



# KURDISTAN SOLIDARITY

*Appeal to trade unionists, published for the 18 October TUC demo – produced by activists in the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees and the socialist group Workers' Liberty*

## Will you help democratic, working class and socialist forces in the Middle East resist ISIS?

We do not need to explain the barbaric brutality of the war the ISIS group is waging against the Kurdish people in Kobani and elsewhere, against socialists and democrats, and against every element of human freedom, above all women's rights. We appeal to all trade union and labour movement activists in the UK to do what you can to support the resistance to ISIS.

As labour movement people we must combine supporting the Kurdish struggle with supporting working-class and socialist organisations in the region. We cannot rely on or have confidence in imperialist powers like the US, UK and Turkey.

Why not • pass a motion • invite a speaker • attend the protests and meetings that are taking across Britain • donate funds? For more info read on, get in touch: [dashtyjamal@gmail.com](mailto:dashtyjamal@gmail.com)

### **SOLIDARITY WITH KOBANI**

Public meeting organised by the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, with John McDonnell MP and Jean Lambert MEP

6.30pm, Tues 28 October – Committee Room 10, House of Commons

- **International Federation of Iraqi Refugees**  
[www.federationifir.com/english](http://www.federationifir.com/english)
- **Alliance for Workers' Liberty**  
[www.workersliberty.org](http://www.workersliberty.org)
- **AWL is part of the Marxist Revival network** – [www.marxistrevival.com](http://www.marxistrevival.com)

### **More information and updates on Kurdish protests and actions in Britain**

Nottingham Kurdish Solidarity campaign  
Contact [peteradcliff@gmail.com](mailto:peteradcliff@gmail.com)

Facebook: Kurdish Solidarity Campaign

See also (on Facebook):

Kurdish Human Rights and Cultural Group in Scotland

Kurdish Revolution Info Group

Kurdish Resistance and Liberation

See also: [www.daymer.org](http://www.daymer.org) (London)

## APPEAL FOR FUNDS TO HELP THOSE DISPLACED BY ISIS IN IRAQ

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees is organising an appeal to raise aid (shelter, food, medicine, etc) for those displaced by the ISIS offensive in Iraq – including Kurds, Yazidis, Christians, Shia Muslims and many others.

Whether you are an individual or an organisation, please donate as much as you can – no amount is too small. IFIR is run entirely by volunteers, with no paid staff – everything raised will go directly to alleviating the hardship of those in need. IFIR provides full information about where money has gone.

Please send donations, with the reference “Displaced” to:

**Account name:** International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR)

**Account number:** 21449591

**Bank:** HSBC

**Sort code:** 40-04-07

### Model motions for trade union branches, Labour Parties, student unions

The **Central Line East branch of the RMT rail union** on London Underground has passed a motion on these issues. Could your union branch pass it too, or a version of it?

You can read the text here

[www.workersliberty.org/kurdishmotions](http://www.workersliberty.org/kurdishmotions)

Also included are motions passed by **Beeston North Labour Party** in Nottinghamshire and the **NUS Scotland Executive Committee**.

Please put a version of one of these motions (or a combination) in your union branch, Labour Party, student union or other organisation, and invite a speaker.

## Who are the Kurds?

“Kurdistan” is a predominantly mountainous area, stretching from eastern Turkey through Syria to Iraq, Iran, and Armenia, inhabited by around 30 million Kurds.

The area is not officially recognised as “Kurdish”, except the Kurdistan Regional Government area in Iraq.

For centuries it was part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. After World War One, the Ottoman Empire collapsed. The Kurds were increased forced to abandon their nomadic way of life, but they never got the independent state they were promised in peace talks.

The Kurds are predominantly Sunni Muslims, with substantial religious minorities such as the Yazidis. They have faced hostility from Sunni Arab states and Turkey and the Shia-Muslim Iranian regime. Kurdish politics have generally been secular.

Each attempt at the establishment of an independent Kurdish state has been stopped, often with brutal repression. Kurdish identity, language, and culture have faced constant attack. Turkey outlawed the Kurdish language and denied a separate Kurdish people existed, calling them “mountain Turks”.

Kurds in Turkey remain at war with the Turkish state over the demand for independence or greater autonomy. 30,000 people have died in this conflict. Even during the recent crisis Turkey has continued repression of “its” Kurds.

The 1978-9 Iranian revolution allowed a brief moment of autonomy for Iran's Kurds, but that was soon crushed by the Khomeini regime.

Kurds in northern Iraq rebelled several times in the 1920s against British rule, and were poison-gassed on the instruction of Winston Churchill.

Under Saddam Hussein they faced similar repression. And now ISIS.