



Workers of all lands, unite!

CP BRITAIN CP BRITAIN  
www.comunist-party.org.uk  
September 2020

# Unity!

## They did not pass

CABLE STREET

For *Tony Conway* understanding the events leading up to the Battle of Cable Street in London's East End on Sunday 4 October 1936, was a challenge for someone born 20 years later. But he discovered much to learn for our anti fascist activities today.

CABLE STREET was a clash between the Metropolitan Police trying to force a way through for the British Union of Fascists to intimidate a substantially Jewish area. 20,000 people joined the anti fascists – as against some 3,000 fascists and 6,000 police.

A hundred thousand residents petitioned the home secretary to ban the march.

During the first half of 1936 there had been an upsurge in fascist activity in the East End in which parts the fascists had considerable support.

East End communists argued that a broad anti fascist people's front had to be built. But they also recognised that Mosley had some support amongst workers, the unemployed and small traders. There needed to be a strategy to win these away from fascism. To do this required basic solid work.

Communists mingled with fascists obtaining vital information.

In the run up to October, with party organiser Phil Piratin's house as the centre of operations meetings of trades unionists were called. Street demonstrations in areas where fascists were strong took place. This emboldened those in local communities to speak out against the fascists. The work in organising amongst tenants and the unemployed bore fruit as many saw the fascists for what they were.

Piratin's main objective on 4 October was to safeguard the Jewish areas. On the day itself each London Communist Party branch was told where to assemble. The local National Unemployed Workers Movement had been knocking people up since early that morning.

Piratin later wrote: "I myself saw the way in which they were stacking up the barricades with mattresses and the way in which these dockers and labourers were working along side Jews. The important point to me was that Mosley was trying to divide the nation and this counteraction helped in uniting the very people he was trying to split." ★

Cable Street Forever! online event

100 years!  
£100,000

### APPEAL

The Communist Party is celebrating its centenary with an ambitious programme of events, with a series of books which sharpen the party's intervention in political life and draw lessons from a century of struggle for working class political power.

In the difficult conditions created by the Covid-19 pandemic there has been a significant increase in political activity resulting in many new recruits and an unprecedented demand for agitational and educational material.

But centenaries do not come cheap and the Communist Party is unashamed in asking its members, supporters and the many thousands of working class activists who value our work to contribute to our centenary fund.

Our target is £100,000! The money we raise will be used for development and campaigns, taking our Party forward into a second century.

Cheques can be sent by post to CPB, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon CR0 1BD. Please mark them on the reverse with 'Centenary Appeal'. Money can be transferred into the Party account by BACS. The account is Communist Party of Britain, the bank is Unity, the sort code is 60 83 01 and the account number is 50725694. ★

## Fight for jobs and the right to work

TUC 2020

**I**N A CALL for Britain's trade unions to put themselves at the centre of a mass movement to take on the Tories Communist Party industrial organiser Andy Bain said: "Saving and creating jobs and holding back unemployment is the main challenge confronting millions of workers.

Calling for unions to find new allies he said: "With the Covid-19 crisis many workers facing job loss are threatened by eviction and the repossession of their homes. This is a trade union issue and unions need to work with private renters organisations like Acorn, Renters Union and Generation Rent to prevent evictions, win a fair deal for mortgage payers and stop rent rises."

The annual conference of the Trades Union Congress, starts on 14 September. Andy Bain said the conference will see

sector trade unions outline a better future for their industries.

"Workers will be expecting a lot from the TUC this year, much more than usual.

"Already trades councils, Peoples Assemblies and trade union activists are discussing how to unite the hundreds of struggles across the country. We have throughout the lockdown experienced virtual meetings and before long we may see virtual marches, linking towns and cities on routes to parliament."

Calling for an escalation of activity the Communist Party's industrial organiser said the Tory Party spring conference in Newport, South Wales is an ideal target for People's Marches to converge upon.

The TUC should send an inspirational signal to working people by stating that collectively the trade unions would organise campaigning in every city and

Specifically Labour backs simplifying the law around union recognition, ending the current complexity and removing barriers to workers being collectively represented by a recognised trade union in their workplace.

