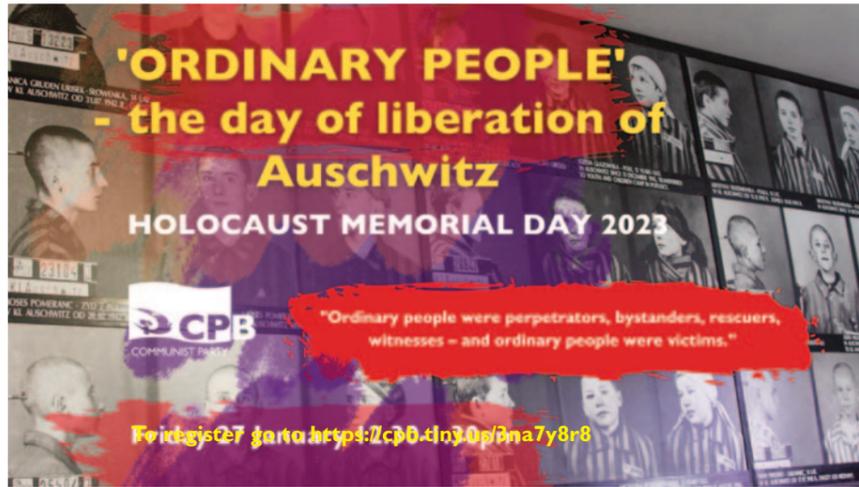
Comrades, we must be clear and concise on the demands and strategy of our Party in the current circumstances.

- The industrial battles taking place must be lauded, supported and broadened - the fight against stagnant wage offers the movement today a chance to restate our relevance to a new generation, build on rising membership numbers and raise class consciousness across Britain.
- We must redouble our efforts to win the labour movement to a class understanding of the cost of profits crisis and how this relates to the current industrial battles
- We must begin now to galvanise resistance to any further Tory anti-strike laws and develop this into a movement for trade union freedom.
- The fight for real measures to help working people battle spiralling costs for food, energy and essentials remains paramount - and the labour movement must place itself at the centre of this struggle.
- The Party must articulate our alternative economic strategy more directly and forcefully within and outside the labour movement
- The current industrial battles and resistance to the Tory government must be the springboard for a fight to remove the Tories from power and win a progressive government that can roll back attacks on working people and the labour movement.
- We cannot allow the prospect of a right-wing labour government to placate social democratic elements in the labour movement which would undermine rising militancy. We must continue to call out the right wing nature of the current labour leadership.
- We must redouble our efforts in the peace and international solidarity movements to build the struggle for peace and disengage from NATO efforts to continue the war in Ukraine and to combat the growing cold war against China.
- All of this highlights the need for, and will be impossible without, a stronger and more vigorous and more united CP and YCL, especially within the labour movement. Our priority as we begin 2023 must be to continue to reinvigorate Party structures at every level with increasing activity on every front, increasing visibility and increasing recruitment.



AGAINST ANTI UNION LAWS

'The 1978 Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions conference declared a commitment to put pressure on the TUC to state boldly that there would be no tolerance of government interference in free collective bargaining; no norms or ceiling guidelines which restrict trade unions in winning back and advancing their living standards'.
Kevin Halpin Chair of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.



Claudia Jones 1915-1964

2023 Commemoration and Celebration of the life of outstanding Communist Claudia Jones
 12 noon Saturday 18 February beside her grave in Highgate Cemetery

Speakers: Roger McKenzie, on behalf of the Morning Star, Luke Daniels, president of Caribbean Labour Solidarity, Rob Griffiths, general secretary of the Communist Party, Winston Pinder, veteran activist and close comrade of Claudia Jones in the Communist Party from 1955 to 1964. Dr Claire Holder Barrister and for many years director of the Notting Hill Carnival will read from Claudia Jones' courageous speech to the New York court in February 1953 which resulted in her imprisonment and deportation from the USA.
Chair Ruth Styles, chair of the Communist Party

