

The campaign is not over; the far right are furious that Labour won

Far-right influencers were ready, just waiting for any event that could be twisted into the spark for the organised unrest over the summer. Southport just provided such an event. Even in areas where 'protests' did not take place, refugee families were scared to allow their children out, or too attend holiday activities.

Labour won, but not with an increased vote. Reform took the third place in the popular vote, and came second in 98 seats – even with no known or local candidates in many cases. The Labour campaign did extremely well in 'gaming' first past the post, but won fewer votes than in 2017 or 2019. And, worst, the far right narrative on 'small boats' was not countered. It has gained traction.

The far right will not go away. We will see more of the same. To defeat them the Labour government must deliver – on workers' rights, on public services - and the whole labour movement must rouse itself to fight for workers policies and to defeat the racist narratives. It is not enough that there are anti-racist campaigns – the trades unions and local Labour parties must combine defence of anyone under attack, debunking and opposing the racist lies, and fighting for policies in the interests of the vast majority. Tragically, there are too many areas with no strong or even functioning local Labour branches – now is the time to build party membership together with unions activists – to rebuild on the ground, with healthy open debate, not bans, proscriptions, or restrictions on party activity.

Conference Diary – some highlights of the fringe

Saturday

PSC Palestine demo – 12 noon St George's Plateau, next to Lime St station

Campaign for Labour Party Democracy - 6:30pm, Friends Meeting House

Sunday

NHS demo – 11.30 by the arch outside dock complex near ACC

People's Assembly Tax the Rich demo - 12 noon outside the ACC

Labour Campaign for Free Movement – protest 1pm and fringe meeting 6pm, The Botanist, Chavasse Park, Liverpool One, L2 9SQ

Monday

Labour Campaign for Council Housing - 1pm, Friends Meeting House

Labour Left Internationalists - 6.30 pm, the Liverpool Pub, 14 James St, Liverpool L2 7PQ

Tuesday

Labour for Trans Rights - rally outside ACC 10am
Socialist Education Association & Socialist Health Association - 6pm, Friends Meeting House

Pride in Labour - 6:30pm Yates, Queen Square, Liverpool L1 1RH

Campaign for Labour Party Democracy - 6:30pm Friends Meeting House



Labour Left Internationalists

Bulletin for Labour Conference 2024

@LabourLeftInt

There is no serious way out other than taxing the rich

The *Unite* union has called for a wealth tax. Tax Justice UK calculates that a small wealth tax, equalising tax rates on capital gains with those on income, and a bit more would raise £60 billion a year for public services. Just the top 1% of households in the UK have about £70 billion excess disposable income. Most of the CEOs of the top 100 companies are paid £4.2 million or more. Total capitalist profits in the UK run at about £600 billion a year.

The supposedly tough-but-necessary spending cuts pushed by Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves – curbing winter fuel payments, demanding cuts in the civil service – are hurtful, but also trivial in comparison. The winter fuel payment cut amounts to about £1.3 billion. Also trivial are the government's promises so far to rebuild public services, and even those for economic growth. NHS – nothing. Social care – nothing. Benefits – not even repeal of two-child cap. Economic growth? The main promised driver is the National Wealth Fund, an investment pot promised £7.3 billion one-off. Even now total investment in the UK runs at about £400 billion a year, and total household wealth at about £12,000 billion.

Labour cannot at the same time be "the party of working people" and "pro-business", cannot both rebuild public services and real wages, and give priority to fattening profits. The "fiscal rules" could actually be changed without panic. The detail of the rules about Quantitative Easing and how it is unwound means that, as the New Economics Foundation reports, the government is "wasting billions in public money boosting bank profits".

"The Treasury has covered over £45 billion worth of losses at the Bank of England since 2022 and £100 billion more expected in the next five years... The banking sector is currently receiving tens of billions a year, while public services have been asked to find three billion pounds of extra cuts..."

But regulatory finesse will not be enough. Unions and Labour members must demand that Labour puts itself firmly on the side of the working class and undertakes to address social need by inroads into wealth. Over 15 years now, the NHS and other public services have been hollowed out, many workers have had real wages cut, welfare benefits especially for the disabled have been eroded, housing in many areas has become more unaffordable, and green investment has been waived. And in a period when profits and share prices have mostly done well, even (thanks to big government handouts) in the Covid lockdowns. It is all about exploitation – the pressure on workers to produce ever more value-added above what covers our wages.

Through Labour Left Internationalists, we aim to build a Labour left which surely wants the "moderate" measures, the regulatory finesse, the taxes on wealth and capital income, and also will not collapse or dissipate when the ultra-rich respond with capital flight and investment strikes. We aim for social ownership and democratic control of the major material productive resources.

We know that socialism in one country is impossible. Every country, now, is integrated into a complex international division of labour. We are internationalists, advocates of international solidarity and freedoms, not spinners of schemes for a "social" siege economy.

