Syria: May approves bombing with no vote

The Tory cabinet rallied behind her with no waiting for the ground investigation in Syria into whether the Syrian regime had used chemical weapons to even begin.

The military jets were dispatched in the face of polls showing that more people in Britain opposed the action than supported it. Cruise missiles - valued at £790,000 each - were fired, in a grotesque competition between May and French president Macron to be the main European backer of Trump's much stronger US force.

Over 500,000 people have died in the Syrian war and 11 million have been displaced. This so-called 'humanitarian' bombing on science institutions and other sites did nothing to aid their plight and only added to the destruction. It also aided Syrian president Assad who could use it to bolster his support in the areas he controls.

The three western powers were using their chillingly sophisticated missiles to flex their muscles in a country which is being torn apart by many outside interventions, all leaning on one or another of the military forces involved in the raging internal wars.

The anti-war movements internationally must be built to become strong enough to achieve the withdrawal of all foreign interference. It is the task of the Syrian people - through building democratic workers' organisations - to end the war and possible future attempts by any side to use chemical weapons.

Genuine solidarity with that struggle can only come from workers' organisations in Britain and worldwide, as they represent the class in society that has no interest in imperialist face-saving or the seeking of profits and influence.

Jeremy Corbyn was right to call for a parliamentary vote on the military action, as a possible means of inflicting a serious defeat on May, as was done against Cameron on a similar issue in 2013. But as a succession of right-wing Labour MPs lined up to side wholly with May, attacking Corbyn and his anti-war position, these events show yet again the urgency of candidate reselections to remove these representatives of capitalist interests from Labour.

Whatever the outcome of votes and decisions in parliament on Syria - or by the United Nations - socialists will remain firmly opposed to military intervention. This principled opposition must go alongside helping to build the anti-war and anti-austerity movements into forces that can accelerate the end of May's government.

For the Labour Party to be an effective political voice for those movements - and be positioned to be an anti-war government - its left wing needs to move to ensure that its MPs reflect the views of the party members and trade unionists they should be representing.

> No to the bombing of Syria: p14-15
Labour councillors could stop driver-only operation tomorrow

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) is standing candidates across the country this year’s local elections to campaign against the driver-only operation (DOO) on Merseyrail. The new policy will see guards removed from all trains on Merseyrail’s public transport network, from Sunday 7 May.

Merseyrail: TUSC stands against councillors that cut guards

The TUSC campaign is raising awareness about the guards’ dispute and the privatisation of public transport. We are calling for the reinstatement of guards and the removal of guard-less policy. We are also calling for the provision of guard-less trains to be made safe and secure. We are also demanding that all public transport services be returned to the public.

GRIMSBY LOCAL PAPER REVEALS LABOUR CANDIDATE ‘TRIED TO DEFECT TO THE TORIES’

Huddersfield TUSC takes on the Blairites

Our campaign in Huddersfield is focusing on two seats held by Blairite candidates in the 2005 general election. We are calling for the reinstatement of guards and the removal of guard-less policy. We are also calling for the provision of guard-less trains to be made safe and secure. We are also demanding that all public transport services be returned to the public.

TUSC campaigners challenge youth club cuts and closures

We have 17 candidates in Waltham Forest, 10 in Hounslow and 5 in Southwark. We are also targeting youth club cuts and closures in the Labour Party. We are calling for the reinstatement of guards and the removal of guard-less policy. We are also demanding that all public transport services be returned to the public.

Haringey TUSC fights Blairite cuts

In Haringey, where many right-wing groundswell Labour councillors are in charge, we are calling for the reinstatement of guards and the removal of guard-less policy. We are also demanding that all public transport services be returned to the public.

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It does not do to be afraid or to remain silent when one is wronged. If these threats are pushed back.

President-elect Amy Murphy was probably one of the proudest days of my life. While Bromley workers engaged in the longest strike in the history of the union, there was a question whether the union had the muscles to do what they said they would do. It was not just a matter of standing up for the members of the trade union but a matter of standing up for other people as well.

The strike was not just about workers' rights, it was about the rights of all people. It was about the right to work and to have a life, to have a voice, to have a say in how our society is governed. It was about the right to be heard, to be listened to, to be respected, to be treated with dignity and with respect.

