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# Sack Boris Johnson Take to the streets

## UNEMPLOYMENT

ANDY BAIN

**S**ACK THE prime minister and the rest of the corrupt politicians is the call from a rising coalition of resistance against the government.

The People's Assembly Against Austerity and a host of working class organisations have backed the call for a demonstration on Saturday 26 June

As workers face the biggest increase in unemployment since trade unions began the call for mass action and for bold and imaginative tactics is gaining ground.

Solidarity action between trade unionists and community campaigners is the need. Imagine striking workers being protected from eviction by tenants' unions, or trade unions funding a centre for unemployed workers to organise campaigning for jobs, or trades councils organising pickets to support precarious workers in dispute.

Imagine football fans demanding workers in their club get decent wages, or small businesses being drawn into support for workers facing fire and rehire, or unions working together on recruitment initiatives. The possibilities are endless and we need a flexible approach to the difficult battles ahead if the working class is to win out.

From the start of the pandemic the Tories – the party of the ruling class – have shifted the balance of power even more in its favour.

Shortages of PPE and medical supplies, forcing people to work when ill or infected, the failure to pay sick pay, and the *laissez faire* approach to employers making workplaces safe, all moved power further to employers.

The union fight back won a furlough scheme which has saved millions from poverty. Throughout the crisis

unemployment has risen, as has the threat of precarious work and underemployment, and the employers' power to 'employ' on their terms has increased. When furlough ends unemployment will escalate, unless we fight back.

The Communist Party has been working with others to build this **Unemployment Fightback** since mid-2020. There are now several campaigns and many trade unions making demands, including for a green new deal, to build back better, for a new normal and no turning back.

Some trade unionists are exploring the need for a new type of Unemployed Workers Centre, and it is a striking observation on capitalism's lack of progress, that the centenary of the National Unemployed Workers' Movement has just been celebrated.

The Communist Party's ground breaking conference on the Future of Work in December 2020 started a serious discussion on planning to use new technologies for the benefit of the worker and combat the employers' drive to increase the reserve army of labour, and so keep wages down.

Communists are working hard to unite the anti-austerity movement and the trade unions and raise class consciousness. It is not enough just to defend our jobs and resist cuts.

This needs a militant and flexible approach especially in the non-traditional trade union environment without long term jobs and high union density. But we have to do more. In engaging in the struggle we have to inspire and make demands for a better future.

Mayday – International Workers Day – is a time for the workers' movement to find new energy. Now we can move from small scale protests to big rallies.

Already protests against the take over

of GP practices by US insurance giant Centene are underway and there will be many others.

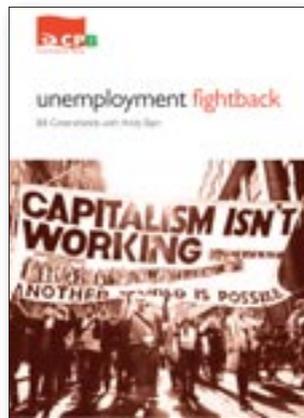
Everyone should turn out for the 26 June national demonstration organised by the Peoples Assembly Against Austerity and the unions. This will be a huge, socially distanced event uniting campaigners on many causes against the Tory Government. Opposing unemployment, and investing in jobs and homes for all is a central demand.

The victory of football fans against a group of greedy billionaires is an inspiration and we must widen our movement to embrace them and all others in conflict with the rich.

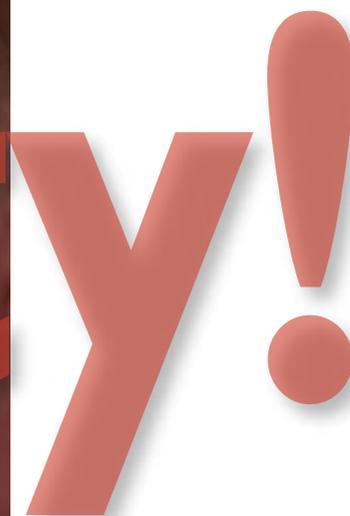
This government and its corrupt leadership is on the ropes.

Now is the time for mass action of all kinds to end this corrupt government.

Andy BAIN IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY INDUSTRIAL ORGANISER



▲ This new pamphlet *Unemployment Fightback* analyses the uses that capitalism makes of unemployment, then considers the class struggle during the pandemic and looks ahead at the building of a movement to change the balance of power. [www.comunistparty.org.uk](http://www.comunistparty.org.uk)



## Crisis: make the rich pay!

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

**M**ANY THOUSANDS of people are expected to join the first major national demonstration since the pandemic began. The People's Assembly against Austerity has called a mass rally and march to parliament for Saturday 26 June.

The Communist Party was among the first organisations to back the protest.

Sean Cannon, who convenes the party's Anti-Austerity Commission said: 'The slogans adopted for the demonstration: "Make the rich pay for the coronavirus crisis – not the workers" puts the blame squarely on our venal capitalist class for the catastrophic way the Covid-19 pandemic has been handled.

'It is payback time for the those who have plundered the public purse and those in government who enabled this robbery.'

The rising tide of anger at the government's handling of the crisis has been given extra heft by the chance to show public anger about the Tory management of the crisis and to stand up for the right to protest and to oppose the government's Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

★ [thepeoplesassembly.org.uk](http://thepeoplesassembly.org.uk)

## RALLY TODAY

<https://tinyurl.com/MayDayLaunch>



## Scientific reason in revolt

SCIENCE

**A** TRIBUTE TO British scientist Ann McLaren (above) was viewed by millions, Monday last, 26 April, when the 94th anniversary of her birth was featured on the Google browser.

