THE COMMUNIST

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VOICE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY!

VOTE FOR A LABOUR GOVERNMENT



OUR 10 POINT PROGRAMME

1. Kick out the war criminals! No more arms exports to Israel! No to imperialism!

2. Healthcare, not warfare! Books, not bombs!

3. Big business is robbing us. **Nationalise the lot of them, without compensation.**

4. The education system is being run into the ground We demand **free education and living grants, and for giving the vote at 16.** Let young people have a say in their future!

5. To truly solve the housing crisis, we need to build a million council homes a year. **Nationalise the land, construction companies, building societies, and banks.** Put people before profit!

6. Repeal all the anti-trade union laws. For a real living wage!

7. Fight against racism and all forms of discrimination!

8. Don't simply tax the rich, but seize their wealth! Democratically plan the economy for the benefit of the majority, not the billionaires!

9. Only a planned economy can save the environment and tackle the climate catastrophe.

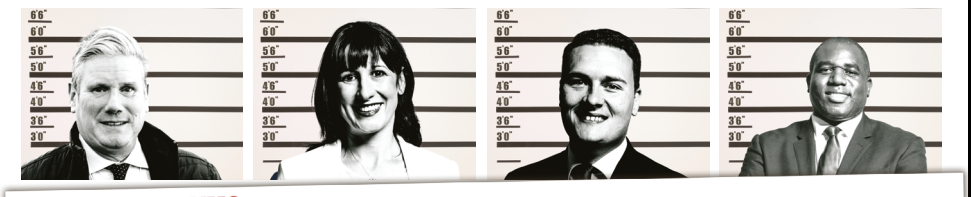
10. For international class struggle and world revolution! **Workers of the world: unite!**





Hundreds of volunteers for Fiona's campaign have been canvassing around Stratford & Bow. Find out how you can help us with the campaign on page 3!

WHAT LABOUR SAY



The Observer NHS

Labour and Tories would 'both leave NHS worse off than under austerity'

Rachel Reeves tells bankers their 'finger prints are all over' Labour

Wes Streeting wants NHS 'wide open' to private sector

David Lammy: Israeli strike on refugee camp 'can be legally justified'

Labour are the real conservatives, says Keir Starmer as he promises to protect 'our way of life'

"The problem is the government is not deporting people" - Rachel Reeves

Streeting: We can call on Sir Tony Blair's advice at any time

To subscribe, donate, write for the paper, and join the RCP, go to

COMMUNIST.RED

WHAT WORKERS SAY

Word on the doorstep in Stratford & Bow:

"I work for the NHS. We work like dogs and we don't get anything. They give what they like to Ukraine and Israel but they don't see what's happening here! Fiona is our voice!"

"Do Rishi's kids go to school hungry? His biggest childhood struggle was probably having one chauffeur instead of two!"

"My biggest concern is the cost of living and no one is offering me a solution. They're all the same, we need something new."

"Why are we spending millions on wars across the pond when kids are dying here? What is the UK spending, 1 million per kid killed?"

"Against those fucking criminals in government? Yeah, I get you."

"Billionaires pretend we have democracy but they're the ones calling the shots."





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FIONA LALI

WHO SHE IS, AND WHAT SHE FIGHTS FOR

In the new East London constituency of Stratford & Bow, a first-time parliamentary candidate is making waves.

Fiona Lali shot to prominence because of her viral debate with Suella Braverman, in which she humiliated the right-wing former home secretary over the issue of Palestine.

"You're a liar…You're a war criminal," Fiona told Braverman on live TV.

"That interview gave me a platform to put forward ideas about Israel's genocide in Palestine, and link the issue to the problems faced by working-class people in Britain," Fiona explains. This is what her election campaign is all about.

Fiona has put forward ten demands: denouncing the war criminals in Westminster; tackling the housing crisis; protecting the environment; increasing workers' pay and strengthening workers' rights; and attacking capitalism (see p8-9).



"Legendary film director Ken Loach and Pink Floyd co-founder Roger Waters (pictured above) have also offered their endorsement of Fiona's campaign."

What Fiona fights for sets her apart from any other candidate in terms of her radicalism. "We're not politicians, we're revolutionaries," Fiona stated to a cheering crowd during a rally to launch her campaign.

Activism

Fiona's electoral campaign is just the latest step in eight years of revolutionary political activism.

"I joined the Labour Party when I was 18 to support Jeremy Corbyn as leader," explains Fiona. She went on to coordinate a *Students for Corbyn* campaign, and was part of the *Labour4Clause4* campaign.

Ever since then, Fiona has been fighting against the right wing of the Labour Party. In 2020, she ran to be the Young Labour London representative, in order to kick out the Labour right.

Fiona studied law and international development at SOAS university, where she joined the local Marxist society. As an undergraduate, she was elected as the lead SOAS delegate to the National Union of Students conference, standing on a Marxist platform.

After she graduated, Fiona went on to coordinate Marxist societies at universities all over the country, under the banner of the Marxist Student Federation (MSF). In that time, the MSF grew spectacularly, increasing its presence nationally: from 30 campuses to 60 universities, schools, and colleges.

Oppression

"I became a Marxist because I just felt this burning desire to fight injustice and oppression – not only in Britain, but anywhere in the world that I can," says Fiona. "This is why I'm an internationalist."

She's written and spoken extensively on the fight against national and racial oppression, inspired by her own family background. Her mother is from a Catholic family in the North of Ireland, and her father came to Britain as a Ugandan refugee.

Back in 2017, for example, Fiona was writing about the war crimes of the Blair government in Iraq. And in 2019 she wrote an article commemorating the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence.

After university, Fiona was heavily involved in her local Labour Party in the run-up to the 2019 general election.

"At that time, I was living in Chingford & Woodford Green, in north-east London," she recalls, "where a few of us set up a local anti-racist campaign group and did a bit of activity with young Black and Asian people in the area."

In 2020, Fiona was involved in the Black Lives Matter protests across Britain, giving speeches about this inspiring movement at the time. She also spent time researching the history and legacy of racism in Britain. And she has pushed to connect the fight against racism to the struggles of the working class and the trade unions.

Internationalism

Fiona's activism stretches across borders. She has spoken specifically about the political crisis and class struggle in Uganda, where she spent



years growing up. And she has led campaigns in solidarity with political activists in Pakistan.

"It's so important to me that political activism is international," explains Fiona. "That's why the endorsements I've had from overseas for this campaign mean so much to me."

"I'm determined to use my platform to defend Palestine, attack the war criminals and imperialists here in Britain, and make the case against capitalism,"

She has received support for her campaign from the famous Bangladeshi film director Amitabh Reza Chowdhury, and from Meghamallar Bose, the President of the Dhaka University unit of the Bangladesh Student Union.

Closer to home, legendary film director Ken Loach and Pink Floyd co-founder Roger Waters have also offered their endorsement of Fiona's campaign. And these acclaimed artists have been joined by the Bakers, Food, and Allied Workers' Union, which has also backed Fiona.

Palestine

Disgracefully, under Keir Starmer, Fiona was expelled from the Labour Party for her political ideas and activism. "I wear that expulsion as a badge of honour," she laughs.

Since being driven out of the Labour Party, Fiona has focused on coordinating youth work and campaigns for the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP). Since October, this activity has centred on Palestine.

The RCP has called campus demonstrations, passed resolutions through trade union branches, and lately has been heavily involved with student encampments all over the country.

Fiona has been giving talks and speeches at these student protests, and was invited to speak on LBC after she helped organise a campus demonstration against hated Tory MP Jacob Rees-Mogg.

Since her famous debate with Suella Braverman, Fiona has done interviews with Al Jazeera, Pulse of Palestine, Middle East Eye, The New Arab, Dazed, and TalkTV.

"I'm determined to use my platform to defend Palestine, attack the war criminals and imperialists here in Britain, and make the case against capitalism," she says.

She has also given fiery speeches on the question of Palestine and imperialism at Queen Mary University of London, PSC demos, rallies for her own campaign, and for Nandita Lal's campaign against David Lammy in Tottenham.

VOLUNTEER AND DONATE TO THE CAMPAIGN

This is much more than an election campaign. This is a campaign to lead the way for a fightback against whichever pro-war, pro-capitalist government occupies No.10.

There are many ways you can help Fiona with this, and one of them is to donate to her campaign fund!

The reception Fiona is getting is extraordinary. She is running a bold campaign, putting forward clear revolutionary ideas. But to do so requires funds.

With demands ranging from an end to arms exports to Israel, all the way to nationalising the banks and expropriating the billionaires, thousands of people are supportive of what Fiona has to say.

The more resources Fiona has, the more she can use them to mobilise Stratford & Bow – and beyond – to join the movement for revolutionary change!

CLICK HERE TO DONATE:

FIONALALIRCP.COM!

Support

Unlike most of the other candidates in this constituency (including the Labour candidate!), Fiona actually lives in Stratford.

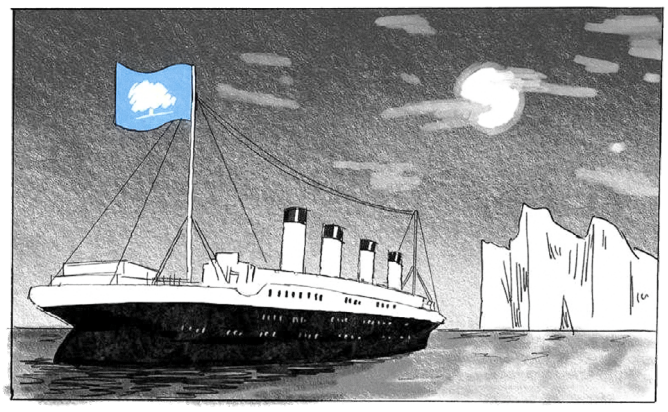
"I moved here two years ago and love it," she says. "I've gotten to know Stratford really well."

Since Fiona launched her campaign, she's had over 500 people sign up to volunteer, along with over £6,000 in small donations from hundreds of supporters.

"We've been out canvassing across all nine wards in the constituency every day since the campaign began," Fiona notes, "and we've been getting such a good response, especially from Gen Z and younger people."

For us, it seems like a no-brainer. Clear out Starmer's Labour and the Tories! Vote Fiona Lali for Stratford & Bow on 4 July! ●









FROM SLUMP TO STARMER: BRITAIN'S ERA OF INSTABILITY

Rob Sewell, Editor of The Communist

After 14 years of austerity and attacks, it is with great satisfaction that we now witness the death-agony of the Tory Party.

Every utterance by Sunak is another nail in the Conservatives' coffin. The party's latest embarrassment over #BettingGate has helped to dig the Tories into an even deeper hole.

The 'alternative' on offer isn't much better, however. The Starmeroid Labour Party is now practically indistinguishable from the Tories. The Labour leaders have completely abandoned any left policies, and fully embraced big business.

You don't need a crystal ball to see what lies in store under a 'Labour' government. Starmer has made it plain that there will be no more money for hospitals, schools, and essential services. To avoid breaking any promises, he refuses to make any!

Swathes of voters are disillusioned with what these capitalist politicians are serving up. They detest the Tories. But many will hold their nose as they put a cross against Labour. There is no enthusiasm for Starmer, this Knight of the Realm.

Age of uncertainty

Things have never been so unstable and crisis-ridden. The long-term decline of British capitalism, intensified by the deep slump of 2008, ushered in a qualitatively new period.

"British politics enters the age of uncertainty," was the headline of an editorial in the *Financial Times* some ten years ago.

This article appeared a month after the 2014 Scottish independence referendum, where support for a Yes vote reached 45 percent.

Some months later, in the 2015 general election, Labour was smashed in Scotland, as were the Tories and Liberals. The SNP won a landslide north of the border.

Corbyn's rise and fall

Shortly after that, Jeremy Corbyn was elected leader of the Labour Party, to the horror of the establishment – another unprecedented political earthquake.

In 2016, the Brexit vote provided a further shock for the establishment. David Cameron's political gamble massively backfired, dealing British capitalism a devastating blow.

Then, in 2017, Corbyn came from behind to nearly win the snap general election, producing panic amongst the ruling class.

The capitalist establishment, in league with the Labour right wing, launched a ferocious campaign to remove him, using antisemitism smears as their main weapon.

Corbyn should have used deselection to kick out all the right-wing MPs in the Parliamentary Labour Party. Unfortunately, the Labour 'left' capitulated, desperately seeking unity with these saboteurs. This spelt the end for Corbynism.

Tory degeneration

Not so long ago, the Tory Party was heralded as the most successful conservative party in Europe – if not the world. But what a degeneration the Tories have undergone since. The party, along with the entire British establishment, has become a laughing stock.

The victory of Boris Johnson as Conservative leader, and then as prime minister, represented the ascendency of a maverick and a buffoon. It showed that the ruling class had lost control over the Tory Party, its primary political representative. The inmates were now running the asylum.

Boris was followed by Liz Truss, another reckless careerist, elected by the crazed Tory membership. She lasted a mere 49 days.

The ruling class then managed to manoeuvre Rishi Sunak into Number 10 as a 'safe pair of hands'. But after years of crisis and decay, sleaze and scandal, Sunak and the Tories now face oblivion.

Such will be the scale of defeat for the Conservatives in this election, that the Tory Party is unlikely to survive in its present form. A new, more right-wing formation will likely arise from the ashes, with ultra-reactionary figures like Suella Braverman and Nigel Farage calling the shots.

In the space of this parliament, then, we have had three prime ministers and five chancellors! This chaos reflects the complete impasse and demise of British capitalism.

Class battles

Starmer may be eyeing-up a massive majority. But this has far more to do with the Tories' haemorrhaging support than any real warmth towards Labour.