So, let us not be afraid, let us not remain silent. If these threats are pushed back, if we stand together, if we fight for our rights, if we demand our voices to be heard, then there is no stopping us. There is no stopping us from achieving what we set out to achieve.
Give us your change (and more), to fight for system change!

Ken Doherty
Socialist Party national treasurer

Socialist Party members have been successful in fighting to save our NHS services from the cuts and privatisation. With the Tories’ programme of cuts and crisis entirely manufactured by campaigning to save the NHS, a victory was scored as Glenshield Heart Unit and Chasewhorl Cardiac wing were saved from closure by a determined campaign.

We held the key conditions of the NHS are the most dependable social service, the secret ingredient is that our Socialist Party campaigns organise.

Socialist Party members have launched their local election campaigns. We have got TUC’s Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition, standing over 140 candidates around the country. We’re targeting bosses who refuse to back Jeremy Corbyn’s anti-austerity policies.

Almost every year of the Socialist’s existence we have launched our election campaigns. West London and Caffell reconfirmed their promise earlier this year. North West branch reconfirmed their policy earlier this month. Help the Socialist party by subscribing today. You can do so online at socialparty.org.uk/subscribe. You can also buy a book in the post if you sign up via direct debit.

If you would like to see two or more members read the local election papers to sell to friends, family and colleagues. We will ask a member of the Socialist party to become a member of the Socialist for sales and subscriptions call 020 8988 8736.

The Socialist - a fighting, campaigning, workers’ paper

From the first issue of the year, which highlighted the repressive world-wide scope, the Socialist has joined the major issue confronting ordinary people - from the rotten Tory attacks on our health service and the structures against NHS closures at Glenshield and Chasetop, to the determined battle by the UCU education strikers, who showed the anger there is at the bosses’ constant undermining of living and working conditions.

Regional conferences saw good-sized attendances with over 4000 raised at the Bradford and London conferences, and over 4400 at our national conference held in Blackpool. The Socialist was also sold extensively on the streets for the building that here and now is helping only on the support of ordinary people and the energy and drive of our members to ensure we have the resources we need.

The first started, in 2017 had finished, with our members campaigning to save the NHS, a crisis entirely manufactured by the Tories’ programme of cuts and crisis. Our members continued to campaign against pensions.

New branches will be campaigning in the local elections - a great opportunity to save fighting fund, ensuring that we continue to have the resources we need to build support for a socialist alternative to the corruption and greed of the bankers, the super-rich and the capitalist politicians.

Campaigns/Party News

Bristol to Liverpool, Wirral, Stoke

Bristol to Liverpool, Wirral, Stoke

For sales and subscriptions call 020 8988 8736. It is a real boon when we discovered last autumn that our landlord agreed to minimum profitability by transforming our local newspaper.

Campbellian, 19-25 April 2018

NO TO WAR - NO TO AUSTERITY

Socialist Party in York, Swansea, Gloucester and Exeter have launched our local election campaigns.

Visit socialparty.org.uk

We asked if comrades could afford to reach the target. We did not shy away from asking everyone to contribute; from regular readers of the Socialist we all know that the honours would be shared.
Dear Jeremy,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Socialist Party (previously known as Militant). We would like to meet with you to discuss the possibility of our forming an alliance or some other Labour Party. We have had a long tradition of activism in the Labour Party, which has allowed us to offer the possibility of transforming Labour into a clear anti-austerity anti-capitalist socialist party. This is not, in fact, the first time and other Socialist Party members have made this approach.

Expelled socialists

We may be aware that in November 2015, TUSC expelled and excluded socialists, including myself, former general secretary of the Socialist Party, from attending our party’s annual conference. The expulsion was, we believe, without reason and in violation of the Socialist Party’s own democratic rules and procedure. It is possible to be a Labour Party member at the same time as being a member of a different party, with anti-austerity, socialist or co-operative political programmes. This approach was also taken by the then Socialist Alliance, co-founded by Bob Crow in 2010, and the Socialist Workers party.

