

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST



TUI BOYCOTT

On the 28th of August, a crowd of around 70 gathered outside of TUI on Lord Street to hear speeches about the travel agent's role in facilitating deportations. So far this year it is suspected that TUI has run 19 mass deportation flights on behalf of the Home Office, it is the main airline offering this service. In Liverpool the event was primarily organised through the initiative of Merseyside Youth For Justice, along with several migrant support groups. Liverpool was just one of at least 11 protests across the UK, from Sheffield to Manchester, calling for a boycott of TUI.

TUI can offer an unforgettable experience for every family, even those without cash or passports (the government will kindly step in to cover the over £13,000 bill). The flight of a lifetime might see you separated from your family and friends, killed for your sexuality (which you couldn't prove here) or otherwise persecuted for holding a different opinion to your new regime about the existence of God, role of the state, or women's rights. You can

be sure that it will be a long time before you "discover your smile" again, that is unless you're the CEO of TUI and pocketing 1.7 million euros a year.

After the speeches had finished, the police marched over to remove signs leaning against the store; when a young lad put them back he was aggressively hassled by them, particularly when he swore in passing, though luckily no one was arrested. You can always count on the police to protect family values, if not your freedom of speech to criticise corporations ruining the lives of families.

We understand that some people will think we can't afford migrants, but it's our view that we can't afford the rich. TUI received almost 5 billion euros from Germany to avoid job cuts, and then sacked a third of their workers anyway! When we see corporations profiting from paying migrants poverty wages, our response shouldn't be to try to get them deported for undercutting wages, but to stand with them to fight for better wages together. Afterall, it's the bosses who are pushing down our wages, not migrants, and they will use any excuse to do so, from global competition to the pandemic. The only class that benefits from division and borders is the ruling class. •

LIVERPOOL ANTI-RAIDS

If you're interested in resisting immigration raids then we would direct you to the email list of a newly established group in Liverpool, to be notified about events and actions just email liverpoolantiraid@protonmail.com •

WHO CAN STOP THE MERCHANTS OF DEATH?

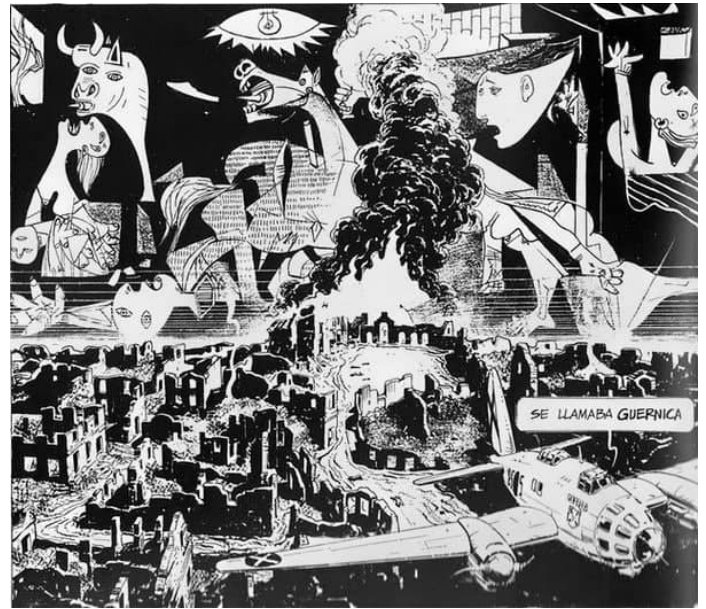
An electronic arms fair is set to take place at the Exhibition Centre in Liverpool on the 12-13th of October. Some of 85+ companies present have supplied nuclear weapons, drones and missiles to countries like the United States, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

There will be a march against the fair on the 11th of September, starting at 11:30 at the gates of Prince's Park, but you can also join at 12:30 at the Metropolitan Cathedral. This event provides both the opportunity to build confidence before October, and to expose the moral bankruptcy of the local council.

