



Unity!

ISOLATE THE FASCISTS NOW



INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY EXTRA

WOMEN DEMAND BETTER

Anita Halpin
EDITORIAL

The annual round of union conferences kicks off on International Women's Day with the TUC Women's Conference.

The conference slogan is **Women Demand Better** and we're sure that the rallying call - **Workers Deserve Better** - will echo throughout the conference season.

As expected there will be a major debate on women and the cost-of-living crisis; they didn't cause it and mustn't be made to pay for it.

Alarming, but not surprisingly, TUC research has shown that victims of domestic violence are likely to find it harder to leave an abusive relationship if they cannot support themselves and their children.

A number of unions have highlighted the unacceptably slow progress in a number of crucial areas: the gender pay gap; preventing sexual harassment and violence against women and girls.

There are calls to stand in solidarity with sisters across the world facing escalating attacks on abortion rights and to campaign with women trade unionists in support of global women's rights.

This issue of Unity! includes the Communist Women supplement featuring:

- Who pays for domestic labour?
- Unions in the fight of our lives
- Education for women conference
- Let women speak
- Women of Iran

Unity! wishes you all a happy International Women's Day. Follow us throughout the year www.comunistparty.org.uk/unity/



Morning Star

Daily paper of the left
www.morningstaronline.co.uk

THE TIDE OF STRIKE WAVES

It is estimated that nearly 1.7million trade union members - one third of the TUC membership - are currently balloting, already on strike or will be going on strike.

The next big day of action is on 15 March, Budget Day, when up to 150,000 civil servants will be out. Having been educated at Charterhouse and Magdalen, the Chancellor 15 March is also the Ides of March and, should remember the lines from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Warned by a soothsayer to beware the Ides of March Caesar responds 'the Ideas of March are come' the Soothsayer responds, 'Aye, Caesar, but not gone'. By the end of that day in 44BC Caesar was dead.

All trade unionists should take heart from another famous passage in the play
 There is a tide in the affairs of men,
 Which taken on the flood, leads on to fortune;
 Omitted, all the voyage of their life
 Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
 On such a full sea are we now afloat.
 And we must take the current when it serves,
 or lose our ventures.

GROUCHO

Sam Fury
MERSEYSIDE

WHEN A VIDEO purportedly showing a male migrant harassing a local 15-year old girl began to circulate in Kirby the scene was set for a social explosion.

Kirby is a solidly working class area in Merseyside. It is the second most hostile constituency for the Tories where hardly anyone can be found with the intention to vote Tory.

It is an area of high unemployment with the full range of problems that face working class communities after decades of austerity government.

But as tension mounted rumours began to circulate that an anti-refugee demonstration was planned outside the Suites Hotel where refugees and migrants are housed.

Alarming, local gangster and far-right elements began to mobilise with the slogan 'Protect our children' but added to it the Tory talking point 'Stop the boats'.

Immediately Merseyside communists and

groups like the local Care for Calais campaign began to mobilise. A hundred local trade unionists, socialists and anti racist campaigners gathered to protect the hotel residents.

But they were swiftly outnumbered and by the end of the night the crowd had grown to near 500 people and with serious disorder a police vehicle set on fire (see above).

The incident has prompted a deep rethink about the right approach to direct the anger and resentment working class communities feel to the real causes of their problems

Pete Middleman is chair of the North West TUC. He says: "Those baying for violence against the people in the hotel and against the people protecting them - could have legitimately directed their anger against the rotten economic system that has brought poverty and harmed the life chances of working people".

But he is critical of the approach that thinks shouting anti-fascist slogans at angry locals will solve the political problems raised.

"Chanting Nazi scum get off our streets is a tactical and strategic error if our objective is to isolate the fascists and win working class people to fully understand the causes of mass

migration" he says.

And he adds: "it was clear that very few of the crowd were organised fascists or racists and even fewer would describe themselves as such."

In character and scale this is a new threat to working class unity and the priority is to get people to see how the totality of working problems in Britain are rooted in the capitalist system.

The economic, military and environmental factors pushing people - many from areas devastated by NATO's wars or by climate change - to Britain mean migrants and refugees are best seen as victims of the capitalist system rather than the root of our problems.

Clearly wrong doing should be dealt with by the justice system rather than by vigilante violence but it must be understood from these events that the police themselves are seen by many in working class communities as part of an exploitative and oppressive system.

SAM FURY IS AN NHS WORKER, LIVES IN KIRBY AND CHAIRS THE MERSEYSIDE COMMUNIST PARTY

BRING DOWN THE TORIES

Moz Greenshields
UNITED FRONT

THERE IS A growing recognition across the working class and peoples of Britain that 'we are not all in this together, Moz Greenshields told the Communist Party's executive committee at the weekend.

Millions know from their own experience that poverty is not the fault of the poor, unemployment is not the fault of the worker, and working people are not the cause of inflation, energy prices and cost of living crisis.

These are all the fault of the system and the banks and big business monopolies that run Britain.

The Conservative government and employers of fighting a 'war of attrition' against working people and the trade union movement. The

intention is to divide and exhaust unions and their members, offering smaller real-terms pay cuts to some and nothing to others, while Britain's harsh anti-union laws force unions to ballot and re-ballot in order to take action.

That's why a united front of labour movement organisations is vital in order to strike down a government that has declared war on the working class in order to protect the subsidised profits of the rail and energy companies and the super-profits of the likes of Shell and BP she declared.

Britain's Communists said now was the time to prepare for the formation of 'councils of action' in towns and cities across Britain.

We need to bring together trades councils, local union committees, the People's Assembly, Black Communities Matter, tenants groups,

health and pensions campaigners, student unions and others.

Such a united front would not only maximise the prospects for bringing down the Tories it will also open the way to building an anti-monopolies alliance to fight for an alternative economic and political strategy - whatever the nature of the next government'.

The Communist Party executive urges unions and the TUC to work out a united, coordinated strategy to make the Strikes (Minimum Level of Service) Bill unworkable.

MOZ GREENSHIELDS IS SECRETARY OF DERBY TRADES COUNCIL AND A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERSHIP

INSIDE Nick Wright asks Moz Greenshields about her ideas for united action



FOR A UNITED FRONT

'... we need as quickly as possible to build a United Front to turn their war of attrition into our war of growing generalised frontal attack on them. We've agreed that any United Front does not just need slogans and wish lists but a clear and achievable target. It must be a United Front to strike down the government.' **Moz Greenshields** Communist Party executive committee



Straight Left by Stewart McGill Blowing up inflation

Inflation is like anything else in capitalism, a function of unequal power relations and the drive to accumulate, 'profit-pull,' not 'cost-push' or whatever other term used by bourgeois economics to obscure and distract from the reality. Inflation is not a natural process with ineluctable laws beyond human intervention, it is the product of a myriad decisions, the most telling being those taken by people in power with a view to further engorging their profits.

A Unite report recently showed that the the jump in UK wide company profits was responsible for 58.7% of inflation – only 8.3% was due to labour costs.

The Economic Policy Institute in the USA showed that since the middle of 2020, 54% of price rises in America could be attributed to fatter profit margins, only 8% could be attributed to increased labour compensation.

