

#Black Lives Matter

ORGANISE, STRIKE,
RESIST AGAINST
RACISM AND
CAPITALISM



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The latest racist police killings in the US have appalled millions and sparked mass protests across America as well as in towns and cities around the world.

But in the UK, just one week before the horrific events in the US, hate-crime monitor Tell Mama reported that anti-Muslim incidents had risen 326% in 2015. As recently as 2014, Metropolitan Police shot dead a black man, Jermaine Baker. Their killing of Mark Duggan in 2011 sparked riots in cities across England. UK police are disproportionately likely to kill black and Asian people in custody or shootings, according to Advocacy group Inquest.

No wonder then, that protesters taking part in black lives matter rallies across the UK are absolutely clear: fighting racism is an absolute necessity in Britain as well as across the world.

Last year, the Independent found almost all police forces are still many times more likely to stop and search black people. In London, black people are three times more likely to face searches than white people - in Dorset, 17.5 times more likely.

NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE

That's why the chant "no justice, no peace - no racist police!" has been ringing out on Britain's streets in protests organised over the last week. The Socialist Party supports these protests against institutional racism and calls for democratic community control over police policy and hiring.

But racism goes well beyond the police. Racism and inequality are woven into the fabric of capitalism. Unemployment and poverty are still markedly higher in black and Asian communities.

The rhetoric and policies of both the official Leave and Remain camps in the EU referendum have exacerbated racist divisions. But clearly, racism and anti-immigrant sentiment have been used and 'whipped up' by big business and pro-cuts politicians over a much longer period of time.

Just last week, a demonstration taking place in Brixton attracted around 1,000 angry and determined people. This has been followed with protests organised around the UK. In Brixton, the march was addressed by a series of impassioned speakers. Many included the call for an end to austerity and building of council homes.

NO DIVISIONS

Very often, the legitimate concerns of working class people struggling to get by are cynically played upon by those seeking to divide us. That's why the Socialist Party argues we must link fighting racism with fighting for jobs, homes and services for all - against brutal austerity which hits Black and Asian people hardest. This should also be linked with fighting to defend Jeremy Corbyn's anti-austerity stand as Labour leader.

The capitalists and their politicians rely on racism, among other things, to keep workers divided. As Malcolm X explained, "you can't have capitalism without racism." That's why we believe fighting racism needs to be linked with fighting to change society. We need a democratic, socialist society run in the interests of the 99%, free from discrimination and oppression.

#KEEPCORBYN

We call for an immediate labour movement conference of all those who want to defend Jeremy Corbyn. This would need to prepare for a general election with a clear anti-austerity, anti-racist programme - opposition to all cuts, £10 an hour minimum wage, mass council housing building and renationalisation and organise to drive out the Tories Red and Blue.

The united working class is the majority in society, with enormous potential power, capable not only to fight racism and austerity, but also of changing the world.

Socialists fight for a dignified life for all - and that means building a mass struggle for wages we can live on. Capitalism, a short-sighted and crisis-ridden system, only offers us crumbs off the plates of the super-rich 1%.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY SAYS:

- Support #BlackLivesMatter protests - organise to fight racism and defend communities
- No to police harassment and racism. End discriminatory stop and search and section 60.
- Justice for the victims of police killings. For independent trade union and community led inquiries. Scrap the discredited IPCC. We need police accountability through democratic control by local people and trade unions
- Fight austerity, defend Jeremy Corbyn's anti-austerity stand. Invest in jobs, homes and services for all
- Nationalise the banks and big corporations under democratic workers' control and management with compensation only on the basis of proven need
- Build a united, democratic and organised working class movement
- For a socialist world free from the horrendous profit motive which results in poverty, racism, war and the suffering of millions

Socialism would be completely different - it would mean using the vast resources in society to meet the needs of all. A socialist government would take into public ownership the top 150 companies and banks that dominate the economy and run them under democratic working class control and management. Compensation would be paid only on the basis of proven need.

Democratic planning of production would allow humanity to build a world without exploitation, inequality and hunger - while also protecting the environment.