



TRUMP'S UNWINNABLE WAR

Why latest US missile strikes on Iran are sign of failure >>Page 3

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WOULD-BE LABOUR LEADER TURNS ON MIGRANTS AND TRANS+ PEOPLE

BURNHAM BENDS TO THE RIGHT

● **Supports home secretary Mahmood's racist clampdown**

● **U-turns on previous support for trans+ rights**

LABOUR LEADERSHIP candidate Andy Burnham presents himself as a left alternative to Keir Starmer—and the man who can stop Reform UK.

But he made two dangerous concessions to the right last week. He backed home secretary

Shabana Mahmood's anti-migrant crackdown and he U-turned on support for trans+ rights.

After the government announced its backing of new transphobic guidance, Burnham was there to help. "It has to be implemented," he said.

His supporters claim these moves are necessary because Nigel Farage's Reform UK is throwing everything at the Makerfield by-election. They've attacked Burnham as "open borders Andy".

Burnham's running scared—trying to out-Reform Reform UK. But moving right only encourages bigots.

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INTERNATIONAL

Exploitation, empire and Ebola

THE DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo is in the grip of an Ebola outbreak. Hundreds of people have died and millions more are at risk.

Commentators discuss Ebola in ways suggestive of a "natural disaster".

But the capitalist system, based on the exploitation of people and the planet—from rubber plantations to cobalt mines—is really to blame.

>>Pages 8&9

LGBT+



Defy attacks on trans+ rights

LABOUR THREW trans+ people under the bus last week. It is backing the updated Equality and Human Rights Commission's code of practice, to ramp up attacks on trans+ rights in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling last year.

Sky, a trans woman from Manchester, told Socialist Worker, "It's not about legal rulings—it's about creating hostility to trans people and making them self-segregate."

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US IMPERIALISM

Trump's war on Cuba

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's oil blockade is starving Cuba. Riots and desperation rage. Food shortages and blackouts cover the Caribbean island.

Amid this crisis, Socialist Worker answers key questions on US imperialism, the Cuban Revolution and what socialists should say today.

>>Pages 10&11



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'A wealth tax that works'

The Labour right's choice for Labour leader **Wes Streeting** says he would equalise the rate of income tax and capital gains tax, which is paid on the sale of shares and assets

'Lower rates of capital gains tax for 'genuine' entrepreneurs.'

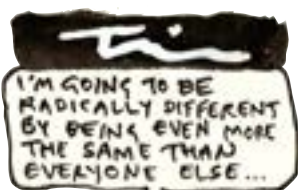
Streeting then promises to cut the tax for some rich people

'This is not a wealth tax, it is an increase in the capital gains tax rate on non-business assets. It is also not a new idea'

Adam Jefferies of accountants PKF Littlejohn

'That approach has been tried and has failed because it's not possible to identify in advance who 'genuine entrepreneurs' are'

Even Helen Miller of the neoliberal Institute for Fiscal Studies isn't convinced by the former health secretary



I'M GOING TO BE RADICALLY DIFFERENT BY BEING EVEN MORE THE SAME THAN EVERYONE ELSE...

40°C is 'new normal'—we are cooked without climate action

by CAMILLA ROYLE

BRITAIN IS "built for a climate that no longer exists today and will be increasingly distant in years to come."

That's the conclusion of a report published last week by the Climate Change Committee (CCC), the body established in 2008 to advise the government on the climate crisis.

The impacts of climate breakdown are already taking effect around the world, including in Britain.

The report says temperatures of 40 degrees will become the new normal. And heatwaves of over 45 degrees could be possible.

Some 92 percent of existing homes will overheat.

Heavier

We will see heavier winter rainfall, more intense bursts of rain all year round, and stronger extreme winds and rain.

The wetter weather will alternate with drier summers, increasing the likelihood of droughts and deadly wildfires.

The most vulnerable people will be most affected.

TEMPERATURES ARE soaring

Many of those who suffer and die during hot summers will be elderly, for example.

The report notes that it is technically possible to keep global warming to below 2 degrees compared to pre-industrial levels. But "the world is not yet on track for this".

So some climate change is already inevitable—and adapting to the new reality "cannot wait".

The intensity of heatwaves means that homes will need to be fitted with air conditioning as well as new buildings being designed with cooling

measures. Care homes and hospitals will need to take action. They should install air conditioning within the next ten years.

The report also suggests more healthcare visits to older people and the creation of public cool spaces.

It also proposes maximum temperature regulations for workplaces. This is of a piece with what some unions have been demanding for years.

For example, the GMB union backs a maximum heat limit of 25 degrees. It supports measures such as adapting working hours so

construction workers aren't outside in the midday sun.

It makes economic sense to act now to adapt to the effects of climate breakdown.

The report says its recommendations in cooling, flood preparedness and water management will cost £11 billion per year.

But they would save tens of billions.

Invest

And £11 billion is a fraction of the £547 billion that the public and private sectors currently invest each year. So there is an "investment case" for climate adaptation.

This all sounds very rational. But it assumes private businesses and the state will act rationally, rather than according to the logic of profit maximisation.

Workers and unions will need to be organised to demand better adaptations for global warming.

They will need to build confidence in the workplace to fight against bosses and, if necessary, walk out if temperatures get too high.

And we need to build a bigger fightback for a world that breaks with the profit system that is driving us to disaster.

Inspiring win against housing developers

HOUSING campaigners have scored a major victory against property developers in south London.

The National Planning Inspector this week refused Berkeley Homes permission to develop the Aylesham Centre in Peckham, Southwark.

If approved, the development would have seen the construction of hundreds of luxury flats that few, if any, local residents could have afforded.

Developers promised that 12 percent of homes would be "affordable"—but even these would be out of reach to many.

Tanya from Southwark Housing and Planning Emergency (Shape) spoke to Socialist Worker.

"I think most people were mobilised to get involved around the issue of the 12 percent, which had been dropped from 35 percent," she said.

"What gets billed as affordable housing isn't really affordable. It's not affordable for the vast majority of the population."

In fact, 90 percent of people in Southwark already can't afford the sort of luxury flats that Berkeley proposed to build.

If it had gone ahead, the development would have gentrified the area further, forcing working class people out.

So, people got organised, Tanya explained.

Community

"Aylesham Community Action (ACA) was set up six years ago to get a development plan for the Aylesham Centre that local people could accept," she said.

"In mid-2024, ACA and Peckham Vision came to Southwark Defend Council Housing and the 35 Percent Campaign and said, 'We need a more outward-facing campaign.'"

"That was the beginning of Shape," she said.

There are now 21 groups signed up to Shape. And the coalition has been instrumental in organising demos, protests and public meetings to beat Berkeley.

Activists are fighting another plan for "regeneration" that would further gentrify the local area.

They plan to protest on Tuesday 9 June, at 9am, outside the council offices when the Old Kent Road plan will be discussed.

The victory in south London shows it's possible to beat the developers and fight for homes for all.

Labour's new attack on disabled people

THE LABOUR government wants to scrap GP fit notes that allow disabled and sick people to sign off work.

An initial trial launching in July will impact hundreds of thousands of people.

It will start in four areas—Birmingham and Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire, Cornwall and the Isle of Scilly, and Lancashire and South Cumbria.

A second scheme launching in November will transfer patients from doctors to financial advisors and fitness coaches for evaluation.

If seriously ill people are forced to undergo job

coaching and exercise programmes, it risks pushing them into even more severe illness.

Iris, who has taken a substantial period of medical leave from work this year, spoke to Socialist Worker.

"It's taken me years to get referrals," she

said. "It's taken me a magnitude of years to even get believed about my symptoms, let alone get them treated, which I'm still in the process of."

"I'm having to take leave. I don't have the time to have both a full time job and go through the admin of having my

disease both diagnosed and treated. In itself, those two things are a full time job.

"To give someone a financial advisor or a fitness coach is to suggest that their symptoms are the result of their management of their life."

Labour wants to spread the narrative that blames "benefit scoundgers" instead of supporting people.

The money is there to fund social security.

But the Labour government has consistently chosen to cave to big business's demands and pushed austerity 2.0.

DISABLED PEOPLE against cuts protest

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US STRIKES IRAN AGAIN—BUT TRUMP’S WAR IS BACKFIRING

THE US had launched renewed strikes on southern Iran as Socialist Worker went to press on Tuesday afternoon.

The airstrikes hit Iranian missile sites near Bandar Abbas, a major port and navy base.

The US Central Command dressed up the assault as “self-defence strikes to protect our troops from threats posed by Iranian forces”.

In reality, the US is jockeying for position in negotiations. The strikes came as Iranian negotiators arrived in Qatar for talks on ending the war and after Donald Trump boasted of a potential agreement to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

The Trump administration has boasted that it “decimated” the Iranian military which was “no longer a threat”.

But the US’s own spooks tell a different story. The New York Times newspaper says Trump’s “public portrayal of a shattered Iranian military is sharply at odds with what US intelligence agencies are telling policymakers behind closed doors”.

US intelligence services say the Iranian regime “regained access to most of its missile sites, launchers and underground facilities”.

This includes “evidence that Iran has restored operational access to 30 of the 33 missile sites it maintains along the Strait of Hormuz, which could threaten US warships and oil tankers transiting the narrow waterway”.

The US sank most of Iran’s naval forces.

But the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a key political, economic and military player in the regime, “retains hundreds of small speedboats that can be used to lay mines in the strait”.

Missiles

And it “still fields about 70 percent of its mobile launchers” and “has retained roughly 70 percent of its prewar missile stockpile”. This includes ballistic missiles, which can target other states in the region, and shorter-range cruise missiles.

The regime has “regained access to roughly 90 percent of its underground missile storage and launch facilities nationwide”. They are now assessed to be “partially or fully operational,” NYT sources say.

The US’s failures in Iran have increased tensions between Trump and Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

The pair shared a vision of turning the region, from Gaza to the Gulf, into a high tech capitalist paradise.

This came against the backdrop of global imperialist competition between the US and China, whose political and economic influence extends into the Middle East.

US FAILURES in Iran have increased tensions between Trump and Israeli prime minister Netanyahu



Donald Trump’s war on Iran has deepened the crisis facing US imperialism

Netanyahu pushed for the US and Israel to launch the war on Iran and appears to have convinced Trump in February that the Iranian regime would collapse quickly.