In fact, one poll suggested that 60 percent of voters were considering voting for an independent candidate.

For the mass of people, living standards have been severely hit. Disillusionment and anger towards the establishment – including Westminster and traditional politicians of all stripes – is widespread.

Given the intense levels of dissatisfaction already, a Starmer Labour government will quickly become hated.

Councils will be going bankrupt. Schools will continue crumbling. The NHS will be plunged deeper into crisis. And workers will be demanding higher pay. There will be one battle after another.

Join the RCP

Britain is entering into an even-stormier period. Through the upheavals and hammer blows to come, the consciousness of millions will be radically transformed.

"The British public is in a mood for revolution," remarked Tory grandee David Frost in the *Telegraph* back in January. This is certainly an indication of where things are headed. We, as revolutionary communists, will play our part in the struggles ahead.

If Fiona Lali is successful in Stratford & Bow, she would provide a revolutionary communist voice in Parliament. This would resonate throughout the country, and provide a cutting edge in the fight against a right-wing Starmer government.

Join us today: to build the Revolutionary Communist Party, and turn it into a mass force that can shape the future; that can become a factor in the titanic events that lie ahead; and that can become a genuine reference point for all those looking to overthrow this decrepit capitalist system. ●

THE MANY BETRAYALS OF LABOUR MPS

Rushanara Ali – Labour's candidate in Bethnal Green and Stepney – has "long supported a ceasefire". But when the time came to prove this, she followed the genocide-abetting party line and abstained from voting for it.

Her refusal to engage with her constituents on her disgraceful abstention exposes how out of touch Labour MPs really are with their communities. They think they can get away with anything and still get voted in.

Betrayed, many Muslim voters – 86 percent of whom rank Gaza as one of their main concerns – will now ditch Labour. They can see the real interests of these careerists, who wax lyrical on their involvement in the community, but have nothing to show for it when put to the test.

Where was Rushanara's 'commitment' to her 'constituents and principles' when she betrayed the demands of the constituency that she stands for, despite claiming her role in Labour's frontbench would 'never' be above this so-called commitment?

Where was her commitment when pro-Palestine MPs like Faiza Shaheen were purged? Muslim voters and the youth are no longer interested in Labour's lies.

M. Adia, Mile End (East London)



Images: UK Parliament, World Economic Forum, Number 10 - Flickr.com

TRUST IN CAPITALIST POLITICIANS REACHES ROCK BOTTOM

Mia Foley Doyle

With election day approaching, the latest British Social Attitudes Survey (BSA) provides some numbers for what is already clear: trust in British politics has hit a record low.

The headline figure is that some 45 percent of those surveyed would 'almost never' trust a British government of any party to put the 'needs of the nation' above their own party's interests.

Likewise, 58 percent would 'almost never' trust politicians to tell the truth when 'in a tight corner' – up 19 points since 2020.

One of the key factors that the report cites is the behaviour of 'our' parliamentary representatives. Endless scandals – from partygate, to tax evasion, to sexual misconduct, and now election betting – are described as having a "corrosive effect" on people's trust in politicians.

Whether it be sleaze, corruption, and cover-ups (the Tories), or brazenly backtracking on pledges (Labour), as the BSA report observes: "Telling untruths does not promote trust."

It was also found that 35 percent of people strongly – and rightly – believe that 'the government doesn't care about what people like me think'.

Other surveys have also found plummeting trust in the police, the monarchy, and all the other rotten institutions of the establishment.

What alarms the ruling class is the revolutionary implications that this holds for the future, as the crisis of capitalism intensifies.

This is why we are building the Revolutionary Communist Party – to not only boot out the politicians, but the capitalist system in its entirety. ●

STARMER'S MANIFESTO: A TORY PROGRAMME IN LABOUR COLOURS

James Kilby

"We are the party of wealth creation," declared Sir Keir Starmer, launching Labour's manifesto. 'You're speaking our language!' cheered Britain's bankers and bosses, who like to style themselves as 'wealth creators'.

No doubt they got the message: that the Labour Party under Starmer is now a safe pair of hands for British capitalism.

Tory-lite

After 14 years of crisis and decline, the Tories have never been more hated.

But despite naming his manifesto 'Change', Starmer's programme in fact offers a continuity of the broken status quo; more of the same austerity, inequality, and war that Sunak and his predecessors have presided over for the last decade-or-more.

Starmer makes lots of noise about the collapse of the NHS and the cost-of-living crisis. But instead of taking aim at the source of these ills – the dead-end of capitalism – he simply blames the Tories, for putting their "own interests" above those of "the nation".

In reality, Starmer is simply offering a Tory manifesto in Labour colours.

The Labour leader has promised "a return to the foundations of good government: national security, secure borders, and economic stability".

This will involve no less than increasing 'defence' spending to 2.5 percent of GDP, cracking down on migrants, strengthening the police, and taking "hard choices" with the economy.

With this, Starmer is singing straight from the Tories' hymn sheet. This is no accident.

The aim of Labour's manifesto isn't to connect with the burning desire of workers and young people to transform society. Its real target is the big-business bosses, the bankers, and the billionaires.

With this manifesto – and his entire conduct over years – Starmer is effectively saying to the establishment: "Forget these Tory clowns in government, you can rely on us to do your dirty work."

Big business in the saddle

Indeed, Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves recently told a meeting of City bankers that when they read the manifesto, they'll see their "fingerprints all over it".

Reeves reassured these parasites that the ideas in Labour's programme "are based on so many of the conversations I've had with businesses and investors over the last three years".

Much is made in the manifesto of striking "an enduring partnership with business to deliver the economic growth we need", for example. And the party leadership have repeatedly asserted that Labour is now "pro-business and pro-worker".

But as any faithful servant knows, it's impossible to obey and please two masters. The interests of the capitalists are in direct conflict with those of workers. And it doesn't take a Sherlock Holmes to deduce who Labour will in fact serve, given that the bosses' grubby hands are all over their programme!

Prepare for struggle

Even patching up 'broken Britain' after decades of capitalist decay and crisis will involve spending vast sums of money. But the government's cupboard is bare. The Treasury is sitting on a mountain of debt. And further savage cuts are baked into the Budget.

As good responsible statesmen, Starmer and Reeves have committed Labour to adhering to the Tories' 'fiscal rules' to reduce the public debt.

So despite Labour promising "no return to austerity", all the evidence suggests otherwise.

Rather than seize the idle fortunes of the super-rich, which could easily be used to solve society's problems, it is clear that Starmer and his cronies will unleash a new onslaught of attacks upon workers, the poor, and the vulnerable.

In trying to manage capitalism – a system in terminal crisis – they will be forced to do what every other capitalist government worldwide has done: make the working class pay.

So whilst we'll be delighted to see the back of the Tories after 4 July, as revolutionary communists we say: prepare for struggle! ●



A MANIFESTO FOR MURDOCH, NOT FOR MERSEYSIDE

The Labour manifesto has 34 pictures of Keir Starmer. Presumably they need to fill the space where workers would expect to find policies to fix the crises in the NHS, education, and more.

Imagine my surprise, then, when I picked up the eight-page paper provided by the Labour candidate for Liverpool Wavertree and couldn't find one picture of the dear leader.

I can only assume that local Labour campaign managers think that Starmer is a vote loser in Liverpool. And for good reason: we know him best for breaking his pledge not to speak to *The Sun* (or 'The Scum', as we call it).

For the survivors of the Hillsborough disaster, and for the whole of Liverpool, this is offensive. It shows that Starmer and co. put their relationship with the Murdoch press above that with the working class.

Murdoch, like the rest of the capitalists, wants a government that will put the bosses before the workers. No doubt he will be happy with Starmer.

Mike Hogan, Liverpool

FARAGE, REFORM, AND THE FUTURE OF THE REACTIONARY RIGHT WING

Daniel Morley

In another upset to the Tories, Nigel Farage is standing in the general election for Reform UK, in the seat of Clacton, Essex.

Reform stands to gain votes across the country. These will largely come at the expense of the hated Tories. This could turn their defeat on 4 July into a rout.

According to pollsters YouGov, Farage is the most popular politician in Britain – a damning indictment on the state of British politics, to say the least. And he is immensely popular in the Tory ranks, many of whom want him to be their leader.

Pontificating on this question, however, Farage has openly said that: "I don't want to join the Conservative Party. I think the better thing to do would be to take it over."

A battered Tory Party, reeling from what could be its worst ever election result, would face a leadership contest. Inevitably, the winner would be from the party's Farage-loving right.

This would signify an *even sharper* lurch to the right for the Tories: ramping up their culture war rhetoric; scapegoating migrants and refugees; and whipping up hatred against oppressed groups.

Starmer's Labour government, meanwhile, will be clearly a government of the establishment. It will rapidly lose support, and will be a crisis government.

In such a scenario, Farage could become the *de facto* leader of the opposition to this hated government, and would become a magnet for Tories. That is the meaning of his plan to 'take over' the Conservative Party.

It was the threat of losing votes to Farage's UKIP that pushed David Cameron to gamble the interests of big business with his Brexit referendum. Ever since then, the Tories have been shifting further to the right.

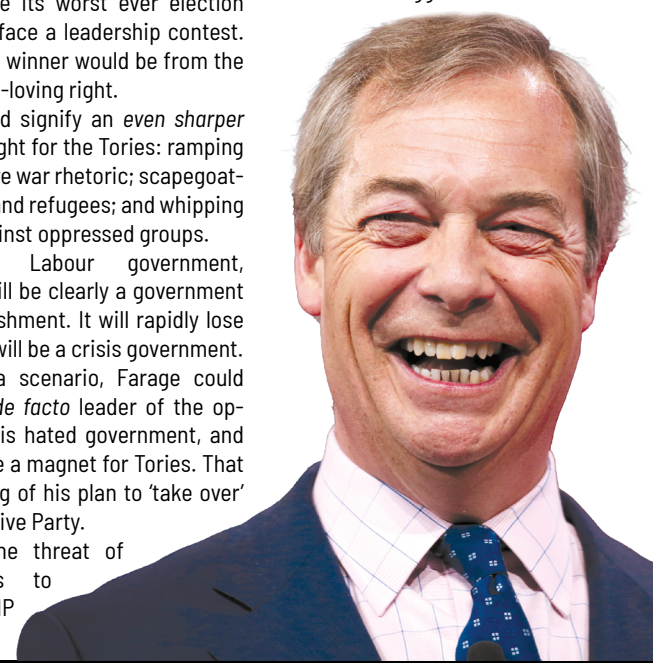
Perennially in opposition, Farage demagogically poses as an underdog; as the only consistent fighter against the establishment; as a champion for the ordinary, forgotten people of Britain.

This is complete rubbish. Farage is cut from the same reactionary cloth as the rest of the establishment politicians. He offers the same pro-capitalist policies, just disguised with demagogic racism.

It is high time for a clear out of these lying politicians.

The RCP represents a decisive break with the reactionary politics of the establishment, which includes Farage and his coterie.

We say: Fight racism and demagogy with class struggle! ●



DON'T VOTE GREEN – FIGHT FOR REVOLUTION

Ben Gliniecki

This general election, most of us feel like we're being asked to choose between blue Tories and red Tories.

Some people have been asking if voting for the Green Party instead is a good idea.

Some of what the Greens say is quite good. They want free education, rent controls, and nationalisation of the energy companies, funded by taxing the rich.

But what they say and what they'd actually do are very different things.

They've said publicly that their strategy is to get enough votes for a hung parliament. Then they'd go into a coalition with Labour. So vote Green, get Labour.

Would a Starmer government, with the Greens as hangers-on, actually bring in free education or anything else on the Greens' list?

Of course not. Starmer is fully committed to whatever the rich, the bankers, and the capitalists want him to do.

In Scotland the Greens were in a coalition government with the SNP until recently. It was the same story there. They thought they could convince the SNP not to make so many cuts, and maybe to invest a bit more. They failed, and got kicked out of the government by the SNP.

Even when the Greens have been in power on their own, they've ended up doing the opposite of what they've promised.

In the past, they controlled the local council in Brighton, where they carried out cuts and caused the bin workers to go on strike, because the Green council was treating them so badly.

As a result, the Brighton Greens were wiped out in last year's local council elections. Everyone who voted for them in the past felt betrayed after their terrible performance in power.

The only way to sort out education, housing, and energy is to get rid of the whole capitalist system. But the Greens support capitalism. And they support its most vicious imperialist projects.

The Greens support NATO, for example: an aggressive weapon of western imperialism. It's caused death and destruction all over the world, just to protect US investments, assets, and influence.

So the Greens support pumping billions of pounds into the war machine of western imperialism, just like the warmongers in the Tory and Labour parties do.

In reality, the Greens won't change anything. We need to overthrow the system.

So don't vote Green. Help us in the fight for revolution. ●

STARMER AND SUNAK: BOTH ENEMIES OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Fred Weston

The death toll in Gaza is now close to 38,000, including more than 15,000 children killed. A further 10,000 are missing, buried in the rubble and unaccounted for. This brings the total number of Gazans killed close to 50,000. On top of this, over 85,000 have been injured.

While this butchery continues unabated, on the West Bank a further 549 Palestinians have been killed – 135 of which have been children – and over 5,000 have been injured.

According to figures published by *Al Jazeera*, every hour in Gaza: 15 people are killed – of which six are children; 35 people are injured; 42 bombs are dropped; and 12 buildings are destroyed.

And according to UN figures, the Israeli bombing campaign so far has destroyed or damaged more than half of Gaza's homes, almost 90% of schools, and half the hospitals.

