

COUNTERFIRE

MARCH 2026 • INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SPECIAL • ISSUE NO.087 • WWW.COUNTERFIRE.ORG

59% OPPOSE IRAN WAR
67% ARE ANTI-TRUMP

**WE
DON'T
WANT
WAR**

NO UK BASES FOR US WAR

WELFARE NOT WARFARE

STOP ARMING ISRAEL

NEWS

The right to protest on trial

KATHERINE HAJIYIANNI

After more than a year of delays, the trial of Stop the War vice-chair Chris Nineham and Palestine Solidarity Campaign director Ben Jamal began in earnest at the end of February. The two are charged with Public Order offences following a peaceful Palestine protest in Whitehall on 18 January 2025.

A series of astounding disclosures by Met police officers revealed what a sham the accusations against Ben and Chris are. The police acknowledged not just that they were subject to extensive Zionist lobbying but that they ignored representations from anti-Zionist Jews.

The Met's Gold Commander, Adam Slonecki also confessed he had 'no idea what Nakba means'. This is a remarkable acknowledgement given the elaborate lengths he went to understand the Jewish community and its religious requirements.

In his testimony, Slonecki conceded that in the month prior to imposing a ban on demonstrators marching to the BBC, he met with and received correspondence from several representatives of the

pro-Israel Jewish community, demanding the demonstration be banned from the vicinity of the BBC. None of these meetings were officially logged by Slonecki.

The Jewish Leadership council wrote an eighteen-page letter requesting the protest be banned based on the concept of 'cumulative disruption'.

Meanwhile, a letter arguing against the ban written by The Jewish Bloc of Palestine supporters was claimed to have never reached Slonecki, despite later testimony showing it had been read and forwarded to him by other Met officers.

The coalition offered a broad range of concessions, endeavouring to reach a compromise to enable a protest at the BBC. But the police remained intransigent. Defence council Mark Summers KC suggested Slonecki failed to give the arguments of the Palestine Coalition any serious consideration.

As to the day itself, the court heard of repeated failures in police communication and coordination, causing confusion amongst officers and inconsistency at the police cordons.

Regardless of a loud announcement



CHRIS NINEHAM AND BEN JAMAL OUTSIDE WESTMINSTER MAGISTRATES COURT, 28 FEB. PHOTO: STEVE EASON / CC BY-NC 2.0

from the stage, reportedly no officer was aware of the plan for a small delegation to ask permission to walk towards the BBC to lay flowers in memory of those killed in Gaza or, if stopped by police, to lay them at their feet. Silver Commander Gareth Winnard accepted this was something he should have known.

Another officer agreed that the use of the hashtag #WeWillMarch was part of a public campaign and did not constitute incitement to breach conditions imposed on the protest.

An application for the case to be thrown out has been submitted by the defence on grounds that the ban was based on 'cumulative disruption' regulations introduced into the Public Order Act in 2023, which have since been ruled unlawful by the High Court.

It is clear this trial is part of a wider assault on the Palestine movement and the right to protest, an assault which must be resisted.

The trial resumes on 16 March.

Updates on counterfire.org

COUNTERFIRE presents

REVOLUTION!

WEEKENDER

11 - 12 APRIL | SOAS, WC1H OXG

RESISTING TRUMP'S
NEW WORLD DISORDER

LINDSEY GERMAN • KEN LOACH
AHMED ALNAOUC • JOHN REES
TAJ ALI • JULIET STEVENSON
FEYZI ISMAIL • MICHAEL LAVALETTE
MICHAEL ROBERTS • KATE CONNELLY
HAMZA YUSUF • ELAINE GRAHAM-LEIGH
CHRIS NINEHAM • SUSAN NEWMAN
AND MANY MORE

BIT.LY/REV-WEEKENDER

EARLY BIRD ENDS
15 MARCH

THE FASCIST OFFENSIVE IN FRANCE

MYRIAM
MÉGUARBI

'The ultra-right marches, and it's all peaceful. The ultra-left marches, and someone ends up dead,' a television presenter on a French state-owned news channel declared days after violent clashes in Lyon on 12 February between far-right groups and anti-fascists led to the death of a young far-right militant.

This was just one of many repulsive comments in the French media where journalists, political commentators and politicians have seized on this tragic event as their gotcha moment. Though Quentin Deranque was a member of the fascist, monarchist group Action Française, and the official version of events has been contested, his

'martyrdom' was officialised with a minute's silence at the National Assembly, and the story is being used to frame the (far) left as the real danger.

The media and centrist politicians are colluding to present La France Insoumise (LFI) and their supporters as the new dangerous, 'anti-France' extremists, partly because of LFI's refusal to disavow anti-fascism.

The racist, anti-immigrant rhetoric of the RN and other far-right parties, has been seeping into centrist politics for years, and the RN is now using the language of mainstream and establishment politics into which it has been inducted. Some politicians are even calling for LFI to be banned. Even François Hollande, of a once major party with the word 'socialist' in its name, has promised not to let LFI make it to the second round of

the presidential elections next year. He didn't say how he plans to take his own party to the second round.

This inversion of reality reaches peak levels in the mouth of RN's president Jordan Bardella when he calls, with a straight face, for voters to block LFI from power at the next municipal elections. Meanwhile, an RN MP recently had to sack her parliamentary assistant for neo-Nazi tweets.

The fascistization of French politics is both tactical, and a necessity for neoliberalism to continue its destructive march in a country with growing inequalities. This leaves the naked ideas of the far right emboldened, and its inherent violence free to propagate unchecked and often unpunished on the streets of Lyon and other cities. Anti-fascists know their history, and will continue to keep watch.

War and sanctions won't liberate Iran

SOMAYÉ ZADEH

This has been a brutal year for Iranians.

So far they have experienced the murder of thousands of protesters by Iranian authorities, followed by indiscriminate bombing by Israel and the US which has already killed over 1,200 people, including 168 school girls in a single attack.

The WHO has confirmed that US and Israeli airstrikes have targeted at least thirteen hospitals as well as a water desalination facility. Recent bombing of Tehran's oil depots created apocalyptic scenes of skies filled with black smoke, sewers in the streets on fire and black oil-saturated rain enveloping the city. Trump's Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, boasted about bringing 'death and destruction all day long'.