Labour is pledged to strengthen and enforce trade unions' right of entry to organise, meet and represent their members and to recruit.

This is backed up by the right for union and equality reps to time off, restrict the grounds on which employers can resort to legal action, allow the use of electronic and workplace voting and ban union-busting and black-listing.

Labour is pledged to give everyone full and equal rights from day one at work, whether part-time or full-time, temporary or permanent ending the qualifying time for basic rights, such as unfair dismissal, sick pay and parental leave.

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of Labour's approach to job security.

Introducing Labour's 2019 election programme Laura Pidcock, then shadow secretary for employment rights said: "So many people's working lives are dominated by low pay, insecurity and powerlessness. It is a sign of this broken system that many people, and not just the lowest earners, are forced to top up their monthly wage with debt, just to cover their living costs."

locality against unemployment.

Warning that the Covid crisis is an opportunity for the political representatives and media supporters of big business to shift the balance of power even more in their favour Andy Bain said long-term restrictions of key collective rights are combined with threats to make strikes by key workers illegal.

On the eve of the 2020 TUC conference the Communist Party warned that recognition of the urgency and the scale of the problems faced by working people is lacking.

"We are probably far from a general election and the new Labour leadership has chosen to sit quietly hoping for the Tories to become unpopular. This is not a position that will inspire and gain the trust of the people. ★

Overleaf: Best of this years TUC fringe

Hence Labour pledged to give people the basic right to be protected from unfair dismissal from their first day at work, strengthen protections for pregnant women, strengthen the protection for whistleblowers, increase protection against redundancy and let struggling companies go into protective administration.

Pay goes with job security as key issues and Labour can renew the confidence of millions of workers with a strong commitment to raise wages and improve conditions.

Starting with its pledge to improve statutory minimum redundancy pay Labour said it would transform peoples' working lives by making pay higher and ending in-work poverty, introduce a Real Living Wage of at least £10 per hour and restore public sector pay to at least pre-financial crisis levels.

By giving continuing active and campaigning support to these distinctive and vote-winning policies Keir Starmer will be in a position to deliver on the contract he offered Labour Party members and the wider working class movement when he was seeking the leadership. An active advocacy of these policies will strengthen party unity and would be the best possible basis for Labour to renew the confidence of the working class in the party. ★

## OPINION What do we want to hear when Labour's leader addresses the TUC?

WORKERS' RIGHTS

NICK WRIGHT

**K**EIR STARMER himself has given us a clear steer when he pledged during his election campaign to maintain what Laura Pidcock called Labour's 'transformative' policies on workers' rights, trade union freedoms, pay and conditions, equality at work and the repeal of anti trade union laws.

Labour's policy is crystal clear and working people and trade unionists expect a strong lead from Labour in parliament, in the media and around the country.

Labour is pledged to repeal anti-trade union legislation, including the Conservatives' Trade Union Act 2016, and create new rights and freedoms for trade union unions.

**THE MEDIA & THE VIRUS**  
Online Event  
FIGHTING FOR LEFT PERSPECTIVES  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 2020  
6.45 PM – 7.45 PM BST

**CHANGING THE NARRATIVE AND FIGHTING BACK. COME AND HEAR FROM OUR PANEL OF EXPERTS.**

Are the print and broadcast media presenting the full facts and holding the powerful to account? What should the labour movement and the left be doing to change the narrative on Covid-19 and ensure there is no going back to normal?

Morning Star editor Ben Chacko will be joined on by a host of trade union leaders, including NUJ GS Michelle Stanistreet, Unite AGS Tony Burke, Unison AGS Roger McKenzie, BFAWU GS Sarah Woolley. Chaired by Carolyn Jones from the IER.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-media-the-virus-fighting-for-left-perspectives-tickets-117631110819?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