Not satisfied with this level of death and destruction, the Israeli military has continued shelling areas housing displaced people – not only in and around Rafah, but also in central and northern areas of the Gaza Strip.

One of the most brutal attacks was the 8 June Nuseirat massacre, when 274 Palestinians were killed, and a further 500 injured, in order to free four Israeli hostages.

Imperialist hypocrisy

Joe Biden, during a news conference in Paris, heralded the release of the four hostages, stating that "we won't stop working until all the hostages come home and a ceasefire is reached."

Here we see the sheer hypocrisy and total lack of concern on the part of Biden for the lives of thousands of Palestinians, whose only crime is to live on land that the Zionists want to take.

While Biden has occasionally expressed some concern that the killing of Palestinians may be excessive – partly owing to his worries about the upcoming elections – he has continued to provide massive military aid to Israel, so that it can continue in its relentless bloodbath.

In fact, all the western leaders – from Macron to Sunak, from Scholz to Meloni – have been backing Israel's genocidal war on the Palestinian people. That is because Israel is considered an outpost of their imperialist interests in the Middle East.

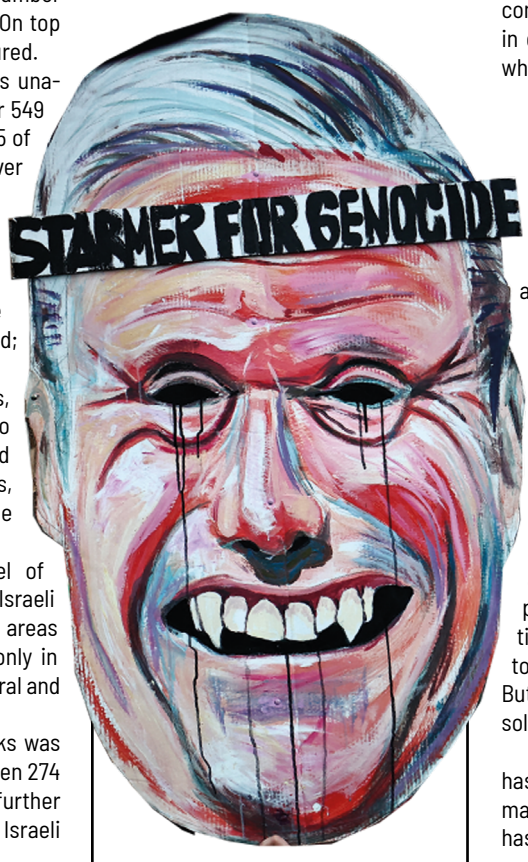
That is why all the western imperialists, with the United States in the front line, always back Israel. They hide behind the fig leaf of Israel's "right to defend itself".

What they are really saying is that Israel has the right to keep taking more and more land from the Palestinians, as we are seeing as each day passes on the West Bank.

They are also saying that Israel has the right to wreak such levels of destruction on Gaza as to make it unliveable, in the hope that large numbers of Palestinians will leave.

This is all part of a long-term Zionist project that started over 80 years ago – a project that involved the expulsion of a whole people from their historical homeland.

This is the real crime that was committed in this region with the full backing of the major powers. And ever since then, all western governments have continued to cooperate in this crime.



"Gaza is now a humanitarian emergency ... Britain must stand ready to ensure aid gets to the right places, to deploy British experts and medical support teams and to work with international partners to give UN agencies the resources they need."
- Keir Starmer

"Israel has the right to withhold power and water from Palestinian civilians. Israel has the right to defend herself."
- Also Keir Starmer

Middle East in turmoil

The whole of the Middle East is in turmoil. The impact of the world crisis of capitalism is driving more and more people across the region into poverty. Instability is increasing as the anger of the working people grows.

What is striking is the huge contradiction between the genuine solidarity felt by millions of people in the Arab world, and the cynicism of the people at the top of the regimes that govern over these millions.

In Egypt and Jordan we see *de facto* collaboration between the ruling elites and the Zionist regime in Israel. In Jordan, many young people marching in solidarity with their Palestinian brothers and sisters have been arrested.

This is adding to the social contradictions across the whole region. In such conditions, a revolutionary movement in one of these countries could set the whole region alight.

The main enemy is at home

Here in the UK, we have the Tory government that has continued to back Israel's genocidal war, while at the same time attempting to criminalise any attempt at solidarity activities with the Palestinian people.

We have seen demonstrators arrested, accused of antisemitic activities. 'Antisemitism' has in fact become a catch-all accusation to tar people on the left, and anyone putting forward a pro-Palestinian position.

Now we have before us the general election. The Tories are facing a dramatic collapse in their vote, as people are fed up with all their anti-worker policies. Starmer seems set to win a massive majority in parliament. But what will this bring for the Palestine solidarity movement?

The answer is evident to anyone who has eyes to see and ears to hear! It will make absolutely no difference. Starmer has the exact same position as Sunak on the question of Palestine. That is because Starmer is a representative of the very same ruling class as Sunak.

Starmer has succeeded in pushing out the left wingers who joined the Labour Party during Jeremy Corbyn's leadership. Now, in Starmer's Labour, anyone who dares to express solidarity with the Palestinian people is charged with the crime of so-called 'antisemitism'.

Sunak and Starmer have both proven to be solid friends of the Zionist regime in Israel. They have both backed Netanyahu's genocidal war, and they have both attempted to criminalise the Palestine solidarity movement.

They are both enemies of the Palestinian people, and they are both enemies of the working class in Britain. Starmer will continue with the austerity that the Tories have imposed on British workers.

Millions of workers and youth instinctively understand this. A recent YouGov poll found that 73% of the population in Britain supports an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

It also revealed that 55% of people want the UK to end the sale of arms to Israel for the duration of the war in Gaza, while only 13% want to see arms sales continue.

The same poll also revealed very low approval ratings for the way both the Sunak government and Starmer's Labour opposition have handled the Gaza crisis. Only 18% approve of the way Sunak has handled it, while just 12% approve of Starmer's response.

The best thing we can do for the Palestinians in their hour of need is to fight the main enemy: the one we have here at home. This means kicking out the Tories, but also building a genuine, revolutionary alternative to Starmer's Labour Party. ●



KENYA: 'WELCOME TO THE GEN Z REVOLUTION!'

Ben Curry

Big events are rocking Kenya. The government of William Ruto – faithful servant of Washington, the IMF, and the World Bank – is attempting to shove punitive taxes down the throats of the masses.

Kenya is one in a long chain of poor 'emerging' economies teetering over an economic abyss, saddled with enormous amounts of debt.

The IMF and World Bank have stepped in with loans to 'help' Kenya repay its creditors, on the condition that these debts are repaid by sucking the marrow from the bones of ordinary Kenyans.

Beginning on Tuesday 18 June, without the lead of any individual or political party, large crowds, overwhelmingly made up of the youth, swept Nairobi and other cities.

This powerful movement has united the masses across the divisions of ethnicity, religion, and tribe, and has pushed some of the most oppressed to the fore – above all the women.

Placards read "Ruto is a thief!", "Ruto must go!", "Wake up, we are being robbed!", and "Kenya is not the IMF's lab rat!". Others read "Welcome to the revolution!" and "The revolution will be televised!"

The government's attempts at repression – using water cannons, tear gas, and mass arrests – have merely enraged the movement and spurred it forward. The ruling clique's concessions have likewise emboldened the masses to demand more.

Despite all this, Finance Bill 2024 was passed in parliament on Thursday 20 June. As the news came through, the mood turned to rage on the streets. It was clear that the movement had to escalate.

The masses therefore began to march on the presidential palace, State House, and the hashtag #OccupyStateHouse began trending by the early evening.

The idea of making a revolution and sweeping away the president began gripping the imagination of thousands of young people.

Memories were evoked of those scenes in Sri Lanka two years ago, when the masses stormed the presidential palace, forcing President Rajapaksa to flee the country.

Faced with a movement that they could not quell, cracks began appearing in the police on 20 June. Videos have circulated of police standing down, and even fraternising with the masses.

But before the night was over, the capitalist state gave the masses a bloody reminder of its presence. A young man, 24-year-old Rex Kanyike Masai, was shot dead by a plain-clothes police officer.

At the time of writing, it has been reported that riot police have opened fire on protestors attempting to storm the parliament building. At least eight people have been killed, though this number will undoubtedly rise.

Calls have been made for a 'total shutdown' – a general strike. This is the correct next step. But who will lead it? Given the rottenness of the present reformist trade union leaders, the masses must improvise.

In every neighbourhood and workplace, the youth must form committees to coordinate the strike, by calling mass assemblies to win the masses to their programme of action, and organising self-defence against police violence.

By connecting across Kenya, such committees could pose as an alternative power – one that could sweep aside the old regime, and replace it with organs of power of the working class, the poor, and the youth.

There is no future for the masses under capitalism. But with the workers in power, it would be possible to cancel the debt, to nationalise the assets of big business and foreign capital, and the huge natural wealth of the country, and to plan the economy to dramatically improve the living standards of all.

A socialist workers' republic in Kenya would become a beacon for the downtrodden masses of the whole continent and the whole world. That would be a real revolution, that would soon spread to East Africa and far beyond. ●

Read our full analysis:
communist.red/kenya10

ASSANGE RELEASED! PUNISH IMPERIALISM!



CLICK HERE TO READ MORE!

On 25 June, after years of incarceration and harassment at the hands of western imperialism, it was announced that long-suffering WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is to be released.

This is undoubtedly welcome news, given the repression he's suffered. Yet the deal for his release is bittersweet, as Assange will be forced to plead guilty to gain his freedom.

To see genuine justice, we must fight to put the war criminals in Westminster and Washington behind bars – and overthrow their brutal system.



PAKISTAN-OCCUPIED KASHMIR: DOWN WITH STATE REPRESSION! FREE THE IMPRISONED LEADERS!

Whilst hundreds of delegates from 37 countries were participating in the fifth day of the founding congress of the Revolutionary Communist International (RCI), we received shocking news that a government crackdown was underway in Pakistan-held Kashmir. This repression was targeted against the leaders of the movement that had scored a victory against the regime in the fight against electricity and flour price-hikes.

In a unanimous vote, RCI delegates, outraged by this news, passed the following motion – in condemnation of the government, and in solidarity with the movement and its persecuted leaders.

We have just received news from Pakistan-held Kashmir of a government crackdown on the leaders of Awami Action committees, who successfully led the mass movement against electricity and wheat/flour price-hikes.

During this movement, three protesters were killed by paramilitary forces and around thirty were seriously injured. Some of the leaders of the mass movement have now been arrested and other leaders are being hunted by the authorities.

This has provoked huge protests across Kashmir for the release of all those arrested and an end to the repression. The demands also include the full implementation of the agreement to reduce prices.

This founding conference of the RCI expresses its complete solidarity with those facing repression in Pakistan-held Kashmir, and demands that all those arrested be immediately released and that all repression ceases forthwith. We also condemn the state repression and abductions of political workers in Balochistan and throughout Pakistan.

This conference expresses its complete support for the movement and its demands in Kashmir.

- **Down with the state repression in Kashmir!**
- **Full support to those fighting for justice and against oppression!**
- **Release Muhammad Shabir, Sardar Talha, Sardar Amman, and other prisoners of the movement!** ●



Watch party for the launch of the RCI in Baluchistan

WORD ON THE STREET

"I have never been politically involved, but Fiona's campaign really made me want to. And you guys have been so lovely, that I feel like I am part of something good."

- Lubbna, East London



Fiona canvassing outside Stratford station

WHY I BECAME A COMMUNIST

Four communist women from Muslim backgrounds explain why they joined the struggle for revolution.

Lubna

Coming from an Iraqi household, politics has always played a major part in family conversations.

I vividly remember one of those defining moments in 2003, when my whole family sat around the TV, watching the bombs drop on our country. My family was just screaming and crying watching the news. It was shocking and confusing to me as a child.

I tried to understand it. Why was this happening? Why were innocent people being killed? But more than that, I wanted to know what I could do to stop this horror.

Ever since, I've wanted to fight against the injustices in the world. I noticed the rise in racism and Islamophobia. Women, especially, are treated as second-rank citizens. I was constantly being told that 'politics is not for women'. This felt very isolating.

I became frustrated and went through all sorts of different ideas. But none of them seemed to give a fully satisfying answer. It was either: "Americans are the problem"; "all men are the problem"; or "religion is the problem".

This didn't seem right to me. None of these offered an explanation.

Then, in 2015, I found the Marxist society at Leeds University. The communists were extremely welcoming, taking the time to answer all my questions. I remember having so many discussions on imperialism, the state, racism, sexism, and more.

They showed me that with the correct theory, with a scientific understanding of the world, you could explain anything. This is the revolutionary philosophy of Marxism.

And more than that, they offered me an organisation where I could play a role. This is exactly what I was looking for.

This filled me with so much optimism. Finally I was armed with the correct ideas, able to fight as a comrade, side-by-side with so many others, to bring an end to this rotten system.

Only on this basis can we truly be free from war, poverty, and oppression. So I urge you all to join us in this struggle!

Taz

As a child, I would always ask questions. I was constantly seeking a way to understand the world around me.

The answers my family, friends, and school always gave never made sense. And when I questioned further, I was told to stop and just accept the way things were. Unsatisfied, I sought to look for answers myself.

I found articles about my family published in 1987. That same year there was a general election. I discovered that my mum was the poster child for the reelection campaign of her local Labour MP, who vowed to reunite the families in the constituency with their loved ones in Bangladesh.

My mother, born and raised in the UK, was 11 when she married my father – her 23-year-old tutor – during her first trip to Bangladesh.

This MP – notorious for publicly berating Tony Blair during the Iraq War; a champion of women's rights, and a patron of multiple charities – exploited a child bride to secure her seat in Parliament.