US corporate profit margins are at a 70-year high, and have risen 37% year-on-year.

Even Morgan Stanley, not exactly comrades, have argued that profits must shrink to absorb the pain of inflation, making up for decades in which capital has increased its share at the expense of workers and consumers alike. They actually called for the end of corporate excess and a return to profit margins seen in the 1990s, and pointed out that workers' share of corporate revenues has fallen for two decades to the benefit of owners and investors.

The Financial Times (FT) criticised the Bank of England Governor when he demanded that workers tone down wage increase demands, asking why did he not call on powerful businesses to "moderate" their profits rather than asking less powerful workers to "moderate" their wage demands.

The FT also exposed the myth that reduced profit margins would mean lower investment. Over the past four decades, the labour share of national income has gone down in most rich economies, and the capital share has gone up — but investment rates have fallen rather than risen.

"(This) shows that economic policymakers can no longer ignore once-outmoded questions of class conflict." The FT's words, not the Communist Party's.

The increase in 'refining spread,' i.e. the margins taken by refineries, added 24p a litre to fuel over the last year according to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA); this is profit margin taken by refiners, nothing to do with increased costs or Putin, straightforward profiteering.

The CMA's April 2022 report showed that average mark-ups have increased since 2008 from just over 20% to about 35%; for the 10% most profitable companies they have risen from 58% in 2008 to 82%.

And finally, just to make you feel warmer as the winter bites:

British Gas owner Centrica will hand £250m to shareholders in a new buyback scheme, as high wholesale prices put the firm on course for a six-fold increase in net profits compared to last year.

In November 2022, SSE reported a tripling of profits thanks to soaring energy prices

E.ON's energy profits grew from £4.1 billion in 2021 to almost £4.8 billion in 2022, expected to hit £5.2 billion in 2026.

Increases in the price cap are clearly protecting the profits of these companies. And don't believe the tosh about 'protecting investment, the "big 6" UK energy suppliers have given 82% of profits over the last 5 years to shareholders.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE? as someone once asked. There follows a few of the demands that we should make on this government. We are the people that built this country, not Black Rock or any other investment company or hedge fund; our capitalism cares more about rewarding this Dollar Gentry than workers having to go into debt to afford the basics of life.

For the UK, 50 percent of gas use comes from North Sea producers. Cut their prices back to where they were before the recent inflation in global prices and you eradicate half of the problem; they will still make good profits, cry no tears.

Make the "Big 6" energy companies take the hit from global gas price increases to their profits; their shareholders have done OK lately, if they don't help out, take the companies back into public ownership with no compensation.

Order the petrol refiners to take their margins back to this that applied

Defend the right to strike

Unity Industry Reporter
UNION RIGHTS

LEADING THE WAY in defending the right to strike are the communications workers union CWU and the Rail Maritime and Transport Union.

Twelve months ago the trade union movement was reeling when P&O sacked 800 seafarers without notice and refused to negotiate with the shipping unions RMT and Nautilus. Despite a spirited political campaign by the unions and mass protests at ports in Dover, Hull and Liverpool, DP World, the parent company achieved the mass sackings with impunity, even avoiding a day of reckoning in the courts after paying off the dismissed workers. It was a text-book example of social dumping and union busting all made easier by weak protections offered by British (and EU) employment law.

As the P&O dispute was reaching its conclusion, in June 2022 the RMT embarked on its national dispute with Network Rail and 13 train operating companies. The dispute – now in its ninth month – is not only about pay but is an attempt to change working practices and reduce union control of the labour process. The CWU dispute with Royal Mail, which has run concurrently with the rail dispute, involves the exact same issues.

In three industries we have seen employers emboldened to smash union power. In shipping they succeeded but on the railways and in postal services we have seen a renaissance of union power throughout the 2022 Summer of discontent and it continues



unabated.

The Trade Union Act 2016 is an anti-union law (the first and only substantial legislation passed by the short lived 2015 Cameron Government) which deems strike action unlawful unless more than 50% of union members vote in an industrial action ballot (in which only postal ballots are permitted). Votes not cast have the effect of voting against strike action. Despite this legal straight jacket, the RMT and CWU have repeatedly won membership mandates for industrial action ballots involving 40,000 and 115,000 workers, respectively and smashing the statutory requirement for turnouts.

In the first five years of the 2016 Act, it

became apparent that unions were struggling with large scale national ballots and securing the necessary turnouts. The big bargaining units are concentrated in the public services and in the years 2016 to 2021 national strike ballots in civil service, local government, schools and universities delivered ballot turnouts well under 50%.

However it is a testament to the improved organisational strength of unions as well rising industrial militancy among the membership that time and time again the ballot requirements are being smashed. For example the FBU, NEU, PCS and UCU have all carried national ballots in recent months. Flexible (SMART) tactics have been used by GMB, UNISON and Unite to successfully run co-ordinated local ballots in ambulance services across England and Wales.

The past year has demonstrated the resilience of trade unions in Britain and their capacity to overcome draconian restrictions on the right to strike by adopting new tactics. We can be confident that with strong workplace organisation, militant leadership and active membership any further attacks on our collective rights such as the Strikes (Minimum Services Levels) Bill currently going through the House of Lords will be overcome by our class.

Unity! is looking for more volunteers to be worker correspondents in each industry and for a comrade to take the lead as industrial editor. e mail nickbwright@mac.com if you are active in your union and keen to join us.

A united front to beat the Tories

Nick Wright asks trades councils activist Moz Greenshields where the strike wave is going?

Nick Wright: The issue animating discussion in the labour movement is the essential work of the working class in the functioning of modern society. You raised the question: How has this come about?

Moz Greenshields: Covid brought to the fore the essential character of productive labour in our society and helped overcome deep seated illusions about 21st century capitalism. Quite simply who now denies the existence of the working class?

Rob Griffiths argued recently that the particular role of the Communist Party is to bring to the fore the class content of the major issues facing the working class and peoples of Britain. He identified the cost of living, housing, health, migration, asylum, racism, sex gender and identity, global warming, peace or national self-determination as class questions!

All of these provide us with opportunities to put the case against the exploitative, grossly unequal, crisis ridden, war mongering society that is capitalism and confirm to a receptive class that the only alternative is Socialism!

NW: The publication of *The fight of our lives* focussed on the role of the trade unions and anticipated the massive strike wave. Where is this leading?

MG: The class struggle is broadening, deepening, and accelerating. It is a time of great opportunity but also of great challenge and danger for our class – and for the Party.

It requires militant action, but action that is informed by analysis and strategic planning... not by wishful thinking or sloganising – which

lead only to demoralisation and defeat.

NW: What then is the particular role of revolutionary theory in times of mass action?

MG: Socialists and in particular the Communist Party have a unique role in periods of heightened class struggle – developing the determination, fighting spirit, and organisation of our class – and in bringing together the Left in unions to provide such leadership. We need and aim to develop class, trade union, and revolutionary political consciousness through struggle.

As the *Fight of our Lives* argues, without an understanding of the nature of capitalist exploitation and that the source of all wealth in the collective labour of the working people wage struggles remain limited in their scope.

They are a vital first step in the transformation of a working class consciousness in a deeper political consciousness.