Tax the rich for socialist policies; rebuild the Labour left



Monday September 23rd, 6.30 pm

The Liverpool Pub, 14 James St, Liverpool L2 7PQ

Speakers include:

Maria Exall (ex-President, TUC)

Jane Stewart (formerly women's rep of Unite Executive council)

And representatives from key labour movement campaigns - speakers invited from Labour Campaign for Council Housing, Pride in Labour, Ukraine Solidarity Campaign and Labour Campaign for Free Movement

Contact us: <https://momentuminternationalists.org>, @LabourLeftInt on 'X' or join our conference WhatsApp group with the invitation link bit.ly/lli-wa

See back page for our fringe meeting – Monday 6:30



The Ukraine Solidarity Campaign seeks to organise solidarity and provide information in support of the Ukrainian labour movement

USC held its AGM on Saturday 7 September. The conference was opened by chair John McDonnell MP with reports on the current situation by Yuliya Yurchenko, of the Social Movement, Maria Exall, Vice President of TUC, Hanna Ostapenko, Progresylni/Social Democrat Platform and Olesia Briazgunova, International Secretary Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine.

Contact: <https://ukrainsolidaritycampaign.org/>

Fringe: ‘How the market damages public services’

Two of Labour’s most active ‘affiliated socialist societies’ are the Socialist Education Association and the Socialist Health Association. They are holding a joint fringe meeting on Tuesday (6pm, Friends Meeting House).

<https://socialisteducationalassociation.org>

<https://sochealth.co.uk/the-socialist-health-association/>

Speakers

Phil Clarke (President, NEU)

John McDonnell (MP, Hayes and Harlington)

Emma Runswick (Deputy Chair, BMA Council)

Esther Giles (Former Finance Director, NHS)

Ken Jones (Professor Emeritus, Goldsmiths University)

Labour Campaign for Free Movement

Fringe meeting 6pm, Sunday 22nd September, The Botanist pub, Chavasse Park, L2 9SQ

“In the aftermath of Keir Starmer’s visit to Rome – where he praised Italy’s neo-fascist government for its “remarkable progress” on offshore detention and border control measures – we need to ask ourselves what we’re doing. How can we rebuild a movement inside Labour, and inside the wider labour movement, in favour of free movement and migrants’ rights? Join us a short walk from the conference venue to hear some great speakers and a discussion.”

Speakers include John McDonnell MP, trade union activists and migrant voices.



The Labour Campaign for Council Housing

The Labour Campaign for Council Housing was established in 2019 by a group of Labour Party members and activists who believe that radical action needs to be taken to resolve the current crises of affordability. They are seeking to influence Labour Party policy at local and national government level to ensure that the council homes that our communities need are funded and built, and that these homes are well maintained, have security of tenure and genuinely affordable social rent.

Fringe meeting: - 1pm, Monday, Friends Meeting House
Contact LCCH at <https://thelabourcampaignforcouncilhousing.org>

Gaza - ceasefire, two states, and solidarity

Across the country, supporters and friends of *Labour Left Internationalists* have been, at the forefront of pushing for ceasefire and two-states motions, and circulated a statement more recently about restoring funding to UNRWA, withdrawing ICC objection, recognising "state of Palestine", and stopping arms supplies (bit.ly/pal-p). Many CLPs have passed such motions – see the collection at bit.ly/m-gaza for example. Against the Hamas-inspired narrative that opposition to oppression of the Palestinians within Israel should be discounted, and its twin, the claim that defending Israel’s right to exist means accepting the Netanyahu government’s war, we have promoted solidarity with *Standing Together*, a progressive grassroots movement mobilizing Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel against the occupation and for peace, equality, and social justice. ST say, “We know that the majority have far more in common than that which sets us apart and only a tiny minority benefits from the status quo. The future that we want — peace and independence for Israelis and Palestinians, full equality for everyone in this land, and true social, economic, and environmental justice — is possible. We must stand together as a united front: Jewish and Palestinian, secular and religious, Mizrahi and Ashkenazi, rural and urban, and people of all genders and sexual orientations.”

Get in touch with *UK Friends of Standing Together*, and invite a speaker for your branch/CLT/TU: ukfriendsofstandingtogether@gmail.com
www.ukfost.co.uk

Labour Left Internationalists is a network of Labour Party members founded in 2020 by supporters of left anti-Brexit campaign *Labour for a Socialist Europe*. We stand for:

- Active Labour support for strikes and workers’ struggles;
- Consistent internationalism, including fighting for free movement and to reverse Brexit;
- Arguing to replace capitalism with socialism, a radically new society based on common ownership and democratic and workers’ control, not profit-making;
- Radical policies so the labour movement can serve working-class interests and push towards socialism;
- Democratising Labour, making conference the party’s sovereign decision-making body.



Championing LGBTQIA+ rights within the Labour Party

“We believe that having your voice heard should not be conditional”.

Fringe meeting
Tuesday 6:30pm
Yates, Queen
Square, Liverpool
L1 1RH



www.prideinlabour.org.uk