Any illusions I had in the Labour Party and the state were completely shattered. I now understood that my mum was collateral damage for careerists.

The world is highly contradictory: 'left' MPs defending women's oppression; slaughter by those who claim to want peace.

It was only when I joined the RCP last October, and discovered the ideas of Marxism, that I could truly make sense of the world, and struggle to change it.

Rima

As a South Asian woman, I used to think that having more people in Parliament who look like me could at least partially help solve the oppression faced by my community.

But the Tory Party is full of crooks and liars – like Sunak and Braverman – who come from a similar background to me. They whip-up racism and Islamophobia against us, and have launched vicious attacks against the poorest and most vulnerable.

The Labour Party is also filled with careerists who wish to carry out the same racist, anti-migrant policies and austerity. They also support Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people.

We should therefore have no illusions in the coming election or in these politicians to solve any of our problems. All of them ultimately defend capitalism – a system which puts profit above our lives and needs.

This is why I became a communist, and why I support Fiona Lali's campaign in Stratford & Bow. Her campaign starts where all others end – out on the streets, with a class-based programme to overthrow the war criminals and their rotten system.

Maya

Growing up as a working-class Bangladeshi Muslim, I faced the sharp end of the horrors of capitalism.

From a young age, I suffered from racist and Islamophobic abuse. My family was in an overwhelming amount of debt.

As soon as I was 16, I worked precarious jobs to support myself and my family. I funded myself through college and university. At one point during my final year, I balanced four jobs to cover the bills.

All these experiences made me very political. I wanted to know why our world is so cruel.

I became involved with the Labour Party and anti-racist movements at the age of 16. I even became a Labour councillor at 18. But, I was left continually disappointed by the reformist politics of the mainstream parties. Nothing seemed to work.

It wasn't until I found the revolutionary communists that I found the answers that I was looking for. Finally, I gained a refreshing Marxist perspective, which could accurately explain the world and offer a way forward.

I learnt that the capitalists' pursuit of profit forces people to work harder and longer for less money, while wealth is concentrated in a smaller and smaller number of hands; that inequality, exploitation, and oppression is a product of class society; and that poverty itself is the main cause of many social ills that we face today: crime, drug abuse, mental health problems, and so on.

Similarly, I came to see that wars are an inevitable consequence of capitalism, as the imperialist powers vie to impose their interests on smaller nations. This is the cause for the untold suffering experienced by millions across the world: in Palestine, Sudan, Afghanistan, Yemen – the list goes on.

And I realised that racism, along with all forms of oppression, are cynical tools used by the ruling class to divide us and maintain their rule. Today, we see xenophobia and culture wars whipped up by the establishment to distract from the miseries of capitalism.

The philosophy of Marxism allows us to actually explain the world. And if we understand it, we can change it – through a revolutionary struggle of workers and youth!



Maya and Lubna campaigning for Fiona Lali

IN THIS ELECTION

WHAT WE STAND FOR



Rob Sewell, editor of The Communist, explains why we, as revolutionary communists, fight to fundamentally transform society by putting power in the hands of the working class

The Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) was only launched a matter of weeks ago. But we have suddenly been thrust into the limelight, following comrade Fiona Lali's viral takedown of reactionary Suela Braverman.

The fact that Fiona is now standing in the general election, with the backing of the party, has only added to the growing interest in the RCP and what we stand for.

As our regular readers know, the party's main demands are printed in every issue of The Communist. This is not a complete programme covering all issues, but an outline of our essential views.

And for this election, Fiona has formulated a ten-point programme that seeks to answer the key problems facing working people, arising from the crisis of capitalism, especially in Britain.

Kick out the war criminals

To begin with, the RCP is utterly opposed to those established parties who justify capitalism and its crimes.

First and foremost is the Tory Party, the traditional party of British big business and British imperialism. But also Starmer's Labour, which has become practically indistinguishable from the Tories.

Both parties have blood on their hands, not least for supporting Israel's genocide in Gaza. If there is anyone who should be in the dock for war crimes, it is these ladies and gentlemen.

The Liberal Democrats, the third spoke in the capitalist wheel, act no differently. This was clearly revealed in 2010-15, when they joined with the Tories to form a coalition of cuts.

These parties and politicians are all defenders of this rotten capitalist system. They are all guilty of presiding over falling living standards, both nationally and in local councils, where they are busy feathering their own nests.

Parliament is stuffed full of liars, crooks, and thieves. There is a great hatred towards Sunak and the Tories, as well as widespread scepticism towards Starmer's Labour. Kick them all out!

No to austerity

In Britain, we are facing a real collapse. We have experienced the biggest drop in real wages in any decade for the last two hundred years.

For the working class, everything is falling to pieces – whether it is crumbling schools, an NHS on the brink, or local authorities going bankrupt, with public services being dismantled.

For decades, rotten Labour councils have taken working-class communities for granted. They simply act as Tory agents in carrying out vicious cuts.

The extreme austerity and redundancies being carried out in Birmingham are becoming the norm. No wonder participation in local elections is at rock bottom.

Starmer has made it crystal clear that the next Labour government will have to "take difficult decisions". In plain language, this means more of the same pro-business Tory policies; further cuts, privatisation, and layoffs.

"There is no magic money tree," says Starmer. "There will be no bailouts." While there is no money for schools and hospitals, however, these gangsters can always find money for foreign wars and imperialist interventions.

We reject the present dictatorship of the bankers and billionaires! Down with all those apologists of capitalism, who are determined to make the working class pay for this crisis!

We stand for a fundamental break with this decrepit system. And we will fight for every genuine step forward for working people along the way, however small.

Healthcare not warfare

The traditional parties have been further discredited by their support for the slaughter in Gaza.

All decent people are thoroughly sickened by the brutal oppression of the Palestinians, and by the barbarism of the Israeli war machine. Yet the western imperialist powers have backed Netanyahu's regime at every stage.

At the same time, the warmongers in Westminster and Washington are banging the drum of militarism, demanding that even more money be spent on 'defence' and arms production.

The conflicts erupting across the world, meanwhile, are yet another symptom of the chaos and horror that capitalism breeds.

We say:

- Down with the warmongers! Stop the massacre in Gaza! For an immediate end to all arm sales to Israel.
- The two-state 'solution' is utterly bankrupt. We stand for a Socialist Federation of the Middle East. For the revolutionary overthrow of all the reactionary regimes in the region! Free Palestine!
- No support for NATO and its imperialist policies. Scrap Trident and slash defence spending. Spend this money instead on housing, schools, and hospitals.
- Repurpose arms factories and redeploy workers in 'defence', in order to produce socially necessary and useful goods. Nationalise these industries and make them serve our needs, not those who trade in death and destruction.

Simply scrapping the Trident nuclear programme – with its weapons of mass destruction that will (hopefully) never be used – would save around £200bn. Slashing such wasteful spending would save billions: money that would otherwise end up in the pockets of war-profiteers.

Of course, Sunak, Starmer, and the rest of them want to do the opposite. They are demanding a dramatic rise in defence spending, wasting eye-watering sums on what is effectively scrap metal.

To justify this rise in financing, western governments raise the bogeyman of Putin's Russia. But they seem to forget that a war with Russia would not be a conventional war, but a nuclear war, in which Britain – and the rest of the planet – would be wiped out. We saw what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki with 'only' two atomic bombs.

Such a war of mutual destruction is therefore ruled out at the present time. And yet capitalist governments pour billions down the drain for the sake of prestige, nothing more.

All these resources squandered at a time of deepening crisis, affecting our health, education, housing, and more.

We say: Not a single penny to the war industries! For books, not bombs! For healthcare, not warfare!

Nationalise the monopolies

Big business is robbing us blind. The bankers have been bailed out with taxpayers' money. And private profiteers are making a fortune out of the public's misery.

The bosses and shareholders of the privatised water companies have creamed off billions, while pouring sewage into our rivers and coasts. The whole charade literally stinks!

The same goes for the privatised railway firms, with their massive government subsidies, and for the big energy suppliers, who have been laughing all the way to the bank.

At the same time, many low-paid families are forced to choose between putting food on the table or heating their homes.

Starmer's Labour talks simply about more 'regulation'. But this is completely toothless.

All these privatised companies, major monopolies, and big banks should be nationalised immediately, without compensation. There must be no public money for the fat-cats.

Once nationalised, the major banks would be at the service of ordinary people. Rather than acting as bloodsuckers, charging huge interest rates that crush homeowners and small businesses with borrowing costs, they would provide cheap loans to allow people to stand on their own feet.

Nationalised industries should not be run by well-paid, faceless bureaucrats, divorced from the people, as in the past. Instead, they should be placed under democratic workers' control and management. All officials must be elected, and paid no more than the average skilled worker.

The capitalists and their hired politicians are horrified by giving workers any control. But workers on the shopfloor know far better than the bosses how to run things. They are far more familiar with their working environment, and will have plenty of ideas for how things could be improved.

Under capitalism, however, workers have no say over their lives.

End the housing crisis

Housing – a roof over our heads – should be an absolute right!

But in Britain, 1-in-200 people are homeless, forced to live in temporary accommodation, or are sleeping on the streets. This is by far the highest rate in all the 'advanced' capitalist countries.

FOR FULLY FREE EDUCATION!



The Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) surveyed 10,000 full-time undergraduates and found that 56% of respondents had taken on paid jobs to cope with the rising cost of living.

When factoring in academic commitments, students with jobs average 48-hour work weeks during term time, with some reaching 56-hour weeks. This far exceeds the average 36.6-hour work week of adults in full-time employment.

The cost of living crisis has also pushed more students into precarity. According to the National Union of Students, the percentage of students using food banks doubled from seven percent in 2021-22 to 14 percent in the 2023-24 academic year.

HEPI's Director, Nick Hillman, stated that many working students are now in the "danger zone", facing higher dropout rates and diminished chances of earning first-class degrees.

The Communist has received this account from a working student:

"Throughout my undergraduate, masters, and PhD studies, I've sometimes had to work multiple jobs to support myself. After taking out a third student loan for my PhD, I found it only covered my fees, which were at least £7,000 a year.

"Most of my academic career has involved juggling zero-hour contracts or emotionally exhausting jobs with unsociable hours just to make ends meet, leaving little time to complete my assignments."

A growing number of students are becoming radicalised due to the brutal conditions they face. The Palestine encampments have become a focal point for student anger, but this must be only the beginning of a revived student movement in Britain.

Valerie Baker, Nottingham

Rents, evictions, and homelessness have all rapidly risen. Meanwhile, the supply of social housing units has rapidly fallen.

Those 'lucky' enough to find any accommodation are forced to pay through the nose to live in overcrowded, cold, damp, mouldy homes – all while the landlords and bankers line their pockets with our rents.

We could resolve the housing crisis overnight. There are hundreds of thousands of empty properties across Britain, which serve only as investments for the rich. This an insult to the homeless and destitute.

To begin with, these empty homes and apartments should be immediately expropriated and put to use.

Secondly, we should nationalise the construction companies, the land, and the banks. There are plenty of building workers, but many more could be trained. With these resources in our hands, we could construct a million council houses every year.

With such a mass house-building programme, quality homes would be available to all, at very low rents. Put people before profits!

Eradicate poverty

To eradicate poverty, we must abolish poverty pay. Everyone should be paid a real living wage. Given the sky-high cost of living, there should be a minimum wage of at least £20 per hour, linked to any further rise in prices.

Today, workers are forced to work day-in, day-out, until we drop or die. Yet the government has ideas to push up the retirement age to 70 or older.

We demand the right to retire at 55 years, or even lower! People should be able to enjoy their final days, rather than being ground down.

Zero-hour contracts must be banned – no ifs, no buts. Starmer originally promised this, but has now retreated under pressure from big business.

"Our profits will be in danger," the capitalists claim. "We need a flexible workforce," they say, to do as they want. But why should we tolerate being mere wage slaves, at the beck and call of the employers?

Starmer has watered-down his commitment to workers' rights, to the point that they are practically meaningless. Even Unite the Union has refused to endorse Labour's pro-business manifesto.

The capitalists and their apologists say that they cannot afford to provide workers with decent pay, conditions, and working hours. But given the abundance of wealth and resources in society, we believe that our demands are extremely modest.

We say: if this system cannot afford these basic things, then to hell with this system!

Protect the planet

Every day, we see the spectacle of the rich becoming richer, while the poor get poorer; astonishing wealth at one end of society, and food banks and misery at the other.

This is the logic of the capitalist system. There can be no other outcome under this profit-driven system.

At the same time, capitalism is ravaging the planet. Giant corporations, in their chase and thirst for greater profits, have no interest in sustaining our environment, with devastating results. The pouring of sewage into our waterways is only one example. On a wider scale, if left untouched, capitalism threatens the very future of humanity.

The Green Party believes that things can be improved – through reforms and regulations – without removing capitalism. But this is completely false. Simply tinkering with the capitalist system is no solution, particularly in the face of a climate emergency. It is simply utopian, like hoping to drain the ocean with a spoon.

We can have no trust in any of the capitalist politicians. There have been so many international climate conferences; so many targets. But these have all been mere talking shops. Promises or agreements are endlessly broken. No one is held to account.

This is inevitable under capitalism, with its barriers of private property and the nation state. Competition between the big imperialist powers and multinationals will always mean a race to the bottom, at the expense of the environment and the 99 percent.

Only by taking the economy out of the hands of the billionaire tycoons, who use the planet as their playground, can we harmoniously plan and sustainably utilise society's resources, without destroying the planet.