The last time Israel bombed Iran, in June 2025, numerous opposition activists and organisations, from trade unions to students to refugee and national-minority organisations, issued statements condemning the attack and citing the genocide in Gaza as proof of Israel's lack of benevolent intentions. With the recent crackdown on protests and the current internet blackout, communication from the outside has been difficult, but it is reasonable to assume that their position has not changed.

Furthermore, a study by Iranians abroad of videos of the protests in January revealed that only 17% of them included chants that were supportive of the monarchists, giving the lie to claims that the Iranian people back a return of the Pahlavi dynasty, Western war and sanctions.

Despite the brutal repression of the Iranian state, anti-government protests in Iran have continued, but they have been set back by the US and Israel's mass aerial bombardment, killing and wounding many thousands, and forcing hundreds of thousands to become displaced. Trump's dreams of regime change by brute external force and Netanyahu's decades-long ambition of breaking Iran apart are burying the democratic aspirations of the Iranian people under the rubble.

Whatever the outcome of this war, we can safely say it will not be in the interest of the Iranian people. The country will undoubtedly be devastated and may be driven into civil war, and the whole region plunged into even greater chaos. Repression will increase, as it did in the aftermath of the war last June, and if Trump succeeds in his aim of regime change, we need only look at Iraq to see the results of that.

EDITORIAL



STOP TRUMP'S GANGSTER IMPERIALISM

COUNTERFIRE

If you were to travel in a straight line east from Beirut, the Mediterranean capital of Lebanon, over the Chouf mountains, down through the Bekaa valley and on across Syria and into Iraq, on through Iran and Afghanistan, you would cover over 4,500 kilometres before you reached a country, Pakistan, that the US and its allies have not been at war with in the last 25 years.

The marks of destruction - physical, economic, social, and political - would lie strewn along your path for hundreds of miles in every direction.

The new imperial order that was born at the end of the Cold War and reached its apogee with the Iraq War has clearly entered an even more destructive phase, the era of gangster imperialism.

Why?

The roots of President Donald Trump's unchained imperial strategy lie in the failure of the US's so-called 'unipolar moment', the period after the collapse of the Warsaw Pact.

Then, the Project for the New American Century enacted by the neoconservatives of George Bush's Presidency was meant to use the US's overwhelmingly superior armed force to reverse America's relative economic decline.

Military might was meant to tilt the globalised international economy in America's favour. Where the 101st Airborne led, Halliburton and Raytheon would follow. Glory and profit would walk hand in hand.

But it was not to be. Afghanistan and Iraq were catastrophic failures on every level: military, political, and economic. The Iraq Syndrome proved as deep and as long lasting as the Vietnam Syndrome.

Rather than reshape the global economy, the failures in Afghanistan and Iraq in 2002-2003 were quickly followed by the banking crash of 2008. Worse still, throughout this long US nightmare, China was growing into an ever stronger global competitor.

The uncompromising violence of Trump's mob imperialism is a product of the failure of the New American Century to turn out as the Bush neocons desired.

You can hear it clearly enough in Trump's rhetoric. When he says 'no more forever wars' he intends the US electorate to hear that he intends peace. But his real meaning is 'no more failed wars'. And that means wars will be fought even more brutally, with an even shorter window for success, than they were before.

Trump needs to win before the Iraq Syndrome become the Venezuelan

Syndrome, or the Cuba Syndrome, or the Greenland Syndrome, or the Iran Syndrome.

Bluster and bluff, plus limited use of military force, got short-term gains in Venezuela. But Iran is another matter. If he can't win quickly, the economic chaos created by the war will begin to push his already waning poll figures further south.

And if the war fails to produce any significant change in Iran, just another Iraq/Syria/Libya broken state, then the whole gangster imperialism project will look as much a failure as the neo-con project.

Meanwhile, the European elites have both copied Trump's militarism and been thrown into chaos by his unilateral mafia-boss approach. European reactions run from Spain's refusal to be part of the attack on Iran to Germany's craven toadying to Trump.

Somewhere in the middle, Starmer has used his famously forensic mind to achieve the seemingly impossible position of doing Trump's bidding while being blamed by Trump for not doing it fast enough.

For the left and the workers' movement, the road is clear, but hard to travel. The ruling classes' confusion is our opportunity, if we make uncompromising anti-imperialism our watchword.



WEEKLY BRIEFING

Cut through the media bias with Lindsey German's analysis on the latest political developments straight in your inbox every Monday morning



TINYURL.COM/LINDSEYBRIEFING

RANK-AND-FILE ROUNDUP



ARTHUR TERRY LEARNING TRUST STRIKING TEACHERS RALLY OUTSIDE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION. PHOTO: @DANIELKEBEDEU / X

FIGHT TO SAVE EDUCATION

COUNTERFIRE NEU MEMBERS

Our education system is facing the worst crisis in its history.

Teacher training used to involve studying philosophical and theoretical approaches to the profession. But that is all gone. Now there is no room for debate or critical analysis. Education has become embedded in free-market government policy dominated by the demand for economic growth.

Since Margaret Thatcher declared war on society, privatisation, cuts and business-management techniques have laid waste to our public services, and austerity kicked us into the depths of the current nightmare.

We are a nation with built-in poverty. Fourteen million people in the UK are

living in poverty, of which 4.3 million are children. Government ministers who have recognised the crisis have proved utterly incapable of dealing with it precisely because the crisis is systemic, and no mainstream politician will admit that the capitalist free market is the problem.

Education policy has been strong on scapegoating – lefty teachers, single mums and family breakdown – but useless at addressing the real causes of the crisis. Take family welfare. Everyone agrees that the family is important to child development, but that didn't stop the closure of Sure Start centres, which had a devastating impact on the mental and physical health of mothers and children

A quarter of young people aged sixteen to twenty-four now report suffering from

some form of mental illness. Economic hardship is a big part of the story, with 57% of initial referrals to children's mental-health services coming from poor families.

Teachers are at the sharp end of this crisis, and the stress of the job is forcing teachers out of the profession at an alarming rate. Female teachers, faced with a mounting workload and insufficient support and resources, and who have their own children to think about, are leaving in droves.

Teachers, who believe that education is the answer to the problems we face, are being scapegoated by right-wing politicians.

Former Tory MP and education spokesperson Jonathan Gullis has attacked

teachers for their alleged 'woke agenda', and 'classroom activism'. Nigel Farage has vowed to declare war on the NEU if he becomes Prime Minister, and says he will return education to a patriotic (unthinking) curriculum.