Anne McLaren is renowned as one of the most important reproductive biologists of the 20th century. Her fundamental research on embryology helped countless people realise their dreams of parenthood.

A lifelong communist she studied zoology at Oxford University and embarked on a pioneering research programme. Her landmark findings, published in 1958 opened the way to in vitro fertilisation. She served on the Warnock Commission that led to the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act.

And in counterpoint to the tribute, last week scientists rallied in defence of Ann McLaren's daughter, Professor Susan Michie, following a poisonous anticommunist attack on her in the *Daily Mail*.

Professor Michie is a leading behavioural scientist and a member of the government's SAGE committee and has appeared on television throughout the Covid-19 pandemic as a voice of reason and science.

She also sits on the independent SAGE committee and came under attack for her party membership and politics and for her advocacy of Zero Covid measures which have so offended the right wing rag.



# POLITICS & NEWS

'Parliamentarianism has become "historically obsolete". That is true in the propaganda sense. However, everybody knows that this is still a far cry from overcoming it in practice.'

VI Lenin 'Left wing Communism' an infantile disorder



## FREEDOMS

ALEX GORDON

WE FACE A growing threat to our freedoms. Despite his reputation as a 'Tory libertarian', Boris Johnson's government is now attacking democratic freedoms on a scale that cannot be justified by the Covid emergency.

The Police and Crime and 'Skycops' Bills presently kicked into touch by the government is an example of the growing centralisation and empowerment of the state and its police and intelligence services.

They are part of a longer-term trend since 1979, from anti-trade union laws and the privatisation of public spaces patrolled by private security

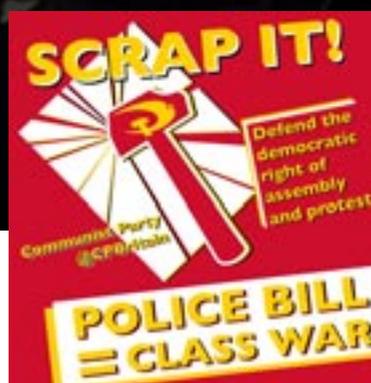
companies to the criminalisation of squatting and the atrocious 'Windrush' deportations of British citizens.

The Tier 4 lockdown had abolished even the limited right to protest allowed by the lower tiers and so clearly contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights.

The danger now is that some of the drastic but temporary Covid restrictions of our hard-won civil liberties might be made permanent – if we don't resist.

The 'over the top' police action against women peacefully protesting on Clapham Common against male violence; and the £10,000 fine imposed on trade union activist Karen Reissmann for organising a protest are wake-up calls.

The pro-democracy protest in Bristol had been peaceful for hours



before the eruption of violence played into the hands of Tory and other supporters of repressive ruling-class legislation.

Communists urge people to make the maximum use of their surviving freedoms to fight against injustice.

The Communist Party supports the struggle to defend the right to protest and communists young and old are present in demonstrations up and down the country.

ALEX GORDON IS A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE RMT UNION AND IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## Communists hit by ballot ban

### ELECTIONS

NICK WRIGHT

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION has banned the Communist Party from using its normal descriptions as the 'Communist Party', the 'Welsh Communist Party' and the 'Scottish Communist Party' on ballot papers for the 6 May elections.

All three names have long been registered with the Electoral Commission which has now decided to ban them with immediate effect just weeks before the election.

In previous elections to the Welsh Senedd, the party – which pioneered devolution policies for Wales and is the only all-British Party headed by a Welsh speaker – was described as the 'Welsh Communist Party' on ballot papers and in campaign materials and party election broadcasts.



### ▲ Discrimination against the CP.

Scottish Communists planned to describe themselves as the 'Scottish Communist Party'.

'There appears to be no good reason to take this drastic step and the Electoral Commission must know that this weakens our long established political identity Communist Party general secretary Robert Griffiths said. He pointed out that the commission's decision is final and leaves

no time for the registration of other names before submitting nomination papers for the 6 May election.

The Communist Party leader also revealed that Welsh broadcasters have already informed the party that it will qualify for election broadcasts as the "Welsh Communist Party", on the basis that it will again be contesting all five regional lists under that name in the Senedd election.

'There is a whiff of sabotage about this and it is not the first time in recent years that the Electoral Commission has treated the Communist Party unfairly and incompetently', he said.

'The Tory and Labour parties use "Welsh" and "Scottish" in their titles. This is blatant discrimination against the Communist Party. Mae'r pleidiau Llafur a Cheidwadol yn defnyddio "Cymreig" ac "Albanaidd" yn eu teitlau. Mae hyn yn ragfarn amlwg yn erbyn y Blaid Gomiwnyddol'.

## Explaining socialism

In one of the biggest campaigns to explain the meaning of socialism in recent years, the Communist Party has produced a series of 25 posters, also as social media artwork.

Entitled *What socialism really means*, the series has proven to be so popular, it is going to be renewed after the 6 May. The party also produced an *Introduction to Marxism* and *What we stand for* in digital and printed form.