Only through socialist planning can we decide what happens and where, rather than allow profit and the market to dictate activity, without any care for pollution or waste. This is the only answer to the climate catastrophe.

For world revolution

We are internationalists. Capitalism, as a world system, can only truly be eradicated on a global scale.

Inherent in capitalism is the constant struggle for markets and sources of raw materials. Giant corporations straddle the planet in search of greater profits, like vampires hunting for fresh blood.

These powerful gangsters – through blackmail, debt bondage, and other monopolistic methods – hold entire countries to ransom. Drug companies, amongst others, work to keep prices artificially high worldwide. Ex-colonial countries, despite their formal independence, remain subjugated and drained of resources by the imperialists.

These battles between the big corporations, backed by their respective nation states, lead to heightened tensions, conflicts, and ultimately war.

Imperialism, Lenin explained, is the 'highest stage' of capitalism; a sign that the system has reached – and gone beyond – the limits of private property. This explains the wars and rivalries that are wrecking the world today.

Millions and millions are suffering as a result: forced to flee their homes, due to war, poverty, and climate chaos, and then demonised and repressed by racist capitalist governments across the world, as they search for a sanctuary.

Capitalism is in a dead-end; in a state of almost perpetual crisis, dragging society into an ever-deeper abyss. This in turn is producing anger and rage. This is laying the conditions for socialist revolution.

We are accused of being in favour of violence. This is ironic coming from the mouths of warmongers. It is they who are employing violence against the oppressed people of Palestine. It is they who bombed Iraq, Syria, and Libya in the name of 'democracy'. These hypocrites are the peddlers of violence.

We are in favour of a peaceful transformation of society. But we also know that the old rulers will attempt to prevent this at any cost. No ruling class in history has ever given up its power and privileges without a fight.

Last year was the 50th anniversary of Pinochet's coup in Chile, where the democratically elected, left-wing government of Allende was overthrown. Backed by US imperialism, this coup led to the death of 30,000 people. This is the real lesson of Chile.

This is what the ruling class will do when faced with a threat to its interests. They are the perpetrators of violence. We must be prepared for this.

The capitalist establishment is a formidable enemy. But they can be stopped in their tracks by the mass-mobilisation of the working class, who are the vast majority of society.

Enough is enough!

Under capitalism, every gain or advance is ultimately eroded, or even taken away. What is given with the left hand, is taken back by the right hand. Simply look at the attacks of the last 50 years. Everything the working class has won is now under threat!

We will fight for every single reform, every step forward, however modest. But we will always link these to the struggle to transform society. The potential is limitless. The wonders of science and advances in technology are astonishing. But the capitalist system is incapable of harnessing these forces.

Developments in artificial intelligence (AI) and automation hold enormous possibilities for humanity, if used properly. But in the hands of capitalists, these mean mass unemployment and wage cuts, as workers are displaced by new technology.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts that AI could threaten 30 percent of jobs in the 'advanced capitalist countries'; 20 percent in the so-called 'emerging markets'; and 18 percent in 'low-income countries'.

Scientific advance opens up a huge vista for humanity. But under capitalism, it is mangled and distorted by the market system and the billionaires' drive for profits.

Even the heads of the IMF have warned that the adoption of generative AI "could amplify the next economic downturn".

Every gain for the capitalists becomes a burden for the masses. Only if the profit motive is eradicated, with the economy placed in the hands of the working class, can these advances be used for the benefit of all.

On a capitalist basis, the peoples of the world face horror without end: more wars; further economic crises; greater exploitation; and increased misery. This is the future under capitalism.

We say: enough is enough! We cannot tolerate this state of affairs. Down with the dictatorship of the corporations!

A socialist Britain would be a beacon to the workers of Europe and the world. It would spark a revolutionary wave, which would sweep away the old regime, and the system it defends.

This would open up an era of prosperity, preparing the ground for the construction of a totally new society: where the scourges of poverty, squalor, hunger, and war are eliminated; and where culture and science could flourish.

That is what we stand for! In the words of the *Communist Manifesto*: We have nothing to lose, and a world to win! ●

BUILD A MILLION HOMES A YEAR!



A study by the charity Shelter has revealed the depth of Britain's housing crisis. 260,000 social housing units have been lost in England over the past decade alone.

Today, 145,800 children are homeless – the highest ever figure in Britain. Rent levels are at all time highs, crippling the living standards of millions of people. Evictions are rising every year. Section 21 notices – 'no fault' evictions by landlords – jumped 38% in the year from 2022 to 2023.

This has led to an explosion in homelessness. But councils, ravaged by over a decade of austerity, and crippled by the 'Right to Buy', are unable to meet their statutory obligations to house the homeless.

As a result, last year, hundreds of homeless families in London were permanently forced as far afield as the North East of England by local authorities.

Many were disgustingly given just 24 hours to accept being rehoused hundreds of miles away, on pain of being classified as 'intentionally homeless' – and thus denied access to social housing.

That is to say that the public sector, crippled by austerity, and in the context of the blind forces of the market, is exiling people.

Britain has one of the worst housing crises in the world.

Every single government sets itself inadequate goals for home building. But even these goals are never met, because they rely on the market, which is not interested in meeting needs, but in making profits.

The only way this chronic crisis can be resolved is by planning the economy.

Daniel Morley, Hackney

HEALTHCARE NOT WARFARE!



My wife had unbearable abdominal pain, so I took her to A&E. We waited 8.5 hours before being seen, told "If you're not dying, you have to wait".

Eleven months after a GP referral, my mum still hasn't received an appointment for severe jaw pain. A year after my brother was told by his GP to ignore cancer symptoms, he was diagnosed and had to undergo surgery.

These are just a few examples of the impact of crumbling healthcare in the UK. The latest data shows there are 8 million patients on waiting lists to be treated, and a corresponding £385 million boom for the private health insurance vultures.

For 15 years, the government's response has been they don't have the funds to invest in healthcare. However, wait – the UK government has spent £574 million on arms for Israel in the same period.

Are we seeing it right? Yes, the government has £574 million to kill people in Palestine, but doesn't have funds to save people's lives via healthcare.

When the ruling class is more interested in imperialist adventures abroad, and profiteering at home, the wellbeing of working-class people will always be an afterthought. It's time to get rid of these capitalist politicians and fight for healthcare, not warfare!

Balaji Natarajan, Nottingham

Tory austerity has gutted the NHS and healthcare in Lincolnshire. On average, there are around 2,000 patients per one GP. With little alternative care, patients are turning to expensive private care within their homes just to survive.

A worker in private care told me that if their patient falls in their home during a visit and cannot get up by themselves then, according to their bosses, they need to call an ambulance and go on to their next patient. They are not allowed to wait with the patient for the ambulance or else their pay is docked!

This worker said, "I don't feel good leaving. But I have rent to pay, so I have to leave them. It's a private company, so what my boss says goes." Patients are left on the floor alone and waiting for an ambulance that could take anywhere between 30 minutes to three hours.

This isn't 'care' by these companies, but a cruel and inhumane focus on maximising profits. If workers were in control of healthcare instead then genuine care could be offered to the most vulnerable in our society.

But the only way we can take control is by kicking out the healthcare bosses, and funding decent healthcare by expropriating the banks of their idle trillions. In other words, overthrowing capitalism will be good for your health!

Anonymous, Lincoln

2024 FOUNDING CONFERENCE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL





€488,930 RAISED

Unlike the establishment parties, the RCI is not at the beck-and-call of the billionaires. The RCI is funded entirely by the generous donations of our comrades and supporters, with our financial independence guaranteeing our political independence.

At the founding conference we held a breathtaking collection. Cheers and applause spontaneously broke out as we raised €488,930 to fund the forces of communism internationally.

The monumental contributions of all comrades to the founding of the RCI show our political resolve and personal determination to build the world party of socialist revolution.

There is no more worthy cause in the world to give money to! ●





After a fantastic week of revolutionary ideas and inspirational reports from all over the world, the founding conference of the Revolutionary Communist International (RCI) concluded with a unanimous vote to launch this new international. But this is just the beginning.

Revolutionary communist parties

The RCI founding conference was a truly international event, the likes of which cannot be found anywhere else on Earth.

The week's events brought together over 7,000 comrades online in over 120 countries, as well as 500 comrades in person in Italy, for over 20 discussions on all the fundamental elements of our programme.

The closing session of the conference gave an overview of the phenomenal advances made by the organisation across the world.

The RCI might be new, but our roots run deep. An unbroken thread connects us to the ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky.

Although in the past we were numerically weak, we had something else that in the long-term is decisive, and the value of which none of our competitors understood: Marxist theory. And our focus on this will not slacken as we grow.

Are you a communist?

During the week, comrades from around the international explained the stunning successes that have led up to the founding of the RCI.

In April 2023, we had 4,400 comrades internationally. But in just 12 months, we have grown by almost 50% to over 6,500. It is only a matter of weeks before the RCI reaches 7,000 comrades – a major milestone in our development.

Currently, the RCI has full sections in 26 countries, with smaller groups of comrades building the RCI in more than 70 countries.

Hamid Alizadeh, from the International Secretariat of the RCI, explained that the immense growth of the RCI proves the correctness of our "Are you a communist?" campaign. There are countless workers and youth in all countries in the world, who are actively looking for communism – and nothing less.

That we understood this, and turned decisively towards this layer, constitutes the whole secret to our success.

But as Hamid noted, there is an even larger layer of people who do not yet see themselves as communists, but who are filled with anger and frustration at the state of society. They hate their bosses. They hate the politicians. They have nothing but contempt for the lying media. They are looking for a way out.

These people might not be communists yet, but they are open to being persuaded.

Free Palestine!

A focus of the RCI's work over the last few months has been the Palestine movement around the world, with our comrades at the forefront of this struggle from the beginning.

There is a mood of frustration and rage in the Palestine solidarity movement, without a clear political leadership to give this expression. There is a huge vacuum to be filled.

This explains the huge momentum behind Fiona's election campaign in Britain. She has received millions of views on social media, and acquired hundreds of thousands of new followers, who see her as a beacon for fearlessly calling out the hypocrisy of the capitalist war criminals.

This is an anticipation of the opportunities that will open up as the RCI grows, making it possible to reach larger and larger layers with our programme and ideas.

Outstanding achievements

The growth of the RCI over the last year has laid the basis for a major step forward in all aspects of our work.

Wellred Books, the publishing house of the RCI, has become the only publishing house in the world that consistently publishes Marxist theory, providing invaluable weapons in the communists' theoretical arsenal.

Sales in the first six months of this year are triple that of the entirety of 2020, showing the incredible thirst for revolutionary ideas that exists in society.

In Defence of Marxism, the quarterly theoretical journal of the RCI, has also had its best year ever. The latest issue is being published in ten languages and has sold 4,200 copies.

The caricature of Marxism paints us as concerned with economic questions of bread alone. This is far from the truth. The upcoming issue will tackle important questions on the communist approach to art and culture, featuring articles on poetry and Greek drama, and a key essay by Trotsky on culture and socialism.

International solidarity

As Hamid – and later Alan Woods – commented in his closing remarks: we are building a party of communist struggle amidst a bloody and brutal class war that is unfolding all over the world.

Stark reminders of this came during the course of the conference.

We received news of a government crackdown on the leaders of an ongoing mass movement in Pakistan-held Kashmir, followed by news from our Hungarian comrades that their watch party had been violently broken up by a gang of fascists, with one comrade being hospitalised.

In both instances, the conference immediately sent a message of full solidarity.

As communists, we stand united against vile reactionary thugs. We refuse to back down in the face of such threats. An injury to one is an injury to all! We will not be cowed!

The communists have arrived!

The founding conference of the RCI was truly a historic event, the likes of which no comrade had ever experienced. Alan Woods, in his closing remarks, spoke for all participants when he said: "I have never in my life seen such an inspirational meeting as this".

Hamid, quoting Trotsky's *On the Founding of the Fourth International*, summed up what it now means to be a member of the RCI:

> "Our party demands each of us, totally and completely. Let the philistines hunt their own individuality in empty space. For a revolutionary to give himself entirely to the party signifies finding himself.
>
> "Yes, our party takes each one of us wholly. But in return it gives to every one of us the highest happiness: the consciousness that one participates in the building of a better future, that one carries on his shoulders a particle of the fate of mankind, and that one's life will not have been lived in vain."

This is what the RCI offers each and every one of us: the confidence and optimism to know that we have the world to win, and that we know precisely how to win it.

Today, we must finish what was started by the Bolsheviks over 100 years ago. We must retie the knot of history severed by the crimes of Stalinism, and build a real Revolutionary Communist International that can lead the workers of the world to final victory.

The RCI has been founded. But now the work begins: to grow; to build the world party of socialist revolution. There is no greater cause on earth than this. Join us in this fight! ●



COMMUNISTS IN BRITAIN CELEBRATE RCI LAUNCH

All across the country – from Cardiff to Canterbury, Glasgow to Southampton – communists from the RCP organised watch parties to celebrate the founding of the Revolutionary Communist International (RCI).

The enthusiasm was electric – both at the in-person RCI conference, and at watch parties across Britain.

At one of these events, a passerby, curious about the enthusiasm radiating out of the room, remarked: "This looks a lot more interesting than football!" And they were absolutely right!

So inspired was one new joiner at the internationalism on display, that they pledged to do whatever they could to help our comrades struggling in other countries.

Another school student joined on the spot after hearing the opening session.

Comrades reported that the RCI conference raised their sights in terms of steeling themselves in Marxist theory; and that the discussions put our hard work in Britain into perspective, as part of the fight for world revolution.

In London, where we are in the middle of our campaign to get Fiona Lali elected in the constituency of Stratford & Bow, the watch party was a perfect opportunity to raise comrades' sights, and energise RCP members for a burst of activity.

