

the state we are in

We are witnessing an ever growing anti-migrant sentiment at the heart of British politics. While racialized state violence against migrants on the shores of Britain and Europe have rightly received considerable public attention, less is said about the internal policing of borders. The recent action taken by Byron

Burgers shows that state violence against migrants is on the rise. Indeed, a recent Freedom of Information request revealed that there has been an 80% increase in immigration raids across London over the past five years. Since 2012, immigration raids in Haringey have more than doubled. New powers granted to UK Visa and Immigration agents and police

officers will leave migrants further open to deportations and harassment - on the streets, in their workplaces and in their homes.

Such state violence must and can be opposed. Working with the London-wide anti-raids network, Haringey Anti-Raids was set up to build resistance to immigration raids. We believe that people should be free to travel, live where they want and be able to do so free from violence and harassment by the state. Our campaign seeks to resist state persecution of migrants by sharing legal information and building networks, solidarity and mutual aid in our communities. To find out more about our work or get involved, contact haringeyantiraidsgmail.com



who we are

In 1991, Haringey Solidarity Group (HSG) emerged from the Anti-Poll Tax campaign, formed by Haringey residents with a wide range of backgrounds and views. We wanted to create a long-term, vibrant, non-hierarchical group, unlike political parties where ambitions and posturing displace real politics.

We believe in ridding ourselves of the current system which places profit and power before people's needs. This involves getting organised, fighting back and collectively taking those decisions which affect our daily lives, communities and workplaces.

We think people must take control of their community and workplace struggles, support each other, encourage practical solidarity, build the necessary skills and knowledge for those struggles and generate strong, permanent, grassroots networks.

Many of us are involved with local residents' community and campaign groups within the borough. We support workers in dispute, campaigns against public service cuts and threatened community amenities. We are active on environmental, housing and claimants' issues and resist oppressive policing and state controls.

We encourage everyone to share their views at our open, monthly meetings where consensus is the aim. We would welcome your involvement, either as an individual or a campaign group, at our meetings and discussion evenings and with practical activities including distributing this newsletter and producing other materials including posters and leaflets.

If you would like to learn more about HSG, then visit haringey.org.uk, befriend us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @_hsg_, contact us at PO Box 2474, London N8, phone 0845 2235270 or email info@haringey.org.uk

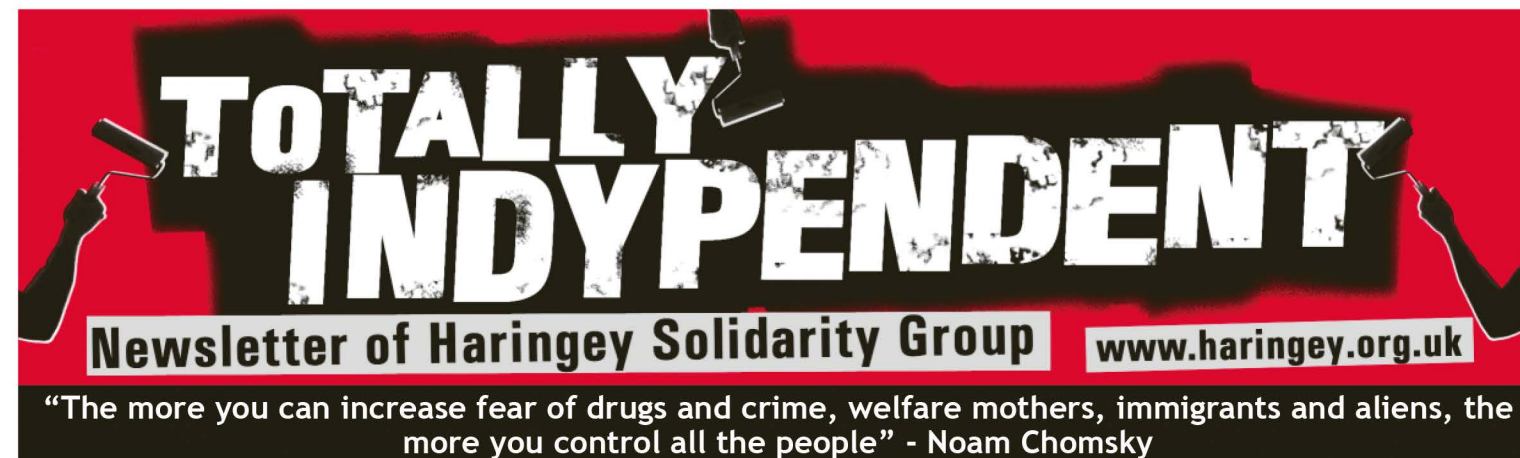
burger off!