The Socialist Party has written to Iain McNicol to request that he rescind the expulsion, and to request the restoration of membership to the Socialist Party. The Socialist Party is in fact a separate party, with a separate programme, constitution and membership. The application was rejected by the then general secretary, Iain McNicol.

Socialist Party

Under the anti-austerity government’s austerity programme, the recession has been triggered by the bursting and speculation of the banking system which has led to the creation of a whole range of other problems. We have begun to regain millions of votes lost, a fighting strategy to oppose cuts to public services, and a refusal to accept that working people should pay for the price of the banking and financial crisis.

Anti-austerity policies

In fact, it could be argued that we have been better represented and campaigned more successfully by our anti-austerity political programme and policies than by the parliamentary candidates we have brought to be policy of the Labour Party. We believe that we have a separate identity from the Labour Party and its policies.

Socialist Party

I am writing to you as chair of the Labour Party democracy review to discuss the need to resist government austerity and the need for a federal structure.

The Socialist Party stands by Jeremy Corbyn’s leadership. Without doubt, it is possible to be a Labour Party member at the same time as being a member of a different party, with anti-austerity, socialist or co-operative political programmes.

The Socialist Party has written to Jeremy Corbyn, as joint members of both Labour Party and TUSC, to request the involvement of TUSC in the Labour Party democracy review, in addition to the role of affiliated trade union members. The Fabian Society remains affiliated to Labour Party and is in fact a separate party, with a separate programme, constitution and membership. The application was refused by the then general secretary, Dave Nellist. In addition to their separate identities, this year’s joint conference is possible to be a Labour Party member at the same time as being a member of a different party, with anti-austerity, socialist or co-operative political programmes.

The restoration of trade union democracy review to put forward proposals directly to trade union members, is vital. It is possible to be a Labour Party member at the same time as being a member of a different party, with anti-austerity, socialist or co-operative political programmes. The key measures that are needed are: an end to the automatic renewal of trade union members’ membership of the party machine - and a majority of Labour MPs and members - remain as bulwarks of the right wing.

A democracy review has been established to look at measures to put forward proposals directly to trade union members, and allow MPs and members to choose their own candidates. The restoration of trade union democracy review to put forward proposals directly to trade union members, is vital. It is possible to be a Labour Party member at the same time as being a member of a different party, with anti-austerity, socialist or co-operative political programmes.

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During the toughest year on record for the NHS, over 1,400 hospital beds in England were mothballed amid short staffing and lack of funds. The 1,429 beds are now in 82 ‘ghost wards’ - unusable despite overcrowding in hospitals over the winter crisis. The ‘winter’ crisis itself looks set to continue into the summer, compounding the deepening staff shortage. Poor working conditions, stagnant pay, and ever-increasing demands on NHS workers, along with chronic underfunding, have left a staffing black hole in the NHS. Among the worst hit are nursing staff. Over 160,000 nurses have been pushed out of the NHS in the last five years alone, according to a parliamentary answer to Labour. With the cuts to bursaries for nursing students, young nurses face racking up thousands of pounds debt to complete their training, and the staffing crisis looks set to worsen. Hospital administrations across the country echo Tory policy on further dismantling the idea of a publicly owned, free health service. Instead of fighting for the funds to give crucial NHS staff with decent pay and working conditions, they create backdoor privatisation vehicles and have expensive agencies plug the gaps, further depleting stretched funding.

The shortage of beds is putting patients at risk. How many patients queued in corridors or stuck in ambulances outside A&E were there due to unusable empty beds?

And staff at Manchester Children’s Hospital report that sick children are discharged early to free up beds and that staffing has reached dangerously low levels. They say children are being put in danger by low levels of staff on wards - and management forces staff themselves to train for free in their own time.

With a health secretary who co-authored a book including how to dismantle the NHS and replace it with a US-style market system, the deepening crisis in the NHS comes as no surprise. It’s all part of the establishment’s drive for profit at any cost. Corbyn’s manifesto pledged to restore £30 billion of funding to the NHS and reinstate nurses’ training bursaries. These policies won huge popular support and remain one of the Tories’ and Blairites’ many vulnerabilities.

The health unions must lead the way; neither NHS workers nor patients can wait up to another four years for a general election. Coordinated industrial action - on pay, for example, alongside civil servants and teachers - could tear this divided government apart now.