After watching Alan Woods' introduction to the manifesto of the new international, RCP national secretary Ben Gliniecki, fresh off the plane from the RCI conference, spoke to comrades about the significance of Fiona's election campaign.

As Ben explained, this campaign has enormous meaning for the whole international: providing a huge platform for our communist ideas, and an opportunity for us to make contact with a massive new layer of revolutionaries-in-the-making.

In Alan's words: the eyes of the international are on us!

Galvanised and armed with perspectives, the RCP – the British section of the newly-founded RCI – is proud to hold high the fresh, bright red banner of the Revolutionary Communist International. ●



Click here to order the Manifesto of the RCI: wellredbooks.co.uk

FIONA LALI'S CAMPAIGN GATHERS PACE: WE HAVE A WORLD TO WIN!

With election day around the corner, the campaign to support Fiona Lali – the revolutionary communist candidate for Stratford & Bow – has been gathering pace.

In a single week, hundreds of volunteers and RCP members took to the streets and the doorstep to connect with the mood of burning anger towards the establishment parties.

On Saturday 22 June alone, 100 volunteers were out in force throughout the constituency, handing out thousands of leaflets and posters to local residents and shop-owners.

In some busy high streets, almost every single shop front is emblazoned with 'Vote Fiona' posters.

The reports we've received reveal a complete rejection of Starmer's Labour by local workers and youth, who seem to be hated even more than the Tories for their rank hypocrisy and lies.

As one comrade campaigning in Green Street reported:

"People here hate Starmer's Labour. Not just because of their blatant support for imperialism and genocide, but for how they've taken working-class communities in London for granted, relying on their votes while doing absolutely nothing to help."

Increasingly, local residents can see that the Tories and Labour are indistinguishable.

Enthusiasm

Everywhere we go, we are met with overwhelming support for Fiona and her bold, working-class policies – like kicking out the war criminals, nationalising the big corporations, and democratically planning the economy.

"A Pakistani shop owner came running out of his shop after seeing one of our flags," one RCP member reported. "He told me how he loves Marx and Lenin, and took a handful of our flyers and posters. His friend said that people in the community listen to what he has to say."

Workers at a local NHS centre also grabbed material out of our hands. It's clear that Fiona's demand for scrapping arms spending in favour of saving our crumbling healthcare system is resonating with those on the frontlines of the NHS.

Most of all, however, this campaign has found an echo amongst the youth, who have grown up knowing nothing but austerity, war, and climate catastrophe, and who are therefore repelled by the establishment parties.

In Bow, local school students gathered around one of our stalls to ask us questions. They were keen to hear about our demands in favour of free education and living grants, and took leaflets to distribute in their school. Some of them already considered themselves communists!

Even though they cannot yet vote, it's clear that these young people can see that capitalism offers them no future, and want to join the struggle to see a world free from poverty and oppression.

Communist ideas

Fiona also attended a public Q&A meeting at Stratford Library, which drew in around fifty attendees.

She gave a passionate speech putting forward a communist perspective of what a Starmer government will look like, and how we can get organised to defend the interests of the world working class.

Fiona ended the speech with an impassioned rallying cry:

"We need to go out there with the full message that we are aiming for nothing less than to change the world.

"Let's plan an economy on the basis of need and not profit, let's kick out all the profiteers, all of the war criminals, and all of the imperialists.

"We have war criminals to kick out. But most importantly, and most positively, we have a world to win!"

There was then a lively discussion on various topics, including why the Corbyn movement failed, how we can build the workers' and students' movements, and why reforms aren't enough to dismantle capitalism.

This kind of political discussion – providing a deeper insight and perspective into the problems facing workers and youth – is what sets the RCP apart from the other parties taking part in this election.

Through this campaign, we are aiming for more than just votes. We are aiming to raise the sights of workers and young people to the tasks that lie ahead, and organise people in the fight for a communist future.

On the back of all this activity, since the start of Fiona's campaign, dozens of people have joined the RCP, and hundreds more have written in asking about getting organised.

Support the campaign!

With election day drawing closer, we aren't going to take our foot off the pedal. Far from it! We need to ramp up our activity even further.

On Saturday, 29 July, RCP members from across the whole of Britain will be descending on Stratford & Bow – meeting at midday in Stratford Park – to spread Fiona's message far and wide.

We are also aiming to get hundreds of people out campaigning in the days running up to the election.

Some RCP activists are even taking days off work to get stuck into the campaign. This is the kind of determination that we need!

So we urge all of our readers and supporters: get involved right away, and help give one last big push!

If you can't make it to London, there's still plenty you can do. Whether it's sharing Fiona's posts on social media, or helping us raise funds for the campaign's war chest – any support will go a long way!

Crucially, this struggle will not end on 4 July. We will continue to fight until this horrific system is overthrown worldwide. We invite you to join the RCP, get organised, and help us in this task. ●

ASK THE COMMUNIST

ISSUE 1 • 24 JAN 2024 • £2/£5

A voter in Stratford and Bow asks: "What difference would a revolutionary communist like Fiona make in Parliament? "

[The following is taken from a live Q&A with Fiona on 20 June.]

This election is not just about what kind of government we want to be in power on 5 July, or just to become an MP – it's about really what kind of world we want to live in. That is what I think the people who are joining-up to our campaign are most interested in.

However, if I was an MP, I would do everything I could to expose war criminals, to expose the system.

Inside of parliament, I'll be fighting for as many reforms as possible in order for people's lives to be better. But most of my time, I would like to organise people outside of parliament using this platform.

In Stratford specifically, I think political education is really key.

Look, if I became MP, what I would want to do first and foremost is create a culture of political discussion essentially across the whole constituency. To have meetings of people to come and talk about the problems in their lives, talk about what's happening, and then it's on that basis that we decide how we are going to fight back against this.

A lot of the problems in people's lives are ultimately connected to the massive underfunding that is taking place. The only way we are going to get that funding is if we fight for it and we campaign for it.

It's actually the process of struggle, the process of fighting for reform, that can give people confidence that there's more that they can win.

But what I am opposed to is the notion that is promoted that we just have to keep sludging forward through the mud slowly, hoping that maybe next year we'll get £1 more on the minimum wage, which is nowhere near enough to catch up with the horrors that people are facing in their lives.

It is precisely this idea that maintains the system as it is. Over the whole of human existence, when societies have changed, it hasn't been through slow sludging but through complete transformations; through revolutions.

What this campaign is really about is addressing the extent of change that is necessary within society.

The money is there, we can see it, it's sitting in the biggest businesses, it's sitting in the biggest banks. And what we stand for is nationalising all of the biggest energy companies, all of the biggest banks, all of the biggest landlords – nationalise all of them without compensation!

I believe we should seize their wealth entirely. One percent of people in Britain own as much wealth as seventy percent of people in Britain.

What we must fight for is not that one percent should just own maybe sixty percent of the wealth or fifty percent of the wealth; we're saying take all of that wealth away from them and put it in the hands of the people who produce what we need in society.

No matter what happens on 5 July, the Revolutionary Communist Party has a clear idea of why the world is in crisis – and we have an alternative to that system.

We want to get our ideas out there on as big a scale as possible. This goes beyond just parliament, it requires people; people who are to be organised in their schools, in their universities, and in their workplace.

This is what the RCP does: it builds branches all over the country, all over the city, to train people in those ideas, to go out there, recruit others, and then fight for what we need in our local communities. ●

CLICK HERE: send us your questions at communist.red/write













HELP US BUILD THE RCP

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY

What can I do?

1. Join us!

...at communist.red/join

2. Set up a regular donation

...go to communist.red/donate to support your party!



3. Get a starter pack

Containing everything you need to get started including posters, stickers, the latest issue of *The Communist*, the *In Defence of Marxism* magazine, and our *Leninist Handbook*.

4. Find your local branch...

The building blocks of our organisation are our branches. It is in these that we educate ourselves in Marxist ideas and methods; and through these that we collectively conduct activity.

5. ...or build it yourself!

There are literally millions of young people and workers in Britain today who identify as communists, all you have to do is find them! Start by painting the town red with the posters and stickers in your starter pack!

6. Begin your education!

Without a thorough understanding of the world, we can't hope to change it. A communist party *needs* revolutionary theory, which represents a summing up of the lessons and laws drawn from the revolutionary movements of the past. Therefore, the most important task of any newly organised communist is to study!

Fortunately, we have plenty of material to help you do just that...

Stock up on revolutionary theory at Wellred Books



CLICK HERE!

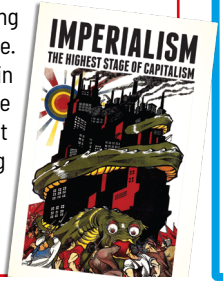
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I read Lenin's *Imperialism* over Christmas, which really helped me develop a broader understanding of Marxism.

I learned that capital is not just the capitalists' profits, but the money which allows the capitalists to control the means of production. In the era of finance capital, control of the economy is in the hands of a few big financial organisations, and it is their interests which determine policy.

Understanding fundamental ideas like this helped me apply them to bigger, current world scenarios, like the ongoing genocide in Palestine. Anyone interested in understanding the world today has a lot to gain from reading this book!

A Cambridge communist



TURN SCOTLAND RED!

We are entering a new phase of the class struggle in Britain.

Millions have been mobilised to rage against the criminal policies of our ruling class and its blanket support for Israel's war of extermination in Gaza.

There is enormous anger against the wasted decade of austerity and social decline, which has left our schools and hospitals at breaking point, and robbed us blind at every turn.

The Tories will receive their long-deserved punishment at the ballot box on 4 July, when they will be completely smashed.

The SNP, too, for their litany of disappointments and betrayals, will be thrown back.

Though Starmer's Labour stands to gain at both their expense, it will not represent any vote of confidence in this total fraud and sickening lackey of the banks and big business.

Disgust

The mood among the working class is one of apathy and disgust towards all the ruling-class politicians and parties. While they ramp-up their attacks on one another for the TV cameras, they all have their fingers crossed behind their backs.

After the votes are cast, they all follow the same script: the people must tighten their belts, work themselves to the bone for what little they have, while the rich get to live in never-before-seen luxury.

Billions are spent on wars and weapons, while barely a few crumbs are thrown down for nurses, teachers, firefighters, and other workers.

This is the cruel logic of capitalism. It cannot function any other way. We cannot put our trust in any of the politicians or parties who are tied to this system: not the Tories or Labour, nor the SNP or Greens.

Strengthen the struggle

The outcome of this election is a done deal. Keir Starmer will be the next stooge to occupy Downing Street. All that matters now is who will stand with their heads above the rest to oppose the new government.

Should we leave it up to millionaire hatemongers like Nigel Farage? Or to two-faced hypocrites like John Swinney? Or should we build a real opposition?

There will be no honeymoon period for Starmer, as his servility to the ruling class guarantees to provoke a rise in the working-class struggle.

We have to strengthen the struggle against austerity capitalism, against imperialist war, and against oppression. We have to fight not just for bigger crumbs from the rich man's table, but to put the working class in control.

This is what the Revolutionary Communist Party stands for. We stand for the total rejection of capitalism and its regime of criminals and parasites. We are communists; partisans of working-class power and heralds of socialist revolution.

Plant the red flag

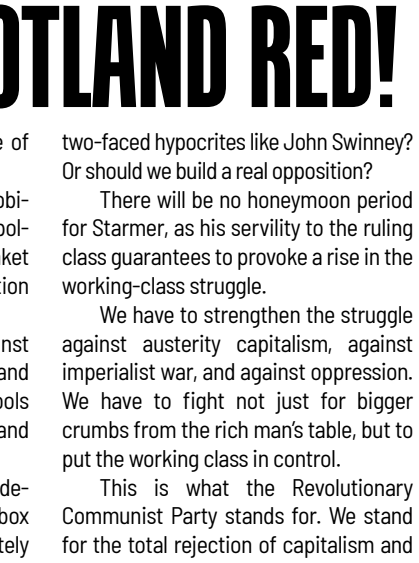
We are launching a campaign in Scotland to raise the banner of communism and establish new branches of the Party.

If you are a communist, then we are calling on you to immediately begin building a cell wherever you are – any town, workplace, school or college – and apply for membership of the RCP.

Comrades in our existing branches and cells in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and West Lothian will be visiting new towns and cities to help with the founding of these cells.

We are gathering the new forces of Bolshevism – of Leninism – in Scotland. A special conference will be called for 27 July, hosting delegations from across the country to discuss the tasks and methods of communists in the class struggles that will unfold.

Join the RCP to plant the hammer and sickle banner far and wide, forge the forces of revolution, and turn Scotland red. ●



We have four branches of the Revolutionary Communist Party in Edinburgh and Glasgow.
But we need more! Sign up to our founding event and join us in building the forces of revolutionary communism in Scotland!

CLICK HERE!

communist.red/rcp-scotland



LETTERS

Send us your comments, views, and experiences at communist.red/write

No future for capitalism

I am a communist for my kids. As a father, I want my kids to be happy and thrive. But climate change brings the prospect of increased food prices, wildfires and floods, and a loss of biodiversity.

What biologists call the sixth wave of mass extinction in the history of Earth is not even given much public attention! The fifth wave wiped out the dinosaurs!

Capitalism is the main reason for these crises. Bosses and shareholders, backed by politicians, violently resist anything that could reduce their profits. A globalised genocide-ecocide only to maintain capitalism?!

It's leaving a world fit to live in for our kids that obligates me – and all of us – to reorganise our society. If we let the established parties, who dare not challenge the root cause of our crises, go on just a bit longer, nature will become dysfunctional and could wipe out billions of us.

