

WE STAND FOR



WORKERS' LIBERTY

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We stand for Workers' Liberty

Workers' Liberty is a socialist organisation. Our members are active in, workplaces, Uni campuses, trade unions, the Labour Party, and left politics. We think it is possible to replace capitalism with a better society – socialism. We think that the people who can do this are the working class. This pamphlet sets out what we think, what we do, and what makes us different from other political groups and NGOs. If you agree with the things we are saying, and you want to take part in shaping and driving what we do, then you should become a member.

Contact us on **020 7394 8923** or email **awl@workersliberty.org** if you want more information about how to join or work with us.

For detailed information on what is involved in being a member or a sympathiser and copies of our constitution, code of conduct, safeguarding policy and more go to **workersliberty.org/join-awl**

To be put on our weekly mailing list and be sent details of our meetings and publications sign up here: **workersliberty.org/signup**

We have branches in many cities across the UK and in London. Our online branch brings together activists who live in locations where no branch is yet meeting regularly.

Our activists in industrial sectors meet regularly. Members in particular trade unions, such as Unison and Unite, also meet in union caucuses. Our student members meet fortnightly online. We have a network for women and non-binary members, and a network for LGBT+ members.

1. We want socialism

The system that we live under is capitalism, i.e. production governed by the profiteering of a minority class (the capitalists) who own the major industries and services. Capitalist billionaires and millionaires back up their economic power with ideological domination through multiple channels (TV, press, social media, schooling, etc.)

Through that ideological power, through their close relations with the top people in the unelected state machine (civil service, police, army, etc.), and through the demoralisation and weariness pushed on many working-class people by the conditions of wage-labour, the capitalists also rule politically. They run and influence conservative and far right political parties and dominate parties which claim to stand for working people such as the Labour Party. The winners from this system enjoy mind-boggling wealth, power and privilege. The losers are ground into the dirt.

The time, energy, skills and labour of the vast majority are channelled and organised to create profits for the ruling class. We have little to no say in how our work is carried out — even when we can see that it is

inefficient, environmentally damaging, or dangerous to us. We have even less say in what things get produced: deadly weapons are manufactured instead of climate-saving technology; resources are funnelled into the production of luxuries or socially-useless sectors like high finance. Meanwhile millions around the world go hungry.

Capitalism also concentrates and centralises capital — money, machines, knowledge and tools — into huge aggregates, which with social planning could benefit us all. It generates new technologies which could produce universal basic services and comfort for all, with short working hours for all. It generates technologies for accounting, coordination, and planning too. Most of all, it generates the most concentrated, organised, educated, critical-minded producer class in human history — the modern wage-working class. The working class can both dismantle and replace this system.

Socialism means replacing this system, where capital is king, with genuine democracy. It means taking the production of goods and services out of the hands of the minority and

making it a social good, run for public use and not private gain. It means workers taking control over how their work is done; it means letting everyone decide democratically whether we want to build superyachts or hospitals, nuclear submarines or renewable energy systems. It means using democracy to share out the work rationally, eliminating both unemployment and overwork, and shortening the working week so that more time is freed up for living and for participation in decision-making.

“Under capitalism, solidarity is a weapon of working-class self-defence against exploitation. Under socialism, solidarity will replace profit as the guiding principle of society.”

2. The working class can win socialism

The force that can win socialism in the sense we mean it — a democratic society free of exploitation, a “cooperative commonwealth” — is the working class.

The working class has created permanent mass organisations which aspire to create a new society, as no other exploited class in history has. Again and again in many countries — in Republican Spain 1936–7, Hungary 1956, Portugal 1974–5, Poland 1980–1 — the working class has challenged for power or come close. In Paris 1871 and Russia for some years after 1917, it has won power briefly.

Again and again we have been defeated. No wonder, the capitalist class is the most resourceful and dynamic ruling class in history. When the capitalist class came to power from the 16th century onwards, it had already been able to build up wealth and power under the older, feudal society. The working

class cannot do that. The only power the working class has is its ability to organise. However, we are impeded by our organisations (trade unions and parties) getting taken over by people who do have, or aspire to have, wealth, culture, and leisure in the old society.

The worst of our defeats — by the counter-revolution led by Stalin from 1922 in Russia — created Stalinist ruling classes which disoriented labour movements worldwide. Indeed, they corrupted the very language of socialist discourse. The after-effects of that corruption are still difficult to dispel over 30 years after the fall of Stalinism in Russia.

But defeat is not forever. Capitalism is not forever. The working class has continued to grow, and is now the biggest social class in the world. New generations of the working class, with

new capacities, join us every year. However dynamic it has been at times, including the neoliberal heyday of 1990–2008, capitalism will flounder.

