

# Smash racism - build working class struggle against Tory division

## Solidarity with Saka, Rashford and Sancho and all making a stand against racism and the Tories

## Jobs and homes not racism

- For a united movement of fans to kick racism and big business out of our game
- The stopping of distribution of racist literature at grounds
- For the ejection and banning of persistent racist chanters or those who are persistently racist on social media from grounds. No trust in the FA or UEFA – fans, players and the working class must democratically organise
- Players, clubs and fanzines should campaign against racism
- Players should visit schools and youth clubs to issue anti-racist statements and encourage all children, including Black and Asian children, to attend matches. Fight for school playing fields for all
- Football and clubs to be owned and democratically run by fans - for the fans! No to the super league!
- For football we can afford to go to and watch! United working class struggle to end low pay – for a £15/hr min wage
- For mass working class struggle to fight all racism & class oppression. Build fighting trade unions & a new mass workers' party

Tyrone Mings was right when he placed the blame on the Tories and capitalist establishment for the disgusting racism thrown at Bukayo Saka, Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho.

Challenging Tory Home Secretary Priti Patel's faux condemnation of racist abuse, he said: "You don't get to stoke the fire at the beginning of the tournament by labelling our anti-racism message as 'gesture politics', and then pretend to be disgusted when the very thing we're campaigning against happens."

Sadly this is not new. In the past, the right-wing tabloids would have encouraged the scapegoating of individual players following an England defeat. But the capitalist media couldn't get away with that this time.

The three players are part of an England side that took England men's football to only its second highest stage, by reaching the euros final.

But it's a group of players that have grown up knowing nothing but austerity under the last Tory governments. Therefore they care about many of the same issues that working class young people from all backgrounds cares about - NHS, poverty, inequality, fighting racism and homophobia. In 2020 Black Lives Matter at its height was a movement of working class youth exploding in anger at racism – but also austerity and class oppression.

It's a team of Marcus Rashford, the 'official' opposition that shamed Johnson into defeat on free school meals and the team that took action against racist abuse when playing Bulgaria in the euros qualifications in 2020. Ian Wright called them the Malcolm X generation 'By any means necessary'



While a few idiots booed, the overwhelming majority of England fans both in stadiums and across the country cheered and applauded the players taking the knee, and, on the final match day, booed racist Nigel Farage in Wembley.

There is also still the establishment racism that exists in football. Only 6 out of 91 managers in the English football league are black and only a tiny handful of British born Asians are able to break into the professional game.

The government, FA, UEFA and FIFA are all rotten to the core and continue to do little or nothing while fuelling racism and discrimination themselves. They can't be trusted to take action against inequality in sport or defeat racism in football.

### Workers unity to end racism

As former Liverpool and England player John Barnes, who suffered racial abuse during his football career, said in a recent interview on Talksport radio - you're not going to stop someone from being racist just by introducing a law saying that they can't be racist. He's right. Racism in football is inextricably linked to racism in wider society and is not going to be removed by a handshake or the passing of some laws.

Racism in football will only be fundamentally challenged through mass campaigns involving fans, players, others who work in football and the local community.

This should explain, among other things, the root causes of racism and how it is used by the bosses to protect their profits by dividing people.

## **We need to reclaim the game, and society, from the big bosses and millionaires who are only in it for profit.**

They all exploit the working class and have an interest in maintaining any forms of division among us. Let's fight to put the management of clubs in the hands of working-class fans and communities.

Why should the super-rich control other aspects of our lives in their interests? Let's unite and fight for socialist policies instead – in the interest of all working class people.

Clubs should be collectively owned, and run by delegates elected from the supporters, from the players and employees'

## **BUILD A MASS MOVEMENT TO SMASH RACISM!**

Racism exists in all aspects of the lives of black and Asian people in the UK. The recent global movement around Black Lives Matter (BLM), sparked by the brutal murder of George Floyd, revealed the depth of anger against it.

Whether it is unemployment, lack of housing, or poverty, black people have been at the forefront in suffering attacks on their jobs and living conditions, as well as discrimination at the hands of the police and legal system.

Covid-19 has further exposed the class and race inequality that exists within capitalism. The disproportionate effects of the pandemic on BAME people are not accidental.

A third of all working-age people from a black African background are key workers. In the NHS, for example, around 40% of doctors and 20% of nurses are from a BAME background.

These essential workers have been working throughout the peaks of the pandemic, providing vital services. Key workers in Britain have been let down by the Tory government and the capitalist system that failed to provide them adequate and sufficient support, pay or PPE.

The most deprived areas have twice the coronavirus death rate of the least deprived. Low pay, overcrowded accommodation and cuts to services all play a part. The key factors that have emerged as responsible for inequalities in death rates, during the pandemic, are inequalities in society as a whole.

Racism and the injustice of discrimination taking place in all aspects of our lives need to be opposed. This means fighting for all the reforms and changes needed to improve the conditions facing black, Asian and other minorities.

The Socialist Party is fighting to build a mass movement that can smash racism and the class inequality that together press on the necks of young people. To do this we must organise and draw all the lessons and ideas from the movements that have gone before.

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unions, and from the local community. This form of democracy should be emulated in the ruling bodies of the game too.

We need a united fight back against racism in football linked to the wider struggle against racism in society. Supporters have a common cause and can be united to reclaim our game.

## **We want football that we can afford to watch, in a safe environment free of racism, football that we run, and facilities that we own and have full access to!**

Leaving the power to run society in the hands of the existing rulers, the big business boss class, is to condemn us to having to keep fighting racism. Mass united working-class action and organisation, united around a programme of anti-racism and anti-capitalism, to fight for socialism, with the working class taking power, is necessary.

Coronavirus has revealed all the brutal truths about capitalism - showing how big business bosses and their Tory representatives prioritise profits, and are therefore utterly unable to keep society safe, while workers have been shown to be the ones keeping society going and defending safety.

Kier Starmer's Labour Party has offered no serious alternative and has been absent from all the major protests.

The Socialist Party builds on the conclusion of Malcolm X and the Black Panthers: "You can't have capitalism without racism". What does that mean for building the Black Lives Matter movement?

It means building a mass united movement of working-class people with anti-racism at its heart; that fights for workplace safety and PPE for all who need it; for fighting trade unions; for free education; for democratic working class control of the police and for a future for all young people. It means building a new mass party of workers and young people because we can't trust the capitalist politicians with our lives and our future.

And it means fighting for the alternative to capitalism — socialism. Capitalism is outmoded. It can't offer us a future. Join the Socialist Party to put capitalism and racism in the dustbin of history.



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