In all this prospective agony, the best I can do to protect my kids is to be a revolutionary.

For all children's sake, let us fight to seize the means of production! We must refocus production on existential needs: food, housing, healthcare, and sustainable relations between people and to nature: that is communism!

A dad in Manchester

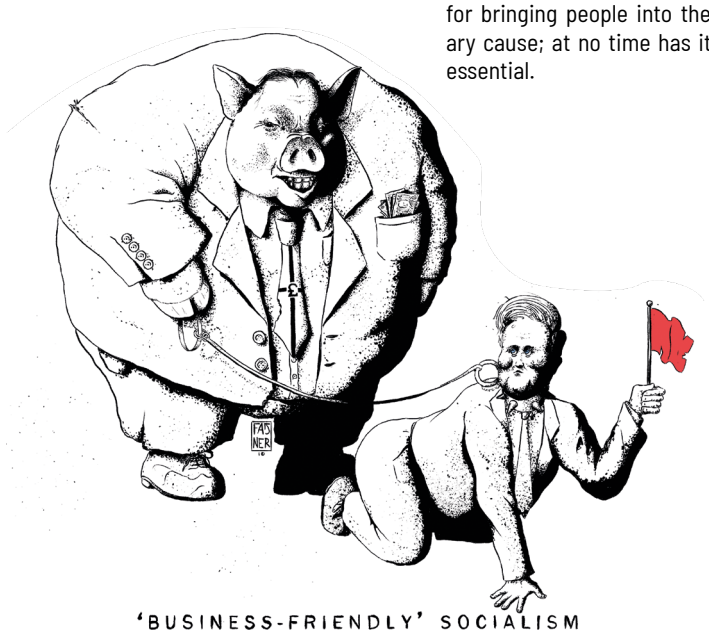
Caudwell's cash

I read in the news that billionaire and former Tory donor John Caudwell has defected to Labour. He says he despairs of the Tories and is impressed by Sir Starmer's "socialism through capitalism". I think there is another name for this: capitalism.

When Caudwell was owner of Phones4u, the company went bust and thousands of workers were laid off. Meanwhile this parasite Caudwell sold his portfolio and is now valued at over £1.5 billion.

Nevertheless, we can be sure that Starmer's rotten regime will bend over backwards to accept Caudwell's cash, no matter how many strings it has attached. This is capitalist democracy 4u.

Owen Rees Hattersley, Leeds



'Independents' day

4 July is known in the US as Independence Day. But in Britain with the upcoming general election, it could be known as '*Independents Day*'.

There's been a surge of independent candidates running against the Tory-Labour orthodoxy.

In some cases like Islington North the people have the option to give the major parties a bloody nose and re-elect independent incumbent Jeremy Corbyn.

In others like Birmingham Ladywood, a Labour stronghold, the website Electoral Calculus predicts that Labour's lead over Independent Akhmed Yakoob is just 6%!

In Stratford and Bow, the RCP's Fiona Lali is on the heels of Labour's Uma Kumaran.

Whatever the result on 4 July, the British masses should take a page out of the revolutionary traditions of the Founding Fathers and declare independence from the entire British establishment!

Michael Omatsola-Morgan, Birmingham

Reform or revolution

Do not deceive yourselves for a moment; there will be no healing, no recourse, no help for the British people on the arrival of a Labour government. I laugh, as I am sure you all do, at their audacious claim to be a party in defence of workers rights.

How laughable it is, when politicians boast of 'parliamentary democracy' – Keir Starmer stands on the cusp of electoral victory with millions disengaged. What 'democracy' is there in this? As Lenin said: it is democracy for the rich!

How right he was! To our lament, this election will be as if there had been no change of party at all.

It is left to us, the Revolutionary Communist Party, to demand the overthrow of our oppressors in Westminster and beyond.

To those reading *The Communist* who are not yet members; one cannot make a revolution in white gloves. Do not be afraid to take to the streets alongside your comrades.

I commend the RCP for their staunch defence of the Palestinian people, and for bringing people into the revolutionary cause; at no time has it been more essential.

Lucian Reed

A fable

In a busy forest, an understaffed team of ants worked tirelessly to build a new anthill. Their boss, a flamboyant peacock, spent her days showing off her feathers and ridiculing the ants while they worked.

When the anthill was finally completed, the peacock strutted over and announced, "Look at the marvellous ant hill we have built! Thanks to my leadership, we now have the finest home in the forest!"

The ants, though frustrated, stayed silent. They knew as well that if they raised their voices, individually, they would certainly be plucked from their role by the peacock and swallowed whole.

They couldn't afford to lose anymore ants – there weren't enough anymore. The next day, the peacock returned to the ants with two friends at her side. They asked for three ant hills, but the ants had the same amount of time to build it.

The ants worked outside of work hours. Some collapsed from exhaustion. Some had to leave for a better life. Through hard work, determination, and a desperation to put food on the table, the three ant hills were finished.

The peacock, with her friends, threw a big celebration for themselves, proclaiming, "Look at how brilliant our work is! Look at what the three of us have done."

Now imagine this every day of every week, with every project. If you can imagine it, then you have a pretty good idea of what's going on at the University of Greenwich.

Lee Schultz, Greenwich

Right to protest

The Palestine movement in Manchester experienced a brutal attack by Greater Manchester Police on 15 June, with video showing officers viciously charging crowds and knocking down elderly protestors.

This brazen attack followed the voluntary closure of the Manchester encampment by its student organisers, which initiated a general ebb in the Palestine movement locally.

With fewer people on the streets, the cops smelt blood. By beating protestors, they sought to scare the workers and students back into order, and regain what authority was lost to the brave, enthusiastic offensive by the youth.

While it was active, however, the encampment demonstrated the enormous potential strength of the movement.

When the police tried to smash the occupation of the university's Whitworth Hall, they were left in full scale retreat by an army of protesters marching down Oxford Road to secure the defence of the encampment. The victory was electrifying!

Weakness invites aggression, while opportunities multiply as they are seized. We must rally all those who wish to defend the Palestine movement, and wage a relentless struggle against this repressive, genocide-supporting state in defence of the right to protest!

Sammy Meikle, Manchester

Greenwashed redundancy

'Convenience with a conscience' – this was the slogan of the delivery company that recently made me, and tens of others, redundant. If they did indeed have a conscience, it seemed remarkably missing when they chose to give us the boot.

This is a company which prides itself on being 'ethical' and 'sustainable', initially through its commitment to plastic-free products. Ethics and sustainability, it appears, stretch only as far as their profit margins allow.

During the period that I worked there, they began distributing products with plastic packaging, which was transparently motivated by the need to cut costs. Ironically, the non-plastic approach proved to be too 'unsustainable' – yes, for their profits!

This is the inevitable conclusion of all capitalist attempts to curb the excesses of the system's destructive nature through greenwashing. When profit is threatened, their good intentions are sent to the landfill – alongside their plastic packaging.

If we really want to reduce plastic waste and protect the environment, the only solution is to expropriate big business and put all production and distribution in the hands of workers.

Stop the profits, save the planet!

Anonymous

The most trustworthy politician

Dear readers, please try not to laugh. And do remember this story anytime someone tells you communism is a joke, or will never seriously happen.

A local entrepreneur in Rochdale, Steve Endacott, has applied to be the virtual MP of Brighton. Standing as a member of his new party Smarter UK, Endacott shall be running for this position with the help of 'AI Steve' – his AI avatar.

This avatar will receive questions from the constituents 24/7 and provide policy solutions for Mr Endacott to carry out.

Rest assured, Endacott describes himself as aligning closest to the Green Party, and as a "capitalist with a socialist conscience". Having scored a few hundred votes running for the Tories in Rochdale in 2022, the first AI MP of Brighton will even be based on an experienced, capable politician.

I welcome our AI overlords. A parliament run by computer MPs is much easier to shut down by grid workers on strike.

Ben Cownley, Manchester

POETRY

I was alive once

I was alive once.

I built worlds beyond this one In the fever pitch of the playground.

I knew the crackle of fire under muted moonlight, clouds sailing over open sea.

I was alive once.

I knew the taste of saffron, silk gliding on clean skin, running with a kite and the wind at my back, the quiet joy of an unexpected gift.

I was alive once.

I knew hunger, terror, burns and grief, and I knew the harpy scream of an airstrike. I knew that tents burn faster than bodies.

I knew death before I had a chance to know life.

I was alive, once.

For every child in Gaza – RM



UNDERCOVER A&E: NHS IN CRISIS

Through a hidden camera, we see patients lining the corridors, waiting up to 40 hours without medication; without easy access to food; made to urinate in bottles for lack of facilities.

We are given the tragic yet unsurprising statistic that one-in-72 of these people who spend too long waiting in A&E will die as a result.

This undercover documentary in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital A&E demonstrates once more the stark reality of the crumbling NHS after decades of austerity.

*Undercover A&E: NHS in Crisis can be watched on Channel 4: **click here!***



BURIED: THE LAST WITNESS

This ten-episode podcast series – with celebrity guest star Michael Sheen – dives into the deadly consequences of carcinogenic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

It utilises the extensive research of one of the first 'forever chemical' whistleblowers – who likely died from his exposure to PCBs.

We start in Newport, where corporate chemical waste dumping in the 1960s and '70s – before PCBs were finally banned in 1981 – has left surrounding land some of the most contaminated in Britain.

Yet decades after this was first exposed, nothing has been done.

*Buried: The Last Witness can be listened to on BBC Sounds: **click here!***



GENERAL ELECTION TV DEBATES

Innumerable and uninspiring, Sunak and Starmer are more often in agreement than not!

No matter what platform they are on or fresh angle they try to take, these televised general election debates are as dull as dishwater.

Join the campaign for Fiona Lali in Stratford & Bow instead!

*Go to **fionalalircp.com***

CLICK HERE!

ALL OUT AT PORT TALBOT! FIGHT FOR NATIONALISATION! DEAL TATA A KNOCKOUT BLOW!

Sean Hodges and Ashton Munro

A few months ago, Tata bosses threw down the gauntlet to Port Talbot steelworkers. These bloodsuckers threatened to withdraw their redundancy package offer from any workers taking strike action.

This came on top of their cynical statements about needing to 'go green' – used to justify Tata's decision to throw the community on the scrapheap by closing down Port Talbot's blast furnaces.

The bosses clearly think workers are too stupid to know that Tata is opening new blast furnaces in India!

Tata thought they had things sewn up. They thought their blackmail would be enough to scare workers into meekly accepting this jobs massacre. They were wrong.

Coordinated action

On 8 July, 1,500 Unite members in Port Talbot will begin an all-out indefinite strike.

Community and GMB – the other steel unions – also have active strike ballots. Union leaders must now use these to declare coordinated industrial action. Unite members should not be left to fight alone. Unity is strength. There is no time to waste.

Once these strikes are declared, rank-and-file workers should be involved in decision-making through regular mass shop-floor meetings.

To this end, cross-union rank-and-file strike committees should be elected to coordinate action; to organise a mass campaign, with appeals to the local area and the rest of the labour movement for solidarity and support; and to make preparations for escalation if the bosses don't budge, including a workers' occupation.

Importantly, the trade union movement must demand nationalisation – without compensation – of all industries threatened with closure.

Labour to the rescue?

Unfortunately, however, the union leaders are not currently demanding this.

All three steel unions are still 'waiting for Labour' – asking Tata bosses to hold off until a Starmer government is in place, which they hope will come to the rescue with extra subsidies for steel bosses.

Indeed, the union leaders' whole strategy seems to revolve around this, with strike action only now planned to start following the general election, after months of dithering and delay.

This approach is totally wrong. All this does is sow illusions in the incoming Labour government, with hopes that Starmer will come in and save the day. But with closure looming imminently, this is a dangerous game to play.

Starmer and his cronies have made it crystal clear whose side they stand on. They intend to govern for big business, not workers – hence their constant hokey-cokey around their so-called 'new deal for working people', alongside their endless overtures to the City of London.

Labour has pledged £3bn worth of investment in the UK steel industry. But given Starmer's track record, it's clear that these promises aren't worth the paper they're written on.

In any case, such deals have been tried with Tata and other industry bosses before. And the result is always the same: a slow bleed of jobs while the can is kicked down the road, with the parasitic owners eventually pulling the plug once they've sucked all the profits they can out of workers and taxpayers.

Instead of throwing more public money into the capitalists' pockets, the labour movement should be demanding – and fighting for – nationalisation, without a penny in compensation for these fat-cats.

Fighting mood

On the ground, feelings are beginning to boil. The general mood at a recent steelworkers' rally, attended by RCP comrades, was lively. Pointedly, many of the steelworkers we spoke to were frustrated at how long it has taken for the unions to get to this point.

Many told us that they want a real fight against Tata, before it's too late. They understand that there is no hope for the steelworks if opposition is left purely to behind-the-scenes negotiations or to vague promises from an untrustworthy Labour party.

Having been infuriated by Tata's heavy-handed attempts at bullying, we can safely say that these workers are not prepared to quit at the first hurdle. Future action must be based on this determination and fighting spirit.

What is needed is an all-out campaign to force the incoming Labour government to nationalise the steel industry, without compensation.

We don't want more empty promises. And we shouldn't have any faith in yet more backroom talks and deals. Only militant, sustained action – including preparations for occupation – can make Labour take the steps necessary to save Port Talbot.

Workers' control

This fighting campaign should not be limited to Port Talbot, either. In Scunthorpe, British Steel are planning a similar jobs massacre, with the bosses looking to close the blast furnace there also.

It is high time that these struggles were linked up, into a single all-out battle for the future of Britain's steel industry.