Israel is the watchdog state of US imperialism in the Middle East and its genocide would not be possible without US arms and funding.

But it has developed to become a powerful capitalist state, no longer wholly dependent on US aid and grown as a regional imperialist power.

And, after two years of genocide, it emerged as the ascendent power in the regional system of competition between Israel, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey.

Israel’s rise as a regional imperialist power means it is able to strain at the leash more. Netanyahu, for example, has fought to scupper negotiations between the US and Iran both this year and last year.

When the regime did not collapse and closed the Strait of Hormuz, Trump began searching for an off-ramp.

Prolonged

Israel pushed back, seeing a prolonged war as a way of weakening its regional rival—and has urged for a return to full-on war since the ceasefire.

But Israel remains dependent on the US—and, with elections coming up, Netanyahu doesn’t want to lose Trump’s support.

The US president asserted that Netanyahu would “do whatever I want him to do” over Iran last week.

Whatever the outcome of the negotiations this week, Trump’s war on Iran will have deepened the crisis facing US imperialism.

But, just like the declining British Empire in the 20th century, it will continue to unleash brutality to hold on to its position in the world.

The shocks caused by the Strait of Hormuz closure are already causing

pain for millions of working class people across the world.

The response from the Labour government in Britain will be to double down on “fiscal restraint”—austerity 2.0.

Real wages have started to shrink in the US, Britain, Germany and other states in the Global North.

In Britain, the bosses’ Financial Times newspaper says “average earnings grew at an annual pace of just 0.1 per cent in real terms in the three months to March”. And they “are set to fall outright as inflation rises over the coming months against a backdrop of very weak hiring”.

An urgent task is to popularise the slogan, “We won’t pay for Trump’s war”—and to push for strikes this autumn.

■ The Stop War Coalition is organising an international conference against war in London on Saturday 20 June.

It says, “We are hurtling towards more wars and greater global instability at an alarming rate.

“The governments of Europe are responding with massive rearmament programmes and increasing moves towards conscription. Both must be resisted as a matter of urgency.

“The follow-up conference to the Paris Peace Conference held in October 2025 could not come at a more critical time.”

★Fight Farage ★Resist Starmer

join the
SWP





Burnham adds to Labour's record of racism

by TOMÁŠ TENGYEL-EVANS

LABOUR LEADERSHIP hopeful Andy Burnham is shifting right rapidly on key “culture war” issues.

The prospective MP last week declared his support for home secretary Shabana Mahmood's plans to clamp down on immigration.

And he announced that he'd changed his position on trans rights, and now wants trans people barred from gendered facilities—such as toilets and changing rooms.

Burnham is following the same strategy as Keir Starmer of trying to “out-Reform” the far right party of Nigel Farage.

Labour has a long history of pushing through laws that make life harder for migrants and refugees.

Burnham was a supporter of “New Labour” under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown in the 2000s.

One of the media's myths about New Labour is that it was “socially liberal”—in reality, it was deeply authoritarian and obsessed with clamping down on refugees. Blair and Brown accepted that migrant labour was useful to boost British capitalism.

At the same time, they wanted to show that the Labour government was “tough” on asylum seekers.

And, after recession hit in 2007-9, Brown leaned in further to anti-migrant rhetoric as he sought to find a scapegoat for the system's failures.

The New Labour governments

BACK STORY

MANCHESTER mayor and prospective MP Andy Burnham last week dashed hopes that he would be a 'left' alternative to hated Sir Keir Starmer

● He demanded immigration fall further after new figures showed it halved since 2024

● And he said he “supports the broad thrust” of Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood's proposed clampdown on migrants

● Burnham follows a long history of ‘soft left’ Labour figures who backed racist measures in a bid to stop the far right

brought in a barrage of immigration laws. Each one made life harder for asylum seekers—and encouraged other forms of racism.

Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

LABOUR PUSHED through the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 less than two years after winning the general election.

The Act played up the lie that refugees come to Britain to claim welfare. The law created a new legal and social category—asylum seekers—distinct from refugees.

Asylum seekers were cast as “bogus” and “undeserving”, while only a minority with refugee status were deserving.

The Act gave more powers to the home secretary and authorities to search, arrest and detain asylum seekers.

All “persons subject to immigration control” were excluded from “non-contributory benefits”. In practice, this meant all social security because asylum seekers are not allowed to work and pay taxes or national insurance.

The No Recourse To Public Funds (NRPF) measure doesn't just hit asylum seekers. An estimated 3.6 million people without residency in Britain have

A PHOTO from a Labour conference shows how the party is trying to 'out Reform' Reform UK

NRPF. Migrants have to wait up to 10 years to get “indefinite leave to remain”—the right to live in Britain permanently—and many are subject to NRPF.

A key measure in the act was “vouchers”—which restricted what asylum seekers could buy at designated shops for food and clothing. Many supermarkets refused to give change for goods bought with them.

Labour home secretary David Blunkett was forced to scrap the vouchers in 2002 amid anti-racist campaigning and resistance from refugees.

But subsequent Labour and Tory governments have still restricted support and stigmatised asylum seekers.

Today, People applying for asylum for the first time are given a pitiful £49.18 a month for each person in a household.

And even what they can spend it on is restricted, because the money is loaded onto a special “Aspen” card.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000

THE ACT banned “race discrimination” in the public sector—but gave “ministerial exemptions” to immigration and border officials.

They could make decisions on the basis of the country of origin in immigration cases.



Appeasing far right protesters only emboldens them to demand more

Hugo Young of the Guardian, a newspaper friendly to the Blair project, described it as “the bluntest piece of state-sponsored ethnic discrimination in 35 years”.

Racial profiling was always tied up with immigration controls.

In 2004, the Court of Appeal ruled that it was legal for British border guards at Prague Airport to turn away Roma people more than other Czech nationals.

Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002

LABOUR WAS swift to introduce another immigration law after

winning a second term of office in the general election of 2001.

The new Act left many asylum seekers destitute. It allowed the Home Office to refuse housing and financial support if a person did not claim asylum “as soon as reasonably practical after the person's arrival in the United Kingdom”.

And it declared that just 72 hours was usually enough time.

But that often wasn't possible for people because of the bureaucratic obstacles, lack of support and language barriers.

Those refused support were forced to rely on charities and migrant communities for support.

'We know we have to tighten the asylum system further,' Tony Blair

IN 2003, the High Court ruled against that the Blair government's refusal of support to three asylum seekers. The policy had “debased them and diminished their human dignity to such an extent that it violated their most fundamental human rights”.

The government battled in the courts to appeal the ruling—and lost in the equivalent of the supreme court in 2005.

Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004

THE ACT criminalised coming to Britain without a valid passport without a “reasonable explanation”.

This laid the ground for painting refugees, who are often denied safe and legal routes, as “illegals” and “criminals”.

The law expanded the list of “safe third countries” where asylum seekers could be deported to without having their claims heard.

Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006

THE NEW Act scrapped “indefinite leave to remain” for people with

designed to associate migrants with “criminality” and justify deportations.

Black and brown people are far more likely to be handed longer prison sentences because of police and state racism. On average, some 65 percent of overseas nationals jailed for at least 12 months were deported between 2015 and 2020.

Gordon Brown's 'British jobs for British workers'

PRIME MINISTER Gordon Brown declared that he wanted “British jobs for British workers” at the Labour Party conference in 2007.

The stage and hall were decked out in red, white and blue Union flags for the newly-anointed leader.

Tory leader David Cameron opportunistically pointed out that he'd “borrowed” the slogans from the fascist “National Front and British National Party”.

Brown would use the slogan again as Britain plunged into recession after the financial crisis of 2007-8.

In 2009, for example, Labour announced new rules to make it harder for migrants from outside the European Union (EU) to work in Britain.

Labour's 'war on terror' targeted Muslims

The Terrorism Act 2000 allows the state to detain people without suspicion and hold them for up to nine hours at airports, ports and international rail stations.

It was part of a battery of laws designed to paint Muslims as an “enemy within” to justify the West's imperialist wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Hundreds of thousands have been stigmatised and humiliated under Schedule 7 of the Act.

In 2018, research by detainee rights organisation Cage showed “potentially close to one million people” had been stopped under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000. The overwhelming majority—88 percent—were Muslim.

Special Immigration Appeals Commission Act 1997

IN 2021, the Tory government revoked Shamima Begum's British citizenship. Begum, who was born in Britain, left east London in 2015 with two school friends to join the reactionary group Isis.

By 2021, she was stranded in a camp in northern Syria with no legal rights or protection.

Begum lost her appeal at the Special Immigration Appeals Commission, a body set up under the Blair government.

It's a special court that people, who have been deported or had their citizenship stripped under “national security” grounds, can appeal to.

The law allowed the use of “closed material” which is withheld from the person making the appeal and their lawyer.

The draconian system favours the state and spooks, as the person making the appeal is not allowed to know the full case against them.

Now Burnham is preparing to continue Labour's rotten record.

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

PUSH FOR A HOT AUTUMN OF STRUGGLE

AS THE cost of living crisis deepens, the labour movement has to rise to the challenge and lead a fight.

Workers, pensioners and unemployed people have been at the sharp end of this crisis for years. But now it's hitting even harder because of Donald Trump's war on Iran.

Inflation fell slightly last week, to 3 percent, because of the way the energy price cap is calculated.

But even mainstream commentators say it will accelerate. Food prices, for example, are rising through the roof. By autumn, food inflation is predicted to hit 9 percent.

Energy, too, is predicted to rise by as much as 12 percent on 1 July. And, with the costs of everything increasing, Labour and the bosses are attacking our wages with below-inflation offers.

But there are moves towards action in the unions. The Unison union is set to launch a ballot of local government and school support workers on 9 July in England and Wales after it rejected the Labour government's paltry pay offer of 3.3 percent.

The union says it is “balloting members in strategically targeted employers,” but is still due to release a list. But activists are already organising for the pay fight with meetings, rallies and more (see page 14).

Education workers in the NEU union have already delivered a strong vote for strikes in a recent indicative ballot. Teachers voted by 90.5 percent in favour on a turnout of 48.6 percent, while support staff backed action by 86.1 percent on a 55.5 percent turnout.