It is vital that NEU members take up the call to save education and vote for industrial action in the indicative ballot that has been launched. As NEU General Secretary Daniel Kebede says:

'Chronic underfunding from successive governments has led to the severe crisis in our schools. Old equipment and broken furniture. Battered textbooks. Years of missed targets in recruitment have driven up workload, as have the numbers leaving and not being replaced. A failure to properly fund our schools also means fewer teaching assistants and larger classes. Rather than arresting this decline, Labour has chosen Austerity 2.0.'

Restoring teacher's pay and funding schools so that they can function is hardly a radical demand. It will make a start in retaining teachers and reducing workload. But we need a lot more to end the crisis in education. We need a broad working-class campaign that works alongside our trade-union action.

With declining employment prospects for graduates and non-graduates, the mantra young people are told – 'work hard and get on' – is an insult. The competitive individualism that education leaders crow about is creating a hostile environment in our schools and colleges that we need to get rid of.

For young people's lives to be meaningful, they need a curriculum that prepares them for the world as it actually is. That's what education is supposed to do.

PICKET LINES THIS MONTH

NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY

Union: UCU
Dates: 2-6 March
Location: Northumberland Road, NE1 8ST

SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Union: NEU
Dates: 2, 3, 9, 13 March
Location: Dartmouth Road, SE26 4RD

ACCESS CREATIVE COLLEGE

Union: NEU
Dates: 2, 4, 6, 10, 12 March
Location: Commercial Road, E1 1LA

COLEBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Union: NEU
Dates: 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, 23, 24 March
Location: Birmingham, B34 6BJ

KENT SCHOOLS SEND ADVISORS

Union: NEU
Dates: 4, 5, 10-12 March
Location: Maidstone, ME14 1XQ

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

Union: UCU
Dates: 5, 6, 9-11, 16-19 March
Location: Southend-on-Sea, SS1 1BF

QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, ROMFORD

Union: Unite
Dates: 9 - 13 March
Location: Rom Valley Way, RM7 OAG

MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY AND RNCM

Union: Unison
Dates: 10, 11 March. 6:30 at MMU, 7:30 at RNCM
Location: Oxford Road, Manchester

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON AND SOAS

Union: Unison
Dates: 10, 11 March. 7:30 at SOAS, 8:00 at KCL. Joint rally on 11th at 12pm at KCL
Location: KCL, Strand, WC2R 2LS. SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, WC1H 0XG

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Union: Unison
Dates: 10-11 March
Location: All campuses, rally on 11 March, 12pm at Wills Building, BS8 1RJ

STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITY

Union: UCU and Unite
Dates: 16-20 March
Location: Glasgow, G4 ORE

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PHLEBOTOMISTS, 365 DAY RALLY

Union: Unison
Date: 17 March. 9:30
Location: Cheltenham General Hospital, GL53 7AN

WINDRUSH LINE

Union: RMT
Date: 26 March. 13:00-15:00
Location: London, SE16 2NE

INTERVIEW

‘Where there’s an injustice, there’s going to be a fight, however difficult’

On the 50th Anniversary of the Trico factory strike where women workers walked out for 21 weeks over equal pay, **Cici Washburn** spoke to **Sally Groves**, one of the strikers and co-author of *Trico: A Victory to Remember*



It’s the 50th anniversary of the Trico equal pay strike. What were the conditions around the time you went on strike and when did you realise you weren’t getting equal pay?

I don’t think there was that much awareness amongst some of the women about equal pay. Barbara Castle’s Equal Pay Act had come onto the statute book at the end of 1975. Government had given employers five years to put systems in place, which we could interpret cynically as five years for employers to find ways of avoiding it.

There had been negotiations about equal pay between the company and the union for twelve months before the strike but most people weren’t particularly aware of this. I don’t think there was much awareness by the union of needing to involve people at that stage.

I wasn’t working in the department where the flashpoint for the strike happened. The trigger for the strike was the ‘famous five’ guys on night shift who were transferred on to days and were all put in the one department. This was the company’s biggest mistake ever. They were all put on the micro motor line with the women. The rest of the men from



night shift had taken redundancy although there was a new ‘twilight’ evening shift set up. The explosion happened when the women realised that their wage slips at the end of the week were roughly £6.50 less than the men, doing identical work: that was a lot of money at the time.

The pickets were stopping convoys of lorries from getting into the factory, there is a picture of you right in front of a massive lorry! The strikers received the full force of the police trying to let the lorries through, what was it like for you all seeing the police brutally work for the company?

Those convoys were incredible: massive convoys with all this scab labour in the vans, all coordinated by the company and the police to break through the picket lines.

On one occasion, we were able to turn back the whole convoy because so many of us were on the picket line. But then the company decided to call the next attempt to break through at tea-time. Many women had gone home to cook tea for families, and people who were coming down to support us hadn’t had time to come from work. So it was quite a clever time to do it.

Eileen Ward, our most intrepid leader, tried to stop one of the lorries and talk to them but she was

dragged away by the police and about three people were arrested. And then I threw myself in front of the lorry, but luckily the lorry misjudged the entrance and it stopped. Very lucky.

The BBC came down with a camera crew and were roughly handled too. It was a bit of an eye opener for them and it was all on the news. That proved very bad PR for the company. The strike was rightly seen as a women’s strike, so we couldn’t be labelled ‘greedy trade unionists’ just wanting more money. And it was all about the new Equal Pay Act, which most people thought was fair legislation to bring in. So after that, the company didn’t run any more convoys.

Tell us about your victory!

It was rather amazing: a negotiated settlement resulting in equal pay. There have been suggestions that Trico didn’t get all its demands, but we did because we got equal pay, in fact a little bit more!

And once it had been negotiated and taken to the strike committee and accepted, then we had the final mass meeting and people were jubilant and voted to accept with a show of hands.

It was a tremendous feeling. It increased women’s confidence in the factory and a lot more women came forward to be shop stewards and had a different consciousness really of our abilities and our rights.

It’s very difficult now to take strike action like we did. It was a very aggressive and successful push for equal pay backed by our strong union. We couldn’t now have come out the way we did because of the current balloting laws and we couldn’t also receive the support we got on the picket line because of secondary picketing laws.

Ours was a spontaneous explosion, it had another kind of energy for being that way. It was a new world, it really was. We no longer had any restriction on who we met and of course you then meet the very best people, all your supporters, working-class women and men up and down the country.