With a real effort to deepen this understanding our class will develop and understand the need to struggle for state power, challenging not only capital's control of work and industry, but also the organised political power of the boss class expressed through the state.

NW: Can you be more specific about the state?

MG: We know that the government is trying to wear us down by fighting a war of attrition; trying to extend the length of strike action so that people can't afford to keep fighting, forcing unions to keep balloting and re-balloting hoping the majorities start tailing off and trying to divide unions by offering smaller pay cuts to some rather than others.

It wants to prevent pay offers and hoping union members' and the public's support will fall over time if they come to believe that no progress on pay is possible.

NW: You have raised the question of a united front to strike down this government. In the midst of a strike wave what do you mean?

MG: We need to turn *their* war of attrition into our war of growing frontal attack on them.

A united front needs not just slogans and wish lists but a clear and realisable target. Achieving united action, coordinated strike days, solidarity and working class unity can turn individual pay victories and a series of pay victories across every group of workers into a victory for the working class as a whole. It transforms a pay victory into a political victory.

At the People's Assembly conference Andrew Murray said of austerity in 2013, "If the government insists on continuing to govern the country in this way, our job is to make the country ungovernable".

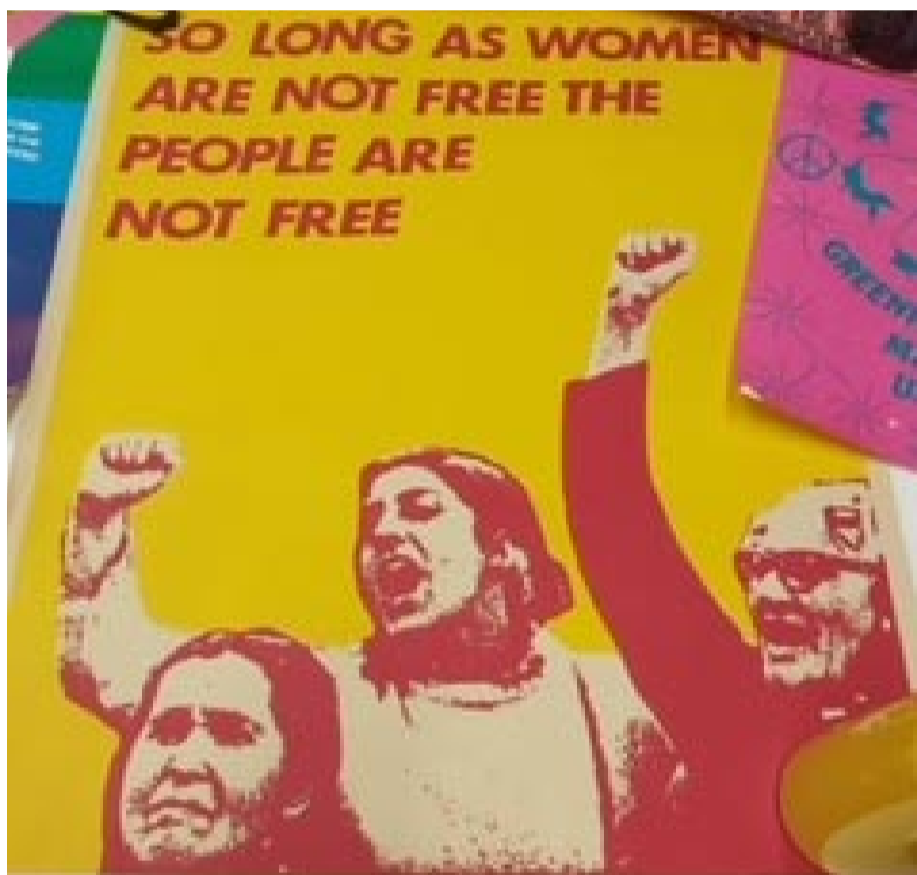
We know the government is largely held in contempt by most working class people, who see it as dishonest, incompetent, corrupt and in the pocket of the richest sections of society.

We know that tens of millions of people are angry about the escalation of monopoly super profits (though they may not call them that!) – particularly as millions of people have already sunk into real poverty and hardship and more millions are heading that way.

Every chance to create councils of action – uniting our communities with our unions – is a step towards a genuine united front that can begin to challenge for power.

On International Women's Day 2023, women in the Communist Party send greetings, solidarity and comradeship to sisters worldwide in our fight against patriarchy, violence, oppression, exploitation, poverty and war ★ **Forward to Peace and Socialism!**

FOCUS ON SEX EDUCATION AT 2023 EDUCATION FOR WOMEN CONFERENCE



Sonya Andermahr
SEX MATTERS

THE DEFENCE of women's sex-based rights rests on asserting the material basis of women's oppression participants at a key conference were told.

Followed a landmark event three years ago the 2023 Education for Women's Liberation Conference, co-hosted by University College London Women's Liberation SIG and Women's Place UK was held at UCL's Institute of Education on Saturday 4 February.

This year the focus was on education and all the many ways in which sex matters in our schools, colleges and universities. The conference opened with addresses from human rights lawyer Akua Reindorf and Joanna Cherry KC. They laid out with brilliant clarity the ramifications of challenges and changes in law for women's human rights and freedom of speech over the past two decades.

Encompassing human rights legislation and the Forstater ruling to the latest challenge posed by the reform of the GRA in Scotland, their talks attested to the ongoing struggle to defend intellectual freedom and protect sex as a legal category.

The morning continued with a choice of panels, all led by women with long expertise in their respective educational fields. These included women's voices in education; teaching about sex and gender in schools; the global history of women's access to education; the schooling of girls, minds and bodies; and women, education and work, which looked at women's struggle past and present to access Higher Education.

The afternoon session consisted of a wide range of informative and practical skills-based

workshops including feminist poster making (attended by one of our young women comrades); teaching about sex and gender in schools (which I attended); lesbian organising; talking to boys about misogyny; woman-centred maternity care; exploring women's oppression; creating woman-only community spaces; setting up a university feminist society (which my 20 year old daughter took part in); winning change in trade unions; tackling MVAWG in black and minority communities; women's role in the revolutions in Iran and Rojava; the erasure of reference to sex in the criminal justice system; and navigating race and religion in the defence of equality for girls and young women.

In the final plenary we heard from Helen Joyce on the importance of doing the "boring work" of insisting that organisations and institutions follow their own policies and procedures in respect of sex equality and safeguarding. Julie Bindel gave an impassioned speech which reminded us that while all women, regardless of background, are subject to patriarchal attitudes, it is overwhelmingly black and working-class women who feel the greatest impact from sexism and misogyny and have the least resources to resist them in their everyday lives. It is overwhelmingly poor women who can't leave abusive partners, who enter prostitution owing to lack of choices, and who are most likely to be given prison sentences. In this context the scandal of placing male sex offenders in women's prisons, as has happened at Corton Vale in Scotland, is a class matter as much as a sex matter. The last word on the day's sessions went to Ali Ceesay from WPUK who exhorted us to be the women's movement for change and keep moving forward.

In the evening there was a film screening of *Adult Human Female* and a Q&A with the directors Deirdre O'Neill and Mike Wayne. As this was the first successful screening of the film at a university, it was really something to celebrate. The audience was very engaged and saw the humorous irony in some of the comments by those in the film. One conference delegate, from the Congo, asked if it could be subtitled in French; she explained that there was state encouragement to transition in her country owing to homophobia.