This summer saw protests against the Byron restaurant chain who helped the UK 'Border Force' entrap migrant workers.

35 staff members were led off in handcuffs and deported while many more went into hiding.

Members of the London Black Revs and Malcolm X Movement responded to Byron's underhand tactics by using direct action at two of their restaurants in central London, releasing thousands of live cockroaches and locusts forcing the restaurants to close.

Byron have made millions of pounds out of migrant labour yet had no problem in stabbing their workers in the back. Deportations such as these are unacceptable and need to be resisted.



Time to take what's ours

The recent referendum on the United Kingdom's future relationship with the European Union was an utter farce. The leaders of both sides of the 'argument' were all lying because there was no argument.

David Cameron called the referendum out of a desire to unite his squabbling Conservative party. The timing was not coincidental. Opposition to Tory rule is hopelessly fragmented with the terminal decline of Labour, a shot-to-pieces Lib Dems and an inward-looking SNP.

A united Conservative party could rule the roost for decades to come. Cameron and others aspiring to hold high political office do so because it offers them access to unimaginable, unearned wealth by virtue of their position.

This is the way of globalisation. Transnational financial institutions and corporations, aided by unelected bodies like the IMF, run the world through their control over investment, production and the provision of services. Politicians are rewarded for providing a regulatory framework allowing these corporations to make vast profits by driving down working conditions whilst paying next to no tax. Politicians slide easily between the political and business worlds. With their intimate contacts in government departments, corporations hire them to grease palms in return for lucrative government contracts. Many of Tony Blair's former government ministers are now directors of arms and private health companies receiving obscene amounts of money because they know the right people.

In the 21st. century, this is the prize for holding political power - a seat at the table of the greedy bastards who run the world without any concern for the welfare of ordinary people. Remember the pictures of Phillip Green sailing round the Mediterranean on his £100 million yacht whilst thousands of retired BHS workers worried about their pensions? And this is a man knighted by Tony Blair for his services to - well, presumably, Tony Blair.



And so, back to the referendum. The only 'argument' was between elite groups of politicians and money men over how best to retain power whilst enriching themselves. It is clear that presenting this 'argument' to a population suffering from benefit cuts, frozen wages and austerity would not have gone down well - in effect, "which bunch of pigs at the trough would you prefer to be screwed by?"

Instead the usual tactic of dividing, then ruling the common people was employed. Many are angry with the outcomes of globalisation without, necessarily,

recognising the nature of the problem. Politicians channelled that anger against one of the most vulnerable groups in society - immigrants, the foreigner, the outsider. They must be the problem. As ever, press barons, part of the same establishment, joined in depicting immigrants as idle scroungers. What's new? Throughout the last century, the Irish, West Indians, Africans and Indians have all been blamed for the problems created by capitalism (Donald Trump has little to teach us).

However, as the following articles illustrate, immigrants are a source of major benefit to our society. Also, consider this - who do you have more in common with? Theresa May, Boris Johnson and criminal bankers? Or, your Indian neighbour working in the local restaurant, your Estonian neighbour sweeping the streets or your Polish neighbour caring for the elderly? The answer is a no-brainer.

Immigrants are not a problem. Globalisation and those who make vast, untaxed profits from it are. Not content with screwing us in the private sector, corporations are busy buying up whatever is left of the Welfare State, thanks to their political chums, with no regard for meeting human need.

In the 17th. century, Thomas Hobbes was moved to comment that, "...life is nasty, brutish and short". Whilst life expectancy has increased, nastiness and brutishness remain for most of us, immigrant or otherwise.