Several dozen people gathered in Derry City Centre in August to oppose recent mobilisation of the far-right in the north. Migrant workers, anti-fascists, anarchists, socialists, trade unionists and non-aligned activists demonstrated as part of a visual show of strength to state that we are a city united against racism.

Over the past number of months fascists have been openly taken to the streets in Scotland, England and Wales in scenes ‘not witnessed since the 1930’s’. Locally, the far-right have gained some momentum from this and have mobilised. Each time they have been met by counter protests, organised by anti-fascists and the trade union movement alike, vastly out numbering them on the streets.

Amidst the chaos of conflicting personalities that have eaten the heart out of each of these far-right elements, we can never be too complacent to think that this is the end of them. History has shown us all too well that fascism can and will re-emerged given half a chance.

We have also witnessed racist alliances under the guise of ‘freedom of speech’ bringing together clusters of fascist elements in an effort to forged links amongst themselves at street rallies in an attempt to justify their hate.
Continued from front page:

THEY SHALL NOT PASS!

Last month facists such as Britain First have parachutted into the North West for a photo opportunities, stoking up sectarian tension at interface communities.

More worryingly, we have seen the number of attacks on migrant workers and their families increasing as well as anti-islamic abuse, all of which has called out and condemned. Throughout today’s rally speaker after speaker called upon everyone to be vigilant and mindful of further attacks and attempts of the far-right to organise.

A spokesperson for the IWW Derry branch said that "It is vital that we act with unity and solidarity with all fellow workers in facing any fascist threat. Fascism, just like sectarianism, homophobia, sexism or Islamophobia must never be allowed to raise its head on our streets or in the workplace. It is up to all of us to be ever vigilant and challenged it head on if it does".

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In the Spirit of ‘68

This month marked the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights movement in Derry on October 5th 1968. Those historical black and white television images of unarmed peaceful civil rights protesters being baton-charged off the streets of their city for attempting to challenge the Unionist masters in Storming created shock-waves.

Amongst the clamouring, infighting and drama as to who did what and when on the day, the various political parties lambasted one another over who exactly are the rightful inheritors of that day, anyone would be forgiven that there was some type of election in the offing next year. Little do they know that after all their self-righteous ceremonies, speeches and honours that it was actually the people of the city who had taken to the streets and brought the events that faithful day to a head. It is the people themselves who truly deserve credit for their dignity and strength of courage against the state and its forces.

But whilst the great and the good gathered in the Guildhall, several hundred people rallied outside to remember the struggle of 1968 and the struggle that continues to this day which is why anarchists in the city took part. If there are lessons which can be learned from the events of ‘68 be in Paris, Chicago, Rome, Washington or here in Derry it has to be that real change can only come about from below, by the people and in the streets and in our workplaces alone, not from within their chambers and halls of power.

For our class the division of sectarianism, housing, jobs, health and education have reached depths not witnessed since the sixties however many communities are already mobilising in the streets in an effort to fight the power, drawing on the lessons of the past. Together, without the politicians we can win!
Stop The Repression Of The Bulgarian Prisoners' Association

Jock Palfreeman is a 29-year-old Australian anti-fascist who had the courage to stand up against 16 neo-Nazis on a night out in Sofia, Bulgaria. He witnessed the fascists chasing and attacking two young Roma boys. Jock ran to the boys' aid, he did his best to keep the Nazis at bay by waving a knife at them but they attacked him. Jock was left with nowhere to run and had no choice but to defend himself. Andrey Monov, one of the Nazis, and a son of a prominent politician, was stabbed and killed and another, Antoan Zahariev, was injured. The Roma boys ran away.

Jock has since been tried for murder and attempted murder and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, in addition to a fine of 375,000 Australian dollars, in a trial that didn't even try to give any resemblance of "fairness".

During his time inside Jock founded the Bulgarian Association of Prisoners, the first ever official prisoners union in Bulgaria. The BPRA has had many successes in struggle to establish better conditions for prisoners and against the arbitrary rule of the prison authorities. For this reason Jock and his comrades became a target of repression. Recently he had been charged by the prison administration with the distribution of BPRA stickers.

This is a clearly fabricated charge and Jock, an anti-fascist prisoner, must be the only person in Bulgarian prison ever prosecuted for racism! They need our solidarity!

For more info on this story, go to link: www.brightonabc.org.uk/jock.html

What is Anarchism?

Anarchism is revolutionary anti-state socialism. In practical terms, anarchists aim for the destruction of the ruling class and of all relationships based on domination and submission. This means taking over the industries and communities and changing them to meet the needs of all, as well as the ecological needs of the environment. Without this takeover we can struggle within capitalism but never replace it.

Anarchism will be created by millions of people, not a dictatorial elite (we are not Marxist-Leninists), and all will have their part to play in shaping it.

Power will lie with the organisations thrown up by and for the revolution, not with the political parties who will try and dominate and destroy them.

The new society will not be born through abstract ideas, but will come out of the realities of struggle and the need for working class people to unite.

Such struggle doesn't just involve resistance to ruling class power (strikes, mass protests and other forms of direct action), but also construction - the building of new, locally based federal organisations (examples of which from the original Soviets and Collectives of the Russian and Spanish Revolutions, to the community resistance and collective organisation during Free Derry to that of the Miner's Support Groups of 1984/85 strike), plus the forging of solidarity and the willingness to go further.

There is no truce in the class war. The answer to the ruling class power is continual and widening struggle - for social revolution and anarchism.