Socialist politics has to be based on the logic of workers’ struggles, or else it is incoherent.

Capitalism organises workers in large workplaces and cities, exposes them to ideas and literature, and compels them to struggle for their wages and conditions. Those workers’ struggles, once they reach a certain size, can and do spill over into a struggle for workers’ control of production. Workers’ control points the way to a new society, producing for democratic and social provision and not for profit.

The working class has no class beneath it to exploit. It is a class of people who by definition have no source of wealth but their ability to labour. Also, the working class can

only exercise power collectively — whether that's over a workplace, a community, or a country. That unique position means the working class has an interest in fighting for democracy. Indeed, historically it has been the greatest force for democracy worldwide. A society where the working-class majority was in charge would be radically democratic: everyone would have services and a good life and exploitation would finally be at an end.

By “working class” we mean anyone who lives off a wage — not just workers in factories, transport, building sites, mail and delivery services, telecom, etc., but also public servants like teachers, care workers and nurses, as well as workers in bars, shops and restaurants. It also includes the

unemployed, most retired people and those otherwise unable to work. The working class are people who belong to the great majority of society that relies on the sale of labour power, or social provisions like healthcare and benefits won through struggle (what is often called “the social wage”) to live.

Capitalist societies comprise many and varied social layers beyond the working class (maybe 80% of the population in Britain) on the one hand, and the capitalist class and its entourage of top managers, lawyers, consultants, etc. The other 15% or so include full-time students, some self-employed people, lower managers, etc. All history tells us that this 15% will fragment in big class battles. Many will be won over to the working class, others to conservatives and the

far right. Students from middle-class backgrounds can be won over to a working-class cause in large numbers, provide invaluable help in the struggle, and go on after university to become worker-organisers within the working class.

Too often in the past, socialists have looked to forces other than workers to win socialism, be they reform-minded liberal sections of ruling classes, the Stalinist states, or whatever. Workers' Liberty doesn't agree with that approach. We think the path to liberation lies through workers' struggles, moving from defensive battles over conditions of working and living, to the overthrow of the capitalist order and the creation of a new one.

3. Socialism is not state tyranny

Socialism is probably the most misunderstood word in history. Some describe the police states in Russia and Eastern Europe, which collapsed in 1989–1991 as socialist. Others say that the North Korean dictatorship, or the anti-worker Chinese state, are examples of socialism. But these regimes are not remotely socialist.

Some people think that the Soviet Union under the dictatorship of Joseph Stalin (1920s–1953) and up to its collapse in 1991 was socialist because “everything belonged to the state”. But who did the state belong to? In the Soviet Union, it belonged to the bureaucratic ruling class. The working class cannot collectively own anything in the absence of democracy. In Stalin's Soviet Union, a privileged minority ruled.

The Stalinist system — secret police overseeing a country ruled by a narrow bureaucracy, with great inequality and no legal trade unions — was created in the Soviet Union as a result of the isolation and defeat of the 1917 workers' revolution following the failure of revolutions elsewhere in Europe. This system was then exported to Eastern Europe by military means or was replicated by forces looking to the USSR as a model in China, North Korea, Yugoslavia etc.

This Stalinist economic and political model was also attractive to many local elites in the Global South, who pictured themselves developing



Tiananmen Square

the economies of their oppressed countries as they imagined Stalin had developed Russia in the 1930s–50s, and personally acquiring power and wealth. Stalinism destroys the workers' movement. Even in Cuba, the most “easy-going” regime of this kind, trade unions which are independent of state control are banned.

Because workers' organisation was stymied for decades, when mass revolts brought down the Stalinist states in Eastern Europe in 1989–91, parts of the old ruling class were able to shape what came next into a brutal “shock therapy” capitalism. Workers there lacked the means to defend themselves adequately against the intruding capitalist system, or the ability to discuss and develop alternative models. In the 1980s, the forerunners of Workers' Liberty organised solidarity with underground workers' movements in Poland and other Stalinist states,

organising political support for their organisations, and smuggling equipment to help them.

Socialism has to mean democracy — more democracy than we have today. It means extending democracy into all the spheres that are controlled by bosses and bureaucrats. It means workers taking control of the industries they work in; it means society making collective decisions about what we want our cities to look like, how we want our public services to run — and it has to mean free, public debate over those things. It means freeing people from the drudgery of work, cutting working hours and removing the burden of poverty and insecurity. That is the exact opposite of what the Stalinist system offered in the past, or what that system's successor states offer now in China, Cuba or North Korea.

