

No right turn

Brexit appears to have unleashed a tidal wave of racist and xenophobic abuse directed at migrants and people of colour across the UK, including the brutal murder of a Polish man in Harlow.

It would be naive to pretend that anti-migrant views didn't exist before the referendum, but racists have been encouraged by the misguided belief that 52% of the population agree with them.

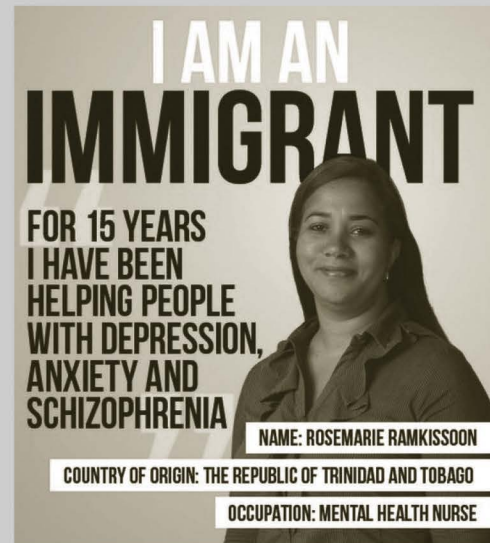
Similarly it would be naive to pretend the EU is pro-migrant. While it claims free movement within its borders, it also operates "Fortress Europe". This is a policy that leads to thousands of deaths in the Mediterranean as only the most dangerous routes into Europe are available.

An explicitly anti-migrant Leave campaign and a Remain campaign happy to trade away freedom of movement for participation in the EU, which increasingly benefits only multinational corporations, has contributed to this toxic mix.

Theresa May has gained a reputation for her efforts to create a "hostile climate" for migrants in the UK by escalating state violence against them. Now Prime Minister, further austerity will inevitably be sold to the public by demonising working class migrants.

Some people are arguing for a second referendum. These fantasists should be ignored. A second referendum is the last thing we need. Another wave of public demonisation of migrants will increase discrimination and prejudice.

Only with strong collective action can we help to turn back this tide of hatred and discrimination. We should be resisting both immigration raids and the far-right organising locally whilst working with our migrant colleagues in our workplaces and communities.



Immigrants are taking our jobs?

For years people have claimed "immigrants are taking our jobs". But it's time to challenge this claim.

Many migrants work in the NHS. Should they all "go home"? If so, who will do these jobs? Our NHS would fall apart without these committed and dedicated people.

People moan about foreign construction workers but we don't have enough qualified people here to build the homes we need. After Brexit many could leave so the housing crisis may get even worse!

Then there are all the foreign workers who grow and pick our food; clean our offices; drive us home when we are drunk; and wipe our arses when we are

ill. Most are on low wages, working in poor conditions for dodgy or uncaring bosses.

If you want cheap food, cheap cabs and enough people to care for the old and sick, who will do these jobs once you have "sent everyone home"? Will you? On those wages? With those conditions? No, you won't.

And what's all this about "our jobs"? They aren't "my" jobs or "your" jobs. The bosses control the jobs and who fills them.

People moan about immigrants outside Wickes undercutting "our" wages. They're blaming the wrong people. Bosses could easily employ UK workers. But they want to make more profits by

Every child matters?

Imagine a young child who has travelled hundreds of miles from her home to escape war and the loss of family to live with relatives who are in the U.K. She ends up in Calais, twenty miles away from safety but stuck in the camp known as the Jungle without support and

in conditions which are truly terrible – no regular food, accommodation or education – and vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Yet she is legally entitled to be in the U.K. because she has family who can care for her.

This is the situation for over 100 children and teenagers who have the right under European law to be reunited with their families in the UK. At the current rate of progress it would take over a year to reunite every child with their family.

An additional 200 children in the camps in Calais are eligible for sanctuary

exploiting foreign workers. When you want a tradesperson, do you check a boss is only employing British people on proper terms and decent wages. No, you don't – because you want the job done cheap. Blame the boss. Blame ourselves. But don't blame the bloke outside Wickes – like us, he's just trying to make a living. We should be linking up with them so everyone gets the same proper wage.