The Exhibition Centre is owned by the council, but run by a separate management company, "ACC Liverpool Group". For this reason, mayor Joanne Anderson officially stated while she was opposed to it due to her "socialist and peaceful values", the council cannot legally cancel the event. However, the council is the sole shareholder of ACC, and the local Labour Party whipped their councillors to vote for the arms fair to go ahead, which certainly implies the council could cancel the event, or at least pressure ACC into doing so. Events at the centre have also been cancelled before for ethical reasons, homophobia in 2020 and trophy hunting in 2019.

There is a possibility of legal action to expose Joanne, however who has the legal power to cancel the arms fair is largely irrelevant. Clearly the money involved is a motivating factor, cancelling the event could also make Jo (or the ACC) look unreliable to investors. At the same time she also clearly wants to be popular and to further her career, hence the empty words.

The only reason she made an official statement in the first place, was due to uproar the campaign against the arms fair has mustered. Regardless of whether the event is cancelled, it is our responsibility to hinder the military-industrial complex - which ultimately leads to working class people slaughtering each other in the interests of the wealthy - in whatever way we can. If the event goes ahead, what happens on the 12-13th of October is what will really matter. •



MIGRANT SOLIDARITY FUNDRAISER

Red City Disco are running a fundraiser for Liverpool Migrant Solidarity Network in the form of a ticketed party at Bridewell Studios on Prescott Street (Kensington) on September 18th from 9pm. If you're interested you can buy tickets on the door for £10 or from News from Nowhere for £9. •

"Whether the mask is labelled fascism, democracy, or dictatorship of the proletariat, our greatest adversary remains the apparatus - the bureaucracy, the police, the military. Not the one facing us across the frontier of the battle lines, which is not so much our enemy as our brothers' enemy, but the one that calls itself our protector and makes us its slaves. No matter what the circumstances, the worst betrayal will always be to subordinate ourselves to this apparatus and to trample underfoot, in its service, all human values in ourselves and in others."

Simone Weil

THE UNION: PART II

In the previous issue we critiqued reformist trade unions and concluded that we need a revolutionary alternative. Here we will make the case for the anarcho-syndicalist union.

The anarcho-syndicalist union is a means of fighting for ourselves as part of a wider revolutionary working class movement. We fight for higher wages, lower rent, better conditions, and dignity, against the bosses, landlords, and bureaucrats who control our day-to-day lives. In doing so we not only make small gains and push back their authority, we also begin building a new world in the shell of the old. The class struggle is the school of socialism in which we learn to organise as equals without bosses, and develop an ethos of solidarity and responsibility.

Direct action is the primary method of the anarcho-syndicalist union. Rather than leaving matters to negotiations between union officials and bosses, or to tribunals and court cases, we utilise our collective strength to make demands, to find our own solutions, and to prevent the things we oppose. Tactics such as the strike, go-slow, blockade, and boycott are our bread-and-butter. Such conflict unveils the class divide for all to see, and from the experience of collective struggle new bonds of solidarity emerge, skills develop, and self-confidence is raised.

The anarcho-syndicalist union is organised both industrially and geographically. Workplace branches unite all workers regardless of job, which then organise locally and regionally into industrial unions. At the same time, all members gather in local groups, which organise into federations. The industrial unions ensure concerted action against employers, overcoming divisions of trade and status. The local groups facilitate coordination



between unions, and also take on functions such as education and community action.

The union and its activities are run by the members themselves, without paid officials or executives. Everyone has an equal say in making decisions and plans through open, democratic meetings in the workplace or local group. To organise between different locations and industries, people can be delegated by members to communicate a collective decision or proposal and reach an agreement with other delegates. These delegates do not have any kind of authority, are regularly changed, and must keep to their mandate or else be recalled. The same applies for any officers responsible for matters such as answering emails and administering funds.

We do not limit our activity to "economic" concerns, nor do we affiliate to any political party, regardless of their self-proclaimed revolutionary principles. Our struggle is both economic and political: anarcho-syndicalism combines the politics of anarchism with the methods of revolutionary unionism. Our immediate struggles are continuous with a long-term movement towards abolishing capitalism and the state. We reject any integration with the structures of management and government, acting outside the law where necessary.