4. Revolution and reform

We want to see a revolution — the movement of the working class and the oppressed dismantling the old unelected state machinery, and replacing it with a government of its own, a system of accountable representatives, responsible to the mass movement and without the privileges and secrecy enjoyed by today's MPs and senior civil servants, and implementing policy in the interests of the majority. We want to see all industries taken into the hands of the people who work and rely on them, and run as public services.

We are for left unity on a principled basis. For a start, we push for unity in action of left groups where we have agreement, honest and open debate where we disagree.

We develop the revolutionary ideas which will help workers take power by studying how capitalism works, the writings of past revolutionaries, and the experience of previous

workers' revolutions. One of the jobs of a socialist organisation is to be a "memory of the working class". We publish our own books, study the "classics" of socialism, and run educational events. Educating ourselves is one of our first priorities as socialists.

We all live under a constant downpour of ruling-class ideologies, many of them crafted to appear "radical" and "dissident". There is a constant pressure on the left to short-cut into "negativism", saying yes where the capitalists closest to hand say no, or thinking our enemy's enemy must be a friend. We can serve solidarity and clarification, and we can learn from the workers whom we cooperate with in struggles, only if we study and keep our studies constantly updated.

Wanting a revolution doesn't mean that we sit around waiting for a wave of struggle that's "good enough" to come along. Our job is to organise

now! Every reform that the working class can win in the here and now moves us forward towards our ultimate goal. Higher wages, more rights and freedoms, stopping abuses or discrimination — winning such things makes our lives better, and empowers and educates people on a large scale. Only by going through many such empowering and educational experiences will it be possible for people to make a revolution.

When workers stand up for their interests as a collective, the result is always a more equal, more democratic, more civilised society. We want to take those struggles further, organisationally and politically — trying to develop every small win as a bridge to a higher level of organisation and struggle, and also to maximise the positive lessons learned when (as sometimes, inevitably) the workers are defeated.

5. Transforming the labour and socialist movements

Workers' Liberty is too small an organisation to be a revolutionary party — a party with the resources and influence to lead the majority of the labour movement and the oppressed in major actions. Such a party is necessary. It will emerge only from future radicalisations, and from regroupments of various parts of the workers' movement, and it is not possible to predict the timing or detail of those things in advance. We work to build a coherent political nucleus which will take part in those processes as a constructive, enlightening, inspiring element. We criticise those who pretend that their existing small groups are already real "parties", or who subordinate the interests of class struggle to the petty self-preservation or self-promotion of the funds, property, etc. of their particular group.

Overturns led by authoritarian military or religious formations (in Cambodia, Iran and elsewhere) have often been described as revolutions, and indeed have been revolutions in the sense of quick, drastic changes

of society with mass mobilisation. The East European overturns of 1989–90 were also revolutions, but safely controlled-from-above bourgeois revolutions.

We aim for a working-class socialist revolution, which is something different. A socialist revolution, and the big struggles that will open the road to it, will be done by the working-class movement, not by some elite squad. That is why we say that our

main job as a socialist collective is to transform that movement, to expand its reach, to democratise it, to make it livelier in the workplace and beyond, and to inspire it with socialist politics.

In Britain, and around the world, the working class creates organisations for its self-defence — trade unions, political parties, tenants' unions, campaign groups of many different kinds.

In Britain in 2024, trade unions have

Democracy and debate on the left

The cause of democracy can only be furthered by a democratic organisation.

That means that we respect the rights of comrades who disagree to air that disagreement, internally and in public. We make space on our website and in our newspaper to carry debate where we disagree

among ourselves. We think that the habit of some left groups and NGOs of demanding that all their supporters pretend in public to support the majority view, regardless of their private beliefs, is corrosive.

We seek out debate with different left wing tendencies as well as cooperation in activity where we have sufficient agreement for that. We think that the way to get a more united, better socialist movement is for socialists to discuss our differences properly, and in public.

around seven million members. The potential power of this movement is enormous. But the trade union movement is not fit for purpose. It is slow-moving, conservative, and bureaucratic. When national union leaderships do organise strikes, they often do it half-heartedly — only as an exercise in "showing willing" or "damage limitation". At the grassroots level, there is often a lack of "reps" or workplace activists.

Another obstacle lies in the way that

trade union leaders often draw huge salaries and lead affluent lives which are out of step with the experiences of their members. The workers' movement needs to develop accountable leaders from its own ranks, who are paid a "worker's wage".

There are whole sections of the UK economy which are not organised by trade unions at all, or have only very weak union organisation. Here, mostly in the private sector, exploitation and abuse can run rampant. We need to

organise the unorganised!

Britain has some of the most restrictive anti-union laws in Western Europe, as Tony Blair boasted in 1997. These prevent solidarity strikes and impose major hurdles to strike action.