Read the full interview on counterfire.org

A wide range of anti-war activists, trade unionists and MPs are joining the 20 June International Meeting Against War in London along with delegations from 23 countries, reports Feyzi Ismail

The American war machine is moving quickly. The latest reckless war against Iran has set the Middle East on fire and is a massive escalation of Trump's war drive. It comes after regime change in Venezuela, bombing in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Nigeria and Somalia, threats to annex Greenland and attacks on Colombia and Cuba. The genocide unleashed in Gaza is far from over.

It won't end there, as Israel – the US's garrison-state in the Middle East – helps in the bombing campaign against Iran and uses the crisis to drop bombs on Lebanon and block aid to Gaza. The justification we are told is that Iran poses an imminent threat to the US, but also that it had to happen anyway.

Large swathes of Europe and elsewhere are not buying it. They are disgusted by politicians who want to appease Trump and prioritise defence spending over much needed welfare. Young people fear a future with few prospects, and many are rejecting proposals for conscription.

Now we need to organise this sentiment into a renewed anti-war movement that has the social weight to challenge Trump's hubris and put an end to the imperial war drive. The movements at national level are crucial, but they need to come together in a Europe-wide force that can coordinate millions across the continent in solidarity with people in the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and beyond.

The International Meeting Against War in Paris last October, attended by thousands of trade unionists, was the start of such an initiative. It continues in London this June, and some 45 trade-union branches in Britain so far, across transport, education and health, have passed motions in support of the meeting. At a national level, the PCS, TSSA, NEU, RMT and the Bakers' Union are all backing the meeting. Trade-union support is central to ensuring it makes an impact.

The urgency of the situation could hardly be more clear. Counterfire reached out to trade unionists and activists across Europe to ask them why they were coming.

Felix Kreklow-Rojas, an organiser of the school strikes against conscription in Germany, which recently held demonstrations in over a hundred towns and cities all over the country, said,

'the slogan "we want to live, love, and learn – not die in your wars" became especially popular among young people during the last election. With it, we wanted to make one thing clear: these are your wars, wars we don't want anything to do with. That's why being in London on 20 June is so important.'

HOW WE RESIST THE IMPERIAL WAR DRIVE



Former MP and co-chair of BSW North-Rhine Westfalia Andrej Hunko said,

'the international conference in London on 20 June is necessary as our governments are pushing our societies to be kriegstüchtig (ready for war). This is especially the case in Britain, France and Germany. It is crucial to stop them and to bring together peace-loving people internationally.'

And Ulrike Eifler, a trade-union secretary in Würzburg and member of the executive committee of Die Linke (The Left Party) in Germany said,

'the gravestones of the fallen soldiers of the First and Second World Wars bear not the names of the ruling class, but our names – the names of industrial

mechanics, electricians and tram drivers. That is why the growing threat of war worries me. Because once again, those in power are sending us into a war in which we have nothing to gain but everything to lose. As a trade unionist, there is no better place for me than London on 20 June.'

Franck Servel, a union activist in France said,

'London is where for over two years now the biggest demonstrations in Europe against the genocide in Palestine have taken place with Stop the War. Faced with the race to war, and skyrocketing military spending, it is important to gather all our forces, including trade unions, in order to stop the governments that are dragging the

world into barbarism. That is why I will be in London on 20 June.'

Fatiha Pollet, a teacher from the south of France, echoes the significance of the conference in London:

'London is where hundreds of thousands of people have been gathering to speak out against the ongoing genocide in Palestine, where people have accepted to take the risk of being imprisoned for holding a sign saying, 'I support Palestine Action' – people of all colours, ages, genders and social backgrounds united by the fight against war – and where injustice will not be tolerated. This is why I will be in London on 20 June.'

Another teacher from France said,

'we are facing a historical moment. Under the Trump administration, US imperialism wants to impose its dominance all over the world using all forms of war, from economic terrorism to direct and heavy military intervention. The complicity of Europe reinforces the war economy. Increasing military budgets and austerity measures, while reintroducing mandatory military service and repressing dissent, is only undermining social and democratic rights. Gathering in London for the anti-war conference on 20 June is vital.'

María Teresa Pérez, Podemos' International Secretary in Spain said,

'the International Meeting Against War in London will be a very important expression of European opposition to rearmament and to Western imperialism. We call on every political and social organisation and movement in Europe to participate and to raise our collective voice against the war regime that is currently being imposed. The time is now.'

And finally, Sophie Johnson, secretary of Stop the War Scotland and Unison member said,

'I'm going to the international anti-war conference because there has never been a more important time to stand up to our leaders' militarism. Barely a day goes by without another politician or pundit telling us we need to be "war ready". Like millions of others, I have no interest in going to war for the likes of Donald Trump or any other leader. At a time when governments are preparing for war, we need the strongest possible international movement for peace. It will fall to ordinary people like us to resist the push toward more war, the astronomical rise in military spending, and the attacks on working-class living standards that come with it.'

The only way to stop the American war machine is organising against it on a mass scale. We must move as fast, and we must be strategic, mobilising ever larger sections of society across Europe in coordinated action, between the streets and the workplaces.



**International Meeting Against War
Saturday 20 June, 1-5pm
Central Hall Westminster, SW1H 9NH**

Book your ticket here:
bit.ly/againstwar2026

Download and print the model motion to pass at
your trade union branch/organisation:
bit.ly/j20motion

In Italy, Maurizio Coppola, who coordinates Power to the People, a left party formed in 2017, said,



Clara Zetkin on fighting fascism

LUCY NICHOLS

'The proletarian woman fights hand in hand with the man of her class against capitalist society' wrote Clara Zetkin in 1896. A German Marxist born in 1857, Zetkin argued that working-class emancipation from capitalist oppression could not happen without women joining up with the socialist cause.

She fought for women's suffrage, insisting that it was a crucial question for working-class women, and not just for the wealthier women who were championing the cause in Europe and the US. It was Clara Zetkin who helped found International Women's Day in Copenhagen in 1910, on the anniversary of female needleworkers in New York demonstrating in Manhattan.

Zetkin also wrote extensively on the question of fascism, and how socialists ought to fight it. She came to sophisticated and nuanced conclusions about how fascism came to become popular.

Concerned with Mussolini's rise to power in Italy, and then the Nazi party in Germany, Zetkin emphasised the mass nature of fascism and how it built amongst a ruined, impoverished working class, as well as amongst sections of society that had been made working class a result of the economic crisis after the First World War.