## Elect a red!

For the first time activists have been able to contact the party and be directed automatically to the nearest branch and campaign, to get involved. Those going to [tinyurl.com/ElectARed](https://tinyurl.com/ElectARed) are able to download free campaign documents including *An introduction to Marxism*, *What we stand for*, and our programme *Britain's Road to Socialism*. There they can order campaign leaflets to use at workplaces or in the community, apply to join or ask to 'get involved'. Over one hundred have taken up the offer.

## Social media

Covid conditions, at the start of the election, brought CP social media campaigners into action and they are playing an important part in spreading the word, answering questions and organising online meetings.

Many new members who have joined during the centenary year are highly skilled in the use of social media and some of these work in the party's communications network. The aims of the CP network are to use social media to make party members the best informed of any political party – in terms of policy, achievements, developments and campaigns and to use their skills to promote the *Britain's Road to Socialism* programme and support workers in struggle. Every week, all members receive a copy of *Party Organiser* and the network helped to build a new version of the party website, fit for a full election campaign, in a matter of weeks.

## Many tongues

On 8 April, the Communist Party put out a call, *Hablas Espanol? Parlez-vous Français? Você fala Português? Czy mówisz Polsku? Sen Türkçe konuşmayı biliyor musun?*

Within 48 hours translations of the party's election brochure appeared in Polish, Spanish, Catalan, French, Arabic, Punjabi, Portuguese and Greek. Chinese and Russian versions are planned and are available as a free download at [www.communistparty.org.uk](http://www.communistparty.org.uk)

Some major publications are available in Welsh with the Communist Party campaign in Wales including three radio and TV broadcasts, delivered bi-lingually.



## Manifestos

During this election, the Communist Party produced four manifestos and two short popular versions. First to be published was *Our future is socialism* in Scotland – where each candidate also had their own election brochure with a total distribution of 175,000.

In Wales/Cymru the party produced *Real Power for the people of Wales/ Grym Go lawn I Werin Cymru*, which went to 200,000 homes.

In London the Party produced a full manifesto and a short popular version distributed to tens of thousands of homes – we literally ran out of copies. An all Britain manifesto *Capitalism is the problem, Socialism is the solution* was produced online and launched at an online meeting attended by just under a thousand visitors. These are all available at the Communist Party website [www.communistparty.or.uk](http://www.communistparty.or.uk).

## Women candidates

Of all the political parties contesting the elections, only the Communist Party held a rally of women candidates, and, in revolutionary style it had an internationalist flavour.

Andrea Burford (North Evington, Leicester) was joined by Spanish-born London candidate Judith Czorzla Rodenas and Lorraine Douglas (Greater London Assembly).

Nora Garcia from the Communist Party of Spain joined and it was chaired by London young communist Maryam Pashali.

In Wales three of the five regional party lists are led by women communists Laura Picand (South West Wales), Claudia Cannon (Mid & West Wales) and Anita Wright (South Wales central).



# ELECTION SPECIAL

Published by the Communist Party of Britain Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon CR0 1BD

## Capitalism is the problem Socialism is the solution



### ELECTION CAMPAIGN

### Phil Katz runs the rule over the politics, the parties, the policies... and the Communists.

**E**LECTORAL COMMISSION manoeuvres, designed to confuse voters and make it much harder to vote communist, have fired up Communist Party candidates and campaigners.

Many candidates have written to the commission to complain at their skulduggery in barring the party from using its own name on the ballot paper.

The Commission added insult to injury to say they will conduct an inquiry into their anti democratic behaviour...on 12 May, six days after the ballot has closed.

Profits pile up, billionaires multiply, work is fragmented and growing scarce, our health and education services face a funding meltdown. The youth have been particularly hard hit, affected by the failure to build affordable housing. No government has failed its people in recent times, more than this, with their failure to deal with the Covid pandemic.

This is coupled to an attempt to restrict rights to assembly and speech and a refusal to pass on powers to the Wales and Scottish governments that would allow them to intervene to support jobs and fund public services, just when they are most needed.

In response to this, the Communists have launched their biggest election campaign since the early 1980s aiming to assert class solidarity, raise political awareness and

strengthen union organisation based on a programme of radical and socialist change.

South Wales candidate Rob Griffiths, the party's general secretary: sets the scen, 'Britain has a future, but it will have to change. There must be no going back. The people have to act against the capitalist system, which has failed us at our time of greatest need. We must assert a new set of values and a new way of bringing communities together, putting people first.'

### DEMANDS

Amongst key demands the Communist Party called on councils and government to:

- rebuild Britain, for the millions not the billionaires
- take the electricity, gas, coal, water, railways, banking, pharmaceutical and armaments industries into democratic public ownership and planning, to meet society's needs
- develop tidal, solar and offshore wind power, clean coal technology and other safe and sustainable energy sources
- impose a levy on financial speculation, control the export of capital, and end all tax haven regimes under British jurisdiction
- halt all forms of privatisation and invest in the NHS and public services, with a massive programme to build more council housing
- set the national minimum wage at £10.40 an hour
- repeal all anti-trade union, anti-democratic and racist immigration laws with full employment rights for all workers from day one, and
- guarantee far-reaching economic powers and financial resources for Scottish, Welsh and English parliaments, local government, and English regional and Cornish assemblies in a federal Britain.

Major meetings were held on un-

employment, housing and women ('Has Cathy Come Home?'), anti racism and internationalism and on the environment (Silvertown project, 'Stop Digging'). A feature of each was the preparedness of a diverse range of speakers, who were not CP members, to share party platforms.