The strength of the labour movement may be shackled, but it nevertheless exists as a potential, as something to be mobilised, made conscious of its power and freed from anti-union laws.

6. We want a workers' government

The class struggle doesn't only take place in the workplace, through strikes. It happens throughout society, and in the realm of politics, too. Currently, the UK working class's only political representation is through the Labour Party. Lenin called this party a "bourgeois workers' party" — a party based in the working class, but dominated by pro-capitalist leaders and policies. The Labour leadership is propped up by the trade union leaders, who are not acting in their members' interests.

The working class needs representatives who are accountable to the grassroots of the movement. The workers' movement should aim not just to push capitalist governments to offer them this or that reform, but aim at winning a government of its own, controlled by the movement, and which will fight as ruthlessly in the interests of workers as the Tories fight for the capitalist class.

The fight for that better political representation starts with the millions of workers who are currently members of unions, especially those unions which are affiliated to the Labour Party. We want to see a fight by workers to demand that their leaders really represent their interests in politics, which is why we are active in the Labour Party, promoting real socialist policies and trying to group together an opposition that supports pro-working-class policies. Probably, though not certainly, a big working-class radicalisation in Britain will produce, and partly be expressed in, a radicalisation within the Labour Party too (maybe with the Labour Party moving left as a body, maybe with a split).

Britain has long parliamentary



traditions. We seek socialist working-class rule through forms much more democratic than Parliament. But that will not come simply through declaring that an improvised structure of workers' councils will replace parliamentary democracy. Especially so when that parliamentary democracy was in large part won by working-class battles, and when it is visibly improvable.

It is very unlikely that a revolution will be completed through Parliament. Radical left action through Parliament

will be blocked by the House of Lords, by the monarchy, by the courts, by the unelected bureaucratic or even military machine of the state.

But we fight to broaden parliamentary democracy (annual Parliaments, right of recall over MPs, abolition of House of Lords and monarchy, abolition of the power of ministers to legislate behind the back of Parliament, etc.) and to win as much as we can from it. In 1975 a mild reformist Labor government in Australia was blocked by the Governor-General (as the representative of the monarchy) dissolving Parliament. A mass strike wave in response failed to stop a right-wing government being installed in its place.

Workers' councils — a more flexible and responsive form of democracy, with right of recall, full control by the elected assembly over executive powers, and all representatives and officials on workers' wages — may well develop from the logic of struggle rather than from an abstract model. They would be the means of working-class self-defence in such a situation, as the focus of the battle is inevitably moved outside Parliament.

Labour Campaign for Free Movement

As part of our opposition to the many-pronged attack on workers' rights represented by Brexit, activists in Workers' Liberty linked up with activists in the Labour Party and trade unions in order to support the Labour Campaign for Free Movement (LCFM). This was an attempt to force the Labour leadership to push back against anti-migrant demagoguery,

and pledge to defend and extend migrant rights, in defiance of the far-right Brexit project. LCFM became a well-known campaign in the Labour Party and was able to get its policy passed at 2019 Conference (a policy which is still on the books, although all party leaders since then have refused to uphold it). LCFM is still active.

7. We need working-class action on the environment

Climate change, and other environmental dangers such as mass species extinction, ocean acidification and so on, are products of capitalism. The solutions to them are not a mystery. We need a huge, world-wide programme of work to re-fit homes, transport, and industry to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the impact of climate change.

The obstacle is such programmes run counter to the short-term profit interests of some of the most powerful capitalists in the world. The big oil and gas companies have been strong enough to continue to flourish even when governments talk about converting from fossil-fuels. The degree of social planning by governments required to direct this urgent work would make



New South Wales green ban

unacceptable inroads into the divine right of capital to rule, and of rival capitalist states to seek competitive advantage against each other.

We think that the working class must confront the power of capitalists in order to drive through the repurposing work that we need.

This will take a big movement with great strength. Unfortunately, the contemporary environmental

movement is often self-limiting. The strategy of small, brave bands of activists staging spectacular disruption to attract attention, inevitably getting many arrested, is necessarily limiting. We need to mobilise the power of the great majority of society around climate demands.

As well as a street movement, we also need to use social power in the workplace. We take inspiration from the workers' transition plan drawn up by Lucas Aerospace workers in 1976, the "green bans" enforced by New South Wales (Australia) building workers in the early 1970s, or the 2009 workers' occupation to stop the closure of the Vestas wind turbine blade factory (which was sparked by activists in Workers' Liberty).

We aim to convince environmental activists to look to the working-class movement as their greatest ally. We work to persuade the labour movement to take on climate change as an urgent priority.