The Socialist Party has shown what can be done to fight the Tory cuts. Workers and local campaigners have won victories against closures and cuts in Leicester, Mansfield and elsewhere with our members playing leading roles.

The unions must use their power to push for action on our NHS now. Corbyn should join the Socialist Party in calling for this, and for full public ownership of the healthcare sector.

Catalonia: 1m marchers demand self-determination

Over a million people came out onto the streets of Barcelona on 15 April to demand Catalan self-determination and show solidarity with Catalonia’s imprisoned pro-independence parliamentary deputies. The independence movement has faced vicious repression from the Spanish state, led by conservative prime minister Mariano Rajoy. Members of Esquerra Revolucionària, the Socialist Party’s sister party in Catalonia, were active participants. Across Catalonia and the Spanish state we have fought against Francoist repression, for an end to Rajoy’s reactionary administration, and for an independent, socialist Catalonia with a workers’ government.
Billions for the Bosses, Benefit cuts for us

BlackRock billionaire
Larry Fink, founder and CEO of BlackRock, the world's giantest investment giant, is the latest addition to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. The world had 2,208 billionaires in March, according to Forbes - the 0.00003%.

BlackRock's $6.3 trillion of interests include outsourcers like Circle International and G4S which are cannibalising the NHS and other public services. The firm employs former chancellor George Osborne, architect of austerity, on £650,000 a year for just 48 days' work.

90% Companies can claim up to 90% of their 'apprenticeship' spending back

Apprenticeship lies
Bosses are “simply rebadging low-quality, low-skill and often low-wage roles as 'apprenticeships',” according to think-tank Reform. The Tories have forced large employers to spend a proportion of their wage bill on 'apprenticeships', Reform's report 'The Great Training Robbery' finds two-fifths of government-approved apprenticeship standards are not in line with genuine learning on the job.

Kill or cure
You can only cure a patient once - and that's bad for business, says Goldman Sachs. The US investment bank's April report "The Genome Revolution" asks: "Is curing patients a sustainable business model?"

The potential to deliver 'one-shot cures' is one of the most attractive aspects of gene therapy... However, such treatments offer a very different outlook with regard to recurring revenue versus chronic therapies.

"While this proposition carries tremendous value for patients and society, it could represent a challenge for genome medicine developers looking for sustained cash flow."

Cold snap cuts
Almost a million fewer pensioners were allowed to claim emergency heating help this winter than when the Tories came to power.

"Cold weather payments' of £25 go to pension credit claimants when temperatures drop below zero for over a week. In 2017-18, just 1.7 million claimants qualified - compared to 2.6 million in 2010-11, according to Commons Library data requested by Labour.

900k Number of fewer claimants who qualified for 'cold weather payments' compared to 2010-11

Simon Carter East London Socialist Party

Capitalist wealth distribution is now at its most unequal and set to widen further.

As of March, there were 2,208 billionaires in the world, according to Forbes. Their total worth is $9.1 trillion, an increase of nearly a fifth on 2017 - average wealth, $4.1 billion.

And Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has become the planet's first hundred-billionaire, with a $106 billion personal fortune. He pipped Bill Gates to first place by adding a staggering $39 billion to his wealth in just a year.

Shortly afterwards, the Tory government's latest cuts in 'universal credit' benefit cuts came into effect. Even before the most recent changes, families had to wait many weeks for payment, leading to rent arrears and evictions. And food banks report a big uptake from families in areas where universal credit has been rolled out.

Now, according to the Resolution Foundation, 3.2 million working families in the UK are expected to be worse off, with an average loss of £48 a week. About 600,000 of those, mainly couples with children, will no longer be entitled to any help at all.

True, 2.2 million working families will gain an average increase of £41 a week. But the maths shows that overall, one million families will lose out.

But what about the government's commitment to reign in the tax-dodging mega-rich? "When it comes to opportunity, we won’t even try to treach the advantages of the fortunate few," pledged Theresa May.

Yet parliament’s Public Accounts Committee has found that the HM Revenue and Customs tax take from ‘high net worth individuals’ fell by £1 billion since the Tories set up a special unit for them. Income tax paid by all other taxpayers has risen by £23 billion over the same period.