As with most women's movement events in recent years, the conference was protested by a small group of trans activists who took exception to women organising in their own name. While the protest started out peacefully enough, it became increasingly male-dominated and aggressive as the day went on. Protesters banged on the windows of some of the sessions (my daughter's workshop had to move rooms because of the noise) and shouted insults and slurs at attendees. At one point a woman delegate was assaulted, and the police made an arrest. Equally concerning was a statement put out by two academics in the UCL research group, claiming that the conference colluded with the college's shameful history of eugenics by "promoting anti-trans views". As Professor Alice Sullivan stated, this is a grotesque and defamatory allegation to make against women educators who are overwhelmingly of the left and some of whom belong to groups – Jewish people, ethnic minorities and disabled people - historically targeted by eugenicists, nazis and fascists. As Communists, we need to be clear that while we respect everybody's right to self-expression,



verbal and physical attacks on women gathering to discuss their rights are totally unacceptable.

Along with my Communist comrades who attended the conference, I left feeling that a lot of good work had been achieved in terms of networking, information sharing and grassroots movement building. The day also confirmed our pride in our own party's materialist analysis of women's oppression and the clarity of our statement on sex and gender passed at the 55th Congress. Yet, it also served to remind us that there can be no room for complacency in the CPB about the threat to women's rights in Britain and across the world. We must go back to our branches, districts and nations with the message that there is no socialism without women's liberation and continue to educate and organise comrades, women and men, according to this fundamental truth.

SONYA ANDERMAHR IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY MIDLANDS WOMEN'S ORGANISER

▲ **Communists were among the 900 women and some men who attended the event.**

International Women's Day

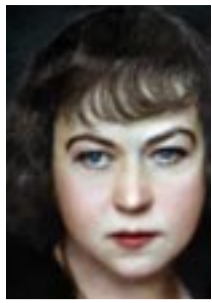
Women and the struggle for peace, equality and liberation

Saturday 11 March 2023
7pm-9.15pm

- ★ speeches by women activists from Britain, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Guyana, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Spain, Sudan
- ★ Live music: *Iraqi, European, Bangladeshi, Iranian*
- ★ Cultural programme
- ★ International buffet

Entry free, all welcome
Ealing Green Church, Ealing Green, London W5 5QT
Nearest Underground
Ealing Broadway, a short walk away.
Bus 65 stops nearby





INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

'Women's Day or Working Women's Day is a day of international solidarity, and a day for reviewing the strength and organization of proletarian women. But this is not a special day for women alone.'
Alexandra Kollantai 'Международный день' работниц, Moscow 1920



LET WOMEN SPEAK

Emily Weir

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

▲ Let Women Speak rally in Glasgow

LET WOMEN SPEAK events are intended to enable women to speak about issues that concern us, in the public square, without the censorship and restriction we've come to expect from corporate-owned socialmedia platforms. Let Women Speak" has been accused of being a right-wing rally by its opponents but as a communist and women's officer for my branch, I felt it was important to attend and to speak.

The speakers were from all across the political spectrum, and included Labour politician Alison Ann-Dowling speaking in support of women's rights. Had everyone on the Left refused to attend, then it would have been left up to the Right to opportunistically profit from women's hard work of grassroots organising. We must overcome the fear of "sharing platforms with the Right" if we are to use the tools available to us and to ensure the Right does not control them. Women's rights are too important to be neglected and left up to the Conservatives.

Nor can we let ourselves be silenced

and controlled by the demand of ideological purity. This demand is usually made by our opponents and not by our comrades, and one that they do not adhere to themselves - note that the current erasure of women's rights has been taking place under and with the support of a Conservative government in Westminster and a neoliberal SNP/Green government in Holyrood, and some gender activists are only too happy to rub shoulders with any and all politicians and private sector bosses to influence policy.

I was lucky enough to give the first speech of the day, and I made the case that the warping of language has stripped it of meaning: most obviously the word "woman" is now impossible to define in a politically correct way; and "fascism" has been so watered down that the rally opposing the women's event was even titled "Furries Against Fascism" (furries being a fetish subculture that sexualises animal costumes - yes, really).

This trivialises the historic crimes of fascism, and serves to hide the fact that, on many issues, fascism is far more closely aligned to the postmodern liberalism pushed by these self-described "antifascists" who

appropriate that title with no material basis for it. The examples I gave were:

- Gender stereotypes, which they hold to be a reflection of a person's "authentic self" rather than regressive social roles imposed on the sexes;
- Workers' rights, including blacklisting and the power for bosses to sack employees at will if the mob demands it;
- Free speech and freedom of association, opposing women organising even with assaults and threats of violence. For all the mealy-mouthed talk of "hatred on both sides" from centrists, feminists have never threatened to silence trans rights activists or stop them from meeting;
- Eugenics, as in the appalling medical experimentation and sterilisation of autistic children at "gender clinics", when autism is known to have a hereditary component;
- Homophobia, the insistence that exclusive same sex attraction is wrong and in need of "re-education";
- Prostitution. Though they claim to support trans-identifying people, the liberals are in favour of decriminalising pimps and johns, who committed 62% of "transphobic" murders worldwide last year against their prostituted victims.

That a movement with these material aims has the gall to describe itself as "left" or "antifascist" shows how incoherent the language in this debate has become.

We need a return to materialism in order to clearly describe our material conditions. As it stands, our liberal enemies have even co-opted communist language and imagery to the point where the general public believe that gender ideology is at all compatible with communism - one only needs to scroll through Twitter to see the profiles with "preferred pronouns" alongside a performative hammer and sickle. Postmodernism and liberalism have damaged the Left in ways that the overt anticommunists of old could only have dreamed of, and the Right is capitalising on it. Only through engaging with all the opportunities we have to put the case for Marxist feminism, can we revive it.

EMILY WEIR IS EDINBURGH COMMUNIST PARTY WOMEN'S OFFICER

PAYMENT



Forty years ago Angela Davis wrote about 'the approaching obsolescence of housework'

'A substantial portion of the housewife's domestic tasks can actually be incorporated into the industrial economy. In other words, housework need no longer be considered necessarily and unalterably private in character. Teams of trained and well-paid workers, moving from dwelling to dwelling, engineering technologically advanced cleaning machinery, could swiftly and efficiently accomplish what the present-day housewife does so arduously and primitively.'

**Women, Race and Class*

(London: The Women's Press Ltd, 1981):

WE ARE IN THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES.

Vicky Knight

TRADE UNION FIGHT BACK

WOMEN HAVE always been more vulnerable to increases in the cost of living due to lower wages and savings, pay stagnation and being most populous in lower paid, more precarious work. But now, with the value of real terms income falling, the cost of living rising alongside the need to take urgent action to protect families from poverty, all too often 'in work' poverty, a generation of women workers are standing up and joining what is rapidly becoming a movement engaging in 'The fight of our lives'.

This isn't just a movement of around 1.7 million workers either being balloted for or taking part in strike action. This isn't just those in the public sector fighting to protect public services or saving our NHS from Tory destruction and privatisation and it isn't just a generation of workers saying we need more pay, even though they absolutely do.