### LOCAL CAMPAIGNING

The campaign has been very much based on local initiative and finding new ways to explain the core values and politics contained in the Communist Party programme, *Britain's Road to Socialism*. Our ability to do this, whilst raising issues of concern on an all-Britain basis, such as privatisation of the NHS, scrapping Trident and opposing Conservative cronyism in the award of Covid-related contracts, has been a major achievement of the campaign.

In Motherwell and Wishaw, candidate Daniel Lambe said, 'The road to socialism isn't an easy one, communists are fighting for a better future for all.'

Rumanian-born Lucian Branescu Mihaila a London List (GLA) candidate called for 'A fair immigration policy with and an equal route to nationality and an end to the hostile environment.'

Judith Cazorla Rodenas denounced 'Systemic failure by police to protect women from domestic violence, sexual harassment and assault and its ongoing failure to eliminate racism in its ranks'.

London candidate Robin Talbot and chair of the all-Britain Young Communist League was part of a team leafletting historic Cable Street calling for a 'Vote for investment in jobs, education, housing, youth services, better transport and London's future.'

In Wales, nearly 200,000 election brochures have been distributed. A

new website has been built to coordinate the Wales campaign and a party political TV broadcast, carried on S4C, ITV and BBC during last week. It led to many enquiries and requests for more information.

On estates in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Motherwell and Wishaw, banner drops were well received as well as door-to-door leafletting and street stalls. Each candidate took part in hustings - a valuable chance to explain policy in greater detail.

One comrade spoke at a North Lanarkshire hustings alongside past Labour leader Richard Leonard. Comrades signed up to important pledges ranging from Age Concern, Shelter, to that of the Living Rent campaign. Johnnie Hunter in Glasgow, called for a 'guarantee of federalism as a third option in any future referendum.'

Construction worker Daniel Lambe, out leafletting in Motherwell said, 'If you want a party in Holyrood that puts the needs and concerns of working people first, then get involved in our campaign.'

Matthew Waddell who is standing in his home city of Edinburgh has emphasised the need for planning of housing development, 'We need well-built social housing in planned communities.'

Throughout its campaign, the Party has emphasised that in the words of one candidate, 'every day is an election day.' The Communist Party does not 'shut up shop' between elections and call out members only when we need leaflets handed out in a run up to polling day.

Nor are our Manifestos, a cynical exercise in issuing 'never to be kept' promises. In truth, our campaign has been aimed at putting new ideas and organisation into the labour movement so that it emerges stronger, the better to fight against unemployment.



The same is true of the party, which is increasing its reach and influence, recruiting new members and much looking forward to fielding many more candidates in next year's elections.

As the party grows it is striking roots in communities across Britain. This was borne out in the campaign of Unite local community activist Andrea Burford (above) standing in the North Evington ward, Leicester. Andrea started her campaign early with a supportive and creative local campaign team.

She called for a vote for her as a local working class woman who wanted to see, 'more council homes and affordable homes built, so everyone has a roof over their heads.' Andrea spoke powerfully at the Rally of Women making a strong case for investment to improve pay, conditions and availability of jobs in the local textile trade. On Earth Day she issued a call for a 'green, environmentally friendly city'.

'The communists' says Andrea, 'will generally support moves to lower emissions from city buses.' Andrea defended local citizens who work in retail, when their work was denigrated by a Labour MP. The Communist Party she said, 'recognise the value of every worker whether they work in a supermarket or a care home.'

PHIL KATZ IS HEAD OF MEDIA FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY

# IS THE ANSWER



[www.comunistparty.org.uk](http://www.comunistparty.org.uk)



@CPBritain

Produced on behalf of the Communist Party, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road CR0 1BD

COCO COLLECTIVE MADE THIS IN APRIL 2022



# SOCCALISM

THE PROBLEM IS CAPITALISM





# AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

*'Anti-Semitism, a weapon carried to barbaric extremes by fascism, is a weapon used by the ruling class to split and divert the masses of the people away from the struggle for their real interests.'* Declaration, moved by Rajani Palme Dutt, 3 March 1947 at the British Empire Communist Parties Conference, London in February/March 1947.

## Communist struggle against antisemitism

### 1 Long-standing and historic opposition to antisemitism

The Communist Party opposes all forms of racism and xenophobia and notes with grave concern the rise of antisemitism as part of the anti-working class ideology of right-wing populism in Britain and elsewhere. It calls on all who wish to protect the values of our movement to oppose every manifestation of antisemitism along with other forms of racism. Our party's founders included significant numbers of comrades of Jewish culture and commitment – many of whom had fled from persecution in Eastern Europe and the Russian Empire.

These comrades led the way in combatting antisemitism in Britain in the 1920s and 30s and in particular developing a united mass movement among working people in London that blocked the advance of Mosley fascism. One of our party's MPs, Phil Piratin, was instrumental in leading this movement. He did so again against the attempts to redevelop Mosley Fascism, exploiting antisemitism, in the later 1940s and 50s.

In the 1970s our party was a founder member of the Anti-Nazi League and of the Anti-Racist Alliance and since then has helped make the annual commemoration of Cable Street a unifying demonstration that puts the fight against antisemitism at the centre of a united working-class opposition to all forms of racism. Each year on 27 January our party supports Holocaust Memorial Day.

