

# ***OPPOSE STATE RACISM AND THE FAR RIGHT***

US President Donald Trump stands for racism, misogyny and imperialism – but he is far from alone. We cannot let ourselves pretend that Trump is an isolated problem.

Here in the UK, Theresa May is struggling to push through a Brexit deal while holding together a government torn between defending the interests of British capital and keeping hold of the Tory's reactionary social base of voters.

Her government has shown that they will never stand up to Trump or what he represents. They are too desperate to cling onto their "special relationship" with the US.

## ***HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT***

Whether in the USA, the UK or the EU, enforcing borders always means detention, deportations and death. May's hostile environment brought the logic of borders into every corner of society: landlords, employers, doctors and teachers are all now expected to double up as immigration enforcement.

Millions of people were rightly outraged at the horrifying state-sanctioned treatment endured by the Windrush Generation. In the aftermath of the scandal, politicians across the political spectrum argued that what happened to the Windrush generation was wrong because they should have been recognised as citizens. This is not enough: citizenship can never be a fully inclusive category and no-one should be persecuted for crossing borders. No-one is illegal.

## ***ISLAMOPHOBIA***

In 2001 the US and UK governments launched their "war on terror", killing hundreds of thousands of people. Whenever governments want to bomb and occupy a country, they have to dehumanise the target population. Today

the targets are Muslims. Legitimising Islamophobia has been essential for the government to get away with its military interventions overseas and repression at home. In the name of opposing terrorism and radicalisation, the government have pushed through measures that would have jailed supporters of Gandhi and Mandela. We have seen increased state surveillance while the Prevent anti-radicalisation programme embeds distrust of Muslims in public life.

## ***ANTI-MIGRANT RACISM***

The New Labour, coalition and Tory governments have backed tax-dodging businesses while people face under-employment, precarity, falling wages, benefit cuts, housing insecurity, and vital services, including healthcare being cut and privatised.

Rather than blaming the rich and powerful, we are encouraged to blame each other. The easiest victims for scapegoating are migrants.

It isn't migrant workers keeping wages down, privatising services and allowing a housing crisis to unfold. From Grenfell to the University of London cleaners, migrant workers are often at the forefront of battles to improve all our lives.

## ***MIGRATION AND LABOUR RIGHTS***

Employers want to take advantage of workers who will accept lower wages and worse conditions, and for various reasons, that often applies to migrant workers. On top of that, employers can leverage insecure immigration status to exploit workers more intensely.

When the government introduces measures to further marginalise migrants, it is an attack on all of us. For example, the 2014 Immigration Act meant that the NHS, which used to provide free healthcare to all UK residents, now

requires health workers to act as immigration police. As campaign group Docs Not Cops explain:

*“Charging migrants for healthcare is the first step to normalising charging for everyone. Once the government has a charging system in place, it becomes much easier to gradually expand this to everyone else, regardless of nationality. Racism is being used to undermine our society’s commitment to universal healthcare, and the values of social solidarity which bind our society together.”*

Keeping migrants vulnerable requires institutionalised repression and racism. It gives the state more power over all our lives.

### **NO BORDERS**

After Windrush, Labour announced that they would close two detention centres, end the hostile environment and stop indefinite detention on immigration grounds.

Those measures might make the immigration system less cruel or irrational – but they won’t end the inherent violence of borders. There would still be a network of detention centres across the UK, hyper-exploitation of migrant workers, secretive deportation flights in the dead of night, and people trapped at the French border facing abuse from the police and risking their lives to get to the UK.

European states and capital have pillaged the world militarily, economically and environmentally. At a time in history when over 65 million people are displaced worldwide due to conflict (and 51 percent of refugees are children), it’s not enough to only defend free movement within the EU.

The Mediterranean is a mass grave for people seeking a better life in Europe. The Italian government prevents rescue boats carrying migrants from docking. Greek islands have become open air prisons. Far-right parties are winning power in Italy, Hungary and Austria.

In the words of Warsan Shire: *“No one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land.”*

Fortress Europe must be dismantled. We should fight against hostility to migrants and

the violence of borders. Make unconditional solidarity with all migrants the policy of every union – and the Labour Party.

### **FAR-RIGHT THREAT**

On 9 June around 15,000 joined a racist march in London – the biggest demonstration organised by the far right since WWII. It drew support ranging from the right of the Tory party and UKIP through to supporters of the Football Lads Alliance (FLA), the Democratic Football Lads Alliance (DFLA) and ex-EDL leader Stephen Yaxley-Lennon (alias Tommy Robinson), as well as virulent white supremacists and fascists, and international figures like Geert Wilders from Holland. They also had support from Steve Bannon, Donald Trump’s former Chief Strategist and the American alt-right.

This followed thousands demonstrating in other cities since the jailing of Yaxley-Lennon for jeopardising a child-abuse trial, and over 500,000 signing a petition for his release.

Large racist mobilisations are a threat in themselves, and they allow fascist groups to embolden their supporters and increase the likelihood of a renewed electoral challenge from the far right.

We need to fight racism from the state and on the street, as well as the ruling-class divide-and-rule tactics that stoke it, including austerity. This is the basis of the unity we need to fight for a world without wars, climate change or poverty – a socialist world to end capitalist barbarism.

### **OPPOSE ‘FREE TOMMY’ TOMORROW**

Tomorrow the far right will march in London again – join the counter-demos!

→ Anti-Fascist Network: Gather 1pm at the International Brigade Memorial, South Bank to disrupt the far right

*OR*

→ Assemble 1pm at Old Palace Yard to march from 2pm (organised by Stand Up to Racism, Unite Against Fascism, supported by major trade unions and faith groups)