This is our movement raising awareness towards the shameless building of wealth on the backs of the workers - those producing

the wealth, whilst benefitting from none of it. And those workers are now saying 'enough is enough'.

The women's budget group have reported that Childcare costs alone for 2 year olds and under absorb around half of women's average earnings. Set alongside increased housing and transport costs, a 12.5% rise in food costs and an average increase of 65% in fuel costs in the past 6 months, all see the probability of current pay offers being less than useless to any worker for 2023 who would need to see far in excess of 10% pay increases, just to tread water in the current economic situation.

There is little surprise then, when we see workers across the rail, mail and health sectors joining those in environment, higher education, fire and rescue and care, to name but a few balloting not just for better pay and conditions but for improvements in public safety and service provision. Protecting the public from cuts that reduce provision whilst compromising on efficiency - to ensure that maximum savings are made and larger dividends are paid to shareholders whilst minimum pay is afforded to staff delivering

these services. We know that this is how profit is made. Profit too often made by workers in public services, services that have been sold off to the highest bidder by successive governments. A scandal of epic proportions, to name but a few; British gas, petroleum, electricity, rail, mail, steel and too much already of our NHS.

So, in the face of desperation facing the majority of workers, many who have to choose between eating and heating this winter, Sunak's Government rather than taking any real steps to help people, have decided to further hurt people by introducing strike (minimum service levels) legislation. An undemocratic and draconian measure that will undermine the right to strike of millions of workers.

This legislation is another sticking plaster that will not address the deep rooted causes of industrial disputes as well as being a further distraction from their inability to effectively manage the economy or our public service provision.

This government has essentially gone from clapping key workers to threatening them with

the sack if they take lawful action for a pay rise. And instead of listening to the concerns of working people and negotiating fair deals, Rishi Sunak has decided to undermine the fundamental right to strike of trade union members.

Union members are likely to have a more secure job with better pay, terms and conditions, holidays, maternity and paternity provisions, sickness and pension benefits to name but a few. So, if you're in a trade union, look out for information about the TUC's 2023 women's conference to see how unions are fighting for women. If you're not in a trade union, it is time to join one and if you're not sure which union to join, visit www.tuc.org.uk/joinunion because every single worker is facing 'the fight of our lives' and united, we will win.

VICKY KNIGHT IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S NORTH WEST WOMEN'S ORGANISER

★ Click here to find out where your nearest picket lines are and pop along to offer your support <https://strikemap.org>



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ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

..no matter how heavy factory work is for a woman worker it has its bright side: an independent wage frees woman from the dominance of a man as she becomes much more independent of him. Work in the factory has another bright side as it awakens woman's class consciousness'. **Nadezhda Krupskaya** *The Woman Worker*

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



Catrin Ashton
DOMESTIC LABOUR

A DECADE before Angela Davis wrote those lines Silvia Federici, and other Italian marxists, started the international campaign Wages for Housework which demanded a wage for the unpaid labour of women in the home, critiquing the capitalist system from a marxist-feminist angle and shining a light on the essential work that women do: reproducing the workers of the future and regenerating current workers in time for their next shift.

Some have recently argued (for example Sophie Lewis in her 2022 book *Abolish the Family* published by Verso) that this was never a literal call for a wage but rather a metaphorical call to highlight unpaid labour and

to make a political point. Angela Davis had argued that a wage for housework would not emancipate women, but chain them even closer to the kitchen sink. It was only via the workplace that women could be truly emancipated. In the workplace they would meet other women, join unions and demand a better future for themselves.

Fifty years since the beginning of the Wages for Housework campaign and 40 years since Angela Davis wrote her chapter, one thing that has changed is the increase in the amount of work expected of middle-class women. Of course, this balancing act of labouring outside the home and labouring within it has always been juggled by working class women.

In communist and socialist circles, the future of childcare and housework is often imagined in terms of communal childcare services. A mother could hand her baby or toddler to the community and continue to emancipate herself via her work outside the home.

In November 2022 I attended the AGM of the National Assembly of Women and a perspective that I had never fully understood began to make sense. Hearing from older women, some in their 70s or 80s, I realised that many were working class women who had struggled their way into interesting professions. They felt that their own, intelligent, curious, competent mothers had never been given that opportunity.

I could see why calling for a wage for housework or parenting would make them want to scream and run for the hills – or back to their desk at the office. This is an understandable – and typical – position for the petit bourgeoisie. Growing up in a working-class household is one thing. However, once you have something to lose – a better income, an interesting profession, a sense of standing within that profession and the social and cultural capital that come with it – it becomes hard to fight for something that you now see as regressive.

It also goes against the grain in socialist,

feminist circles to express the desire some women have, to look after their own children during those fleeting years of childhood. I will try my best to argue the case for it here and to explain why, within the Communist Party in Wales and other socialist groups in Wales, we are currently taking quite literally the demand for a wage for the care work that is done inside the home.

From the perspective of my own immediate circle of friends, after childbirth most (not all) would have stayed at home longer had their jobs permitted it and had there been a decent maternity payment to cover fully this time at home. Those who had partners would have shared that care work with them had there been fairer paternity pay and leave, as well as sharing the care work with other family and community members had it been possible. Others, as single parents, had no one to share this work with and had no choice but to stay at home with no income other than meagre state benefits. Some of us chose to stay at home voluntarily, losing our jobs, our pensions, our ability to join unions, descending into financial dependence and, for some, living in poverty.

We are demanding that any person who is not in waged work because they are at home caring for another person: a child, a parent, a partner for example, receives a wage that acknowledges this labour and allows them to continue their care work with dignity. The wage would need to be high enough to pull this demographic out of the poverty and dependence in which they currently stand allowing them, instead, to live joyfully and in full.

It is not a demand that stands on its own. It comes with other, essential, demands:

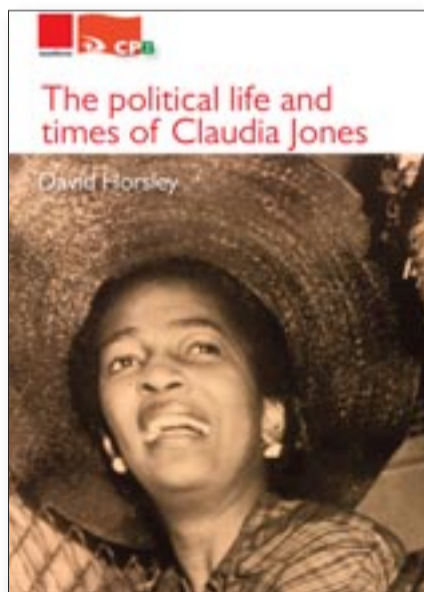
- Five years minimum maternity and paternity leave for all parents: keep jobs open to parents until all their children are of statutory school age.
- Free childcare from birth for those parents who wish to return to waged work after childbirth.
- A generous state pension which

acknowledges the labour involved in care work and therefore keeps up contributions for those at home caring.