Vestas

In 2009, what was then Britain's only wind turbine blade factory on the Isle of Wight was set to be closed by its owners, Vestas. 600 workers would be laid off. Members of Workers' Liberty went and spent weeks living on the Isle of Wight in order to get talking with workers at that factory — where there was no union organisation — and help them organise themselves to resist the closure. The workers launched an

occupation of the plant. While this isolated action wasn't strong enough to force the Labour government to win the workers' key demand, nationalise the plant to save wind production, workers got increased redundancy pay and the battle was a breakthrough moment in connecting the workers' movement with climate activism. The Vestas struggle is an example of how we seek to act as agitators to spark political workers' action on the environment.

8. Reject division – unite with migrant workers

The working class has no country — workers in Britain have more in common with workers in any other country than we do with "our own" ruling class.

We opposed Brexit for this reason. The right-wing campaign for Brexit was organised around the central lie that British people's problems are caused by foreigners.

The campaigns run by successive governments — including Labour governments — against immigrants

and immigration divide workers. No capitalist government can do without immigration. But by taking rights away from migrant workers and refugees, capitalists can create a vulnerable group of "second class citizens" who are easy to exploit. The answer to this is not for British workers to demand the removal of migrant workers — but to level up conditions for all workers in Britain so that we can all enjoy the same rights.

In recent years migrant workers

have mounted many important strike movements to win better pay and conditions, and basic respect. These movements show the way to overcome exploitation of migrant labour — not demanding more raids and deportations.

We favour freedom of movement for all. The fewer restrictions there are on the rights of migrant workers and refugees, the stronger everyone's rights will be.

9. We are internationalists, not nationalists

We support the liberation of oppressed peoples around the world. We are for an independent Palestine, with equal rights to Israel and free of Israeli occupation; we are for self-determination for the Kurdish people; we support Ukraine's bid to defeat Putin's invasion.

We support anti-colonial movements and national liberation movements because we support democracy. The

desire for a nation to be free is a basic democratic right. As Marx said, no nation which oppresses another can itself be free. Imperial victories abroad tend to strengthen the hands of our rulers at home.

But we are not nationalists, we are socialists. We do not want to see the peoples of oppressor nations "punished". We don't want to see, for instance, the oppression of the

Palestinians replaced with the military destruction of Israel. We don't want to see the horrors of Turkey's war against the Kurds visited on the workers of Turkey. We want workers' unity across borders to replace national hatreds. That means that we are for equal rights for all peoples and all nations, as the first step of a programme to do away first with national hatreds and then with nationalism altogether.

Against racism and xenophobia, we stand for workers' unity. We do not think that there are "good" nations and "bad" nations. For instance, we think that the crimes of the Israeli state against the Palestinians does not mean that antisemitism is not real. That antisemitism exists in some parts of the left — whether expressed as systematic hostility to all Israelis and to all Jews who empathise with Israelis, however critically, or as a kind of conspiracy theory — is a fact, and not an invention of the Israeli embassy, as some have claimed.

Standing Together

Standing Together is an organisation of Palestinian and Jewish citizens of Israel that fights for equal rights for all in Israel-Palestine. Standing Together has spearheaded a movement in Israel against the war which started in October 2023. The organisation has also set up a "Humanitarian Guard" which opposes settler violence, and successfully

stopped settler efforts to block aid convoys getting into Gaza. Workers' Liberty supports Standing Together and has helped create "Friends of Standing Together" groups around the UK. We work to amplify the voices of the Arab and Jewish activists in Standing Together. We are for "two states" in Israel-Palestine — a real independent Palestinian state alongside Israel — and full equality for the Palestinian minority within Israel.

10. We are socialist feminists

In many countries of the world women still have to win even formal equality. Even where women have legal rights, as in the UK, sexism, economic inequality and political and social exclusion continue. These experiences are made worse for women of colour by structural racism at all levels of society. These conditions make women vulnerable to gender-based violence.

Around the world women do different work and for less pay than men. In the UK women have higher rates of part-time work and on average experience a lower rate of pay. At the same time housework and care is still predominantly a woman's domain. Women who devote time to early-years childcare suffer a deterioration in their job prospects.

Women's oppression is fundamentally not rooted in our biology, but in the way capitalism reproduces gender and other long-term inequalities. Lower wages and less access to resources are justified by that gender

inequality.

The oppressions of trans, non-binary, intersex and gender-nonconforming people are also rooted in restrictive and oppressive gender relations, perpetuated by capitalism. Transphobia and misogyny are closely linked. Oppressive gender relations are made worse under far right and theocratic regimes.

We organise for socialist feminist politics which integrate the needs of working-class women, women of colour, and LGBT+ people. We

fight against gendered capitalist exploitation and oppression.