### 2 Formation of the State of Israel

Our party, in the aftermath of the Nazi genocide, supported the formation of a State of Israel in 1948 on the terms set by UN resolution 187 of May 1947 – whereby it should exist in a defined

territory alongside an Arab State within Palestine and 'nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish communities'. The editorial of the *Daily Worker* of 15 May 1948, in welcoming the new state, additionally urged the new State 'to take all possible measures to live in peace with its Arab neighbours...'

### 3 UN resolutions following the 1967 war and Israel's annexation of Palestinian territories

Our party supported the UN resolution 242 (1967) following the annexation of Palestinian territories in 1967. This resolution required Israel to withdraw to its pre-war boundaries and upheld the right of the people of Palestine to their own state beside the state of Israel with its capital in Jerusalem and the right of return of all refugees. This continues to be the position of our party. It condemns the subsequent actions by the government of Israel to defy both this and subsequent UN resolutions and to fail to honour the Oslo Accords negotiated between Israel's prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and the PLO in 1993. Our party is a member of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and supports the 'two-state' UN-mandated position.

### 4 Condemnation of the actions of recent Israeli governments headed by Benjamin Netanyahu

These actions by the Israeli governments headed by Benjamin Netanyahu include a) the passage of the Nation-State Act in July 2018 which makes the right to 'national self-determination' in Israel 'unique to the Jewish people', establishes Hebrew as the official language, and in terms of all official documentation



▲ Communist Party leader Harry Pollitt writing in the party's Party's Jewish community newspaper *Jewish Clarion*

downgrades the status of Arabic, and makes 'Jewish settlement' a national value; b) the formal shift of the Israeli government to Jerusalem in 2017 and its recognition by the United States as the capital of Israel in violation of UN resolutions; and c) the joint 2020 initiative by the governments of the United States and Israel to secure the agreement of Arab states to the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory and to make permanent the full Israeli settlement of the West Bank.

These actions violate the objectives of all those committed to the upholding of the rights of the Palestinian people to an integral state composed of all pre-1967 territories and also of those who wish to see the State of Israel living in peace beside the state of Palestine.

### 5 Continuing robust opposition to antisemitism

Our party calls on all who wish to protect the values of our movement to oppose every manifestation of antisemitism along with other forms of racism. All forms of racism weaken our movement. antisemitism has been deeply rooted within our country since

feudal times and has repeatedly been used as a weapon to divide working people, particularly so at the beginning of the last century and at the time of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Our party also notes the dangers posed to the fight against antisemitism by the opportunist and politically-partisan use of unjust charges of antisemitism within the Labour movement and the current attempts to extend them to all those who wish to uphold the rights of the Palestinian people and to campaign against the illegal occupation of their land. In particular, our party opposes the demand of the current British government that public bodies receiving government funds adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. The IHRA definition was not developed for this purpose and its principal drafter has stated it was not intended to be adopted as a legal policy document by public bodies. Its references to criticism of the State of Israel are, moreover, now compromised by the passing of the 2018 Nation State Act, as described above.

Those who use this definition against

anyone campaigning for the justified rights of the Palestinian people, as laid down in UN resolutions, and for peaceful sanctions in order to achieve them, must be condemned as themselves actively hindering the real and necessary fight against antisemitism.

The Communist Party of Britain therefore reiterates its opposition to all forms of antisemitism. It confirms its support for a state of Israel living in peace beside a state of Palestine within pre-1967 boundaries. This commitment includes its backing for the full implementation of UN resolutions and for the use of economic sanctions to achieve these objectives. Communists in Britain pledge their solidarity with all those campaigning on this basis, against antisemitism along with the rights of the Palestinian people. This includes full support for, and solidarity with, our sister parties, the Palestinian People's Party and the Communist Party of Israel.

### The Communist Party executive committee adopted the above statement on 14 March 2021



### On guard against fascism

A call to the labour movement  
This pamphlet was written by Tony Conway, John Foster, Robert Griffiths and Liz Payne under the auspices of the Communist Party of Britain's Anti-Racism Anti-Fascism Commission. £1 Now available in Portable Document Format (PDF) only.



COMRADE WORKERS! May Day is coming, the day when the workers of all lands celebrate their awakening to a class-conscious life, their solidarity in the struggle against all coercion and oppression of man by man, the struggle to free the toiling millions from hunger, poverty, and humiliation.

Two worlds stand facing each other in this great struggle: the world of capital and the world of labour, the world of exploitation and slavery and the world of brotherhood and freedom.

On one side stand the handful of rich blood-suckers. They have seized the factories and mills, the tools and machinery, have turned millions of

acres of land and mountains of money into their private property. They have made the government and the army their servants, faithful watchdogs of the wealth they have amassed.

On the other side stand the millions of the disinherited. They are forced to beg the moneybags for permission to work for them. By their labour they create all wealth; yet all their lives long they have to struggle for a crust of bread, beg for work as for charity, sap their strength and health by back-breaking toil, and starve in hovels in the villages or in the cellars and garrets of the big cities.

But now these disinherited toilers have declared war on the moneybags and exploiters. The workers of all

lands are fighting to free labour from wage slavery, from poverty and want. They are fighting for a system of society where the wealth created by the common labour will go to benefit, not a handful of rich men, but all those who work. They want to make the land and the factories, mills, and machines the common property of all toilers. They want to do away with the division into rich and poor, want the fruits of labour to go to the labourers themselves, and all the achievements of the human mind, all improvements in ways of working, to improve the lot of the man who works, and not serve as a means of oppressing him.