We don't expect all workers to agree with our anarchist politics, and many are already members of trade unions, often several in the same workplace. We don't want to create further division, nor recruit all workers into our union and exclude the others. In this situation, we can call for mass meetings in the workplace open to other workers regardless of union membership (or lack thereof), and argue for direct action from the



~ The Bangladesh Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation. ~

rank-and-file. We attempt to convince others of our methods and ideas, leading by example, rather than taking control. Organising beyond our membership in this way means that we do not need to sacrifice our principles to drive up membership, nor compete with other unions.

The anarcho-syndicalist union is open to any working class person who agrees with its aims and principles; this includes the unemployed, retired, and students. We confront oppression and exploitation in our neighbourhoods as well as our places of work, and mobilise against war and tyranny whenever they arise.

As part of an international working class we must organise globally, allowing us to contend with trans-national corporations and unite workers across borders. Anarcho-syndicalist unions around the world are brought together in the International Workers' Association.

The anarcho-syndicalist union we are describing here is not the invention of intellectuals or the dream of idealists but a living reality, from the Union of Polish Syndicalists (ZSP), to the Libertarian Union of Workers and Students (ULET) in Colombia. Today, many of these unions, such as the Solidarity Federation, are small, however, historically it was demonstrated they could achieve mass appeal, in 1934 the Spanish CNT had over 1.6 million members.

But we don't just want a different kind of union, we want to help build a revolutionary movement capable of transforming society from the bottom up, which will certainly go beyond any singular structure or strategy. •

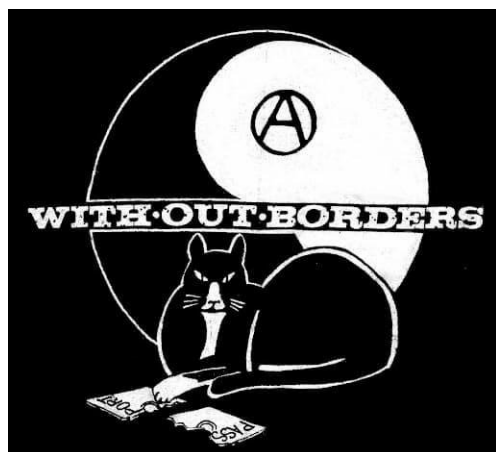
CREEPED OUT? WALK OUT!

Sexism is a huge issue in the workplace, is it possible to tackle it through workers' self-organisation?

On November 1st 1987, four women at the Dingle Housing Office walked out in response to sexual harassment from a male co-worker, demanding his suspension. At first the women were blamed for reporting the matter, accused of sexually harassing him and then suspended! However, 300 NALGO (now Unison) members across 19 housing offices in Liverpool went on strike in protest. The council claimed there was a lack of evidence. There may have been legal issues with proving the accusation, but it is our view that the best judges are the workers themselves, who are unlikely to take the decision to strike lightly. Fortunately 10 days into the strike, the council agreed to undertake a full inquiry.

This isn't just a historical phenomenon, on the 28th of July in the USA over 500 video-game developers employed by Activision Blizzard walked out in protest of institutional sexism.

Are you interested in organising at work, so that if an incident like this occurs you're prepared to walkout? Then you can contact SolFed, a small anarcho-syndicalist union, regarding their workplace organiser training orientated towards women (and non-binary people) at training@solfed.org.uk •



The *Liverpool Anarchist* is written by individual members of the Solidarity Federation, an anarcho-syndicalist union. We aim to publish monthly and welcome all contributions in accord with our basic ideas. We advocate working class direct action to improve our lives here and now while building a revolutionary movement to do away with capitalism, the state, and all other hierarchies.

Send in feedback, comments, and submissions to:
liverpoolanarchist@tuta.io

You can find us online at:
liverpoolanarchist.wordpress.com

And the Solidarity Federation at: liverpoolsf.org