# Celebrating a century of struggle

## COMMUNIST PARTY

PHIL KATZ

IN THE coming month, the Communist Party will mark the anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street with community work, street propaganda, an online meeting and a special organising meeting of the party's Anti-Racist, Anti-Fascist Commission. We will join with the International Brigades Memorial Trust (IBMT) in wreath-laying ceremonies in London, Cardiff, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Cambridge to "salute the volunteers for liberty." Up to two thousand Communist Party and Young Communist League members went to Spain to fight fascism and hundreds sacrificed their lives. We do not forget the volunteers. In November we produce the first ever single-

volume history of the Communist Party, covering all aspects of our 100-year struggle for socialism, including our achievements and failures and revealing much about the Battle of Cable Street. Shaped by Marxism-Leninism, the party has played a significant role in the formation of the modern labour movement and made a sustained contribution to its principles and theory, influenced strategy and ways of organising. These factors are analysed in detail. This is the first time the party has produced a history in which members speak for themselves. A must-read for any activist in the working class movement. Its online launch is on November 14. Later in the month, the party will be organising events to celebrate the bicentenary of Friedrich Engels, and his contribution will form a centrepiece in the next issue of *Communist Review*, the party's journal of discussion and theory.

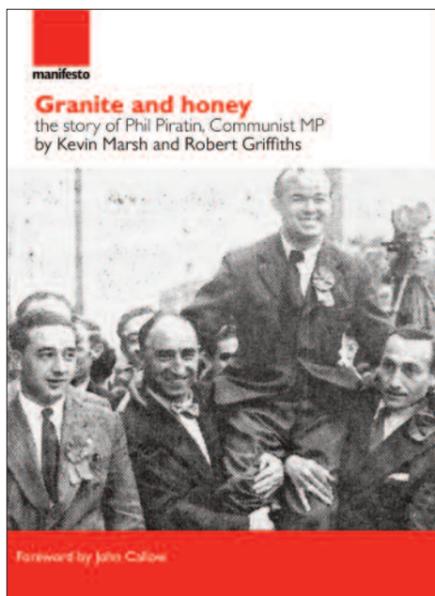
During this last quarter of our centenary year, we are focussing on putting long-term building blocks in place, to develop the party's theory and its capacity to organise and campaign. Plans are in place to make us the most advanced party in use of digital technology on the left. On 5 December we take this process a step further with a conference on the Future of Work. We will involve researchers into robotics and artificial intelligence, scientists breaking the boundaries of discovery, organised and skilled workers who excel in manufacturing creativity and initiative, along with those organising the fight against unemployment, for different kinds of work and diversification. The conference will be online and open to all. PHIL KATZ IS COMMUNIST PARTY'S CENTENARY PROJECT OFFICER

# Cable Street Forever!

4 October 2020  
2.30pm until 4.30pm

Speakers include **Marlene Siddaway** – Chair of the International Brigades Memorial Trust on fighting fascism in Spain and the lessons learnt. **Roger McKenzie**, assistant general secretary of Unison on how racism and fascism can be confronted in workplaces and how trade unionists can get involved in the anti racist and anti fascist struggle. **Kiri Tonks** of the National Education Union will talk about racism and schools and how the curriculum must be changed. **Joginder Bains** from the Indian Workers Association will look at the question of undocumented citizens and the creation of this super exploited group of workers.

**Nisar Ahmed** from the Bangladeshi Workers Council will look at Cable Street Today and how we challenge racism and nationalism. **David Rosenberg** from the Jewish Socialist Group will focus on anti Semitism from the 1930s until today. **Fahana Zaman** of Tower Hamlets Unite Community will speak on challenging Islamophobia. Communist historian **Mary Davis** whose family were involved in Cable Street will talk about linking of the Communist Party and Jewish community in the battle against anti Semitism in the 1930's and 1940's. The event is organised by the Communist Party as part of its Centenary celebrations. **Ruth Styles** vice chair of the Communist Party and chair of its Anti Racist Anti Fascist Commission is the host.