The great struggle of labour against capital has cost the workers of all

countries immense sacrifices. They have shed rivers of blood on behalf of their right to a better life and real freedom.

Those who fight for the workers' cause are subjected by the governments to untold persecution. But in spite of all persecution the solidarity of the workers of the world is growing and gaining in strength. The workers are uniting more and more closely in socialist parties, the supporters of those parties are mounting into millions and are advancing steadily, step by step, towards complete victory over the class of capitalist exploiters.

Published in 1904



# PARTY LIFE

The Communist Party's postponed 56th Congress will be held on Saturday and 6-7 Sunday, November with the theme popularised during the 2021 election campaign: *The crisis is capitalism, the solution is socialism*



▲ Communists on campaign trail in Felixstowe. Coastal ward candidate Mark Jones with supporters from new branches in East Suffolk and Colchester.

After considering the economic, social and political perspectives for 2021, the March Executive Committee identified the main issues requiring debate and discussion at the Congress.

## Unemployment Fightback!

Meeting the challenges of mass unemployment as the ruling class and its Tory government pursue policies to restore the general rate of profit by intensifying the exploitation of labour, attacking the terms and conditions of employment, reducing the tax burden for the capitalist monopolies and maintaining the value of the Pound by slashing public sector borrowing and reducing the National Debt. How can the People's Assembly and the labour and progressive movements best defend jobs and organise and mobilise unemployed and their supporters on a mass scale. *Should we support a Universal Basic Income?*

## Production for the People

**and Planet** Exposing the unbalanced, precarious and predatory character of British imperialism's economy at home and abroad; promoting green, sustainable policies that create jobs and living standards while also combating global warming; elaborating the Left-Wing Programme for Britain and economic strategies for its nations, regions and key industries based on public ownership and planning - and which also secure economic and social equality for women, young, immigrant, migrant and disabled workers. *Should we embrace Modern Monetary Theory?*

**Progressive Federalism** Elaborating our policy and building alliances in the face of aggressive Tory-British unionism and vigorous Scottish and Welsh separatism. *How should we address questions of English nationalism, regional devolution and local government?* No to the new Cold War': Exposing the motive forces and strategies for imperialist re-division, domination, militarism and war, past

and present; strengthening Liberation and the British Peace Assembly and projecting the World Peace Council; winning the labour movement to the case for cancelling Trident and alternative socially-useful production; and defending China in particular against false atrocity propaganda, contrasting its economic, social and cultural advances to those of other developed and developing countries.

## Waging the war of ideas

Promoting the *Morning Star* as the voice of the labour and progressive movements in the fight for democratic mass media against monopoly domination; promoting the classes, publications and other activities of the Marx Memorial Library & Workers' School; and using all forms of media to project three fundamental themes against the state-monopoly capitalist offensive: (i) for working-class and people's unity; (ii) for peace and solidarity against militarism and imperialist wars; and (iii) for socialist revolution.

## Anti-Monopoly Alliance

Strengthening and uniting the labour and progressive movements in the struggle against state-monopoly capitalism; in particular, projecting the Charter for Women; building the National Assembly of Women and a new initiative against racist laws as broad-based campaigning bodies with strong links to the labour movement; and assisting the Young Communist League to project the Charter for Youth.

## Communist Congress timeline

**May 17:** deadline for submission to Party centre of Branch, District and Nation amendments to the Party rules and Congress standing orders.

**July 19:** EC draft resolutions, Congress agenda and rules amendments to be sent to Party organisations.

**October 1:** deadline for submission of Branch, District and Nation resolutions and amendments to the EC resolution(s) and of nominations for the EC, Appeals Committee and auditors.

**October 23-24:** first meeting of Congress committees.

**November 6-7:** 56th Congress of Britain's communists.

## Building the Communist Party

Projecting the Party's publications (notably the *Communist Review* and *Unity!*); strengthening its commissions - including a women's commission in every Party district and nation - and establishing new trade union advisories; and securing five standing committees to deal with political education, communications, recruitment & membership, elections and internal complaints & discipline (a 'Control Commission' established by rule change).

There will be other important issues to consider and these may feature in the EC's main resolution(s), in Branch, District and Nation amendments (up to three each per EC resolution), and separate resolutions (up to two) on topics not covered by the EC resolution(s).

**Congress Commissions** As for the 55th Congress, the outgoing EC proposes a number of Congress commissions where delegates can discuss their experiences and ideas and make proposals to the incoming EC for the Party's future work. At the moment, the EC is proposing Congress commissions from among the following areas of work:-

- 1 class politics and the struggle for women's liberation
- 2 fighting racism
- 3 building the peace movement
- 4 building local anti-monopoly alliances

**Your views** Party organisations are invited to submit their views on the above proposals to me at Party centre on any of the matters in this Congress Letter by Friday, 4 May. This will mean online meetings wherever possible to ensure that these are the collective views of the Party organisation concerned.

## District and nation congresses

These were due to be held this year, as the alternate year to our biennial National Congress. But the EC has decided that the postponement of the 56th Congress to 2021 should mean that the District and Nation congresses are all now postponed to 2022, to be held on a date to be decided by the District or Nation Committee concerned.



