

tubeworker

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WORKERS' UNITY AGAINST THE FAR RIGHT

Demonstrations on 9 June and 14 July saw the far right out in force, in their greatest numbers since the 1930s.

The demonstrations have been organised in support of Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, aka "Tommy Robinson", recently jailed for contempt of court. After the demonstration on 14 July, a group of far-right thugs attacked people in a Westminster pub, including a number of Tube workers and RMT members. Far-right activists also attacked a female Muslim bus driver while she was working.

These events should be a wake-up call. A growing far right is a threat to the labour movement.

Our workplaces on London Underground are multiracial and include many workers from migrant backgrounds. At work, we all pull together to get the job done, and when we take action, we stand side-by-side on the picket line. We know we have common interests as workers, interests that we share against our bosses, regardless of the colour of our skin or whether we

SAFETY AT WORK

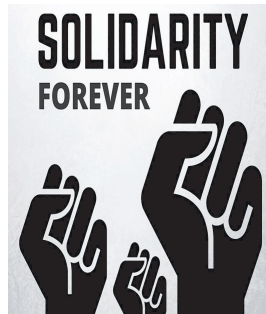
Many of us, such as station staff and cleaners, could face particular risks as far-right mobilisations grow.

If large groups of fascists are moving through our stations on demo days, we could face attack.

Remember: you can refuse to work if you feel unsafe. If workers' safety is compromised, stations should be closed.

Our unions must back any groups of workers taking such a stance.

were born in this country. Our daily experiences are a living reminder that the divisions the far right wants to impose are artificial and destructive.



Trade unions seek to organise all workers, regardless of ethnicity or national origin. This fundamental mission of working-class unity means we are necessarily counterposed to the politics of the far right. Whenever far-right movements have grown and become powerful, they have sought to smash trade unions.

SCAPEGOATS

Low wages, lack of affordable housing, and cuts to services have led to widespread social despair and alienation in many communities in Britain.

In these conditions, the racist and nationalist narratives offered by the far right can seem appealing, with their easy scapegoats and simple solutions, which blame immigrants for all these ills and claim that by ending immigration, life will be better for "white workers".

Immigrants are not to blame for these problems. They are the result of political choices made by successive governments to pursue austerity economics. All workers - British-born and migrant - have suffered at the hands of these policies. Furthermore, many migrants and refugees have come to Britain because of the impact of British foreign policies in their home countries.

We should defend migrants' rights, including from the threats posed to them by Brexit, which will end the right of free movement around Europe, and promote radical working-class policies: universal living wages; mass council house building; reversal of cuts and privatisations of services; all funded by taxation of the rich and the public ownership of the banks.

Moreover, Robinson's stand against "grooming gangs" is a hypocritical attempt to cynically exploit an issue to advance racist politics. He committed contempt of court, apparently deliberately, in a case that means alleged child abusers may walk free. Sexual abuse of women and girls is not a problem that would be solved by restricting immigration, as the far right proposes. Robinson's movement pushes a deeply nationalist agenda that is evolving increasingly in the direction of white supremacy. Fascists and neo-Nazis like Generation Identity are involved in his movement and have been present on their demonstrations.

Through our unions, we can stand together against racism and fascism, opposing the far right when they mobilise in the streets, and promoting a socialist politics than can provide real answers to the despair on which they feed.

On the back:

All the latest workplace news and stories, including updates on the Piccadilly Line drivers' dispute and the strikes at Ruislip depot.

TRANSPLANT WORKERS TO STRIKE AGAIN ON 3 AUGUST



Transplant is a department within London Underground, formerly part of TubeLines. Some may know Transplant as the "Ballast Trains", or maybe the "Engineers Train Unit" (ETU).

Workers on Transplant maintenance teams feel they have played, and continue to play, a vital and pivotal role in the success and safe operation of this department and that they should receive recognition for this.

Since 2017, Transplant workers have been fighting for pay parity. RMT began talks with the company before Christmas 2017 and felt that good progress had been made and the company had recognised our aspirations of achieving pay parity with the Engineers Train Operators.

Since then however there have been no meaningful talks or progress towards this aim. That's why our dispute has escalated.

During the course of this dispute we have found management to actually be some of our best recruiters. Their actions have enraged staff, caused tensions to escalate to boiling point, and have left industrial relations in a state of disrepair.

The new anti-trade union laws passed in 2016 meant we had to re-ballot. A massive majority vote was secured demonstrated a continued determination to fight on. Transplant maintenance workers struck for 24 hours from 12 July. Due to possession works being scaled back, the decision was taken to suspend further strikes planned for 13 and 15 July.

More strikes are now scheduled to take place from 19:00 on Friday 3 August.

We hope to resolve this dispute and ensure workplace justice for Transplant maintenance workers for many years to come.

NIGHT TUBE HEALTH NIGHTMARE

LUL has recently issued Night Tube workers with a legally-required health questionnaire, two years after Night Tube was launched.

Many staff have not received it. Those that have completed it have had no response. It's almost as though the company doesn't really give much of a toss about Night Tube staff's health. If the company is going to treat an issue as a tick-box exercise, it could at least tick the boxes.

Remember: law states that if your doctor says that you have a medical problem that is brought on by night work, your employer has to give you alternative work if possible.

CALL IT A NIGHT?

CSAs working shifts till 00:20 are left asking what they are still doing on Friday or Saturday when Night Tube staff have already booked on.

We don't want to see staff cut but once all the night turns have started in a lot of cases by 23:00 why do other staff still need to hang around?

CSS/CSMs can definitely make themselves popular by letting these staff get away.

EIGHT DAYS A WEEK?

The Stations Framework makes clear that we may work eight days "in order to facilitate the provision of a long weekend and to minimise split rest days".

But a few station workers have found themselves given eight-day stretches in their cover weeks, with only two - or even one! - rest days following them.

This isn't on. As cover week shifts are supposed to mirror the patterns of rostered weeks anyway, there's absolutely no reason why this should be happening at all. Union reps have raised the issue with senior managers and are expecting a commitment to respect the Framework.

If that commitment is not forthcoming, we might need to find other ways to take days off...



"GOLDFISH BOWL" SAGA CONTINUES

Drivers' union reps on the Bakerloo Line have been raising the issue of the shocking condition of the "Goldfish Bowl", the step-back room on the platform at Elephant and Castle, since around the time London Underground was still using steam-powered trains.

Tubeworker isn't sure what firm has been engaged to do these refurbishment works, but whoever they are, they're taking their time about it.

If we took the same attitude to getting things done promptly and efficiently as LUL has taken to this, the entire job would go up the wall.

PICC STRIKES SUSPENDED

Drivers' strikes planned on the Picc for 12-15 July were suspended after bosses offered RMT a settlement.

Among other things, the deal commits management to maintaining existing staffing levels at Picc depots.

The big majority in the ballot for strikes shows the strength of feeling on the line. The strike was only suspended: the dispute remains live.

If there's even the merest sniff of management reneging on their commitments, new strikes should be called.

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.

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