Ballots

The NEU national executive decided this month to move to formal ballots over pay and funding in the autumn.

The union announced, “The formal ballots of teachers and support staff in state-maintained schools in England will open on 3 October and close on 15 December.”

It's positive that the ballot will open in the first half term. Ahead of the national executive, we argued, “The NEU should set a clear start date for the ballot in the first half-term of the new school year that starts in September.”

But an end date of 15 December is too late to call strikes before Christmas. That's why Socialist Worker supporters argued for a shorter timetable that would have allowed action this autumn.

It's now vital to organise in the summer term, build and win the ballot in the autumn—and push for a programme of strikes.

Across the trade union movement, there are hurdles we have to overcome for a higher level of resistance. The Trade Union Act 2016, introduced by the Tories, imposed a turnout threshold of 50 percent.

This is the greatest barrier to national action—and the greatest alibi of the trade union leaders when they don't want to lead a fight. No wonder Keir Starmer has dragged his feet over abolishing it and most union leaders haven't kicked up a fuss over his backsliding.

But it is possible to organise and win—and the responsibility is immense. If the left doesn't show an alternative, the far right will seek to grow out of the social crisis and scapegoat migrants further.

Socialists have to popularise the slogan, “We won't pay for Trump's war,” across the labour movement. The needs of the working class as a whole demand that we all push for a fightback over the cost of living crisis.

Keep up with the news and get our morning newsletter in your inbox everyday...

BREAKFAST IN RED

ANALYSIS

ROB HOVEMAN



Burnham bows down to the bond markets

LABOUR'S ANDY Burnham is desperate to be prime minister. As part of this project, he has made some critical comments recently about the Keir Starmer government's failed economic policies.

In January, he told the Institute of Fiscal Studies we should no longer "be in hock to the bond markets". Then in April, he suggested the government should breach chancellor Rachel Reeves's self-imposed austerity fiscal rules.

The government should spend more, according to Burnham, but not on the NHS, education, the poor or even potholes—but on weapons. This is the same policy as that of Friedrich Merz, the right-wing chancellor of Germany.

Reeves has been desperate to keep the bond markets happy. The bond markets are, of course, still unhappy. They are, however, even unhappier at the prospect of a Burnham premiership.

Burnham has now backed off from any suggestion he will breach the fiscal rules because he is trying to appease the bond markets.

But why are Reeves and Burnham so beholden to these bond markets?

Government bonds, or gilts as they are known in Britain, are issued to those who wish to lend the government money. They are a promise by the state to pay interest on the loan which will be repaid in full at some point in the future, often ten, 20 or 30 years later.

Much of what the government spends is financed out of taxation. However, in recent years governments around the world have gone more and more into debt. The national debt in Britain has risen from a low point of around 20 percent of GDP in 1990 to 100 percent now.

There is now a huge international market in government bonds because of all that government debt. US government bonds, known as Treasuries, are considered to be the safest investment. Yet, there are many other government bonds like those of Germany and Japan that are considered secure places to park shed loads of money.

The British government now depends on foreign investors to buy bonds, and therefore has to compete against other governments.

Why has government debt become so huge? The principal reason is slow economic growth, tax reductions for rich corporations and an inability to cut spending even more than it already has been.

Value

Rich individuals, corporations, banks, pension funds and other institutions won't lend to the government unless they think the value of their loans will at the very least be preserved.

In particular, they need to be assured that the value of their loans will not be eroded by inflation.

If they lose confidence in a government, as they did with Liz Truss as prime minister in 2022, they will demand higher rates on interest before they are willing to lend—or refuse to lend altogether.

Interest rates on bonds have risen sharply across the world with the prospect of rising inflation from the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The interest rates on British government bonds have risen higher than other major economies because Britain is seen as particularly vulnerable to higher inflation.

Higher interest rates in turn will slow down economic growth, almost certainly making the government debt burden worse in a sort of doom loop. This is "the power of the bond market".

To really address this power, a government would have to address the question of the wealth disparities in society and the power of the rich more generally.

For a start, it would need to impose a wealth tax and make big corporations pay more for the benefits they get from a healthy and skilled workforce.

Rather than bowing down to the bond markets, they would have to ensure that British pension funds, for example, lend the government money.

The representatives of the rich call this "financial repression". But we need this kind of repression and much more of it.

Sadly, Andy Burnham is a million miles from going down this radical road.

LETTERS

Email letters@socialistworker.co.uk Post Socialist Worker, PO Box 74955, London E16 9EJ

NHS workers need to unite and fight for a pay rise

I'M AN occupational therapist in the NHS and a Unison union rep.

I spoke at a fringe meeting of the RCN nurses union congress about how different unions can work together to fight for the NHS and win a decent pay rise.

I did this because I think we would win more if we did fight together. We need to throw the cat among the pigeons and start thinking about what action we can take.

Union reps should reach out to each other. In my hospital we often

work with doctors in the BMA, but we haven't really tapped the potential of the RCN.

The RCN is pushing a position that nurses are hard done by. That's true. Nurses are important and it's much harder for them to gain promotion and that's not fair.

Workers

But all NHS workers are hard done by.

The RCN has said it will consider pulling out of Agenda for Change. This system looks at your experience and

qualifications and works out your pay.

If the nurses leave this, it would be disastrous for us all.

But the RCN is right to do something, all NHS workers should take action on how these nurses are disadvantaged.

This meeting felt like a tentative beginning. We're beginning to talk about what we can do.

In my hospital, we're going to start looking at the nurses and the admin workers' job descriptions. Doing this we can work out what work they're

taking on outside of their official description and fight for them to get regrading or back pay.

The Unison union did this with the phlebotomists in Gloucestershire and won.

But regrading is something to be done in the absence of a national pay win. We need to start fighting together to strengthen our position and confidence. We need to show that we're not going to be pushed around.

Jordan
London

Confronting Britain First

IN MANCHESTER, we have shown that confronting fascists works. On 18 April, anti-fascists united in opposition to Britain First (BF) marching.

The counter-demo, called by Greater Manchester Stand Up To Racism, was the third mobilisation against BF in under a year. Each has been more confrontational and successful than the last.

By the end, the fascists were drunk, demoralised and divided while anti-fascists celebrated.

BF has seen a fracturing in its base and announced that the next march won't be in Manchester.

Arguments erupted across X between antisemitic neo-Nazis and Zionist "civic nationalists" seeking to cultivate a respectable image. These fault-lines culminated in BF co-leader Ashlea Simon defecting to Restore Britain.

While we reflect on the victory in London on Nakba Day, we can draw on the victory in Manchester as a vision of what we can achieve.

The pressure we exert on them widens the cracks in their movement and it grows the confidence on our side.

If the working class can confront fascists and win, what else can we achieve?

Markus West
Manchester



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Who controls AI will control political life

ARTIFICIAL intelligence is rapidly becoming the new means of production.

Just as factories defined industrial capitalism, AI is becoming the infrastructure through which labour, communication, education, administration and creativity are organised.

Whoever controls AI will increasingly control economic and political life.

That is why the world's wealthiest corporations are pouring billions into data centres, algorithms and computational infrastructure. This is not

simply about innovation. It is about ownership and power.

AI is built on collective knowledge, language, culture and labour. Yet ownership remains concentrated in the hands of a tiny elite. Workers create the value while corporations capture the profits.

Today a handful of technology corporations dominate communication, commerce and information itself.

AI risks pushing this concentration of power even further.

Christopher Wright
South London

Bankrupt Burnham

AFTER ED Miliband's defeat in the 2015 general election there was an inquest into the lack of ideas in the Labour Party. Andy Burnham was among Labour contenders who had no philosophies and didn't appealed to young voters.

Now, 11 years on, a cabinet of non-entities makes Burnham look exciting. But he will prove just as bankrupt of ideas as Keir Starmer.

If he becomes prime minister, I predict massive disappointment and the disappearance of Labour as a serious force.

Peter Higginson
Wolverhampton

Anger erupts as Chinese coal mine's 'illegal violations' kill 82 workers

China's state capitalist economy is not concerned with workplace safety, prioritising profit above all else, writes Jude Mckechnie

ANGER IS growing after the worst coal mining disaster in China for more than 15 years.

Hundreds of thousands of posts on Weibo, China's biggest social media site, are demanding justice after a deadly explosion killed 82 people last week.

On Monday, rescue efforts were still underway at the Liushenyu coal mine.

Shanxi, one of China's poorer provinces, is the centre of the country's coal-mining industry.

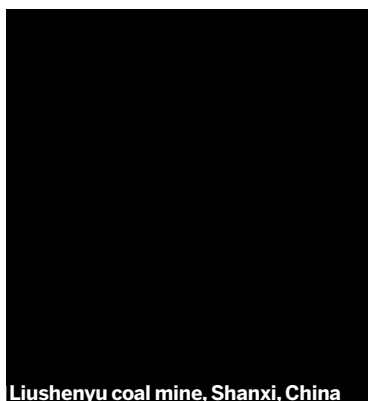
The Chinese state's ongoing investigation into the blast says that Tongzhou Group, the company operating the mine, had committed "serious illegal violations".

Tongzhou Group had reportedly received two administrative penalties in 2025 for safety violations. In 2024, the Liushenyu mine was named by the Chinese National Mine Safety Administration in a nationwide list of coal mines with "severe hazards".

State media reports that blueprints provided by the coal mine to authorities attempting to hunt for survivors did not match the conditions at the mine.

There are also claims that the number of people in the mine at the time of the explosion was double that listed in the company's official count.

The State Council, China's cabinet, has ordered nationwide "tough



Liushenyu coal mine, Shanxi, China

crackdowns on illegal and unlawful activities."

However, while Communist Party officials might make talk tough, they preside over a state capitalist system that rests on the exploitation of millions of workers.

Profits

Miners are risking their lives every day because safety protocols are not treated seriously by bosses and politicians determined to keep profits flowing.

China is the world's top consumer of coal and the largest greenhouse gas emitter. Mine owners and state-backed corporations alike face enormous pressure to maximise output to feed growth.

This deadly disaster has happened because safety is treated as an obstacle to profits.

Coal miners in China have repeatedly protested over unpaid wages, dangerous conditions and attacks on union organisation.