She wrote in 1923 that 'fascism is a

movement of the hungry, the suffering, the disappointed, and those without a future.' She argued that fascism promoted a 'sham revolutionary character', and although seemingly anti-capitalist, any fascist government would only make conditions worse for the working class, as had been the case in Italy.

A committed revolutionary her entire life, Zetkin called for a united front against fascism, which sought totally to destroy any working-class struggle for liberation. As fascism is once again a growing movement in 2026, a reading of Zetkin is a useful tool for those of us seeking to prevent it from becoming any more popular.

In August 1932, Zetkin attended the opening of the Reichstag (German Parliament) and was its eldest deputy. She spoke on the need to unite against the growing tide of fascism as Nazis slowly consolidated power. Months later, in January 1933, Adolf Hitler would be appointed Chancellor of Germany.

Clara Zetkin died in 1933 at the age of 75, and never saw the unimaginable evil that Nazism was to unleash on Europe. Zetkin's unending commitment to women's struggle, to the fight against fascism, and to the emancipation of the working class mark her out as an incredible revolutionary figure.

Her writings on the question provide us with crucial frameworks for tackling these questions, even decades later.

THE CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASS



ROUGH SLEEPER IN LONDON. PHOTO: ALAN LIGHT / CC BY 2.0

The reality of a severely broken housing system



by **Terina Hine**

Councils across the country are dealing with an unprecedented homelessness crisis. For some, the answer has been long-distance relocations, leaving vulnerable families and deprived communities to deal with the consequences.

Many thousands of people across the country are made homeless through no fault of their own. Women leave abusive relationships, landlords raise rents, refugees granted asylum must leave temporary hotel accommodation. To find affordable private rentals in big cities, especially in London, is not easy. Since the pandemic, there has been a 41% fall in private landlords, making it even harder. And it's not just rent that is difficult to find, but also a guarantor,

references and the substantial deposit.

For many, this is an impossible task and they are left with no choice but to make a homeless application to their local council. But submitting an application to your local council does not mean you will be housed locally. Increasing numbers are being housed 'out of borough' and more and more sent many miles away to unfamiliar towns and villages.

Last year, 360,000 households across England made a homeless application, around a quarter were in London; 120,000 people are currently living in temporary accommodation, almost half are in London. London councils have been looking at ways to deal with this crisis. One solution they have found is to offer private accommodation in cheaper areas: Stoke-on-Trent, Halifax, County Durham, Southend-on-Sea.

It appears that a disproportionate number of those relocated long distances are recent refugee families, most likely because they do not have the resources or know-how to appeal council decisions and because many councils require evidence of connection to a local area when considering housing applications. This is something that is clearly more difficult for recent arrivals to prove.

Recently, BBC Radio 4 produced a documentary on the impact of rehousing to County Durham. It didn't make for happy listening. Miners' houses, often cheap terraces in ex-pit villages, sitting empty and dilapidated for years, are being used to house London's homeless. Once families have moved, the London councils hand over responsibility for resettlement to privatised relocation agencies who are supposed to assist with furniture, GP registrations and school places, but in reality provide little help.

Many of those relocated speak no English. Some had jobs which they lost when they moved, and, in the new localities, face little prospect of employment.

With no private transport, living isolated in rural communities without family or friends, things are not easy for new arrivals.

Families often turn to churches and the voluntary sector for help, or rely on the kindness of strangers to explain how to get a GP, apply for a school place, or simply to drive them to supermarkets located miles away from their new home. Schools find they need to step in when teachers notice that children are living without furniture and are not registered with a doctor.

New arrivals also face a culture shock, often leaving multi-ethnic areas of cities to move to small, predominantly white, close-knit communities. They report difficulties assimilating and feeling lost and out of place. Some experience hostility from local residents who face their own challenges with high levels of unemployment following decades of deprivation and underinvestment. All of this allows Reform and their racist, anti-immigrant propaganda to thrive.

With limited affordable housing being built and dwindling council-house stock as a result of right-to-buy legislation, this crisis will only get worse. In London, one in fifty residents are currently living in temporary accommodation, and one in 21 are children. That's one child in every class living in temporary accommodation in our capital city.

Central government has frozen the amount it provides to local authorities to pay for this temporary accommodation since 2011, although housing costs have spiralled. In the past eighteen months, the amount local authorities in London have spent on temporary accommodation each day has risen from £4m to £5m: this is the financial reason for exporting families to cheaper locations.

Out of area placements are the result of a severely broken housing system, resulting in dislocation and isolation for some of the most vulnerable in our society while at the same time helping fuel the rise of Reform.

IS THE GREEN PARTY THE LEFT-WING ALTERNATIVE WE NEED?

ELAINE GRAHAM-LEIGH

The Green victory in the Gorton and Denton by-election was a victory for anti-austerity and for Gaza. The trouncing of Reform is a victory that demonstrates that a left-wing alternative can do what Labour's Reform-lite policies can't in countering the far right.

With Green Party membership rising over the 200,000 mark, some say the Greens are the left electoral alternative we have been trying to build with Your Party. It is certainly true that Green Party policy has generally moved to the left, a trend accelerated by the election of Zack Polanski as leader but which predates him and indeed created the conditions which made that election possible. There are, however, limitations to the Green Party as a socialist electoral project.

In part, these stem from their stance on imperialism. Polanski has signalled support for eventual withdrawal from NATO (although Green Party policy still has it that NATO has 'an important role'). While he is critical of Trump, Polanski's vision of a post-NATO future is in an alternative military alliance with other European powers, including the continued arming of Ukraine. This looks like support for increased militarisation and is at odds with any Green commitment to lower defence spending.

This stance is important because it undermines its ability to take an unequivocal and immediate stand against Western military interventions like the war on Iran, where the statement condemning the attacks came noticeably late, for example. The gap between the Green Party and the anti-war movement also tells us something important about its underlying philosophy.

The Green Party view of how you change society is that you do so by winning elections and then using the access that gives you to the levers of power. Socialists though understand that we can't overturn the system by using the mechanisms of that system. For us, the point of electoral success is the way in which it can amplify and encourage the movements for genuine, radical change.