## POLITICAL EDUCATION

### BILL GREENSHIELDS

Millions of workers are agitated – and many are organised to do battle with our corrupt ruling class and government. The big question is: are we equipped to fight but also to win in the class struggle?

Though our success depends on courage, determination and resilience, we need analysis and understanding of the reality of the struggle – and not just hope and enthusiasm.

The working class movement needs sound political education. Education in which we learn from each other, challenge each other, teach each other – not just from our immediate experience and closest mates but from workers of the world, and throughout our class divided history... and our individual and collective experience of struggle.

What should a Communist Party political education project look like?

It's free and open to all and based on collective discussion and activities. Everyone has things to offer – decades of experience in the working class movement, or new eyes to see old problems in the light of new realities.

Varied work, cultural backgrounds and life and class experiences brings fresh insights. And always the acid test of the reality of class struggle in all its forms.

The party programme *Britain's Road to Socialism* is available online at [www.communistparty.org.uk](http://www.communistparty.org.uk) with study materials – some summaries of its sections, video introductions to each and with suggestions for preparatory and follow up reading. Key to the materials are discussion questions for each section. These are available for individual use – but they are designed for collective group discussion – or by signing up for a live online group.

The new extensively updated book *Women & Class* is presented in similar formats – and a series of six week tutored courses will begin to take registrations from 8 May. Education materials, meetings, webinars and courses will be added over time by our

Party Commissions – each concerned with an aspect of working class life and struggle. Recordings of live education events will appear together with notes, ideas and suggestions from comrades involved.

A new eight session programme **Taking the Road** will introduce the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism in an accredited first stage course, that all new members of the party can follow in their first year. Further stages, take us deeper into the theory that Lenin maintained was essential for a revolutionary movement. The aim is that all courses should be followed collectively through a party organisation or party-organised online course.

An **Our Party Library** page will host a developing library of historical classics of Marxism-Leninism, contemporary writings, provided through Manifesto Press and Praxis Press and party publications such as *All Power to the Working Class*, *Dialectical & Historical Materialism* and *Das Kapital & Marxism in the 21st Century*.

The most recent are available with study material as appropriate. Library users will be encouraged to review the books, suggest others and provide materials that might contribute to study and discussion

**What the Paper Says** – in ironical comment on the banning of the *Morning Star* from television's *What the Papers Say* – will showcase key *Morning Star* editorials and features.

Another valuable public resource is the Marx Memorial Library's *Full Marx* series of accessible introductions to Marxist theory.

Finally we will showcase *Communist Review*, the party's popular theory & practice journal – with its editorial board selecting articles to be enhanced with study materials.

The aim of Marxist political education is to sharpen our contribution to change political outlook of the working class, and strengthen its analysis, strategic direction and leadership.

BILL GREENSHIELDS IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY EDUCATION ORGANISER AND A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE NUT.



# CULTURE & IDEOLOGY

*One must speak for a struggle for a new culture, that is, for a new moral life that cannot but be intimately connected to a new intuition of life, until it becomes a new way of feeling and seeing reality* Antonio Gramsci *Art and the Struggle for a New Civilisation*



**ONLINE COURSE: TRADE UNIONS, CLASS AND POWER**  
This eight-week interactive course seeks to understand trade unions and union members of today within a century of historical perspective.  
Tuesday 4 May 7pm and Tuesday 22 June 8:30pm

**DEMOCRACY, NEO-LIBERALISM AND BRITAIN'S CENTRALISED STATE**  
Join Baroness Pauline Bryan for this timely round table discussion on the challenges of progressive federalism and labour movement mobilisation.  
7pm Thursday, 13 May 2021



**Journal of the Marx Memorial Library** 2021 Number 122

**Editorial** Marjorie Mayo  
**Marxist understandings of past and recent struggles** Mary Davis, Roger Seifert and Andrew Murray  
**COVID-19 and its economic, political and social aftermath** Michael Roberts, Allyson M. Pollock, Louisa Harding-Edgar, Jenny Clegg, Ben Fine, Kate Bayliss, Ted Benton and Marjorie Mayo  
**International responses to the pandemic** Bob Oram and the Communist Party of Viet Nam  
**Covid-19 and trade union struggle** Carolyn Jones, Kevan Nelson, Helen O'Connor, Heather Wakefield and Jonathan White  
**MML events** Ralph Gibson, John McDonnell, David Lane, Meirian Jump and Lydia Samarbakhsh  
**Reviews** Ben Fine, Roger Seifert, Jonathan White, Ines Newman, John Green, Richard Clarke, Andrew Murray, Bruni de la Motte, John Foster, David McLellan, Jim Mowatt, Robert Maisey and Alex Gordon



**COMMUNIST REVIEW 99**  
Theory and discussion journal of the Communist Party Spring 2021

**FUTURE OF WORK SOCIALISM, WORK, TECHNOLOGY AND THE STRUGGLE FOR JOBS**  
Gail Cartmail, Michael Roberts, Leonardo Impett, Ursula Huws, Andrew Maybury, Roger McKenzie, Tony Burke, Sarah Woolley, Keith Ewing, Andy Bain and the Communist Party Future of Work Group