In 2016, thousands of miners at Shuangyashan mine in northeastern China launched a strike protesting against unpaid wages.

But as independent trade unions are banned by the state, making it hard to organise, the miners killed in Shanxi were not victims of bad luck.

They were victims of an economic system that treats workers only as a source of profit.

MINERS IN China have held protests over unpaid wages, working conditions and attacks on unions

US forces ramp up attacks in Nigeria

by CAMILLA ROYLE

THE US stepped up its military action in Nigeria last week, working alongside the Nigerian state. The US and Nigeria claim to have killed 175 members of the Islamic State and its local affiliate Islamic State West Africa Province, or Iswap.

The strikes come after joint air and ground operations that killed Abu Bilal al-Minuki, one of the most senior leaders of the Islamic State internationally. US forces reported that they had tried to capture al-Minuki but ended up killing him in a helicopter air strike when he refused to surrender.

US president Donald Trump said, "He will no longer terrorise the people of Africa, or help plan operations to target Americans."

Trump has repeatedly raised fears of a Muslim threat to Nigerian Christians. And claims of a genocide against Christians in the West African country have circulated on the far right in the US.

On Christmas Day last year, the US air strikes targeted the Lakurawa militant group in the north-west state of Sokoto, near the border with Niger.

"I'd love to make it a one-time strike", said Trump. "But if they continue to kill Christians it will be a many-time strike."

The air strikes have repeatedly killed civilians. Last month an attack aimed at Islamist insurgents hit the Jillli market in Yobe in the north-east, massacring over 100 people including children.

Iswap is active in the north-east of Nigeria, as well as Boko Haram and other Islamist groups.

But the insecurity crisis that Nigerians face impacts Christians, Muslims and others, and not just in the Muslim-majority north.

Collapse

Small "bandit" groups have kidnapped people and held them to ransom in order to try to secure wealth in a country where social support is collapsing.

In other cases conflict has been driven by access to raw materials,

including gold, copper and lithium.

The Nigerian state has done little to address the rise of criminal groups. Instead it has cracked down on protesters and activists.

As Trump's imperialist wars in the Middle East fail, he is looking for influence in Africa and has found an ally in Nigeria's president Bola Tinubu.

But the Alliance of Sahel States, led by Burkina Faso's Ibrahim Traore and also including nearby Mali and Niger have all cut ties with the West and expelled US and French forces from their territories.

The latest air strikes are an escalation in geopolitical tensions that will leave ordinary Africans in the firing line.



Miners are risking their lives daily because safety isn't taken seriously

EBOLA

A CRISIS MADE BY CAPITALISM

The Democratic Republic of Congo is again in the grip of an Ebola outbreak, hundreds are dead already with millions more at risk as infections spread across central Africa. **Yuri Prasad** explores the ways in which imperialism and the search for profits paved the way for a new pandemic

FOR THE Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in the heart of central Africa, an abundance of vital minerals—including cobalt, coltan and gold—has been nothing but a curse.

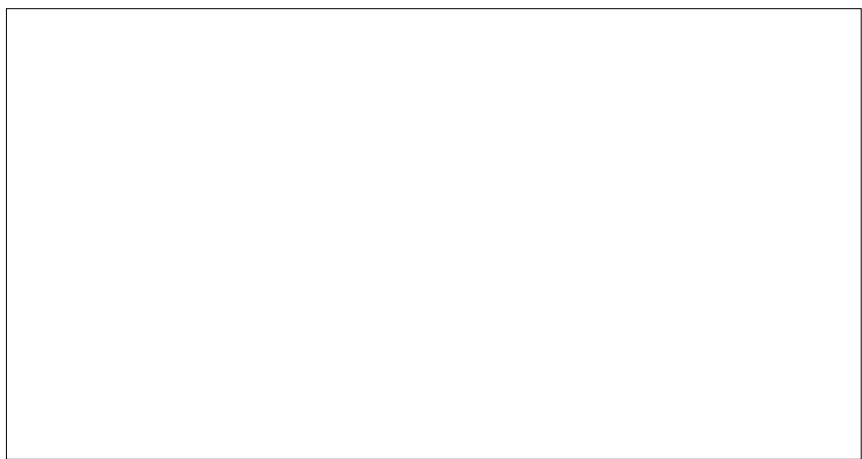
The global scramble to control the country’s natural resources created some of the greatest horrors in the history of colonialism and imperialism. From Belgium’s murder and mutilation of millions of workers forced to produce rubber in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, to the sponsoring of a civil war that still rages, Congo has been ravaged.

Today, another calamity is spreading in the country, and beyond to its neighbours. The DRC is the epicentre of a new outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said that by Friday it is last week there were 139 suspected deaths and 600 cases. But the numbers are rising fast. The actual number of dead may never be known because systems designed to alert public health bodies to an outbreak have all but collapsed.

Commentators discuss the infection in ways suggestive of a “natural disaster” for which no institution can be held responsible. Or they imply it is a product of Africa’s intrinsic “backwardness.”

Both of these notions are nonsense. Instead, it is the system based on exploitation of people and the planet that is really to blame. When corporations clear forests for mining and extract raw materials, for example, they increase the risk of contact between animals carrying disease and humans. People are more likely to eat infected



animals hunted in forest areas that were previously inaccessible. Or wildlife may move into human settlements it would have otherwise avoided because its own habitat has been destroyed.

These have been key routes for zoonotic transmission of animal diseases to humans—and are known to have caused earlier Ebola outbreaks in 2014-16 and 2018-20.



The US used to fund disease surveillance networks. But Trump ended most of those

It is no accident that the first cases in this Ebola outbreak were recorded in mining townships in the east of the country. Added to the long-term problem of mineral extraction and the destruction of the natural environment, is a new one driven by the hard right.

The US used to see it as a benefit for itself to fund robust disease surveillance networks across the region. It kept emergency teams of local health workers to take charge of public health crises.

But much of that ended when president Donald Trump shut down the US Agency for International Development (USAID) early last year. His “America First” policies declared that spending on aid was a “waste,” describing African countries as “shitholes.”

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention also lost hundreds of experts, including some in the DRC, who would have helped contain the epidemic. Last autumn, the Trump administration

sacked hundreds of government scientists, including those working for the Epidemic Intelligence Service that specialised in combating Ebola.

These cuts have consequences. The first known death in this outbreak was a nurse, on 27 April, which suggests that the virus has been spreading since early April. A delay in confirming the first likely cases of Ebola in the most recent outbreak happened because the samples were transferred to a laboratory at the wrong temperature.

USAID would once have funded and managed that task. But no longer.

Trickle

Congolese doctors are Ebola experts, but in previous outbreaks, they counted on US help with coordination and crucial supplies. Now that help has been reduced to a trickle.

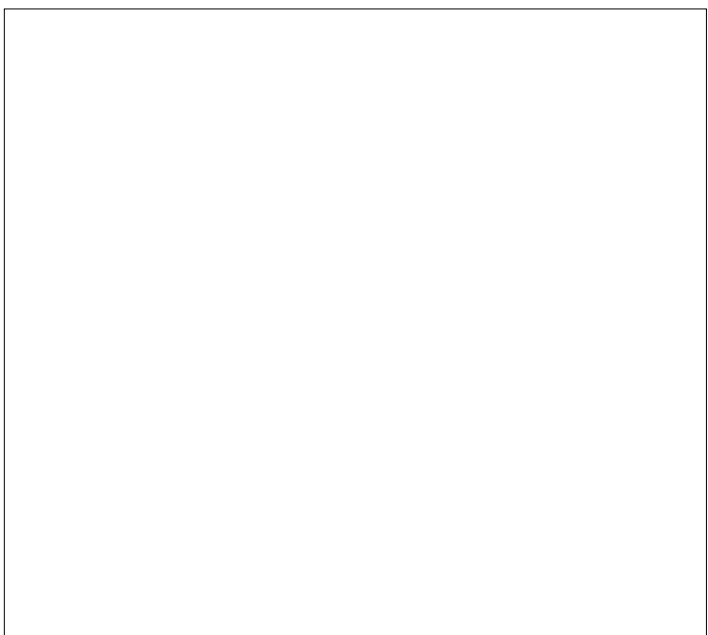
The WHO budget has been cut by around 21 percent since January 2025, when Trump told the organisation the US was withdrawing from it. The US decision took effect this January and was then followed by Argentina.

Failure to quickly identify Ebola transmission allowed it to spread unchecked. Now there are cases in Goma, a Congolese city of more than a million people on the border with Rwanda.

Goma is about 350 miles from the DRC’s eastern Ituri Province where the first cases were identified. The same Bundibugyo strain of the virus has been found in the Ugandan capital of Kampala, with a population of 1.9 million people.

But weeks into the crisis, there are still no fully functional Ebola treatment centres, even in the affected cities.

“If there’s no treatment centre here in



the capital,” one resident told the BBC, “then what about other areas?”

Ebola deaths are horrific and painful—and the current strain kills about a third of those infected. It takes between two and 21 days for symptoms to appear, but they come on suddenly. The initial flu-like stages quickly progress to profuse diarrhoea and vomiting. As infected people suffer huge fluid loss, their organs begin to shut down.

In some cases, the body’s own immune system turns on the patient, clotting blood and cutting off circulation, causing heart failure.

There are currently no drugs that target the Bundibugyo variant and

drug companies are doing precious little research. People in central Africa simply do not constitute a big enough market for them because they are poor.

The virus spreads through direct contact with bodily fluids—blood, saliva, sweat, tears, mucus, vomit, faeces, breast milk, urine and semen. And it transmits extremely easily, meaning that an infected person can pass the virus on by touching an object that later comes into contact with another person.

Treating

Health workers in the frontline of treating and preventing the spread of the infection are themselves succumbing to it because they lack even basic protective PPE equipment.

“We are overwhelmed. We were not prepared to deal with an outbreak,” said Sandrine Lusamba, coordinator of a small hospital outside Bunia, the capital of Ituri Province. The hospital has received several suspected cases since the outbreak was declared and three have died, she said. Two nurses have fallen ill.

Those treating the sick need impermeable body suits and waterproof aprons, double gloves, face shields and high-grade masks. Almost none of this is available, despite multinationals extracting vast wealth from Congolese earth.