A party that isn't motivated by this will always end up putting the electoral calculus ahead of the needs of the movement. We should welcome the Greens' victory in Gorton and Denton, but be under no illusions that it means that the task of building a socialist electoral alternative has been done for us.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

MORGAN DANIELS

1872

31st: Alexandra Kollontai born in St. Petersburg

1943

5th: Workers strike at the Fiat factory in Turin, marking the beginning of a decisive wave of action against Italy's fascist regime

1951

15th: The Iranian parliament votes to nationalise the country's oil industry following a movement led by Mohammad Mosaddegh

1955

2nd: Claudette Colvin, a fifteen-year-old black schoolgirl from Montgomery, Alabama, is arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white woman

1981

2nd: Black People's Day of Action: incensed by the official response to the New Cross massacre, more than 20,000 protesters march twelve miles to Hyde Park.

MARXISM 101

WE DON'T HAVE TO ACCEPT THE 'INEVITABLE'

THE LEGACY OF MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT



by **Katherine Connelly**

Mary Wollstonecraft's burning anger against the oppression of women was ignited in the mid-eighteenth century when she was still a child. Young Wollstonecraft physically defended her mother from her violent father.

A voracious reader, Wollstonecraft was devastated that she was denied the formal education afforded to her brother Ned, who trained as a lawyer. As a girl from the 'middling' class of society, Wollstonecraft was expected to learn accomplishments to attract a respectable suitor.

Instead, she established a girls' school in Newington Green, a centre for radical Dissenters (who worshipped outside the Church of England) grouped around Dr Richard Price, the minister at the Unitarian chapel.

Wollstonecraft swiftly became friends with Price and his intellectual circle. Inspired by the high-minded ideals of the Enlightenment, which championed reason, progress and virtue against superstition, conservatism and corruption, they questioned established institutions including the Church, slavery and the monarchy.

When Wollstonecraft published her stories, they were illustrated by William Blake, one of the most politically radical and stylistically innovative artists of the era.

The French Revolution, which broke out in 1789, also had a profound impact on Wollstonecraft's writing. But before she wrote her book on women's rights, she wrote about the rights of man.

In 1790, the philosopher and politician Edmund Burke published his *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. Although once seen as a progressive figure, Burke denounced the French revolutionaries, and its supporters in Britain, including Richard Price.

The most famous riposte to Burke was



PORTRAIT OF MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT BY JOHN OPIE, 1797

Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man* (1791), but Wollstonecraft was there first. Less than a month after Burke's book appeared, she published a stinging attack on the famous philosopher's deteriorating reasoning and his reactionary opposition to liberty.

Two years later, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* was written to challenge the French revolutionaries. In 1791, France instituted a system of free education inspired by the work of Enlightenment philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. But while Rousseau had envisaged an Enlightened curriculum for boys, girls were left out.

Wollstonecraft dedicated her book to Talleyrand, a member of the French National Assembly.

The French revolutionaries, she charged, were betraying their revolutionary principles. Didn't the argument 'that woman ought to be subjected because she has always been so' sound just like 'the same arguments that tyrannic kings and venal ministers have used'? By suggesting

slaves or capricious tyrants.' Hardly model revolutionary citizens.

Wollstonecraft's book was written in the language of revolution. And the revolutionary reorganisation of society in France informed the breadth of her vision of change. She sought nothing less than the transformation of human behaviour: 'It is time to effect a revolution in female manners' in which women would 'labour by reforming themselves to reform the world.'

Relationships between men and women would be egalitarian, not hierarchical and exploitative. She did not want women to have power over men, 'but over themselves'.

The belief that human beings can change if the society in which they lived is changed is often mocked by cynics and people who don't want us to change the world. But Wollstonecraft lived at a time which proved that huge social changes inspire people to think and live in new ways.

As the revolutionary movement in France came under increasing assault, so did Wollstonecraft's ideas. In the nineteenth century, many campaigners cautiously separated the struggles to advance women's economic, social and political rights.

But Wollstonecraft's bold vision of human emancipation remained inspirational to the most radical activists. The suffragettes laid flowers on her grave.

And today in Somers Town, Wollstonecraft's last home, campaigners against unaffordable housing have painted her image on hoardings around a new building site.



Wollstonecraft reminds us we don't have to accept the 'inevitable', we can change the world instead.

The new journal revitalising the revolutionary tradition

We face a fast-unfolding series of interlocking crises that pose both a great challenge and a significant opportunity for the Left.

The Marxist Review is Counterfire's attempt to respond to the big questions posed by contemporary capitalism and will seek to develop a strand of Marxist thought that remains rooted in working-class struggle.

SUBSCRIBE FOR 3 ISSUES IN 2026 FOR JUST £24 (INCL DELIVERY)

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Counterfire is a revolutionary socialist organisation that has been central to the Palestine, anti-war and anti-austerity movements over the last two decades. We are committed to transforming our society from one based on the profit motive to one built on the needs of working people.

Real change can only be achieved by working-class people organising themselves to challenge their bosses and the government that stands behind the bosses. It depends on mass movements, popular protests, and on workers taking action. We believe that this kind of popular opposition requires a dynamic extra-parliamentary left, rooted in workplaces, communities, and colleges.

We also believe that all the struggles against oppression are connected. Racism, sexism, and every other form of oppression and discrimination are a product of a society based on the exploitation of working people by a tiny minority of capitalists. War, climate change, and inequality are all symptoms of a chaotic system based on market competition.

In the process of helping to build every kind of resistance to capitalism, we bring to bear the lessons of the past and a Marxist analysis of the present. Counterfire puts the case for a revolutionary socialism that ultimately seeks popular control of society and genuine liberation for all.

Our members are actively involved in the protest movements and workers' struggles around the country, organising and supporting protests and picket lines. We have Counterfire branches across the country helping to build solidarity with struggles locally and nationally, and popularise socialist ideas and analysis.

As well as putting on a wide range of debates, public meetings and other events around the country, we run one of the best-read websites on the left which has scores of contributors and tens of thousands of readers every month and we distribute thousands of copies of the left's first free paper – which has now expanded to 12 pages.

Join us and get involved today.

COUNTERFIRE & MOVEMENT EVENTS

Counterfire organises regular national and local public meetings discussing key topics of the moment. Our events are open to all, and listed below along with key movement dates for your diary. See counterfire.org/events for updates.