Politicians and the media use immigration as a smoke screen to hide the real villains. Immigration sells papers, gets politicians elected and makes bosses rich. Immigrants are the wrong target. We need to start looking beyond the lies and realise who our real enemies are. And they ain't workers from abroad.

in Britain under a recent agreement to bring child refugees to the UK. It commits the government to relocate lone child refugees in Europe "as soon as possible". Though ministers promised around 3,000 would be brought to Britain, only a tenth of that number have been let in.

This is appalling. The government places a strong emphasis on safeguarding the health and protection of children in this country under the policy "every child matters". Some children obviously matter more than others.

Stand and deliver

Recent protests by Deliveroo and Uber delivery drivers show that people who work in precarious jobs can demand better pay and conditions when they unite together.



PROPER FOOD, PROPER DELIVERY,
PROPER WAGE SLAVERY

The strikes by the Deliveroo riders forced management to back down in their attempts to make workers sign up to new pay terms which would make them financially worse off.

Taking heart from these actions, Uber drivers who found themselves in a similar situation decided to organize and picket the company's offices, until their grievances were answered.

Both companies are funded by wealthy private equity groups and hedge funds. Deliveroo is valued at around \$1 billion and Uber at about \$62 billion, so both are able to pay their workers properly.

Is it too much to ask that the wealth that is created by the workers' labour be shared with them?

In today's workplaces some people seem to be looking out for themselves and the fear of losing their job forces them to accept ever worsening conditions in a race to the bottom.

Homes for all

The myth that migrants receive priority treatment over UK born people when it comes to council housing is not new. Claims made in the media about migrants jumping the housing queue have led many people to believe this lie.

The reality is there is no evidence whatsoever there is discrimination within the current rules against local people in the allocation of social housing.

Working class migrants are not to blame for the shortages in council housing. This belief spread by politicians and the press just leads to tensions in our communities. We should be working together to demand our rights for enough decent, affordable housing for us all, instead of scapegoating migrants, which distracts us from who is to blame.

The government, and local authorities, have hardly built any social housing over the last 40 years. Combined with the Thatcherite Right to Buy policy,

which led to a large proportion of social housing being sold off, there is now a significant shortage. This is where the problem lies.

The gentrification of our area also doesn't help. These new developments which claim to offer the solutions to our housing problems more often than not exclude the poorest local people. Building properties that are unaffordable to buy or rent does not meet the needs of the people that are most in need of housing.

Because of the lack of social housing people are being forced into an ever increasingly expensive private rented sector and in some cases being forced to relocate out of their local area and even out of London.

Our housing problems are not going to be fixed by attacks on migrants. We need to actively join with the groups in our local area who are demanding the building of large numbers of truly affordable housing.

In this climate, the mainly migrant riders of Deliveroo and Uber should be applauded for their brave stance in the face of bullying and intimidating tactics from their vicious bosses.

Only by uniting together will workers be able to reverse the trend of ruthless bosses who are happy to see us fight each other for the scraps that they throw us.

A bitter pill

Who is to blame for the severely underfunded and overstretched NHS? Certain politicians and media outlets will have you believe that migrants are a major cause of the problems the NHS faces today. These tired and lazy arguments need to be challenged.

A Large number of NHS workers are migrants who should be appreciated for the work they do in keeping the NHS running.

The UK has different arrangements with countries regarding healthcare here and abroad. We have agreements with some countries which mean that their citizens can use NHS services for free like UK citizens do. British citizens can use the same services in these countries for free.

In addition, the NHS can recover the costs of treatment given to Europeans living in or visiting the UK. The results of a Parliamentary question published in March showed that the NHS recovered £49 million this way, just a fraction of the £340 million it should've claimed. This is not the fault of migrants receiving treatment, but the incompetent mismanagement of the NHS. On the flipside the UK was charged £674 million by other countries where British citizens working and living abroad received healthcare treatment.

In these days of bitter austerity measures it serves the interests of the rich and powerful to blame anyone else but themselves for the mess they make. At the same time, they are cutting NHS budgets and selling off the profitable parts of the health service to their business chums.

We should not accept the lies the rich sell us. While we suffer for their wrongs, the bitterness created will continue to cause divisions between ethnic and religious communities that should be working together to ensure proper funding for the NHS.