Instead of PPE and other medical equipment, world powers have in recent years rushed arms to the DRC in order to back one side or another in the long running war (see right). This combination of conflict, poverty and environmental destruction is systemic, and threatens to spread a new wave of Ebola across Africa.

But for the global ruling class, disease is a price worth paying.

Relatives look on as the bodies of people who died of Ebola are taken from a health center in Rwampara, DRC, last week

Big power rivalry drives horrific war

THERE CAN be little doubt that the decades-long war in the DRC hampers all attempts to stop Ebola. It is often presented as an “ethnic conflict” that defies rational explanation.

In reality, many of the world’s major powers are heavily invested in it. They have backed various governments, militias and the armies of neighbouring countries in the hope of grabbing “their share” of the DRC’s wealth.

The West is keen not only to take the region’s minerals for itself, but it also wants to prevent others, such as China and Russia, from snatching a share.

Russia has offered the DRC government political support and military hardware in exchange for natural resources. Meanwhile, China dominates the extraction, processing and export of most of the country’s cobalt.

The US and Britain have at times given both Rwanda and Uganda their backing, seeing them as “security partners.” That’s despite the United Nations gathering significant evidence that both countries have backed the M23 militias operating in the east of the DRC. And China has itself at times backed Rwanda.

The Congolese president recently offered Trump a deal—to assist his government in defeating these rebel militias in exchange for access to the minerals.

Western multinationals—including Apple, Google’s Alphabet, Microsoft, Dell and Tesla—depend on cobalt, much of it Congolese. Here, miners are as young as six years old and earn less than a dollar a day.

Extraction, rather than uplifting the DRC, is driving war and disease, and is making the working class poorer.

Overseas aid cuts—is this the end of ‘soft power’?

TRUMP’S CUTS to overseas aid—and those of Britain’s—have undoubtedly worsened the Ebola crisis gripping central Africa.

The head of the campaigning charity Refugees International says US funding for the DRC dropped from over \$900 million in the last year of the Biden government to around \$179 million in the first year of Trump’s. That decrease has devastated

(top) Young miners hammer at rock to find coltan in a Congolese mine (above) M23 militia fighters

an already weak health system, wrecked by war. But the US funding of USAID and the WHO, for example, was never simply philanthropy. All world powers use aid as a way of getting what they want, particularly in the Global South.

As opposed to the “hard power” of the military and war, aid was part of a plan for “soft power,” that could capture hearts and minds.

That’s why USAID food and medicine sacks transported to disaster zones are emblazoned with the slogan, “A gift of the people of the United States of America.”

Central Africa was a battleground for the main imperial powers during the Cold War of the 1950s and 60s, when the “Belgian Congo” was struggling for independence.

Influence

The US was determined that Russia should not win allies on the continent.

Instead, it wanted to influence Africa’s new rulers—and its offer of food, medicine, training and weaponry was designed to lure them in.

Those who resisted—including the first Congolese prime minister, Patrice Lumumba—were assassinated.

Aid came with strings that meant tying newly independent countries to the West through trade and credit, and politically tying an emerging African ruling class to the West. The purpose of aid was to create dependency.

In return for the West’s “generosity,” countries receiving aid were expected to be “hospitable” to imperialist military bases, spies and trade missions—and to act as outposts in times of regional conflict.

In time, it was also demanded that they open up their economies to the ravages of the free market and to repay international loans by slashing state spending. And if that led to revolt and rebellion that “soft power” could not deal with, there was of course “hard power” to fall back on. And that’s something that the Congolese people know to their cost.

Why does the US hate Cuba?

THE CONTEMPT stems from the way the 1959 Cuban Revolution overthrew the US-backed dictatorship, nationalised foreign businesses and looked towards the Soviet Union for support.

Since then, presidents from both the Democratic and Republican parties have sought to claw back control of the country.

They believe states surrounding the US must be under their domination—either directly as US territories or indirectly as client regimes. And they insist that the wealth and resources of those countries should flow to US multinationals.

The US remains particularly enraged that a regime calling itself socialist can exist just 90 miles from the US state of Florida.

Cuba has long inspired movements and governments across Central and South America that sought to resist US imperialism.

In Nicaragua, for example, revolutionaries overthrew the US-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

They modelled aspects of their guerrilla strategy on Cuba's revolution.

And in Colombia, students influenced by the Cuban Revolution founded the National Liberation Army and fought the oligarchy that was supported by the US.

Similar guerrilla movements emerged in El Salvador, Peru, Guatemala, Bolivia and Venezuela. As far as the US was concerned, all these resistance groups were a product of Cuba.

The US ruling class's claim on Cuba predates the revolution.

While the island was still a Spanish colony in the 19th century, presidents James K Polk and Franklin Pierce tried to buy it.

After the Spanish-American War of 1898, the US imposed a military occupation on Cuba.

Even after withdrawing troops, the US reserved the right to intervene militarily at any time in order to “preserve Cuban independence”.

The US forced Cuba to lease land for naval bases, establishing the permanent US naval base at Guantánamo Bay.

Cuba was also effectively barred from signing treaties with foreign powers independently.

Before the revolution, US corporations owned 80 percent of Cuba's public utilities, 90 percent of its communications and much of its mining industry.

All that was to change after the uprising.

During the 1950s, the military dictatorship of



A MAIN street in Havana, the capital, during the current crisis

TRUMP & CUBA THE US EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

As Donald Trump starves people on Cuba with an oil blockade, Socialist Worker answers key questions on US imperialism, the Cuban Revolution and what socialists should say today



Fulgencio Batista—a corrupt and brutal ruler—turned Cuba into a playground for the rich.

Its capital, Havana, was packed with luxury hotels, casinos and prostitution rackets.

But in 1959, when a guerrilla army led by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara overthrew Batista's regime, the dictatorship collapsed rapidly.

The US ruling class has never forgiven the revolutionaries—or those who followed in their wake.

“The US ruling class has never forgiven Cuba for holding out against imperialism

US presidents Dwight Eisenhower and John F Kennedy imposed severe economic sanctions on Cuba and sought to isolate its government through a trade embargo.

In 1961, Kennedy backed air strikes and the failed Bay of Pigs invasion by CIA-trained Cuban exiles.

But the regime withstood all these threats, and countless others, to remain a thorn in the side of US imperialism.

What was the Cuban Revolution?

CASTRO represented a middle class layer which saw that imperialism was holding back Cuba's development and fought to throw off US domination.

In 1956, Castro, Guevara and 80 fighters sailed from Mexico to Cuba to overthrow Batista.

When the Cuban Revolution brought down his regime in 1959, it was a huge blow to US imperialism and undoubtedly a step forward for ordinary people.

But it wasn't a socialist revolution—it was a nationalist revolution against US imperialism and its client regime.

A socialist revolution is one where the working class and poor form their own democratic organisations take power in opposition to the capitalist state and run society from the bottom up.

That wasn't the strategy of Castro and the 26th July Movement.

In the Cuban Revolution, there were political battles over how to win.

The choice was between the “sierra” and the “llano”. The “sierra” was Castro's guerrilla army in the mountains and the “llano” was the broader movement of workers, students and others in Cuba, including in major cities.

Which would dominate? Which was the motor of change?

For Castro and Guevara, the rebel army was the instrument of change, with the social movement playing only a supporting part.

There had been impressive workers' battles in the late 1950s in the face of Batista's brutal repression and a trade union bureaucracy that worked with the regime.

What began as a small group of working class militants organised unofficial strikes, an underground press and a powerful general strike in 1958.

However, in the end, the primacy of the guerrilla strategy over mass action of workers and students won out.

The nationalist revolution was a blow to imperialism and step forward for ordinary Cubans. But the guerrillas seized power on behalf of the masses, rather than working class people seizing power for themselves.

Is Cuba socialist?

In 1959, Castro stressed that it was not a socialist revolution. It was only in 1961 that he retrospectively declared that the revolution was “socialist” and aligned Cuba with the Soviet Union.

What was behind the shift? The Cuban Revolution took place during the Cold War, an inter-imperialist conflict

between the US and Stalinist Russia. The Russian Revolution of 1917 was a genuine socialist revolution where workers' councils (soviets) took power.

But the revolutionary wave that had spread across Europe didn't break through.

And the working class that had made the Russian Revolution was decimated by imperialist invasion in the Civil War of the 1920s.

While the soviets were hollowed out, the Bolsheviks remained in charge of a huge state bureaucracy.

The power of this bureaucracy grew—with Joseph Stalin increasingly at the helm—and it began to develop its own set of class interests.

In 1928, a combination of imperialist pressures and internal crisis pushed Stalin to adopt the first Five Year Plan.

It aimed to force through rapid industrialisation by squeezing the working class. This marked a decisive shift to “bureaucratic state capitalism”.

The ruling bureaucracy acted in a similar way to capitalist bosses of firms in the West. It was locked into military and economic competition, and its goal was capital accumulation off the backs of workers.

The Stalinist regime projected its own imperialist interests—and not just in Eastern Europe after the Second World War.

For example, in 1945 it sought to take part in the colonial administration of Tangier in Morocco and to take over Libya as a colony.

But it posed as an anti-imperialist force. And during the Cold War, many national liberation struggles in the Global South looked to Russian state capitalism as a way of bringing about national development.

Facing US imperialist assaults, Cuba came increasingly into the orbit of Stalinist Russia. It, too, became a state capitalist society whose priorities are shaped by capital accumulation.

Is the Cuban regime still popular?

Today, the Cuban state can no longer guarantee people the basics of life.

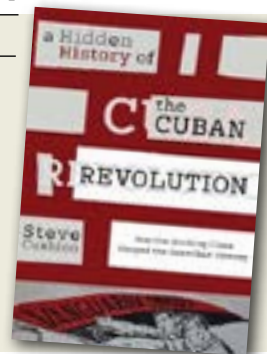
This is due to the tightening of the blockade imposed after 1959—but the actions of the state capitalist bureaucracy are to blame too.

READ MORE

● **A Hidden History of the Cuban Revolution— How the Working Class Shaped the Guerillas' Victory** by Steve Cushion £7.50

● **Cuba—for socialism and freedom** by David Karvala isj.org.uk/cuba-for-socialism-and-freedom

Available at **Bookmarks bookshop.co.uk**



Does capitalism need emotional labour?