- Paid Parental Leave for events and emergencies.
- A generously funded and robust NHS owned by the people, for the people.
- A generously funded and robust National Care Service owned by the people for the people.
- A reorganisation of our society according to care – so that when we look after our children/parents/partners or vulnerable members of our communities, there are other people there to help us, along with an infrastructure that allows us the time to recharge emotionally and physically and the financial stability to make this possible in a happy, stress-free way.
- Good homes for all with the option to live in your own community without being forced to leave because of a lack of council homes or inflated house prices.
- Green open spaces for all, with pollution-free air.

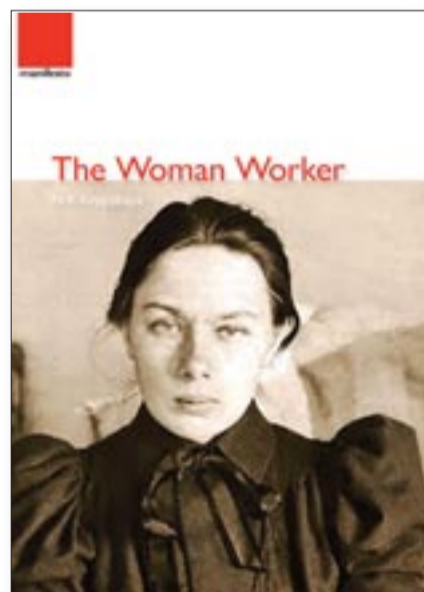
In the same way that we stand behind, and value, the right to abortion we must come full circle and also value and make possible the right of a mother to look after her own child in an economically viable way if that is what she chooses. And we must extend that dignity to all carers, including the partners of these mothers so that the work can be shared ensuring that no one is automatically tied to the home. We can still campaign for communal childcare centres, and even industrialised housework teams – they can definitely be part of the solution to collective caring and living, along with a liberating change to our relationship with work. But when we imagine our future, we must also make space for those who wish, for a period in their lives, to labour through care. As a society we must support them, ensuring that it can be done with financial integrity, community sustenance and, hopefully, joy.

CATRIN ASHTON IS A MEMBER OF THE WELSH COMMUNIST PARTY PONTYPRIDD BRANCH

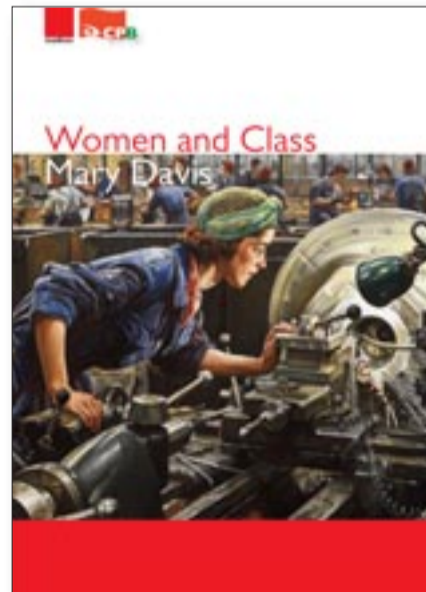


The political life and times of Claudia Jones sets the life of this outstanding communist organiser and writer in its context on both sides of the Atlantic, in the USA and Britain. The Communist Party, Claudia's adopted party on arrival in Britain, invited author David Horsley to research and recount the story of her political life and times.

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The Woman Worker Nadezhda Krupskaya's first pamphlet, was written in Siberian exile where she had joined Lenin, following their arrest in 1896 and sentencing to three years internal exile in Shushenskoye. Krupskaya and Lenin married in July 1898 before going eventually into exile in Britain where the Bolshevik newspaper *Iskra* was edited. free e pub at www.manifestopress.coop



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FOR LIBERATION

'Our party, based on its Marxist-Leninist principles, stands foursquare on a programme of full economic, political and social equality for the Negro people and of equal rights for women. Who, more than the Negro woman, the most exploited and oppressed, belongs in our party?'
Claudia Jones 1949 *An end to the neglect of the problems of the Negro woman!*

WOMAN, LIFE, FREEDOM!



Liz Payne
IRAN UPRISING

FIVE MONTHS after the brutal killing in custody of Mahsa Amini, on 11 February, which triggered the 'Woman, Life, Freedom!' protests in Iran, the country's theocratic regime marked the 44th anniversary of the events that brought it to power in 1979. It did so with characteristic show of might and power, parading a choice of lethal weapons from its stockpile: ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones, the latter already raining down on the people of Ukraine. In a televised speech from Tehran's Azadi Square to mark the anniversary, president Raisi condemned the protesters as agents of foreign powers, while praising the 'achievements' of Iran since 1979 and describing the current celebrations of the Islamic 'revolution' as "epic."

The regime's historic and contemporary record tells a different story and for the women of Iran it is an especially cruel one. The dictatorship has systemically robbed women of choice, justice, and opportunity in every sphere. From the outset, Islamic sharia law was weaponised - an instrument of dictatorship. Women and girls have been subjected to the absolute control of their fathers and husbands and debarred from the public space unless in full hijab (head to toe covering) from the age of nine. Permission is needed from their menfolk to work and travel abroad. Forced marriage of young girls has the blessing of the constitution as does the right of husbands to divorce wives on a whim. Domestic abuse is rife and goes unpunished.

Violent subjugation is the norm but brave women have, on many occasions over the years, taken to the streets to protest and demand justice. They have been met with intimidation, assault, imprisonment, and

torture, including in the notorious Qarchak women's jail and Tehran's Evin prison. Even providing legal defence for women and children has led to arrest and the harshest of sentencing. Lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh was handed 148 lashes and a 38-year prison term!

All this has taken place against a disastrous backdrop created by the dictatorship. The calamitous prolonging of the Iran-Iraq War leading to slaughter and economic ruin on both sides and Iran's defeat in 1988, from which it has never recovered; construction of a neoliberal economy that, for the majority, brought destitution and ruin in its wake, praised only by the IMF and Iran's tycoons who made their fortunes; sky-rocketing inflation that put even basic commodities outside the reach of the poor and continues unabated; corruption on a massive scale; lack of rights of assembly and expression for organised activities, including for women, trade unions and all social groups, outside the apparatus of state; brutal suppression of any opposition; the arrest, torture, and execution of thousands of political prisoners; and the highest per capita execution rate in the world - These have been and remain the hallmarks of dictatorship.

Mahsa Amini was not protesting on that September day last year. She was wearing hijab and going innocently about her business on a visit to Tehran with her brother. Taken into custody for a minor infringement of dress code, she wound up dead. Her name and the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' demonstrations that followed were the catalyst for calls not only end the laws governing the subjugation of women and girls but to change the regime that imposed them.

Millions have taken to the squares and streets of towns and cities, to be met with brutal assault and live fire. And still they come! Thousands languish in jail. Sham trials and

executions are already taking place. But it is they - the women and men, old and young, from every walk of life - who have exposed, judged, and condemned the regime and no amount of presidential speeches, paraded weaponry or security service brutality can alter the fact that the people of Iran are demanding a future beyond theocracy.

For us there is a major supportive part to play. We must make clear in every progressive forum that the future of Iran is to be decided by the people of that country and they alone, free from interference, in any guise, by the US, Britain, NATO countries, or any other foreign power. The interests of big business and profits must not be allowed to get away with funding, promoting or otherwise backing monarchists or any other reactionary Iranian forces in plotting regime-change and making coups.