An important fight today is that for reproductive justice and against right-wing bigots who attack our rights in this area. We are for abortion rights, trans health care, contraception, sexual health, and social provision of childcare and care for the elderly and vulnerable.

We fight on an internationalist basis championing the women's movements from Latin America, to Iran and to Eastern Europe.



Pro-choice protest in Mexico

11. Fighting racism

People from ethnic minorities are now nearly 14% of the UK population, some eight-to-nine million people, not including people who identify as being of mixed heritage. The UK working class is diverse! But even before post-World War Two immigration from the Commonwealth, there was the long-term presence of African, Indian and Chinese people in the UK as well as Jewish, Roma and Irish people.

Racist discrimination is not a thing of the past, but because of equality legislation it has shifted towards less overt forms and more insidious harms, such as bullying at work. Yet discrimination is based on racist ideologies and stereotypes and treating people as outsiders, as not a “fit”, or less able. Young people are often at the sharp end of racist discrimination, for example through police harassment.

Much of British public life is now steeped in anti-Muslim racism, and this is a central, motivating part of the ideology of the far right, and is also used by the conventional bourgeois

right wing. It is necessary to defend Muslims and mosques against far right violence.

How workers from ethnic minority backgrounds were disproportionately adversely affected by the pandemic, threw up a greater awareness of how racial, gender and class inequalities combine. Our labour movement must

learn those lessons and fight in the key areas of racist discrimination: over lower rates of employment, experiences of racist discrimination in education and work, and persistent economic deprivation: lower wages, poorer housing, less access to services.

Sheffield Couriers

In 2019, Workers’ Liberty’s branch in Sheffield started talking to food delivery workers in the city centre, and got in touch with the IWGB union, which had organised several branches of food couriers in other cities in the UK. Soon, a large and multi-lingual union branch of mostly migrant workers formed in Sheffield. With the help of Sheffield’s Workers’ Liberty activists, this soon became one of the largest and most visible local organisations of gig economy workers in the UK (if not the biggest).

In 2022, Stuart, a delivery contractor working for JustEat,

slashed workers’ pay. Couriers in Sheffield responded by launching a six-month campaign of strikes, which spread to dozens of other locations across the country.

At the time, this was the largest and most sustained organised campaign of strikes by gig-economy food couriers to have taken place in the UK. Our decision to put our energy into helping these couriers get organised reflects our slogan: “Organise the unorganised!”. Many such campaigns will be needed in order to reinvigorate the workers’ movement, especially among groups of workers whom many today regard as “impossible to organise”.

12. Fighting the far right

The far right is on the rise across the world, both in electoralist versions (Trump, Le Pen, AfD, Modi, Farage, etc.) and scrappier street-fighting versions (for example, the man calling himself “Tommy Robinson”).

The central organisers of these disgusting movements are a faction of capitalists but the foot soldiers and public faces of the far right are often small business people. They also mobilise support among white working-class people who are disoriented, disorganised and demoralised in the face of inequality and serious economic and social problems. They may be attracted by the fake answers the far right offers: bashing migrants and minorities.

We think that the way to isolate the far right and bar its path to growth is for the workers’ movement to win socialist answers to social problems. We also need to organise community and labour movement self defence

to physically confront and stop the far right when they try to march or organise. At the moment much of the trade union movement “outsources” its anti-racist work to campaign groups like Stand Up to Racism. We think that the unions and workplace activists

need to mobilise workers directly, through political activity in workplaces, to defend our communities, defend migrants and argue for jobs and housing.



Be a socialist organiser!

What we do and how we organise

Workers' Liberty is an organisation that seeks to renew socialist politics and transform the workers' movement in order to bring about a workers' government and a socialist revolution.

This requires serious effort — week in, week out. It takes activity on the streets, in our communities and in our workplaces; and it requires industrial, political and educational work.

In every city or area where we have activists, we form a local branch which meets weekly. In these branch meetings, we discuss the week's big political events, talk about how our activism of the last week has gone, and set plans for the following week.

Nationally, we organise our trade union work through "fractions". Activists in a given industry (say, transport, or health), will meet on a national level to discuss our work in their sector, for example, developing proposals to bring to national union conferences. We also have fractions for student, LGBT+ and Women and Non-Binary members.

Each branch and fraction elects its own organiser to facilitate its work.

Workers' Liberty's highest decision-making body is our annual conference, open to all members. Our National Committee (NC) is elected at our annual conference and meets every six weeks. Any member can bring a motion to the conference, or to the NC.