BIRMINGHAM

[Midlands Together Against the Far right] IWD Unity march and rally
Sunday 8 March, 12pm
Victoria Square, Birmingham

MANCHESTER

[Counterfire] Counterfilms: The Socialist Film Club - Julia screening
Sunday 8 March, 6pm
The Peer Hat, 14-16 Faraday Street, Manchester, M1 1BE

PRESTON

[Counterfire] War on Iran: why has the West set fire to the Middle East?
Tuesday 10 March, 6:30pm
Preston Town Hall, Lancaster Road, PR1 2RL

LAMBETH

[Friends of Carnegie Library] Sylvia Pankhurst: Suffragette and Socialist with Katherine Connelly
Tuesday 10 March, 7pm
Carnegie Library, Herne Hill Road, London, SE24 ODG

GLASGOW

[Counterfire] AI and the working class
Tuesday 10 March, 7pm
GMAC, 103 Trongate, Glasgow, G1 5HD

BRISTOL

[Counterfire] Epstein, Andrew, Mandelson: Sex, class, and power under capitalism
Wednesday 11 March, 6:30pm
Kit Form, 37 Jamaica Street, Bristol, BS2 8JP

BATH

[Counterfire] Lessons from history: how do we defeat the far right?
Thursday 12 March, 7pm
Pocock Room, The Grapes Pub, 14 Westgate Street, Bath, BA1 1EQ

COVENTRY

[Stop the War] No to Trump's wars and arms race
Thursday 12 March, 6:30pm
Central Hall, Warwick Lane, CV1 2HA

EAST LONDON

[Counterfire] Epstein, Andrew, Mandelson: Sex, class, and power under capitalism
Thursday 12 March, 6:30pm
Mulberry Hall, St Margaret's House, 21 Old Ford Road, London, E2 9PL

LIVERPOOL

[Merseyside Stop the War] Stop Trump's wars
Thursday 12 March, 7pm
The Casa, 29 Hope Street, Liverpool, L1 9PB

YORKSHIRE (ONLINE)

[Counterfire] War on Iran: why has the West set fire to the Middle East?
Thursday 12 March, 7pm
Register on Zoom:
bit.ly/4u9xzBW

LONDON

[Stop the War] World on the Brink: Stop Trump's Wars conference
Saturday 14 March, 11am
Mander Hall, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, WC1H 9BD

LONDON

[Palestine coalition] Defend our right to protest lobby of Parliament
Tuesday 17 March, 2pm
Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, SW1H 9NH

DEVON & CORNWALL (ONLINE)

[Counterfire] Is a crash coming? The AI con and bubble economics
Tuesday 17 March, 7pm
Parliament, SW1A 0AA

NEWCASTLE

[Counterfire] Fascism: what is it and how to stop it
Wednesday 18 March, 7pm
Tyneside Irish Centre, Newcastle, NE1 4SG

LONDON

[Strike Map] Trade union rights rally
Saturday 21 March, 11am
Mander Hall, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, WC1H 9BD

IPSWICH

[Counterfire] Epstein, Andrew, Mandelson: Sex, class, and power under capitalism
Thursday 26 March, 7pm
Quakers Meeting House, 39 Fonnereau Road, IP1 3JH

LONDON

[Together Alliance] Together against the far right national demonstration
Saturday 28 March, 12pm
Park Lane (Hyde Park Corner)

Free Palestine, Stop Bombing Iran feeder march: 12pm, Exhibition Road, SW7

HARINGEY

[Counterfire] War on Iran: why has the West set fire to the Middle East?
Tuesday 31 March, 6:30pm
All Good Bookshop, 35 Turnpike Lane, N8 0EP

LONDON

[Counterfire] Revolution! weekender: Resisting Trump's new world disorder
Saturday 11 - Sunday 12 April
SOAS University, Thornhaugh Street, WC1H 0XG

LONDON

[Stop the War] International conference against war
Saturday 20 June
Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, SW1H 9NH

LOCAL GROUPS

Counterfire has local branches across the country building the movements of resistance and popularising socialist ideas by organising public meetings, local activity and distributing our free newspaper.

To find out more about a branch near you or to help set one up where you are, please contact the national office.

NATIONAL OFFICE

info@counterfire.org
07807 123472

Branches:

BATH

BIRMINGHAM

BOURNEMOUTH

BRIGHTON

BRISTOL

CREWE

DEVON & CORNWALL

EAST KENT

DONCASTER

EDINBURGH

GLASGOW

HASTINGS

IPSWICH

LONDON:

EAST

GREENWICH &

WOOLWICH

HARINGEY

NORTH WEST

SOUTH WEST

SOUTH (CENTRAL)

MANCHESTER

NEWCASTLE

PRESTON & CHORLEY



You can join by scanning the QR code on the right and completing the form on our website or alternatively fill out your details here and hand it in at one of our stalls or post to Counterfire, UN1.30, United House, North Road, London, N7 9DP


FIRST NAME: _____

LAST NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE NO: _____

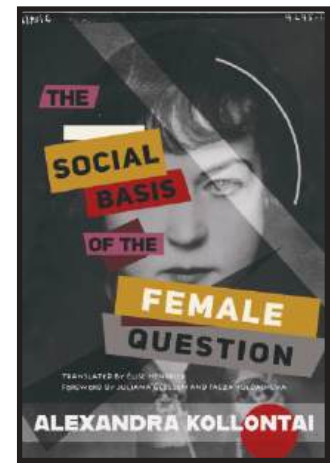
POSTCODE: _____



JOIN COUNTERFIRE TODAY

Scan the QR code or go to www.counterfire.org/join

ART & CULTURE



FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN: THE POLITICS OF ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAI

LINDSEY GERMAN

‘The female question is ultimately a question of bread. It is deeply rooted in economics. In order to decide to demand equality with men, above all, women had to become economically independent.’

So opens Alexandra Kollontai’s first chapter of her work on the state of women’s lives in the opening decade of the twentieth century. Kollontai was a Russian revolutionary socialist, living as many of them did in exile at various times, in contact with her counterparts across Europe, engaging in debate and discussion about how to achieve change and how to emancipate women.

This book dates from 1909, and this is its first full English translation, for which we should be very grateful to Elise Kendrick and to Haymarket Books for publishing.

What struck me about the whole work is the clarity and decisiveness with which she argues.

For her, the battle for women’s equality was inseparable from that against capital, and she was implacable in this cause. This book is a valuable weapon in reasserting the socialist tradition of women’s liberation. On this International Women’s Day, I cannot recommend it enough.

Read the full review on counterfire.org

The Bride!: A remake too far?