For the Tories, it’s business as usual - robbing Peter to pay for Paul. Four years ago, a PCS union-commissioned report found that £119 billion in tax was being dodged in the UK, mainly by big companies and wealthy individuals. Compare that figure to government spending on education, £90 billion, transport, £20 billion, and health, £148 billion in 2016-17, according to Institute for Government analysis.

Let’s kick out this government of the multibillionaires and fight for a socialist programme to reverse austerity and make the super-rich and their giant corporations pay to increase the living standards of the 99% through nationalisation and progressive taxation.
I see these attacks as a smokescreen for racism.

fighting racism in all its forms. You only over alleged antisemitism have been

The latest attacks on Jeremy Corbyn have amazed me. There is a double standard that is being applied to Labour MPs.

To the amazement of lots of the Blairites, May’s majority was slashed, and she has to rely on the DUP to keep her in office. This has left the Labour Party without a clear plan for the future. The Tories have a clear plan to deal with the crisis, but the Labour Party seems to be clueless.

It’s these same MPs in his own party who are attacking him now instead of turning their fire on the Tory enemy who are continuing with their attacks on working class people. It’s time these Labour MPs were subject to recall and democratic reselection procedures.

**Frank Bowen**
Liverpool

**Imperialism’s double standards**

When the Israeli Defence Forces recently killed 18 Palestinians who were demanding the lifting of Israel’s siege of Gaza, the British Foreign Office refused to condemn the killings and call for an outside investigation, because it had to ‘establish the facts’.

After the reported nerve gas attack on civilians in Douma, Syria, the Tory government immediately blamed the Syrian regime and its Russian ally for the atrocity and demanded retaliation. No call to ‘establish the facts’ in this instance. Clearly this double standard all comes down to what powers in the two conflicts serve the interests of British foreign policy. Netanyahu’s Israeli government is seen as a bulwark against Arab nationalism and radical Islam, and removing Syria’s pro-Kurdish Assad regime is desired, if unlikely.

Needless to say the real interests of the workers’ and poor people in the region - peace, land, jobs and decent living standards - is the least considered.

**Simon Carter**
Forest Gate, east London

**Save local football**

For 90 years Dulwich Hamlet Football Club played their home games at Champion Hill in south London. But developers Meadow Residential, who own the ground, want to cash in and build on the site.

After their initial proposal for development was rejected by Southwark Council, the club presented it with an unexpected bill of over £20,000 - and even tried to ban the club from using the name Dulwich Hamlet FC or the initials DH. Then, on 5 March, they revoked the club’s licence to play at Champion Hill, erecting fencing around the ground. In a show of solidarity, long-standing local rivals Tooting and Mitcham United is allowing Dulwich Hamlet to play at its stadium in the short term.

The developers have since rejected a £10 million bid from ex-Manchester United and England player Rio Ferdinand’s social housing company Legacy. Southwark Council has also voted in favour of an application to purchase the land from Meadow and build social housing on the site of a current car park.

On 17 March, hundreds of fans marched from East Dulwich to the padlocked gates of Champion Hill in protest.

Football fans across the UK should join a coordinated campaign calling on Southwark Council to guarantee Dulwich Hamlet the right to play at Champion Hill, if necessary by a compulsory purchase of the ground. This should be linked to socialist demands for council housing and public ownership of the land.

**Carl Harper**
Peterborough

**Film: 120 BPM**

Vital depiction of fight for Aids prevention and treatment

Michael Johnson
Socialist Party LGBT group

“This is how you fight Aids!” Although it’s chanted with scorn as LGBT+ activists are dragged away by the police in an early scene, this line perfectly describes the struggle of ‘Act Up’ (Aids Coalition To Unleash Power).

120 BPM follows the Paris chapter of Act Up during the 1990s, and the blossoming relationship between two members. The dramatic fightback against political indifference and profiteering by pharmaceutical companies is based on director Robin Campillo’s personal experience as an activist with the organisation.

Act Up was initially formed in 1987 in New York, but spread across the world to help organise militant political action against the ongoing Aids crisis. It had become one of the biggest health crises of modern times - yet faced disinterest at best from those with the power to direct work to end the disease.