IN MANY jobs, workers don't just have to do the job. They also have to act like they really want you to have a nice day.

Arlie Hochschild first analysed this “emotional labour” in her 1983 book, *The Managed Heart—Commercialisation of Human Feeling*.

Hochschild starts with Karl Marx's descriptions of child labourers working in appalling conditions in Victorian factories.

She contrasts this physical labour with the work of a flight attendant in 20th century America. She might have to perform some physical labour, pushing a trolley or lifting bags, but she is also supposed to fake an emotional response.

Hochschild argues that the human cost of performing emotional labour is as harmful to the worker as the physical labour discussed by Marx.

In both cases, “the worker can become estranged or alienated from an aspect of self—either the body or the margins of the soul—that is ‘used’ to do the work.”

Emotional labour is “the management of feeling to create a publicly observable facial and bodily display.”

Hochschild distinguishes between “emotional work” and “emotional labour”.

Emotion work is the emotions we show amongst family and friends.

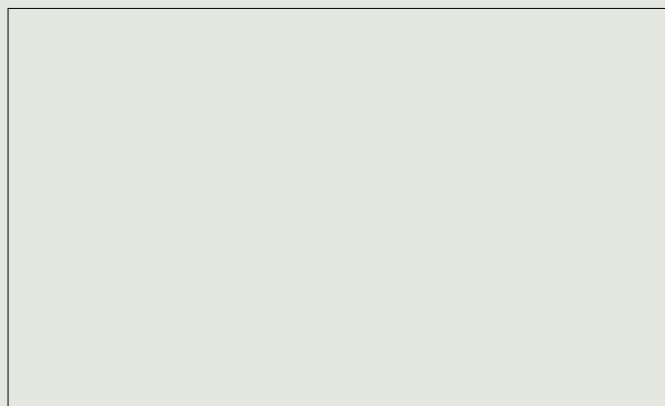
Emotional labour involves the commercialisation of workers' feelings which are turned into a package of emotions that is consumed by the customer.

Alienation

Managers impose “feeling rules” on emotional labourers to ensure the required level of customer service. This means workers are alienated from their own emotions.

Hochschild argues that these “feeling rules” go further than demanding simple compliance. She calls this “surface acting”.

But the rules increasingly demand “deep acting.” This requires a systemic



HOSPITALITY WORKERS taking collective action

suppression of the real self. Hochschild understood emotional labour as the product of managerial control in the service sector. She explored how the commodification of emotions intensifies the alienation that shapes all wage labour.

Emotional labourers have no choice but to struggle for a free and dignified sense of themselves against the managers' demands for better performance.

More recently, feminist writers have developed Hochschild's analysis in new directions. In *They Call It Love—The Politics of Emotional Life*, Alva Gotby builds the concept of emotional labour into “emotional reproduction”.

Gotby argues that the commodification of emotions at work is one element of a wider process of emotional reproduction. This is not considered to be real work, but contributes to the well-being of others.

All reproductive labour, she writes, has an emotional aspect—soothing, caring, intimacy.

It is women who are largely

“Labourers have to struggle for a dignified sense of themselves

responsible for making others feel good. Gotby wants to make all women's unpaid work “visible”.

Reproduction

She calls for the “denaturalisation of femininity” and a recognition that capitalism depends on emotional reproduction.

This has been popularised as a “mental load” carried by women who take responsibility for the feelings and well-being of those they care for.

But recognising and redistributing this mental load does not go far enough. All the pressures of the family should be shared equally.

But even if they were, the institution of the family would continue to shape women's lives.

The privatised family socialises women into being self-sacrificing and nurturing, as well as structuring their access to jobs.

The system could not function without the hours of unpaid labour, mostly performed by women, that go into caring for the current and next generations of workers.

Removing emotional labour from the workplace and locating it in the home robs the idea of its power to encourage active resistance.

To free our emotions, we need to replace the private family with collective provision that gives people real freedom. And that depends on challenging the bosses where we have power—at work.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class.

They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence.

We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties.

We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women.

We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We oppose discrimination against disabled people including those who experience mental distress.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests.

We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, go to socialistworker.co.uk/join-swp

Come to a socialist meeting near you

THE Socialist Workers Party (SWP) has branches all over Britain. We meet most weeks, usually on a Wednesday or Thursday, to discuss politics and to plan activities.

The branch meeting normally has a speaker who opens a discussion in which all are free to join in.

Afterwards, we plan the party's involvement in local and national movements.

Our meetings are open to the public and we encourage participation.

For a local branch, look at the list and scan the QR code.

Scotland

- Aberdeen
- Dundee
- Edinburgh
- Glasgow North
- Glasgow South

North

- Lancaster and Morecambe
- Manchester
- Newcastle
- Liverpool
- Wigan

Yorkshire and Humberside

- Bradford
- Huddersfield
- Hull
- Leeds
- Sheffield and South Yorkshire
- York and Scarborough
- Wakefield

Midlands

- Birmingham
- Black Country
- Coventry
- Crewe and Stoke
- Chesterfield
- Derby
- Leicester
- Nottingham

London

- Hackney
- Haringey
- Islington
- Newham
- South London
- South East London
- Tower Hamlets
- Waltham Forest
- West and North West London

South west

- Bristol
- Devon and Exeter
- Dorset

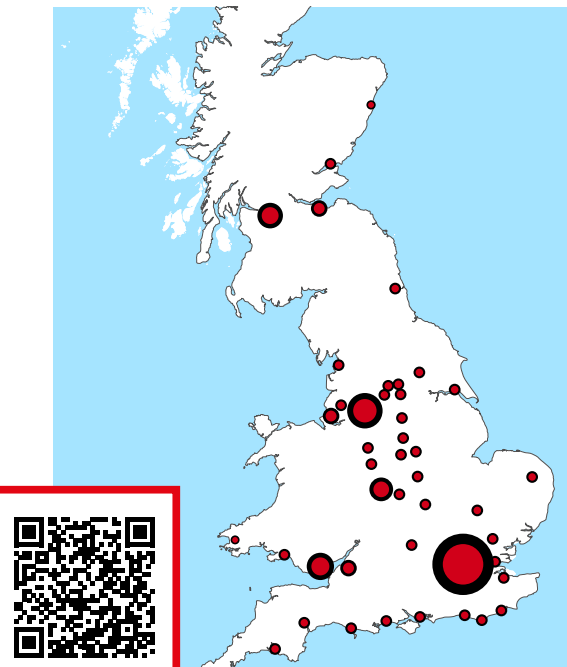
- Plymouth and Cornwall
- Portsmouth

East and south east

- Brighton and Hove
- Bournemouth
- Cambridge
- Colchester
- Eastbourne
- Harlow
- Hastings
- Kent
- Northampton
- Norwich and East Anglia
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◆ **JODI ★ DEAN** ◆

◆ **SHAHED ◆ EZAYDI**

TARIQ ● ALI ◆◆◆◆◆
ILAN ★ PAPPE

ANDREW ◆◆◆◆◆
◆ **FEINSTEIN** ◆◆◆◆◆

◆ **REBECCA** ●●●●●
◆ **JANE ◆ MORGAN**

◆ **MV** ◆◆◆◆◆
◆ **RAMANA**

◆ **MICHAEL** ◆◆◆◆◆
◆ **ROBERTS** ◆◆◆◆◆

◆ **SAMIRA ● ALI** ◆

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Portraits show the reality of Britain's homelessness crisis

Outsiders is an exhibition by photographer Marc Davenant that captures the realities of the homelessness crisis. Marc spoke to Socialist Worker about the project

OVER THE course of six years, the project covered London, Manchester, Glasgow, Newcastle, Brighton, Kent, Hertfordshire and Norwich.

The exhibition is a powerful plea to pay attention to the plight of homeless people.

Marc also exposes the phenomenon of "hidden homelessness," whereby people are trapped in temporary accommodation and forced to endure horrendous living conditions.

How did things change for people over the six years?

The outcomes for individuals have been variable. To a large extent, it depends on the level of resources and support available in their particular local authority.

On an individual level, five of the people who were participants have died. That is a tragic waste of life and potential.

Others have been rehoused following the media coverage of Outsiders, while some remain on the street.

From a broader perspective, the homelessness crisis has worsened exponentially since I first started documenting it in 2016. Problems have been exacerbated by the cost of living crisis and the shortage of social housing.

Things are getting much worse, rather than better. I can't see any light at the end of the tunnel because there are no votes to be won by ending homelessness.

The government needs to build at least 300,000 new social housing units. They need to stop building 'affordable housing' and claiming that will solve homelessness because it won't.

Sadly I have no hope that any of this will happen.

I declined to meet Prince William when he asked.

I asked him to speak to one of the participants in the project instead, so she had an opportunity to tell him what she thought of his charitable endeavours.

Were there any particular images or stories that typify the enduring and ever-present issue of homelessness in this country?

Everyone is an individual, so their stories differ. However, one common theme was how important early intervention is to prevent homelessness in later life.

Many of the participants were from broken homes, grew up in poverty or were abused as children and then failed by the social care system.

Stephen's story was particularly tragic. He died shortly after I did his portrait after falling ill while sleeping rough.

I am sure that a proper intervention could have saved him. But nobody was there when he needed them the most.

He told me the hardest thing about sleeping rough is being ignored and treated like something less than human.

The project has been updated to include the homeless encampment behind the Adelphi Building, in London. What do you think this highlights?

Around 16 people were sleeping in 30 tents. Tent encampments were quite rare ten years ago and have now become commonplace.

It highlights that a different demographic is becoming homeless and that the response to this has been inadequate.

The focus is on criminalising homeless people rather than helping them. Westminster Council agreed to meet with me to discuss the approach to this encampment.

Then they deliberately delayed the meeting and without notice evicted everyone in advance of the discussion. Local authorities lack the resources to deal with the encampments. But they also lack the will and expertise.

We risk mirroring what has been happening in San Francisco and Los Angeles with clearances and sweeps and criminalisation.

I will be doing a joint exhibition in Leeds next year called Across the Divide comparing and contrasting the UK homelessness crisis with the crisis in the US.