The NC elects an Executive

Committee (EC) which meets every week, to respond more quickly to events and to make sure that our decisions are carried out. NC and EC minutes are circulated to all members, and minority voices on the committees are free to argue their views among the membership.

The weekly rhythm of our activism is important — it makes us accessible and consistent, and able to respond to and shape fast-moving events.

1. Organising at work

Organising at work is central to what we do. Workers' Liberty activists argue for socialist ideas among our workmates, build workplace union organisation and do what we can to build solidarity, confidence and political consciousness in our workplaces. This work can be difficult: we run training events and discuss problems at work at the national and local level.

We do not just want to replace the existing trade union leaderships, but we also want to make the unions radically more democratic, and to build up the ability of grassroots members to steer what their union does.

We do that through a mixture of grassroots work at the local level and campaigning in the unions nationally: for more democracy, for all strikes to

Ukraine solidarity

After Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine began in 2022, Workers' Liberty made contact with workers' organisations in Ukraine to offer our solidarity. We sent delegations to Lviv to meet with socialist and workers' organisations while Russian bombs fell. We have organised a tour of Ukrainian socialist-feminist activists around the UK.

We organised networks of pro-Ukraine workplace activists within British trade unions, and pushed — successfully — for the UK workers' movement to raise the demand "Arm Ukraine". We also organised rallies in support of Ukraine and the anti-war movement in Russia in several cities around the UK.

We support the Ukraine Solidarity Campaign.

be run by elected strike committees, and for full-time union officials to be paid a normal worker's wage by the union.

Where we have a member in a workplace, we will try to produce a "workplace bulletin" — a regular newsletter written by and for our colleagues which mixes a socialist political message with news, jokes and observations about life in that workplace. This is an old socialist

Our traditions

In Workers' Liberty we see ourselves as standing in the political tradition of Leon Trotsky and the Left Opposition he helped to create. The Left Opposition was an attempt by Russian workers and revolutionaries to defeat the Stalinist counter-revolution which developed from the early 1920s and by around 1929 had crushed the Bolshevik party and all workers' organisations in the USSR.

The bureaucratic counter-revolution in the USSR also led to the gradual crushing of the independent thought

and life that the Communist Parties around the world had when they were first created, inspired by the Russian workers' revolution.

By the 1930s the Communist Parties had been converted into pressure groups for Russian foreign policy. They might support strikes and protests against their own ruling class, but any revolution they led would produce a new bureaucratic regime modelled (with variations) on the USSR, as in Yugoslavia, Vietnam, China, etc.

The "Trotskyists" sought to organise those communists and working-

class fighters around the world who held to the ideals of the pre-Stalin communist and socialist movements. We seek to connect with and develop the traditions of those fighters, and of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Luxemburg and the "heterodox" or "Third Camp" Trotskyists after 1940 such as Max Shachtman and Hal Draper.

We share ideas and experiences with Trotskyist organisations in other countries worldwide, and with the Workers' Liberty group in Australia. Our aim is the creation of a renewed revolutionary international organisation.

method of organisation that goes back to the days of the Bolsheviks: by doing it, we aim to create a workplace culture of solidarity and spread the influence of socialist ideas among our colleagues.

2. Socialist education

Education is central to our vision of socialism. In order for the working class to rule, it needs to build up a lively culture of political self-education and debate, and refine and popularise socialist ideas.

We organise one-to-one and collective reading of socialist texts, as well as study of contemporary radical ideas from different traditions and discussions of past big class battles and revolutions. We often organise dayschools, locally, regionally and nationally, to do this. We also produce video and audio content as well as books, pamphlets and articles. We encourage all of our members to take part in producing the educational resources that we use.

More broadly, we promote political education as part of a programme of democratising and energising our movement, especially in the trade unions.

3. Arguing for socialism

We produce a regular socialist newspaper – *Solidarity* – which our members sell on the streets, at demonstrations and meetings, door-to-door, in their workplaces and to friends and neighbours. We

use the newspaper to offer socialist commentary on current events, report news on struggles distorted or unreported by bourgeois media, spread basic socialist ideas, and carry in-depth pieces on the history of the workers' movement, or debates on contentious issues among leftwingers. We encourage people to write in and enrich the debate.

We also regularly publish pamphlets and books of our own writings and that of the historical socialist movement to extend and enrich our political education and culture.

4. Political campaigning

We start, and get involved in, campaigns on the streets and in the workers' movement. We play an important part in campaigns to defend migrants' rights, protest attacks on abortion rights, abolish tuition fees, oppose the far right on the streets, and express solidarity with workers' struggles and oppressed peoples around the world.

