

tubeworker

www.workersliberty.org/tubeworker • tubeworker@workersliberty.org

TRUMP WIN SHOWS SICK SYSTEM

Solidarity with anti-racist struggles - US labour needs its own party!

Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential elections is a disaster.

His plans for mass deportations, and a national register of Muslims, recall the worst in America's history, such as the victimisation and internment of Japanese-Americans in the 1940s.

He won by tapping into the reality of and the fear of poverty and failure among millions of working-class Americans.

He won by exploiting the deep racial divisions that have blighted the US for centuries. He attacked all Hispanic workers when calling Mexicans criminals and rapists. By scapegoating Muslims.

He won because millions of Americans wanted to revolt against the political establishment. But this man is not the "blue collar billionaire" that his supporters dubbed him: he is just a billionaire, and also part of the nastiest part of the establishment!

Anyone committed to basic values of human solidarity should support those in America now organising protests against Trump's policies.

For many workers, the choice in the election hardly felt like a choice at all.



One candidate, Hillary Clinton, offered more of the same economic policies that have led to widening inequality in America. The other offered a racist, sexist "alternative".

Bernie Sanders' campaign for the Democratic nomination showed some of the possibilities for building an alternative political narrative, based on class, that points the finger at bosses and bankers rather than Muslims and migrants. A new political party, independent of the Democrats and Republicans, backed by working-class community organisations and trade unions, could continue to promote that narrative, and offer a real alternative to both the neo-liberal corporate status quo and Trump's right-wing nationalism.

What can the socialist left do now? Passively regarding Trump voters as ignorant rednecks who could never be pulled away from his politics is wrong. Yes, many millions are poorly educated. But in this vastly wealthy

society that is a shocking crime. As is the fact that 21% of American children live in poverty, that 10% of workers are in low waged jobs, that 30% do not have health insurance and 40% do not have a pension.

Unions and the left must argue for class politics, the politics of justice and solidarity and at the same time making the strongest challenge we can against racism and xenophobia.

We do have a chance to do these things. Remember Bernie Sanders drew larger crowds than Trump for his attacks of Wall Street and the power and privilege of the "millionaires and billionaires."

• Adapted from an article in *Solidarity* 423, 10 November 2016

STATION/REVENUE STAFF: DON'T WORK OVERTIME FROM 23 NOVEMBER! PREPARE FOR STRIKES!

RMT's ballot of station staff for action against job cuts has returned thumping majorities for both strikes (85%) and action-short-of-strikes (94%). TSSA's ballot is expected back soon.

RMT has called an overtime ban from 23 November. All station staff must respect this ban. An effective ban will lead to station closures, which will confront the company with the reality that their staffing level is unworkably low.

Tubeworker believes we should announce strikes, perhaps to coincide with Southern workers' next action, on 6-8 December, and experiment with other forms of action, such as rolling strikes of

particular shifts.

The RMT Piccadilly Line drivers' ballot, in their line-specific dispute over management abuse of procedures and victimisation of reps, also returned a huge majority for action, opening up the possibility for coordinated action with stations. RMT is also balloting drivers on other lines, and there's a live strike mandate on the Hammersmith and City Line.

Coordinated action in these distinct disputes should be a stepping stone to rebuilding the all-grades solidarity that could underpin one united dispute against cuts.

SUPPORT NEW YORK PUBLIC TRANSPORT WORKERS

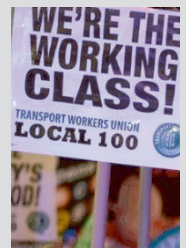
3,000 New York public transport workers demonstrated outside the Metropolitan Transport Authority (MTA) offices on Tuesday 15 November, ahead of

contract negotiations between MTA and their union, TWU Local 100.

TWU projected their demands onto the side of the MTA building (the equivalent of us projecting demands to scrap "Fit for the Future" onto 55 Broadway!). They are fighting for increased wages, better pensions, and new safety provisions - all issues that London Underground workers can connect with!

This is a multiracial workforce standing together to fight for more rights and power in the workplace, the complete antithesis to the racism and nationalism of the Trump movement.

We should support our brothers and sisters in TWU Local 100 any way we can.



CLEANERS' COLUMN

SUPER CONTRACT RUMOURS

Rumours abound that LU wants its proposed "super contract", under which it plans to consolidated all existing cleaning contracts in early 2017, to include other aspects of ancillary and maintenance work,

With existing contractors like Interserve currently amongst the frontrunners; they run a cowboy operation as it is. How much worse will that be when their contract takes on thousands of additional staff?

The only organisation with the capacity and resources to provide all the work required, including training and equipping all the staff, is... TfL/LU itself.