This would electrify workers across every industry and workplace where jobs are under threat. It would show them that they don't have to accept the arguments of the capitalists when it comes to their lives and livelihoods. And it would demonstrate to workers that if they stand up and fight, they can win.

More fundamentally, a wave of militant action must be used to offer a clear, bold message: that our class is no longer prepared to have its future decided by others.

This means making the case for workers' control across industry.

The bosses have proven time and again that they will send whole towns to the wall, if that helps them maintain their profit margins.

Only by taking our destiny out of their hands, by democratically and harmoniously planning production in the interests of the working class, can we put an end to the capitalists' threats.

It's time to take up this fight. It's time to win.

Solidarity to the steelworkers! Victory to Port Talbot! Strike, occupy, and fight for workers' control! ●





UNITE'S FLIP-FLOPS OVER LABOUR: DISORIENTING WORKERS, DISARMING OUR MOVEMENT

Arsalan Ghani, Cambridge Unite (personal capacity)

As a member of Unite, I read with dismay in *The Communist* how our union leadership has flip-flopped between endorsing and attacking the Labour Party in recent weeks.

First, the leadership threatened to withdraw funding for Labour, after the party watered-down its pledges on workers' rights.

Then union officials dropped their opposition, following "a really good meeting" with Keir Starmer, where he merely agreed to further talks, while in fact backtracking on his promises.

With Labour's manifesto now published, Unite's general secretary Sharon Graham has decried the party's proposals, saying that they have "more holes than Swiss cheese", and refusing to back them.

But there is not a word from our union's leader on how to actually fight the austerity and attacks that a Labour government will implement!

This dizzying merry-go-round exposes the union leadership's confused approach to the Labour Party.

They swing from rejecting politics altogether, saying that "nobody is coming to save us", to cosying-up to the Labour leaders and calling for members to vote for them, depending on which faction of the union leadership is more vocal at any given time.

Instead of demanding the nationalisation of industry and seizure of the billionaires' wealth, meanwhile, Graham has called on Keir Starmer and shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves to borrow and invest. In other words, to add to Britain's mountain of debt – presenting the bill to the working class, and letting the capitalists get away scot free.

The reality is clear. Starmer represents the bosses, not workers. No amount of clever negotiations can change this.

Instead of relying on backroom deals, toothless threats, or denunciatory statements, our union's leadership should be mobilising rank-and-file members for militant and coordinated action.

Above all, we should be preparing to fight Labour's impending attacks – not fostering false hopes in Starmer, who is hell-bent on serving his capitalist masters.

It's high time that the unions, including Unite, championed and fought for a bold socialist programme – instead of abandoning politics or sowing illusions in establishment politicians.

No trust in Starmer's Labour! The working class can only rely on its own strength! ●

NHS WORKERS SAY: NO TRUST IN LABOUR!

RM, BMA (personal capacity)

Starmer's Labour have consistently spat in the face of workers. Nevertheless, it's most likely they'll get into power.

NHS workers should have no illusions in 'Sir' Keir ('my mum's a nurse') Starmer and his gang.

They've already laid the ground for privatisation, offering to cut the astronomical waiting list with...more investment in private healthcare.

Shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves, meanwhile, has been screeching 'fiscal responsibility' at every opportunity. This means more austerity, on top of cuts that have already claimed the lives of thousands.

Labour's pledge of 40,000 more appointments, when stagnant pay and heavy workloads are already leading to burnout, means that this is either another empty promise, or that skeleton crews will be further squeezed to keep the NHS running.

When it comes to doctors' strikes, shadow health secretary Wes Streeting has said that our union (the BMA) is "living on another planet". This sets the tone for the battles that health workers will face against a Labour government.

Most of my colleagues' responses to the incoming health secretary are either "who?", or "he's just the same as the Tories".

For slimy Wes, the NHS is simply a vehicle for syphoning off funds to his chums in the private healthcare sector. No wonder he's asked us to stop our strikes.

We are striking to save the NHS. Only fairly-paid workers and well-staffed hospitals can provide high-quality care.

Left to Streeting and Starmer, waiting lists would increase. Left to us, under a planned economy, funded by expropriating Wes' parasitic pals, the NHS could grow and help more people.

It'll be a tough struggle, but it's one we need to fight. ●

US COMRADE VICTIMISED FOR FLYERING WORKPLACE – SOLIDARITY WITH MILOS!

The following report from the Revolutionary Communists of America (RCA), our sister organisation in the USA, shows the impact that a single bold communist can have in a workplace.

Whilst being victimised by the bosses, comrade Milos has built a huge base of support amongst their colleagues.

Key to this has been their ability to skillfully link Marxist ideas to the particular facts of their workplace, and in turn to the broader class struggle between the working class and the capitalists.

We encourage our worker-readers – and anyone building a communist cell in their workplace – to study this report.

Take inspiration from Milos' workplace agitation and activity. Start building and organising amongst your fellow workers. And send us your reports at communist.red/write.

Revolutionary Communists of America

Comrade Milos Minos is facing trial for an unusual crime: discussing wages and working conditions with their coworkers at Minneapolis International Airport – a 21,000-strong workplace.

Facing a misdemeanour charge of "constitutionally protected speech in an undesignated area", Milos could be sentenced for up to 90 days behind bars – all for distributing leaflets containing economic data that was published on the airport's own public website!

Apparently it's ok for the bosses to discuss these figures in their boardrooms and publicise them in their finance reports. But when workers discuss them on the job, it becomes a criminal offence.

"Would you ever work for free?"

"It all started with a discussion about Marxist economics", Milos said. This got them wondering about their own workplace, and how much labour-time there goes to line the bosses' pockets. "All it took was a quick internet search and, lo and behold, all the economic stats were right in front of me."

Milos translated the figures from the airport's finance report: the average worker generates $183,000 each year, but earns $61,000 in wages. In other words, workers are receiving a third of the value generated by their labour.

The average full-time airport employee, who works 260 days a year, is essentially working 173 of those days for free.

The comrade wasted no time. Milos drew up a draft leaflet and walked up to some coworkers.

"Would you ever work for free?" Milos asked. "Of course not!" a cook replied. Milos handed him the leaflet. "Well, you already are."

The workers' jaws dropped, and they quickly began making plans to print and circulate the leaflet.

Raising class consciousness

The leaflet's power soon became clear. "The amused grin on the faces of the workers turned into expressions of outrage", Milos says. "Workers all know we're being screwed, but we rarely have the figures laying it out in front of us in black and white."

Many workers – including baristas and baggage handlers – felt so strongly about the leaflet that they volunteered to help distribute them to their coworkers.

Milos began handing out leaflets to airport workers riding the train to work. "When I got to the end of the carriage, I'd look back and see all of them reading it intently."

The leaflets were raising class consciousness in the workplace. Workers who had never encountered a communist before were learning in concrete terms what the class struggle is all about.

"We were planning to take our breaks at the same time, and to discuss Marxism with those workers who wanted to know what we can do about this."

Political repression

One day, two airport detectives appeared at Milos' workplace, with the leaflet in hand. "They physically escorted me out of the airport in front of all my coworkers."

Milos received a call from HR informing them that they were fired. And a manager later informed the comrade that airport executives considered the leaflet "offensive".

Whatever happens in the courtroom, the bosses haven't seen the last of us. ●



SUMO DIGITAL LAYOFFS: TIME FOR GAMES WORKERS TO GET ORGANISED!

A Sumo Coder

On 11 June, Carl Cavers, CEO of games company Sumo Digital, brought his employees terrible news. Due to the ongoing crisis in the games industry, the company is 'forced' to cut costs.

What he really means is that to maintain the bosses' profits, workers – who produce all the value – must take the hit. Up to 15 per cent of jobs are on the chopping block.

Sumo Newcastle workers are understandably worried, given the mass layoffs in the sector. "If I get laid off, I'll have to find a job in 60 days, or else I'll get deported and I might have to cover my own visa costs", said one colleague.

But why does Sumo have to fire workers in the first place? Will any of the highly-paid bosses take any pay cuts?

The latter question has been repeatedly asked following the announcement, and is still left unanswered.

We are not buying their excuses! We demand that upper management open their books and disclose where all the money goes.

This is not the first wave of layoffs in the industry. And it certainly won't be the last. Many feel helpless. Our fate feels out of our control. Together, however, we can fight these attacks. To do that, we must get organised – not just at Sumo, but across the industry.

Join the IWGB Game Workers union! Open up the books! Fight for workers' control! ●



GOLDSMITHS STRIKES BACK "LET'S BOOT OUT THE BOSSES"

Joe Russell, Croydon

A battle has broken out at Goldsmiths University. Over 130 academic staff face the axe. The repercussions will be felt by students and the local community.

Falling student numbers have led to a £13.1 million shortfall in revenue from fees. Goldsmiths bosses are using this as an excuse to push through £20 million in savings.

The 'consultation' process has been a farce. As Goldsmiths UCU branch secretary Joe Newman said, this is not just about money – they see it as an opportunity to crush the union.

But Goldsmiths UCU are fighting back. A marking boycott has been in effect since April. And on 17 June, workers began two weeks of continuous strike action.

Two student occupations are also on the go: one over Palestine, the other against the cuts.

The government's university budget cannot provide high-quality education. The money needed does exist, however: in the bank accounts of the capitalists.

To turn this system on its head, we need to kick out senior management, and the profit motive along with them, and instead put workers and students in control of our universities.

Kevin Biderman, from University of the Arts London UCU, made this point clearly: "We, the students and staff: we are the university! Let's fire management, not frontline staff! Let's boot out the bosses!"

If only the trade union leaders could articulate these class interests as well as these rank-and-file fighters do!

The RCP echoes these sentiments, and stands in full support of the struggle waged at Goldsmiths and beyond.

Students and workers – unite and fight! ●

"WORD AT THE AIRPORT

"While hungry imperialist businessmen pace through the terminal, the working class is on the edge, working overtime to support an airport filled with poorly-managed companies."

"It's scary seeing how easily we workers can be threatened for expressing our ideas. It's dehumanising compared to how they want us to treat the customers. We need change!"

"Milos definitely left an impact. It's not been silent since they were escorted out of the airport."



UNDER THE BONNET

TURNING ON THE GROWTH TAP?

Workers, rejoice! After decades of faulty economic plumbing, Labour have announced they'll turn the growth tap back on when they're in power.

Finally, some good news! So why are those misers at The Communist shaking their heads?

In short, because growth can't just be turned on and off under capitalism.

Economic growth means expansion of production. The driving force for this, under capitalism, is the profit motive.

When the capitalists make profit (by exploiting workers), they plough some of this back into their businesses: replacing obsolete machines; investing in bigger factories; training staff, and so on.

This allows individual capitalists to undercut their competitors and make super-profits – for a short time. Unfortunately, their rivals are all trying to do the same thing. The result is a glut of goods being produced.

As discussed in previous issues, the market cannot absorb all these commodities, since workers produce more value than they themselves are paid in wages.

A crisis of overproduction emerges. Avenues for profitable investment dry up, so the capitalists stop investing. After all, there's no point in them spending money on expanding production if they can't sell what they're already producing.

If the capitalists aren't making a profit, then no amount of government pleading or state handouts will entice them to invest. As the saying goes: you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.

Instead, the capitalists will tend to speculate on the stock market, or just hoard their money until more profitable opportunities come along.

Either way, fine words from Labour won't unstick this tap! ●

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WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

ALL OUT FOR FIONA LALI ON 4 JULY!

KICK OUT THE WARMONGERS!



FREE PALESTINE!

FIGHT IMPERIALISM!



Hell on earth. That is the only way you can describe the apocalyptic scenes unfolding across the Gaza Strip.

All that remains of the occupied territory – where over two million once lived – is smouldering rubble, and huddled masses desperately struggling to survive.

40,000 Gazans have been mercilessly slaughtered by the Zionist regime. Hundreds of thousands of refugees now lack access to basic nutrition, sanitation, and healthcare. Starvation and disease are rampant.

"This is like a slow death," lamented one displaced grandmother in Khan Younis. "There is no dignity."

The assault on Rafah is drawing to a close, the Israeli government assures us. But Netanyahu's far-right allies are chomping at the bit to launch a new assault against Hezbollah in Lebanon, along Israel's northern border.

"We can fight on several fronts," Netanyahu has threatened. Israel's foreign minister has declared that Hezbollah would be destroyed in an "all-out war".

Almost nine months after Israel's onslaught commenced, we are now faced with the prospect of an *even greater* escalation of the war.

This means more conflict and instability across the entire region. And it means that revolutionary upheavals are on the agenda, in the Middle East and beyond.

The entire British establishment is dripping with the blood of the oppressed.

Both the Tories and Starmer's Labour are complicit in Israel's genocide. Arms manufacturers are profiting handsomely from this massacre. And from day one, the capitalist media has pumped out propaganda and lies on behalf of Netanayahu and his imperialist backers.

That's why we say: The main enemy is at home! Down with the war criminals in Westminster!

The crisis in Gaza has radicalised an entire generation across the world. It has acted as a lightning rod for all of the accumulated anger in society.

And yet, looking at the general election coverage, there's a conspiracy of silence on this issue from *all* the main parties. And for one simple reason: they all defend the capitalist system that is responsible for this carnage.

No wonder Fiona Lali's campaign in the constituency of Stratford & Bow – based on a pro-Palestine, revolutionary programme – has garnered so much support and enthusiasm (see page 3).

We, the revolutionary communists, are aiming to connect with this burning mood, and channel it into a struggle to overthrow imperialism.

If you want to rid the world of injustice, oppression, and war: Join us in the fight against capitalism! Join the Revolutionary Communist International today! ●