

# RAIL STRIKES SHOW THE WAY! LET'S UNITE AND FIGHT BACK

- **LGBTQ+ RIGHTS**
- **ABORTION RIGHTS**
- **INFLATION-PROOF PAY RISES**
- **A SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE**

## WE FIGHT FOR:


- Pride events, political and fighting back, organised by campaigners and trade unions – kick out corporations
- A fighting trade union movement to campaign against discrimination in the workplace and in wider society
- Ending homophobic bullying. Sex, health and relationship lessons in schools to be democratically controlled by staff and student unions to guarantee an inclusive, non-judgemental education, free from prejudice and bigotry. Scrap academies
- Kicking big business out of the NHS. Health services run for health not profit. Invest in expanding all public health support, including mental health, and other services for all
- Ending privatisation of public services. Protect and expand investment in LGBTQ+ venues and services to meet our needs especially youth services
- Cap private rents, for a mass programme of building council houses
- Fighting to end trans discrimination in law and in society. Fight for legal changes to simplify self-identification
- Taking the wealth off the 1% - we can't control what we don't own. Take into democratic public ownership the top 125 companies and the banks that dominate the British economy & draw up a plan based on the interests of the overwhelming majority of people to use the wealth in society to produce what we need, not what makes a profit
- Building a new mass workers' party to represent our interests No trust in Starmer's Labour
- Building support and solidarity for those fighting for LGBTQ+ rights and against capitalism across the world


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We have meetings, campaigning activity and other events every week across the country - get in touch!

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# HOW CAN WE UNITE AND FIGHT FOR RIGHTS AND PAY?

Pride 2022 takes place in a new world situation. The working class faces attacks and challenges on every front – including threats to all the gains and rights our movement has won.

In 2018, despite the rights we have won, 64% of LGBTQ+ people had experienced anti-LGBTQ+ violence or abuse. We still need to fight LGBTQ+phobia.

And, as of Friday 24 June, 40 million people who could become pregnant in the US now live in states that can deny access to legal abortion.

Fifty years after the first Pride in London, Pride must be political and that means building a new movement for a socialist alternative to the capitalist system and the division, discrimination, inequality and poverty inherent to it.

The Supreme Court reversal of Roe will cost lives. Prior to Roe, illegal abortions were unsafe and led to around 5,000 deaths a year.

But it wasn't enough to point these horrors out then and it isn't enough to do that now; the right to legal and safe abortion and LGBTQ+ rights had to be fought for.

The background to Roe was the civil rights movement, anti-Vietnam war protests, growing LGBTQ+ and women's organisations, and a militant strike wave in the workplaces. Revolutionary movements internationally also provided inspiration that things an alternative to capitalism and imperialism was possible.

Against this explosive backdrop the US capitalist class, even with a Supreme Court packed with Republican-appointed judges and a socially conservative Republican president, was prepared to grant some social reforms – in an attempt to head off a broader challenge to the capitalist system.

Actually, much more could have been achieved but with no mass left party in existence to coordinate and give a lead, steering the movements in an anti-capitalist, socialist direction, the full potential was not realised.

Today, we need to build a movement and a mass party to prepare for further attacks. The Supreme Court overturning of Roe v Wade will not placate the right but whet their appetite for reversing other social gains in the US. This could include the right to contraception, same-sex marriage, inter-racial marriage and the law on consensual sex.

Here, the Tories' attacks on trans rights must be fought. It shows they cannot be trusted – obviously – but it also shows how they can use our rights to try to build support. They face a major problem – they exist to defend the capitalist system which means workers get poorer while Britain enjoys more billionaires with more money than ever.

A new movement must make links with other movements for social justice, especially struggles by workers in the workplaces against low pay and exploitation.

As we emerge from the pandemic, the bosses want workers to pay the price for the covid and economic crises. A new period of struggle between the classes – workers v bosses – is opening up.

That includes attempts by the capitalist class to divide us along lines of gender, race, sexuality, etc – being divided makes it harder to realise workers' enormous collective power to fight back and change the world.

It also includes the cost-of-living crisis is a constant presence in millions of lives. It's about rising prices and falling wages, pensions and benefits. Millions have gone without food including 2.6 million children.

But it doesn't have to be like this. Between 1937 and 1979, union membership in Britain doubled, while the share of income going to the top 1% fell by two-thirds. Between 1979 and 2014, membership of unions halved and the share of income for the richest 1% more than doubled. We need to organise a mass fightback.

In tandem with the rise in prices, a wave of strike action has been developing which the Socialist Party supports. The historic action by the RMT across Network Rail, 13 train operating companies, and London Underground has revealed the potential power of the working class organised in collective action, and is inspiring other workers to strike.

Google searches for 'join a union' have increased by up to 200% in the week of the strikes, while the TUC's 'join a union' website has seen visits rise by 800%.

Industrial struggle and social movements need to be combined with beginning to build a political voice for the workers' movement. Working-class people need a party which will fight for our interests in parliament and in the council chambers. Otherwise, we fight with one hand tied behind our backs.

The Socialist Party fights for a new workers' party to be built, including our participation in the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) as an initial step. But the trade union leaders can solve the problem of working-class political representation – as could Jeremy Corbyn standing as an independent – by taking steps to initiate a new workers' party.

The Socialist Party fights for a new mass workers' party. For that party to be able to liberate humanity from the misery of discrimination, inequality, and all the poverty and misery of capitalist crisis, it means fighting for a democratic socialist plan of production based on the interests of the overwhelming majority of people, and in a way that safeguards the environment.