We've had over 120,000 visitors to the exhibition and many cried in the exhibition space or said they were filled with outrage. Hopefully it will have changed hearts and minds.

The exhibition was shown at the Houses of Parliament where MPs were directly confronted with the consequences of their policy decisions.

Marc's project has now been turned into a photographic book, Outsiders. Priced at £30 and available at bluecoatpress.co.uk/product/outside



● (main) Kiara in substandard housing in Newham, east London. "The council and landlord just don't care, there are cockroaches and leaks, and dangerous windows and wiring. They do nothing. Even now I must use this stick to turn off the lights because if you touch the switch, you get electrocuted"

● (above, left) Stephen died five months after this photo was taken in London's Soho

● (above, centre) "Sireena ended up living in some of the worst slum housing in London with literally everything in her flat being covered with mould. Three days after photographing that property the mould began to grow on my camera bag"

● (above, right) Garth, Liverpool Street, London. Garth studied fine art and carries his abstract drawings around with him when living on the street

● (left) Greg with his dog Roxy in Glasgow, "I would have checked out a long time ago but Roxy saved me so I can't let her go. People look down on people like me, but we are people just like them. It makes a big difference if someone acknowledges you and treats you like a normal person"

EXAM BOARDS

Strikers pose bosses tough questions

AROUND 400 workers at Britain's biggest exam board struck last week to demand pay restoration.

Unison union members at AQA walked out last Thursday and Friday across sites in Manchester, Milton Keynes and Guildford.

Laura, an AQA worker in Manchester, told Socialist Worker that her branch organised a rally and invited other unions and local councillors to show solidarity.

"We had over 80 people at the event," she said.

"There were lots of trade unionists and activists there—including Manchester Trades Council, Unite North West, UCU branches and the Defend Ameen and Salford City Unison campaign."

AQA workers have taken action short of a strike since 12 May—meaning they have not undertaken weekend work, overtime or been on call.

Laura said, "The summer is our busiest time of the year and it relies on a lot of overtime to get the exams processed."

"We're not stopping there—we want to escalate and have more strike days to keep up the pressure."

Unison is set to announce more strikes soon.

NHS

BMA backs backward plan

GP SURGERIES across Britain could move towards a public-private hybrid model that would mean they are more like dentists in how they are run.

A motion passed at this month's conference of UK Local Medical Committees—which represent GPs in the BMA union—called for contracts that allow GPs to provide private services.

It resolved to ballot the profession on offering "a means-tested, subscription-based service, such as those being offered currently by NHS dentists".

GP services are at breaking point and some doctors say the hybrid model is the "only option for the future".

GPs are not employed by the NHS because Labour caved in to right wing pressure from the BMA in 1948.

GP Danny told Socialist Worker, the conference vote comes from "exasperation" among doctors as they "have been banging their heads against a wall in a persistently underfunded system".

But he added that it will "inevitably lead to a two-tier healthcare system".

All GPs should be salaried workers within a properly funded NHS. The BMA plan would instead be a step towards a system where patients pay.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT



TRADE UNIONISTS and campaigners were set to join a lobby on Wednesday to defend Ameen Hadi (pictured centre in baseball cap) and the Salford Unison union branch in Greater Manchester. Council bosses suspended Ameen after a smear campaign from the far right, including Nazi Tommy Robinson. Socialist Worker went to press the day before the lobby, but is running a full report online on Wednesday and in our next issue.

Strike ballot of school and council workers

by JUDE MCKECHNIE

ACTIVISTS IN the Unison union are gearing up for a strike ballot of council and school support workers.

Unison is set to launch the ballot on 9 July in England and Wales after it rejected the Labour government's paltry pay offer of 3.3 percent.

The union says it is "balloting members in strategically targeted employers", but is still due to release a list.

But activists are already organising for the pay fight.

Ameen is the Unison union branch equalities officer at Salford City Council in Greater Manchester.

He told Socialist Worker, "I put a motion to my branch and around 15 to 20 reps backed it."

"The point was to get people thinking about it and to put pressure on the union to organise for a national fightback on pay."

"The pay ballot opens in July so we're going to be organising a pay rally before it starts, and we'll be seeking support from our local MPs, mayor and local councillors."

The motion committed the branch to arrange meetings in every workplace possible and to set up a strike campaign

committee open to all members.

The union's pay claim for local government workers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland was submitted in December.

It demanded an increase of at least £3,000 or 10 percent, whichever is greater, on every pay point.

The claim also called for a minimum pay rate of £15 an hour for all workers, a two-hour reduction in the working week and an increase of one day annual leave.

Cuts

Ameen said, "We've had 15 years of real terms pay cuts—almost 30 percent of our pay has been lost."

"People are working longer days already and there are huge staffing issues."

"There are council workers using food banks—that's how bad things are. People are really angry about the pay offer—3.3 percent is nothing."

Ameen argued that trade unionists can't treat this ballot like a routine exercise. "People have been suffering for years—and I think some believe that the union bureaucracy isn't going to do anything," he explained.

"But we as members have to push it to do something."

"Unions need to turn it into a serious campaign that can mobilise workers on the ground and prepare for strikes."

"What happens if we don't fight back is that things will only get worse."

Unison leaders must argue for mass meetings, workplace rallies and visible campaigning to drive up turnout and confidence.

Local government workers face the same attacks nationwide, and they need a national response.

This ballot should be the starting point for a national fight over who pays for the crisis—and workers must refuse to pay any longer.

The significance is far wider than Unison, local government or schools.

Millions of working class people across Britain face a social emergency amid the shock waves from Donald Trump's war on Iran.

Inflation fell slightly last week—but that is only because the energy price cap was set before the war began.

On 1 July energy prices will go up—and come autumn, inflation is likely to be much higher.

The trade union movement has to meet this challenge by organising for strikes this autumn.

UNISON

Vote Liz Wheatley in Unison union national exec election

ARE YOU a Unison union member? Then you should vote for Liz Wheatley in the by-election to the union's national executive committee (NEC).

Voting in the by-election to the local government women's seat runs until Friday.

Liz, who's the branch secretary of Camden Unison in north London, is standing as part of the Time For Real Change left wing grouping in the union.

She told Socialist Worker, "I'm standing because I think Unison can and should be a union that fights austerity, stands up for working class people, and opposes racism, discrimination and bigotry."

"Since I've been branch secretary for Camden Unison, I've put those principles, and those aims, into practice."

"I've helped organise traffic wardens, mainly migrant workers employed by a private company, to win huge pay rises."

"In the last dispute, they were on indefinite strike which won them a £5,000 pay increase. We currently

have two strikes in schools in Camden, where teaching assistants are fighting for pay. We know we can win this fight."

Liz said that she would campaign on the NEC for local and national action to resist any attacks on conditions or pay.

"We now face a government dead set on continuing with austerity, and that puts warfare before welfare," she said.

Reform

"And we face Reform UK councils that want to attack our union."

"This makes the pay ballot in local government really important."

Liz has a proven track record of fighting racism and standing in solidarity with Palestine.

"It was really great to march with my branch and other Unison branches on 16 May against the far right and to oppose the genocide in Gaza," she said.

"I've campaigned for years for divestment of our pension funds in favour of ethical investment."

SCHOOLS

School workers fighting over pay and job cuts

WORKERS AT four schools in Waltham Forest, east London, are taking action.

NEU union members at Belmont Park, Henry Maynard Primary and South Grove Primary schools struck last week. Workers at South Chingford Foundation have been out since 5 May. They are set to strike again this Tuesday to Friday and all of next week.

At another, Connaught School for Girls, workers have suspended their strike, but are set to meet next week to discuss resuming action.

The disputes are over plans for "restructures" that would slash jobs and pay.

Striking NEU members marched to Walthamstow Town Hall last Friday to meet with members of the newly elected Green council.

A support worker at Henry Maynard Primary School told Socialist Worker, "We're concerned about what cuts and redundancies will mean for children in the school."

The strikers were joined on the march by students from the schools and their parents.

"We knew we had their backing and that was crucial in deciding to come out in the first place," a teacher at Henry Maynard said.

The NEU is also running a borough-wide consultative

ballot over maternity pay and workload.

■ WORKERS AT Woodfield School in Brent, west London, are set to launch a wave of strikes over planned cuts to their hours and pay.

The NEU union members plan to walk out on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of next week—and for further dates in June and July.

Bosses at Compass Learning Partnership plan to cut the hours of lead learning assistants.

Woodfield is a secondary school that teaches children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Lucy Cox, joint branch secretary of Brent NEU, told Socialist Worker, "Lead learning assistants are responsible for supporting the behaviour of teenagers with complex mental health challenges and needs. They are highly skilled workers."

■ NEU and NASUWT union members at the Haberdashers' Independent Schools, in Hertfordshire are set to return to picket lines next week.

They are furious after management moved to use fire and rehire to attack pensions.

● Longer version at socialistworker.co.uk

RESEARCHERS

WORKERS AT the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) are set to strike for the first time in the organisation's history.

The Unite union members plan to walk out on Wednesday and Thursday of next week and

on 9-11 and 15-18 June at sites in Sutton in south London and Chelsea in west London.

The ICR does world-leading research and has hundreds of millions in cash reserves. Its CEO is paid £400,000 per year.

Yet pay has fallen behind inflation for years.

The workers have been offered a 3.75 percent pay increase in the middle of a cost of living crisis and when many earn barely above the £14.80 London Living Wage.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Notts university workers plan two month strike

by CAMILLAROYLE

UCU UNION members at the University of Nottingham were set to begin two months of strikes against vicious job cuts on Monday of next week.

They struck and began a marking and assessment boycott (Mab) last week.

When bosses escalated by docking 100 percent of their pay for the boycott, they announced two full months of further strikes.

Nearly 2,700 workers at the university were sent a letter last week warning them that they are at risk of redundancy as bosses seek to make 600 job cuts.

It is one of several universities where workers are taking action against cuts and job losses.

Health

Nottingham bosses plan to close 42 courses. They include music and modern foreign languages courses, programmes in child health, mental health, theology, education, microbiology and agriculture.

Other departments will face deep cuts that will transform the university beyond recognition.

"We were quite shocked," Nottingham striker Carina told Socialist Worker. "I work in the School of English. We are a successful school. We didn't expect cuts to a third of the staff."