We are active in the Labour Party. Despite the leadership's repeated attempts to ban our ideas from its ranks, friends of Workers' Liberty move motions, argue for socialist policies, and organise at Labour Party conference. In Labour-affiliated trade unions, we push for workers to hold their representatives to account: the unions' voice in Labour should be the property of all union members; and the unions should fight for workers' interests in politics!

We aim to build up a class-struggle

and sixth form students.

NCAFC issued a call for walk-outs from schools and colleges on 24 November 2010 and over 130,000 young people took part, alongside many occupations in universities. NCAFC went on to win the National Union of Students and ultimately the Labour leadership (under Corbyn) to supporting a position of free education, argued for the student movement to link up with the workers' movement and organised many big demonstrations and occupations.

NCAFC was an example of how we work to unite people with many different political viewpoints in immediate struggles.

Our yearly calendar

Every year, in addition to local public meetings and dayschools, we organise three national public events.

Ideas for Freedom, held in London, is a festival of political discussion, with talks, debates, film showings, parties and radical history walking tours. Every August we hold a camp in the countryside for a mix of sports, hikes, swimming, campfires and political discussion. And Women's Fightback sponsors an annual event called All the Rage, at which activists from around the UK come to learn and discuss about socialist-feminist ideas.

left in the Labour Party which can challenge the power of the pro-capitalist right wing which currently dominates it; and which can be a serious voice for pro-working-class, socialist politics on the national stage.

5. Student activism

We argue that student activists should look to the workers' movement. To challenge the marketisation of education, and promote democratic universities, we organise student action in solidarity with university workers' struggles, and campaign for free education, funded by taxing the rich. Our student members organise with other radical-minded students to get involved in the class struggle. We organise regular socialist political discussions at many universities.

6. Feminist struggles

Alongside our newspaper *Solidarity*, we publish a feminist magazine, *Women's Fightback*. The publication promotes class struggle, socialist-feminist politics and debate, and provides a framework for organising feminist campaigning and educational work.

In London, other cities and online we run monthly Socialist Feminist Book Clubs, at which we read and discuss contemporary and historic feminist books from a socialist point of view. Details of those can be found here: workersliberty.org/sf-book-clubs

NCAFC

Following a round of course closures and austerity in Higher Education in 2009, students in Workers' Liberty reached out to many local campus activist groups and other far left groups to set up a national, political movement for free education and against education cuts: the "National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts" (NCAFC).

In 2010, this united front was a catalyst for the student movement against the Lib-Dem/Tory government's move to triple tuition fees and scrap Education Maintenance Allowance for college

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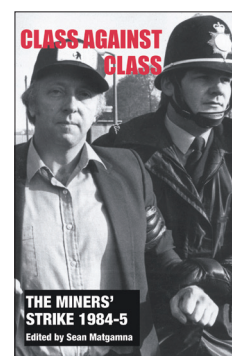
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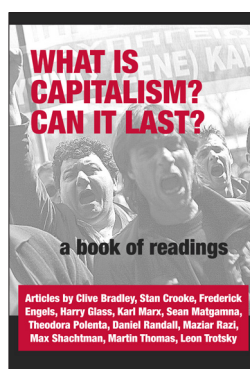
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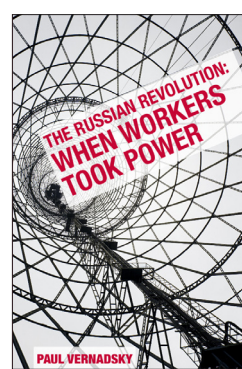
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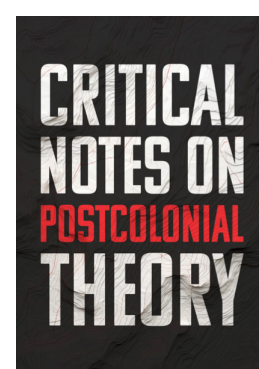
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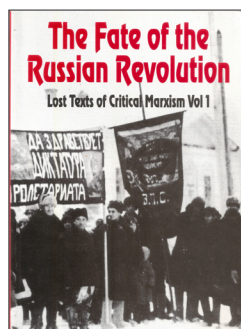
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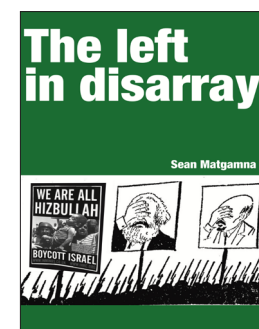
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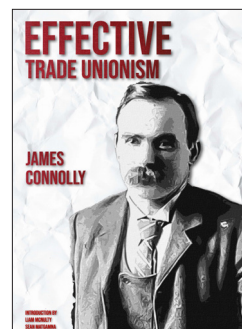
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