Saturday, Jan 21st, 10:00am - 12:00 noon

'the fight of our lives'

Rebuilding the Trade Union Movement

at the People's History Museum, Left Bank, Manchester M3 3ER

SPEAKERS:
Andy Bain CPB Industrial Organiser
Lord John Hendy KC Chair, Institute of Employment Rights
Lindsay Bessell Unison Organiser
Rob Poole StrikeMap Co-Founder

CPB North West District

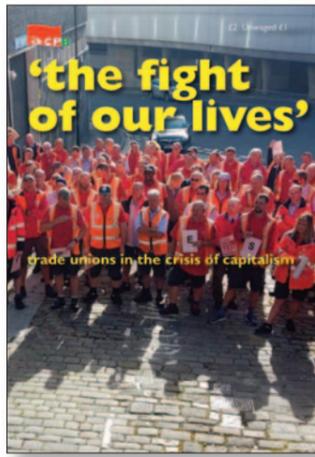
IRAN

SOLIDARITY

Sixty communist and workers party have sent solidarity to Tudeh party and Iranian people expressing "solidarity with the just causes of the people of Iran including with the Iranian communists who face persecution and prohibitions on free exercise of their political rights; to stand against dictatorial regimes, repression, and discrimination in terms of democratic rights and freedoms" in that country.

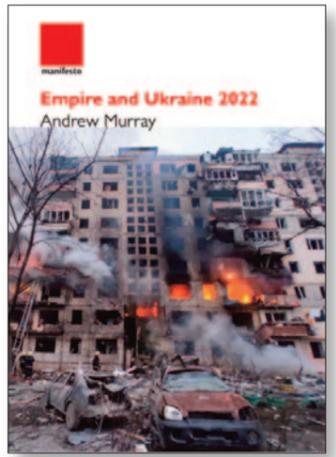
The current mass protests in Iran, which began after the death of Mahsa Amini in the custody of the "Morality Police" on 16 September - with the country's women and youth at the forefront - have condemned the repressive state policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) and called for fundamental systemic political changes. Mass demonstrations across Iran have been brutally suppressed by the police and plainclothes security forces of the IRI.

Confirmed reports put the number of the protestors killed by the state's repressive measures at more than 500, including 57 children, while hundreds more are injured and around 18,000 have been arrested.



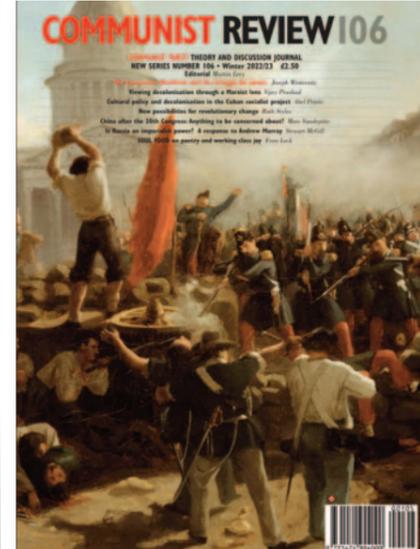
'the fight of our lives'

In this short pamphlet, the Communist Party offers perspectives on the urgent priorities for the left in the trade union movement and on the need for greater left organisation. What is the left doing now to offer leadership? What should our key demands be and how can we best organise to achieve them?
 £2.00 £1 unwaged
<https://shop.comunistparty.org.uk>



Empire and Ukraine 2022

The US has given permission for the Kiev regime to strike targets inside Russia. Mass demonstrations in European cities protests against NATO. Empire and Ukraine 2022 brings us up to date with the invasion of Ukraine, NATO's expansion and the heightened threat of world war.
 £2.50 from
www.manifestopress.coop