In this, we should pay special attention to the British government. MPs of all parties, on 12th January 2023, called on the government to include the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on the list of proscribed organisations under the Terrorism Act 2000 and to work with international partners to place further sanctions on Iran "without delay". Should the government go ahead, only the regime and its supporters stand to benefit.

The IRGC, whose activity and modus operandi we rightly condemn, is an integral part of the Iranian state which cannot meaningfully be proscribed in isolation. The only effect of our government's doing so will be to fuel the regime's baseless accusations that 'Woman, Life, Freedom' and the movement for change that is gathering momentum in Iran is backed by foreign powers. Sanctions imposed by the US and its allies are having a devastating impact on the majority of people in Iran. They need lifting 'without delay', not extending.

We must also continue to expose and condemn the brutal regime and every arm of its security apparatus and demand the repeal of all legislation governing the repression of women and girls. We must call for an immediate end to the use of physical, psychological, and sexual violence against demonstrators, an end to their arrest, imprisonment, and torture, and to the harassment of their families. All political prisoners must be released immediately. Sham trials and executions must be halted.

In all of the above, we must work in solidarity with the Democratic Organisation of Iranian Women (DOIW), Iran's affiliate to the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), especially by promoting its analysis, statements and demands, which look forward to a future of equality and justice.

LIZ PAYNE IS CONVENOR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S PEACE COMMISSION



Susan Galloway
SOLIDARITY

SINCE THE death in custody of Mahsa Amini in September 2022, women and girls have been at the forefront of a renewed popular uprising against the theocratic dictatorship in Iran. The 22-year old Kurdish woman was arrested and beaten for violating 'morality' dress codes. Since then, tens of thousands have taken part in protests in Iran and around the world under the slogan 'Woman Life Freedom' and the popular anthem 'Baraye - For Woman, Life, Liberty' by Shervin Hajipour.

Iranian women and girls have experienced enormous discrimination and oppression for decades, under a regime which uses repression against anyone who expresses criticism. Trade unions are severely restricted or banned by the state but those which exist are actively supporting the women's rights protests, and nation-wide strikes have taken place. Enormous bravery is being shown against a regime which - as with previous uprisings - is using incredible levels of violence, including sexual violence, to suppress revolt. In December two young men were executed for participating in the protests and over 100 are on death row. Thousands have been arrested, detained and tortured. According to the Guardian (18 February) agents of the Iranian regime have recently carried out a series of attempted assassinations of political opponents within the UK.

The Tudeh Party of Iran describes the regime currently as being in a state of serious political instability, no longer having the power it once had to manage internal and external crises. The question is whether through continued mass action the Iranian people can drive events and succeed in achieving a secular democratic and progressive republic that delivers women's rights. That means defeating external attempts to build support for the son of the deposed Shah as a 'leader-in-waiting'. But also deterring the growing and very real threat of a US/Israeli intervention.

SUSAN GALLOWAY IS THE SCOTTISH COMMUNIST PARTY'S WOMEN'S ORGANISER

SOLIDARITY

COMMUNISTS

SIXTY COMMUNIST and worker's parties have sent solidarity to the 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 protesters 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 IRI's judiciary has confirmed that the

trial of about 1000 protesters has already started. Several defendants have already been charged with 'enmity with god', 'fighting against Islam' and 'endangering the national security of the Islamic state' and sentenced to death. These trial processes fall massively short of even the most basic standards of legal due process and a fair and lawful trial.

We strongly denounce the use of the death penalty - particularly as punishment solely for engaging in peaceful protests and political activities and for exercising the right to free speech or freedom to join a political or social organisation of one's choice.

We support the legitimate struggle of

the Iranian people for peace, human and democratic rights, sovereignty, and social justice. Their struggle to determine the future of their country - free from any intimidation, oppression, or violence - is their legitimate right. We call for the immediate and unconditional release of all detainees and an immediate halt to the torture and executions.

We also strongly reject any interference by imperialism and reactionary regimes in the Middle East in Iran's internal affairs. The future direction of political developments in Iran is a decision solely for the people of Iran themselves.

www.solidnet.com

▲ Labour activist Reyhane Ansarinejad, has been summoned to the Prosecutor's Office in Tehran - Evin Prison to present her last defence. She has seven days from February 15 to appear before the Court.

She was arrested at 2am on 12 May 2022 by intelligence ministry agents at her home acting without warrant. Intelligence agents searched and ransacked her address and confiscated her mobile phone, laptop, electronic devices, and several books. After nearly three months in Evin Prison, including a spell in solitary confinement, she was released on Saturday 4 August on bail of one and a half billion tomans [about \$35,000 US].

The Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company demands the dismissal of the baseless accusations against her as well as other labour activists and teachers.

<http://codir.net>



INDEPENDENCE AND ENERGY

'If market forces were the only determining factor, the UK would freeze.'
'You can't have devolution in Scotland without, in my opinion, the need to have within a British national energy plan a Scottish energy plan.' **Mick McGahey** President National Union of Mineworkers

WHERE NOW FOR SCOTLAND'S WORKING PEOPLE?



Aiden O'Rourke
STURGEON RESIGNATION

SIXTEEN YEARS of Scottish government has not been brought to a crashing halt by the surprise resignation of SNP leader and Scottish government first minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Scottish establishment figures pushing the narrative that she stepped down due to 'short term issues' were disappointed to be told Sturgeon simply did not have the energy to continue.

The strength of the SNP as the leading political force means that whoever takes over as first minister inherits a tricky but – in the absence of a convincing Labour Party intervention winnable position.

The core vote backing the SNP on independence continues to avert its eyes to the disastrous state of Scotland's NHS and cash-strapped local government.

Caught between constitutional polarities, the Scottish labour movement has struggled hard in to bring focus back to the pressing issues facing working class voters.

While there is no doubt that striking workers have received strong backing from the public, and that trade unions have come in to the fore once more, there is still plenty of work to do, and there is no guarantee – that without a clear political expression – such support will continue indefinitely.

The SNPs grip on Scotland government is not loosening, at this very moment they are bending over backwards to negotiate with the trade unions and get pay deals over the line across the board.

AIDEN O'ROURKE REPORTS FROM SCOTLAND
 FUNITY!

15 February 2023
SCOTTISH COMMUNISTS

Nicola Sturgeon resigns as the longest serving First Minister of Scotland after more than 8 years. Turning away from the speeches and the media circus, it is important for working people to ask – what is the real legacy of Sturgeon and the SNP for Scotland?

Sturgeon's press conference focused mostly on her own feelings and motivations and the political fortunes and outlook for the SNP. After 8 years as First Minister and almost 16 years in government, you would have expected her to focus on a legacy. She essentially said she was "very proud of what has been achieved" with little more by way of detail.

And we look in detail at the legacy of the SNP in Scotland, we can see exactly why.

Poverty in Scotland has increased under the SNP. More than a quarter of Scottish children grow up in poverty. Sturgeon's own constituency has the highest rate of children living in poverty at nearly 70%.

The SNP have happily passed on Tory cuts as well as implementing cuts of their own across local and central government. Public services are on their knees across Scotland which is plain to see for the working people that rely on them.