EILIDH STEWART

The Bride! is a reimagined version of the 1935 film *The Bride of Frankenstein* which replaces the scarcely seen bride in the original film with a powerful, passionate and formidable reinvigorated bride portrayed phenomenally by Jessie Buckley.

The film begins with the familiar story; a scientist brings back to life a dead woman to be a companion to the original monster, here called Frank. However, it delves into the Bonnie and Clyde-esque drama of the couple’s love and murderous rampage through the US.

The film starts with the ghost of Mary Shelley wanting to continue her story and choosing to do this through Ida, a 1930s Chicago sex worker who is providing intel on a Chicago mob to the police. Shelley appears to possess Ida before she is brutally thrown down a set of stairs to her death. You can guess what happens next. Ida is brought back to life by Frank (the monster), played by Christian Bale, assisted by scientist Dr Cornelia Euphronius (Annette Bening), to become Frank’s bride.

Whilst the story was clearly created to bring to life the character of the bride who has so-often been overlooked or forgotten, the entire premise of the woman being brought back to life, against her will, to be someone’s bride and taken advantage of during a time of vulnerability prevents

it from being the feminist female-empowerment film it has been labelled.

Throughout the film, there are attempts by men to sexually assault Ida, with Frank saving her by murdering the men. Ida talks of a ‘brain attack’, a ‘cracking’ or explosion of repressed feelings inside women’s heads, and furiously speaks of a ‘brain-attack revolution’, a feminist army of women who will be heard beyond the grave. This fury leads her take up her own weapon to defend herself.

In Gyllenhaal’s *The Bride*, a woman being a wanted criminal is portrayed as empowering, women’s rage as a rebellion against the natural order. There are other characters which add to this girl-power aesthetic such as a scientist and a detective who are both intelligent women but who have their work accredited to men.

Women throughout history have had

their brilliant work credited to male counterparts, so this plot-point is apt. However, the female characters concerned were not well developed, which made the point somewhat tokenistic, as so often with tropes added for extra feminist points.

Despite these flaws, the cinematography was impressive as were the outstanding performances of Jessie Buckley (the Bride) and Christian Bale (Frank). The acting was raw, emotional and captivating. The film was overall entertaining within the gothic/horror style mixed with wacky elements such as frequent dance breaks, clearly attempting a Rocky Horror-type aesthetic.

The film was fast-paced and visually appealing but if you are looking for a movie about female empowerment during the period in which we celebrate International Women’s Day, I would look elsewhere.

DONATE TO...

COUNTERFIRE'S FIGHTBACK APPEAL



[BIT.LY/FIGHTBACKAPPEAL](https://bit.ly/fightbackappeal)

MORE WAR, ESCALATING AUTHORITARIANISM, A DEEPENING COST OF LIVING CRISIS - THE LEFT FACES BIG CHALLENGES. BUT RESISTANCE IS ALSO GROWING.

COUNTERFIRE HAS BEEN AT THE HEART OF THE MASS MOVEMENTS AGAINST WAR, IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE, AND AGAINST AUSTERITY. OUR POPULAR FREE PAPER AND WEBSITE ARE READ BY TENS OF THOUSANDS. BUT WE URGENTLY NEED TO RAMP UP OUR OPERATIONS.

WE HAVE NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE PIPELINE, WE WANT TO DISTRIBUTE MORE PAPERS AND SET UP NEW BRANCHES. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RAISE £30,000 TO MAKE THIS ALL HAPPEN. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

FREE
LONDON



TOGETHER WE CAN STOP THE FAR RIGHT

STEPH PIKE

Over the past couple of years, there has been an alarming increase in both the activity and the confidence of the far right. Where previously, Tommy Robinson could attract 10-15,000 followers to protest on the streets of London, on 16 September 2025, that had swelled to over 100,000; the largest far-right march in British history.

This happened at the same time as union jacks and England flags were hung from lamp posts up and down the country, creating a climate of fear for black and Asian people, and for the LGBT community.

Shockingly, very few councils moved to take down these flags and many still remain to this day. Fascists have led aggressive and violent protests outside hotels housing migrants and refugees and have increasingly harassed and attacked Palestine rallies culminating in a violent attempt to disrupt a Stop the War meeting and to attack new Green MP Hannah Spencer in Manchester. Fascist groups like UKIP, Britain First and others are continuing to hold marches across the country.

An authoritarian, far-right president in the US, who is tearing up international law

and launching wars on multiple fronts, has emboldened the far right in the US, Europe and the UK. Over a decade of government anti-migrant rhetoric and Islamophobia combined with the poverty and hopelessness created by fourteen years of brutal Tory cuts and austerity has created a fertile breeding ground for fascism.

Starmer's Labour government has done nothing to address this. Instead they've become increasingly authoritarian, attacking our right to protest and the Palestine movement as terrorists and extremists.

Many ordinary people, brutalised by fourteen years of Tory cuts and already disillusioned by a Labour Party that has betrayed them, have turned to Reform and the far right for answers. With the mainstream press giving disproportionate air time to far-right Reform politicians and treating them and their dangerous ideas with deference and respect, while at the same time treating politicians on the left such as Jeremy Corbyn and Zack Polanski as dangerous extremists, divisive far-right ideas are being normalised and the street fascists emboldened to carry out increasingly violent attacks.

As well as exposing Reform and the far right as fascists and racists, we have to

address the concrete concerns that are pulling people towards the politics of the right; not immigration but lack of housing, the decay of the NHS and public services, low wages and a cost-of-living crisis that means even working families can't afford to put food on the table or heat their homes. We have to be clear that Reform and the far right cannot and will not address these issues; all they will do is create division and fear.

This is why the Together Alliance, an alliance of organisations and individuals representing over seven million people, who have come together to challenge and oppose the far right and their divisive politics of hate, is such an important initiative. The recent Gorton and Denton by-election shows that Reform can be beaten. But we cannot afford to be complacent.

It is vital that we build the Together Alliance into a mass, united campaign to challenge the rise of the far right. We urge everyone to attend the national demonstration in London on 28 March. We need hundreds of thousands of people on the streets of London not just to counter the far right but to show ordinary people that there is an alternative to the politics of division and hate being pushed by Reform and the far right.

28 March: Together Against the Far Right national demonstration

12pm, Park Lane (near Hyde Park Corner), marching to Whitehall

Free Palestine, Stop Bombing Iran feeder march

12pm, Exhibition Road (Hyde Park end), SW7