★ **How long will we tolerate big pharma?** Marc Vandepitte  
★ **How do intellectuals view communism?** Sean Meleady  
★ **REVIEW: Engels 200** John Foster  
★ **2021 Marx Oration** Lydia Samarbakhsh  
★ **SOUL FOOD: On Priti Patel, practical solidarity, poetry and preservation** Fran Lock  
£2.50 [www.communistparty.org.uk](http://www.communistparty.org.uk)

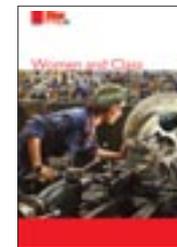
## revolutionary books from the Communist Party



David Horsley charts Claudia's life from a child in Trinidad, struggles in the USA, repression and deportation to Britain and her struggles here.  
£4.95



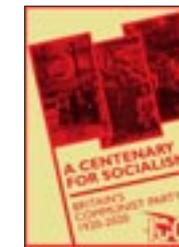
Capitalism is in crisis and its champions in disarray – what better time to launch a new edition of the Communist Party programme.  
£3.00



A new and updated edition, by Mary Davis. Essential reading for all activists in the women's and working class and trade union movements.  
£4.50



The amazing and true story of communism in Britain, through the life stories of the party's extraordinary rank and file membership.  
£9.99



The first ever, single volume history of the Communist Party. Edited by Mary Davis with 20 contributors charting 100 years of struggle.  
£9.99



The *Charter for Youth*, published in its thousands by the Young Communist League is in its second printing reports YCL leader Johnnie Hunter (above). The YCL's Youth Charter is a set of policies to combat the crisis faced by Britain's youth and to offer some relief. The Charter isn't a recipe for socialism. These policies can't cure the underlying problems of capitalism but the demands and the struggle to achieve them ask the fundamental questions about economic ownership and democratic control in our country. More details at [www.ycl.org.uk](http://www.ycl.org.uk)



This event aims to put women's liberation at the heart of class struggle and explore how we should respond to the intensification of women's oppression under modern capitalism. Based upon the three strands of the *Charter for Women*, which was adopted by the National Assembly of Women in 2020, sessions include Marxist-feminist analysis of women in society, at work, and in the international labour movement. Drawn from across the labour movement our speakers include Mary Davis on the roots of women's oppression, Pragna Patel on domestic violence, migration and racism, Sarah Woolley on sexual harassment and Kellie O'Dowd on abortion rights. Additional panels will highlight such questions as the feminisation of poverty, unfair job segregation and the erosion of women's sex-based rights, calling for urgent change to secure equal pay and access to decent childcare. Internationalists recognise that the fight against women's oppression is worldwide and we are delighted to be joined by communist women leaders from three continents, including Liz Rowley, (Canada), Jenny Schreiner (South Africa), Annie Raja (India) and Socorro Gomes (Brazil).  
[zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_\\_1pZ504URB-6P23vown1xQ](https://zoom.us/join/zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__1pZ504URB-6P23vown1xQ)

## Unity! Culture workers (of the world) unite!

Today, May Day 2021 Unity! appears as a paid for supplement to the Morning Star and in locally produced editions.

Unity! is the Communist Party newspaper published for 30 years and now in monthly and special editions for working class, and progressive events, union conferences and daily at TUC conferences.

### CULTURE COMMISSION

**RON BROWN**

KARL MARX and a myriad of Marxist thinkers have offered us the insight that cultural activities – which we can define broadly to include the arts, sport, the media etc. are – under capitalism – dominated by the ruling class and used to justify and legitimise exploitation and oppression. But that cultural hegemony can be rendered fragile and temporary and challenged by activists and cultural workers, working to imagine and build a better world. Culture workers are organised in trade unions and the vital work of strengthening organisation and running campaigns is strengthened through creative and critical writing,

performance and the mobilisation of the enormous reservoir of creative talent in the working class. This spring the Communist Party organised a series of meetings to find ways to develop the conscious work of Marxists in this vital arena of creative struggle. From this has come a firm intent to develop a Culture Commission to give direction to this work and help coordinate creative workers, writers, artists, designers, poets, singers, musicians, craft workers, theatre workers, linguists, image based creatives, critics and media and new media specialists. Dozens of people attended these discussions and from this a programme of work is underway including developing cultural policy and a working class approach to cultural

democracy. Other projects include documenting the historic cultural work of British communists, shaping a marxist leninist approach to democracy and sport and a critical approach by marketing and media professionals. Among the ideas that emerged from the discussions is a proposal to look at food and drink from an internationalist perspective and to develop thinking around traditional crafts, cultivation, gardening and ecology. Commission chair Mike Quille of Culture Matters is convening the cultural policy group and a data base of practitioners is being created for production and to add to party work. RON BROWN IS A MUSICIAN BASED IN THE NORTH EAST AND IS CONVENOR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S CULTURE COMMISSION

## UNEMPLOYMENT FIGHTBACK! A FAST AND FURIOUS WEBINAR May 29, 2021 11am - 12:30pm

**Keynote speakers include: Bill Greenshields and Molly Brown (Communist Party in discussion) Steve Turner (Unite) Mark Porter (Rolls Royce Unite at Barnoldswick) Rohan Kon (Sheffield Needs a Pay Rise) Johnny Hunter (YCL) Laura Smith (ex-Labour MP and No Turning Back campaigner) Helen O'Connor (NHS activist) Sabby Dhalu (SUTR) Speaker from the Communist Party of Spain (on a bill to protect gig employees) Jackie Simpkins (War on Want) and Mick Lynch (RMT)**