These cuts have been implemented at the same time as the SNP have been running record budget underspends – the latest record being set just last year, with a £2 billion underspent. This puts paid to the myth that the SNP have no other choice or that their hands are completely tied by the Tories.

At the same time as they've been cutting local government, they've been centralising power and stripping it away from councils, fatally undermining local democracy.

Scotland's NHS is in just as terrible a state as England's – and even worse in some areas – with cuts and staff shortages endemic. Rather than properly funding the NHS, civil servants has talked behind closed doors about introducing charges and costs for medical care.

Drug deaths have reached record levels under the SNP, with no plan of action or funding to address the problem.

The SNP's so-called 'National Care

Service' is nothing more than a sham for cementing privatisation and centralising control.

Indeed, Scottish Government have embraced Tory privatisation, with smarter marketing, across the board, from local services to national industries, most infamously the shambolic ScotRail.

They've been happy to bail out private companies with public money when the going gets tough and at the same time have been content to let productive industries fail and jobs along with them – including the Caley, Bifab and many others – with the excuse of a slavish devotion to EU rules on state aid.

Just like the Tories, the SNP are locked in battles with various trade unions over their refusal to offer pay that meets the spiralling cost of living.

The SNP have parroted the same rhetoric and sabre-rattling on NATO and foreign policy as the UK government.

Despite helping to host COP26 and having 'Greens' as their junior partner in government, Sturgeon and the SNP have taken no meaningful action on climate change and continue to support the oil and gas monopolies.

The list of consistent failures for working people in Scotland could go on.

Sturgeon acknowledged her resignation would be celebrated by many and lamented by many. This reflects the fact that she leaves behind a deeply polarised country.

But the divide doesn't reflect the real division of society into classes, the working class and those who own and control, the ruling class.

Working people and our labour movement have been divided along separatist lines with 'nation' being used to obscure class.

Sturgeon also said she has "always been of the belief that no one individual should be dominant in any system for too long". However, that is precisely what she and, more importantly, the SNP have been in Scottish politics for far too long. Centralising, anti-democratic and unaccountable.

For almost 16 years Scotland's people have been short-changed by the SNP into accepting anything slightly less bad than the Tories is enough.

We deserve more.

So where next for working people?

Scotland's left, labour movement and youth can't accept the lesser of two evils anymore. We can't put off the fight for

social justice and Socialism today, for the promise of jam tomorrow.

Now is the time to build a movement against austerity, for democracy, peace and Socialism, uniting working people across Scotland – and across Britain. Only a movement of this type can effectively challenge the new SNP leadership and Sunak's Tory government.

Scotland's Communists are fighting for:

- The labour movement to win the battles over pay and for the right to strike being fought today.
- A new mass movement against cuts to councils and public services and for the return of local democracy.
- A progressive federal constitution for Britain and radical new powers for the Scottish government to intervene in the economy – and the political will to use them.
- A Scottish government committed to peace and cooperation not supporting NATO wars.

If you agree, join Scotland's Communists today and join the struggle for Socialism in our lifetime.

SCOTTISH COMMITTEE
 COMMUNIST PARTY
 SCOTTISH COMMITTEE
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Download the **Communist Party's Progressive Federalism** briefing at <https://tinyurl.com/2d4x6uzu>



Claudia Jones, exiled US communist, founder of the Notting Hill Carnival and of the West Indian Gazette honoured at her graveside, adjacent to Karl Marx's tomb at a February event organised by the Communist Party





EVENTS & IDEAS & ACTION

'Women have worked hard; starved in prison; given of their time and lives that we might sit in the House of Commons and take part in the legislating of this country'
Ellen Wilkinson Founder member of the Communist Party and Labour MP

A STATUE FOR SYLVIA

Anita Halpin
HERITAGE

THE LONG-RUNNING saga of A Statue for Sylvia looks set to be coming to a close. But there are still hurdles ahead but, in the spirit of Sylvia, we are undeterred!

Suddenly the goalposts shifted and we do to finalise planning permission with Islington Council and must make "a very strong case" for erecting the statue in Clerkenwell.

Well there is a very strong. The name 'Pankhurst' is forever associated with the fight for women's suffrage and Sylvia was central to this battle. Indeed she was the only Pankhurst who continued campaigning until working class women were finally able to vote in 1928.

The statue will be a celebration of this, but it is also a political platform to raise the profile of her socialism, anti-fascism and internationalism. We want the statue to inspire present and future generations, rather than simply revere the past. It is about the need to always challenge the evils of fascism and racism; to speak out like Sylvia.

Sylvia had a strong link with the Italian community in Clerkenwell, the so-

called "Little Italy" which extended to Clerkenwell Green and its surroundings.

Dubbed the "headquarters of republicanism, revolution and ultra non-conformity" Clerkenwell Green is an excellent site for the eight-foot bronze statue. The plaque will carry Sylvia's words: "Let me be counted among the citizens of the world who own no barrier of race or nation." Given this sentiment, the statue will really be a People's Statue.

* The additional planning requirements mean additional costs. Please donate and encourage donations.

- We are crowdfunding on: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sylviaastatue
- Cheques should be made payable to "SERTUC (Sylvia Pankhurst)" and sent to 26 Birchanger Road, London SE25 5BB.
- Visit our new campaign website is www.gn.apc.org/sylviaipankhurst
- Find us on www.facebook.com/astatueforsylvia
- Follow us on Twitter @sylviaastatue
- Contact us 07849549849 and philippa.clark@yahoo.co.uk

ANITA HALPIN IS FORMER CHAIR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND OF THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL



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- 3.30 Fighting back – the strike wave

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 Annie Raja: vice president WIDF
 Mary Davis: Communist Party EC
 Communist Party National Women's Commission
Watch: cpb.tiny.us/5n9yamyp



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Robbing the public purse

The government are very keen to tell us what they can't afford and that we should work more hours, budget better and tighten our belts, so how are they spending our money?

While the family paid for Mrs Windsor's, taxpayers paid for all the associated security and facilities. And, as the coronation is a State occasion we'll be footing the whole bill.

A government contract with a budget of £222,000 will provide former PM Johnson with taxpayer-funded legal advice during the upcoming MPs' Partygate inquiry. But the final cost could be higher depending how long the committee lasts.

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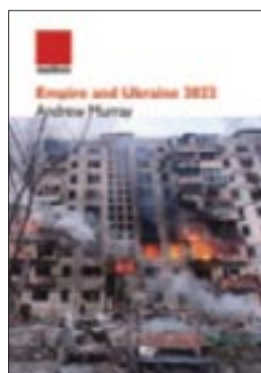
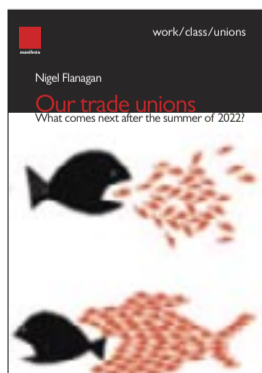


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The Great Money Trick Drawn by Andy Vine
 Text by Jenny Farrell Based on Robert Tressell's *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* £3.50



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 Monday 6 march 7pm Marx Memorial Library 37a Clerkenwell Green London EC1R 0DU
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