COMMUNIST PARTY THEORY AND DISCUSSION JOURNAL

New Series No 106 • Winter 2022/23 £2.50
 Editorial *Martin Levy*
 The Communist Manifesto and the struggle for power *Joseph Winternitz*
 Viewing decolonisation through a Marxist lens *Vijay Prashad*
 Cultural policy and decolonisation in the Cuban socialist project *Abel Prieto*
 New possibilities for revolutionary change *Ruth Styles*
 China after the 20th Congress: Anything to be concerned about? *Marc Vandepitte*
 Is Russia an imperialist power? A response to Andrew Murray *Stewart McGill*
 SOUL FOOD on poetry and working class joy *Fran Lock*
<https://shop.comunistparty.org.uk>

DIARY

Elections in England Branches are urged to discuss standing candidates in the forthcoming 4 May English local elections. The Party will support comrades with a well prepared Manifesto, social media and local literature for use on street stalls and door-to-door. If you are standing Email info@communistparty.org.uk marked *Local election candidate*.

Health and Welfare In the NHS and the wider health service? Participate in a forthcoming podcast in our CommieCast series. Interested? write to info@communistparty.org.uk marked *Health CommieCast*.

Toothless in England The Toothless campaign is collecting evidence of the impact the lack of public access to NHS dental services is having on patients and their quality of life. This will form part of its submission to the Parliament's Health and Social Care Committee. You can help us to help you by sending in your story to contact@englandsteeth.org #NHS #toothless #dentistry #dentist

Morning Star Burns Night - Stockport Stockport Stockport Labour Club, 2 Lloyd St, Stockport SK4 1QP from 6.30pm Tickets £15 or £7.50 concession Enjoy an evening of poetry, music, speakers, raffle and traditional supper of haggis, neeps, tatties & whisky (incl. vegetarian option). Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/urns-night-supper-tickets-494032523577>

Morning Star Burns Night - London A supper of haggis and tatties, plenty to drink, poetry, song and music on Saturday 21 January at the St Pancras Community Association, 67 Pender Street, Camden, NW1 0LB This fundraiser is organised by the London Morning Star Readers and Supporters group. Tickets: £30 waged / £15 unwaged from Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/4yjrzw57> or from Paul 07969321657

Fly the flag You can now order your Communist Party flag direct from the Party online store at a reasonable price of £10. To order, go to: <https://shop.comunistparty.org.uk/?q=flags/hammer-dove-flag>

Stop the War Conference Britain's Communists have called for a big attendance at the forthcoming Stop the War trade union conference on 21 January. The CP calls on Party and trade union branches and trades councils to affiliate and send delegates. The conference is in central London, starts at 10.30 am and includes a small registration fee. You can enrol here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-world-at-war-a-trade-union-issue-stop-the-war-tu-conference-2023-tickets-39433105379787567>

The Fight of Our Lives - Midlands Public meeting with speakers and local strike leaders will be held on Sunday 22 January at 2pm at the Silk Mill Museum of Making, Silk Mill Lane/Full Street Derby DE1 3AF. The facebook event page is <https://tinyurl.com/4tpken5j> and the link is <https://tinyurl.com/35scm5mc>

The Fight of Our Lives - Bedford The 3 counties branch in the East of England and the Bedford Morning Star Readers and Supporters Group are hosting a public meeting on Saturday 18 January at 6pm at Bedford Meeting House 5 Lansdowne Road, Bedford MK40 2BY on the theme, 'A fight of our lives.' All comrades living or working nearby are invited.

Education Advisory Meeting The CP Education Advisory will meet at 7pm on 18 January by zoom. For details, contact Paul Levy and Steve Handford via Party Centre info@communistparty.org.uk marked *Education meeting details*. If you work in education in any capacity you are welcome to attend. The agenda includes a new publication on Party Education policy, upcoming education union strikes and building broad lefts across the trade union movement.

Morning Star

Daily paper of the left
 £1.30 from your newsagent
www.morningstaronline.co.uk