"We just don't know how we can deliver the programme. This can only make the school decline."

Nick from geography said



UNIVERSITY WORKERS on the picket line in Nottingham last week

the cuts "potentially put the university as a whole at risk."

"It's at risk of destroying the whole reputation of the institution," he said.

Language student Blue told Socialist Worker, "It's incredibly sad to see workers disregarded when they give so much to us."

Another student, Amy, added that students understand why workers are boycotting marking. "People realise the situation," she said. "They will wait longer to graduate, but they understand that the cuts will affect them more."

"Every corner of the university is affected."

The cuts are a choice by management. Striker Susie told Socialist Worker, "We do realise the financial situation is dire. But this isn't the way to fix it. The university's plan is to try to run a big surplus."

"There is another plan where you don't have to make 600 staff redundant."

UCU branch vice president Andreas Bieler said he felt optimistic.

He explained that strikes last September and October had been effective at halting compulsory redundancies.

"We are out today as a show of force and a show of our resolve," he told Socialist Worker. "The danger with a Mab is it can be an isolating experience. So it's important to be out and united with each other."

Donations to the branch from other UCU branches and individuals have started flooding in.

The strikers have the support of local politicians including left wing Labour MP Nadia Whittome. MPs lobbied the vice chancellor, but she showed them the education

White Paper produced by the Labour government to try to justify the cuts.

Andreas said, "The problem is at a higher political level. There is financial mismanagement locally but the whole marketised higher education model is failing."

He explained that the branch supports nationwide action, including the idea of starting a dispute with the secretary of state for education.

What you can do to raise solidarity:

■ Invite a UCU member to your union branch and pass a motion of support for them

■ Look out for solidarity protests and events in Nottingham

■ Go to justgiving.com/crowdfunding/uonucu2026 to donate to the hardship fund

and pitted them against each other to keep their jobs.

They want to create a two-tier workforce with some workers on new "teaching and research" contracts and others on "teaching and scholarship" contracts without access to the TPS pension scheme.

One of the union's concerns is gender inequality. It says that workers in the male dominated engineering school will be on the research contract. In nursing and midwifery, the largely female workforce will be on the other, worse contract.

SUPPORT WORKERS

Pay strike hits Cambridge

Around 500 workers at Cambridge University began a four-day strike on Tuesday in a fight over pay.

The Unite union members struck this month and last month to demand "Cambridge Weighting", which would boost their pay to reflect the higher cost of living in the city.

Striker Anna told Socialist Worker, "If you compare the job pages of Cambridge and Oxford universities, there are real differences in the wages on offer."

"That's because of the Oxford weighting. Their starting salaries are £1,730 more."

Anna explained that the workers—including library, student support and IT workers among others—have been hit hard by the cost of living crisis. "They live outside of the city, because it's become so unaffordable," she said. "They have much longer travel times to get in

and now they're being hit by the price of petrol."

The workers have already forced the university back to the negotiating table, with a meeting scheduled for early June.

Strikes are building the union. Anna said, "Lots of people who work at the university aren't in a union. But I heard the other day that at least 60 have joined since the start of our strike."

Support

They've had support from students at the university as well as members of the UCU union.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham visited the striking workers last week, and slammed the university for claiming to be too cash-strapped to cough up.

The university's net assets totalled £8.26 million in 2025. And its endowment tops out at more than £4.5 billion.

GRENFELL

'There should have been criminal charges long ago'

UP TO 57 people and 20 companies could face criminal charges over the Grenfell fire, the police have said. But justice campaigners know they will have to fight to hold those responsible to account.

On 14 June 2017 a fire in Grenfell Tower, west London, killed 72 people after the Tory government, the council and housing bosses and corporations all ignored residents' safety concerns.

Moyra Samuels, a community activist and part of Justice4Grenfell, told Socialist Worker, "The cases won't be handed over to the Crown Prosecution Service until September."

Charged

"Then the CPS will make a decision as to who's going to be charged, and the case is likely to only begin in 2029."

A public inquiry was ordered after the fire. It took seven years and eventually cost £178 million.

But activists including Moyra had pushed for criminal charges from the start. "We wanted the criminal case to start first. But we were told, 'No, it's not possible.' We were told to wait till the end of the inquiry," she said.

"We knew what the consequences of that would be. It would enable the corporations and the establishment to get their stories straight."

But Moyra was clear that when the criminal trials

Protest for Grenfell

begin, "We'll need a big campaign to hold them to account, in the way that we did with Stephen Lawrence," she said.

The murdered black teenager's parents led a campaign, which forced the state to hold an inquiry into his death which exposed the incompetent and racist police investigation into it.

"The bereaved and the survivors are never going to be able to move forward until we see prosecutions," Moyra said.

"The bar for corporate manslaughter is very high, legally speaking. And what about Arconic, this multi billion pound company that supplies parts to drones that are being used to murder Palestinians. Are they going to be prosecuted?" she added.

Arconic manufactured the flammable cladding that covered the tower—and was one of the main criminals behind the social murder at Grenfell.

Pat Meusel

UNIVERSITIES ROUND-UP

University workers strike as financial crisis deepens

AT GOLDSMITHS university in south London, UCU union members are taking part in a marking and assessment boycott (Mab) as they fight plans for £22 million worth of cuts.

Bosses announced last week that they plan to deduct 100 percent of workers' pay. The UCU branch has voted to go on indefinite strike "as soon as is legally practicable".

■ **UCU MEMBERS** at Sheffield Hallam university are also due to begin an extended period of strikes.

They are set to walk out this Wednesday to Friday and then for the following

three full weeks. They are fighting cuts that will mean 130 job losses.

Bosses at Hallam also want to evade their legal responsibilities to offer the TPS pension scheme.

■ **AT LONDON Metropolitan University**, UCU members are on strike this Tuesday and Wednesday, next Wednesday to Friday and 11, 12 and 15 June.

The workers have been holding picket lines on every strike day.

■ **EIS-ULA union members** at Edinburgh Napier University are on strike from Tuesday to Friday this week.

University of Edinburgh UCU members are taking part in a Mab as bosses try to force through massive job cuts.

■ **AT LONDON South Bank University (LSBU)**, UCU members have delivered a resounding vote for action.

Some 89 percent voted for strikes and 97 percent for action short of a strike, which could include a Mab. Turnout was 61 percent.

LSBU is facing one of the most extreme assaults on workers' jobs and conditions.

Bosses have terminated the contract of every academic member of staff

DEFY ATTACK ON TRANS+ RIGHTS

by JUDY COX

LABOUR'S WOMEN and equalities minister Bridget Phillipson has thrown trans+ people under the bus.

She backed the Equality and Human Rights Commission's (EHRC) code of practice, which ramps up attacks on trans+ rights in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling last year.

The ruling sparked mass protests last April when it said that the legal definition of a woman in the Equality Act 2010 is based on "biological sex."

The government updated the EHRC's guidelines to institutionalise transphobia across public institutions.

It is now lawful to refuse a trans woman entry to a women-only association, as membership is "based on sex".

And access to single-sex services must be based exclusively on "biological sex".

Harm

The guidance notes that banning trans+ people from using facilities will put them at risk of harm.

But it says that there "should" be an alternative trans+ people can use.

The new code states trans+ people can be excluded from single sex hospital wards.

Under current NHS guidance, trans+ patients can be accommodated on single-sex wards based on the gender they identify as.

The new guidance states that it would not "usually be proportionate" to exclude a trans man from obstetrics and gynaecology outpatient services.

However, the code says the hospital "can refuse to treat them" and also "refuse to adjust the way in which it provides the service".

It effectively bans trans+ people from playing professional sport, or even joining amateur clubs.



A PROTEST against the Equality and Human Rights Commission's transphobic guidance in London (see right)

"Trans people should not be included in single-sex or separate-sex competitions for the sex with which they identify," it says.

The new regulations acknowledge this "may impose significant limitations" on the ability of trans+ people to participate in sporting activities at all.



The code encourages the harassment of trans+ people and women

Even worse, the code encourages the harassment of anyone who doesn't conform to gender stereotypes.

It stipulates that it is legitimate to ask someone to confirm their sex.

Such "concerns" could be raised by an "individual's physique or physical appearance, behaviour or concerns raised by other service users."

Confirm

If someone is asked to confirm their sex, it should be done "as sensitively as possible, and must respect their privacy", the code states.

But this is simply a green light for every transphobe and homophobe to harass who they choose.

Sky, a trans woman from Manchester, told Socialist Worker, "It's just making life harder for trans+ people.

"It's echoing what Donald Trump did in his first term and continues to do.

"The guidance can't be legally enforced but it will make people self-enforce.

"It's not about legal rulings—it's about creating hostility to trans people and making them self-segregate.

"This talk about 'third spaces' for trans+ people—that's just never going to happen.

"This is Labour pandering to the far right, and people like transphobe Posie Parker who spoke at the Tommy Robinson's fascist-led march this month.

"It means people will start challenging people based on their clothes or haircuts."

Trade unionists have to organise at work to demand bosses don't adopt the new guidance—and if they do, to defy it.

LONDON

'We will win against transphobes'

Up to 200 trans+ people and their supporters rallied in London's Parliament Square on Saturday against the Equality and Human Rights Commission's (EHRC) new guidance.

The protest turned into a "speak out" with people getting up to slam politicians and the media—and urging a fight for trans+ liberation.

Juliet Jacques, a journalist and filmmaker, said, "We all know the role of the media in manufacturing the consent that wasn't there for the most hard line, fascist-aligned, anti-trans groups."

Fightback

But she added, "The fightback here today is amazing and important.

"When you look at the demographics and range of people here, it really makes you confident that in the long term we will win."

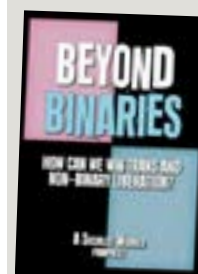
Kate Alexander, a Socialist Workers Party (SWP) member, said, "What the government is doing is going to be terrible for trans+ people.

"It's going to push us into the ghettos.

"They are treating us as the villains when we're the victims.

"But we're not only victims—we are victims who can stand up and fight back and involve other people in that struggle."

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