LU's own plans for consolidation are a glaring argument for bringing cleaning and other outsourced services back in house.

RATS!

LU workers and contractors who risk coming into contact with rats and mice in bin rooms and machine chambers are meant to be issued with medical briefing cards about leptospirosis (Weil's disease).

Some AGS agency cleaners on the Bakerloo, Central, and Victoria Lines have been denied these cards. AGS say it's Interserve's responsibility to provide them; Interserve say the agency must do it. Their buck-passing is putting cleaners' health at risk.

Ultimately however, it's LU's responsibility to make sure anyone working on its premises is given access to the relevant safety information. LU must tell Interserve to pull its finger out and ensure that all its cleaners - whether directly employed or agency - have access to the right health and safety info.

INTERSERVE JOB CUTS HIT SAFETY

Interserve's latest job cuts are affecting station safety.

With weather issues such as rain, build up of leaves, and potential frost and ice beginning to affect open-section stations at this time of year, forcing one cleaner to clean up to four stations means vital cleaning isn't getting done.

If a passenger or members of staff is injured in an avoidable accident due to water or rubbish build up on a station, we need to make sure our unions place the blame squarely where it belongs: at the feet of Interserve and their disastrous job cuts policy.

ADDED BONUS

A recent agreement on trains means that all drivers who volunteered to work New Year's Eve will be booked on as spares, and get the bonus, in addition to any Night Tube drivers who work their rostered duties.

Unions should fight for the NYE bonus to be paid as a flat-rate, consolidated payment to anyone - driver or station staff - who works NYE. LU should also pay the bonus to cleaners.

The only kind of union that could fight for this effectively is one which organises all workers, regardless of grade or function.

I SPY RCIs

Revenue Control Inspectors (RCIs) have increasingly been working in full uniform, whereas many operations were previously undertaken in plain clothes.

By putting more uniformed staff on stations, LU is attempting to mask the impact of their job cuts. It makes it more difficult for the RCIs to do their job.

There's a conversation we should have as a workforce about fares and revenue. *Tubeworker* believes public transport should be properly funded so fares could be massively reduced, or even made free. In such conditions there'd be a strong case for absorbing the RCI role into the general operational

But whatever we think about public transport funding, the way RCIs are currently being used is a hypocritical sham.

SNARESBROOK STABBING SAFETY CONCERNS

Someone was stabbed at Snaresbrook station after getting off a Night Tube service on 22 October. Stations at the east end of the Central Line are frequently single-staffed, or not staffed at all.

Whether we are able to deal with incidents like this is almost down to pot luck.

Tubeworker also hears that the driver of the train on which the incident began, and who witnessed the incident, was not given any support by LU, and was only spoken to by a DRM once they booked off at 07:00.

TUBE LINES WIN

Tube Lines staff have won their long fight for pensions and pay parity with other LU workers.

A long-running union campaign has secured equal access to the TfL Pension Fund for all existing and future Tube Lines staff, as well as a pay uplift at the same level secured across the rest of LU.

The disparity between Tube Lines workers and other LU workers was a legacy of the disastrous Public Private Partnership (PPP), a failed experiment in outsourcing and privatisation. Union members in Tube Lines never gave up their fight for reintegration and equality, a fight in which they have now won significant victories.

Their example should inspire other outsourced workers to step up their fight for equality.

YES WE KHAN?

Sadiq Khan has met with the Chancellor, Phillip Hammond, to discuss a "wish list" of devolved powers for the Greater London Assembly (GLA).

Unfortunately, his list doesn't seem to have included a demand for the Tory government to reinstate the billions of pounds they're cutting from TfL's central government subsidy.

Sadiq needs to tell the Tories that, unless they reinstate TfL funding, they face the prospect of prolonged industrial unrest.

And those of us who are Labour Party members or in Labour-affiliated unions might remind Sadiq that, if he should fail to back us, he may well face a revolt within his own party.

What is *Tubeworker*?

Tubeworker is a rank-and-file socialist bulletin, published at least monthly, written by Tube workers, for Tube workers. It is published by the socialist group Workers' Liberty, but is produced in editorial meetings open to all workers. Supporters from outside London Underground can help with public distribution.

Email us at tubeworker@workersliberty.org

***Tubeworker's* blog — workersliberty.org/twblog**

**@Tube_Worker on Twitter
[facebook.com/tubeworker](https://www.facebook.com/tubeworker)**

Subscribe!

Want to get every issue of *Tubeworker* (published at least monthly)? Send us your address along with a tenner (cheques payable to WL Bulletins)

Got a story for *Tubeworker*? We welcome reports and comments from all Tube workers.

Contact us: Workers' Liberty, 20E Tower Workshops, Riley Road, London SE1 3DG, tubeworker@workersliberty.org