120 BPM brilliantly and unashamedly shows us Act Up’s fight. It opens with members invading the stage of a government talk on the Aids crisis in protest against them failing to provide information on HIV/Aids prevention.

There are occupations of drugs companies who aren’t willing to provide enough of the life-saving medication needed to meet demand - in order to maximise their profits. Activists teach themselves about medication and biology before walking into schools to provide condoms and information to teens.

The drama also focusses on the vital importance of organisation. In scenes that will be familiar to any activist, much of the film takes place in weekly meetings where members debate strategy, tactics, chants and even the wording of leaflets.

This is a wonderful and vital depiction of an incredibly inspiring part of the fight of LGBT+ rights. Even funerals of deceased members become protests to continue the fight.

120 BPM shows us Act Up’s tremendous influence on the Aids crisis. Undoubtedly, the successes we have gained in understanding and treatment of HIV/Aids would not have occurred when they did without Act Up.

But this should also serve as motivation to continue the fight for decent health services and liberation for all.
Enoch Powell’s Racist ‘Rivers of Blood’ Rant 50 Years On

Scott Jones

Tory MP Enoch Powell made his infamous ‘Rivers of Blood’ racist rant 50 years ago. He used disgraceful language in the 1968 speech that would have even appalled in 1868. Yet Powell’s message is still invoked today, with support for the speech coming in 2014 from Ukip’s Nigel Farage, former Thatcherite minister Norman Tebbit and Conservative MP Gerald Howarth. As well as corrupt former Tory MP and Welsh Ukip leader Neil Hamilton on 16 April this year.

Powell made his speech on 20 April 1968 in Birmingham in opposition to Labour’s proposed Race Relations Bill. The bill would make it illegal to refuse housing, employment or public services to someone on the grounds of race, skin colour or ethnicity.

But Powell used the bill’s second reading to launch into a tirade against immigration, particularly from the Commonwealth. This is the same group of ‘Windrush’ workers now facing insecurity and discrimination following Tory failings to confirm their residency status.

At the time there were a million black and Asian migrants in Britain. Most had been encouraged to come here to work to fill the demand in industries such as transport and healthcare.

They were often paid less for doing the most difficult work. This began to change only as black and white workers joined together in the trade union movement to fight for the same pay and conditions for all.

They came mainly from South Asian and Caribbean countries that had been exploited by British imperialism over centuries. Yet Enoch Powell referred to these workers in disgusting racist language and talked of ‘the black man having the whip-hand’.

He proposed ending or stemming immigration, going on to finish with a quote from a Roman poem: ‘As I look ahead, I am filled with foreboding; like the Roman, I seem to see the River Tiber foaming with much blood’, hence the speech’s name.

He claimed to be speaking on behalf of a concerned constituent who it was later revealed was a ‘no Irish, no blacks, no dogs’ variety landlord.

Two months prior to the speech, in Militant (predecessor of the Socialist) we predicted that the actions of the Labour government would provoke this when they passed another bill - the Kenya Immigrants Bill - which, following Tory pressure limited Asian immigration to 1,500 a week.

As Militant said, the Tories used “the black man having the whip-hand”. Talbot sent the Bill to confirm their residency status.

Poverty

In 1968 we said: “Racism cannot be fought other than in class terms”. Today we argue the same, that capitalism is the root cause of racism which is used in order to divide working class people so that capitalism can make profit at our expense.

The Socialist Party agrees with Malcolm X, that “you can’t have capitalism without racism.”

The Socialist Party and previously Militant have a long history of fighting racism and fighting the conditions that breed racism. From responding to Enoch Powell with: “Racial prejudice must be fought tooth and nail”, to confronting the British National Party in the 90s to mobilising against the English Defence League.

“Racial prejudice must be fought; like the Roman, I seem to see the River Tiber foaming with much blood”.

Another level of fighting racism and fighting the exploitation of workers divided against each other. This means the struggle against capitalism must also be the struggle for socialism.
NO TO THE BOMBING OF SYRIA

Build a mass movement against the war

The price of war

UK tax payers’ government have spent £1.7 billion on airstrikes in Iraq and Syria since 2014. In the most recent ‘retaliatory strikes’ by RAF jets on Syria regime targets eight ‘Storm Shadow’ cruise missiles were dropped, costing each expedition £260,000. By far the biggest single facet of this government’s policy is the American-backed war in Syria. The US has spent an estimated £2.8 billion in 29,000 airstrikes, resulting in over 6,000 civilian deaths.