£14.95 from [www.manifestopress.org.uk](http://www.manifestopress.org.uk)



## Repaying the nation's debt to our workers

### PANDEMIC

THE PANDEMIC revealed to many that some seven million 'key' workers, essential to maintain the fabric of society, are amongst the worst paid and least legally protected of the entire workforce. Too often, they suffer from poor terms and conditions, precarious legal status, insecure and unpredictable hours, income and jobs, and lack of protection of their health, safety and wellbeing. The contrast between their critical role and the terms and conditions under which they work reveals the irrational and unjustifiable nature of the so-called 'labour market' in which working people are no more than disposable commodities, 'human resources'. But as the ILO set out in 1944, workers are not commodities, but human beings. The economy should be democratised, with each worker's voice being heard at the very top. There are clear signs public opinion has

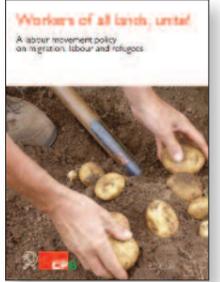
swayed against austerity and towards major economic changes. So what do we want and how do we get it? The Institute of Employment Rights has organised a free online rally as part of the TUC Congress fringe 2020. The speakers are: **Professor Keith Ewing** President of the Institute of Employment Rights **Andy McDonald MP** Shadow Secretary of State for Workers' Rights and protections **Dave Ward** CWU General Secretary **Janet Williamson** TUC Chair: **Carolyn Jones**, Director of the Institute of Employment Rights The event will be held online at 6:30pm, Monday 14 September. Register for details of the live stream to be sent directly to your inbox. [www.ier.org.uk](http://www.ier.org.uk)



A ground-breaking pamphlet by the late Vishnu Sharma, published 1979, has been reissued with an introduction by Tony Conway convenor of the party's Anti-racist, anti-fascist commission. The pamphlet, by the leading Indian communist in Britain, who resigned from the Commission for Racial Equality in protest is a condemnation of the racist immigration and nationality policies of the Tory and Labour governments of the period.



On guard against fascism  
Fascism analysed and exposed. £2

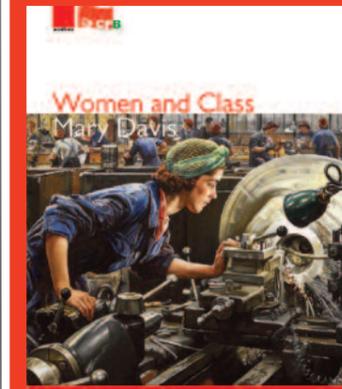


Workers of all lands, unite!  
A labour movement policy on migration, labour and refugees. £2

**COMMUNIST REVIEW 96 PARTY@100**  
100 years of the Communist Party  
The Communist Party in the Industrial Struggle  
Against Imperialism: the first 50 years  
The Communist Party against fascism and appeasement  
Flags, fascism, mourning, and the Machinery of Capitalism  
Soul Food on British Communist Poets

- SUMMER 2020 Contents include
- ★ 100 years of the Communist Party *Rob Griffiths*
  - ★ The Communist Party in the Industrial Struggle, *Peter Kerrigan*
  - ★ The first 50 years against Imperialism *Idris Cox*
  - ★ The Communist Party against fascism and appeasement *Phil Katz*
  - ★ Flags, fascism, mourning, and the Machinery of Capitalism *Fran Lock*
  - ★ Soul Food: British Communist Poets

# Book Launch Women and Class



An online book launch and panel discussion with author Professor Mary Davis, Professor Selina Todd and Dr Sonya Andermahr  
Tuesday, 29 September 2020 - 7:00pm  
Professor Mary Davis on the latest edition of *Women and Class*  
Professor Selina Todd on 'Women, Class & History'  
Dr Sonya Andermahr on 'Women, Class & Literature'  
Chaired by Meirian Jump, Archivist & Library Manager at the MML

This book published by the Communist Party as been at the centre of dispute and analysis in the working class, labour and socialist movement for three decades.

Over four editions and constant reprintings it has informed the debates in the trade union movement, animated discussions in academic circles and defended in the women's movement.

## An Introduction to Marxism



Five weekly online zoom classes  
This course of five weekly zoom classes running 7-830pm on Wednesdays focuses on the fundamentals of Marxism and its relevance to understanding and action.  
Wednesday 14 October 2020 7pm  
Contact: [m.jump@marx-memorial-library.org.uk](mailto:m.jump@marx-memorial-library.org.uk) 02072531485