Hypocrisy

As the imperialist tensions rise and Assad’s forces and allies become more dominant, the media, the reactions of large sections of the population, and the international and regional powers in the Middle East. This destructive, yet ultimately desperate, attack on Douma, has nonetheless shown the reactionary regime, nor to its Russian backer, Vladimir Putin. It is killing a child every ten minutes on average. "We are not making a direct comparison, but the situation in Syria is catastrophic," one commentator said. All went well in conrast to the reaction of the Syrian people, who have all been watching the situation with growing concern. The CWI is organised in 45 countries and works with the socialists and workers’ movements around the world. "Our message is clear: stop the war, stop the violence, stop the bombing of Syria!" The CWI is organised in 45 countries and works with the socialists and workers’ movements around the world. "Our message is clear: stop the war, stop the violence, stop the bombing of Syria!" The CWI is organised in 45 countries and works with the socialists and workers’ movements around the world. "Our message is clear: stop the war, stop the violence, stop the bombing of Syria!"

Trump, May and Macron are going through turbulent political times, and so is most of the world. But the UK government is not alone in authorizing airstrikes against regime targets in Syria. The CWI is organising a rally on the day for the peoples of the Middle East.

We say:

- Stop Trump’s attack on Syria.
- Withdraw of all foreign forces from Syria.
- No to worldwide war!
- Build a mass movement to register the popular rage across the globe. By the way, the CWI does not envisage any kind of ‘limited’ or ‘regional’ war.

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Youth homelessness is on the rise. The housing crisis and delays in benefit payments under the Tories’ ‘universal credit’ system are major factors.

92% of respondents in a survey by Homeless Link said welfare changes were worsening the problem. 55% of homelessness services reported increased demand over the last year, with a quarter of young men sleeping rough aged 16 or 17.

Meanwhile, the weak Tory government has made yet another u-turn - this time on its hated pledge to scrap housing benefit for 18 to 24-year-olds. Esther McVey, work and pensions secretary, said the main reason was a commitment to “providing young people with the support they need to get started with their working lives.”

Nobody should see this as anything more than a smokescreen. One of the Tories’ first moves in power in 2010 was to stop under-35s from claiming benefits for a home on their own. Their policies have consistently enriched developers and bosses at the expense of renters and workers.

The real reason for the Tories’ u-turn is the tremendous levels of youth support for Jeremy Corbyn’s policies. Many of the pledges in his general election manifesto, such as rent controls and building a million social and council homes, resonate massively with young people.

We are increasingly unable to find affordable housing in a system rigged for exploitative and parasitic investors. Current trends mean a third of Millennials will be stuck in the rent trap our entire lives, according to the Resolution Foundation.

May’s government is in an exceptionally difficult situation. It is the main party of the super-rich and must stay faithful by carrying out attacks like these. But at the same time, its low popularity means it has to try to project the image of a party concerned with the well-being of young workers.

Last year’s general election results were a humiliation for the Tories, and were spearheaded by young people and workers enthused by Corbyn’s anti-austerity message. The 3 May council elections are an opportunity to fight for those policies at a local level.

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It was Blairite Labour which introduced the ‘local housing allowance’ which limits housing benefit to imaginary levels often well below real private rents. And Labour councils, dominated by the right-wing enemies of Corbyn, have sold off council homes and helped push up private rents just like their Tory colleagues.

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) is the anti-austerity electoral alliance including transport union RMT and the Socialist Party. We fight for capping private rents at genuinely affordable levels and building council homes instead of selling them off.

We are standing against some of the worst anti-Corbyn, pro-cuts councillors in support of Jeremy Corbyn’s leadership and the policies which have enthused millions of young people.

Young people can be a leading force in the fight for socialist change. Vote TUSC where you can, and join the Socialist Party, to help achieve it.

Vote TUSC to fight youth homelessness and the housing crisis