TOTALLY INDYPENDENT
Newsletter of Haringey Solidarity Group
www.haringey.org.uk

LAMMY, TAKE YOUR BLOODY HANDS OFF GAZA



The Foreign Secretary David Lammy, who has received funding from the Israel lobby, has consistently failed to criticise Israel's genocide in Gaza.

His current hypocrisy continues his past comments and actions on this topic. When he was shadow foreign secretary he refused to say 'Genocide' because he said this is a "legal [term] that must be determined by international courts".

The International Centre for Justice for Palestinians also strongly criticised Lammy's denial of the Gaza genocide. This widespread criticism is a reflection of the growing international consensus – and how out-of-step western governments are with their own people.

Now as Foreign Secretary, he raises no objections to arms deals with Israel. At the end of October 2024, Israel bombed the Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza, killing over 50 civilians. Lammy covered for Israel's actions once again, stating that "it's wrong to bomb a refugee camp but clearly if there is a military objective it can be legally justifiable. It's for Israel to explain its actions."

This horrible person has blood on his hands. On the one hand he makes statements advocating for a stop to the killing of Palestinians in Gaza.

However, on the other hand a ground breaking new report reveals for the first time the extraordinary scale of UK arms exports to Israel using new data from the Israel Tax Authority, and concludes that "it appears that Foreign Secretary David Lammy has misled Parliament and the public about arms shipments to Israel."

Where is truth Mr Lammy? The truth is you do not care about Palestinians, the truth is that you are helping Israel with arms supplies in secrecy. British made weapons are used in Netanyahu's new and terrifying plans to annex the Gaza Strip and ethnically cleanse the land.

Are Labour Killing Disabled People?

PIP (Personal Independence Payment) is a benefit you can get if you are disabled or have a long term illness, even if you are in work. It helps with every day costs, and activities like washing & cooking. For many people it is what keeps them alive, so if they lose it, they may die. Some people can only stay in a job because they get PIP.

Recently we have come together as Disabled individuals and organisations, to fight against the benefit cuts this awful Government wanted to make in the Welfare Bill. We do not agree with the government taking money from disabled people while very rich people are allowed to get even richer.

After the first vote the Government agreed to remove PIP for now from the Bill. They have also agreed to remove the requirement of getting 4 points in any 1 category of the PIP application. They were forced to agree NOT to cut the money for people already getting PIP. But they want to give less to new claimants. And young people under the age of 22 will not be able to get it.This is unfair. Some families only get help with money for caring for a disabled family member, if that person gets PIP. Without it, the whole family loses thousands of pounds a year.

But there are still cuts to Universal Credit, which MPs have approved so far. We want the Universal Credit Bill to be scrapped, because anyone who gets money under the Health section will receive half as much as before!

WHAT YOU COULD DO TO HELP

Disabled People Against Cuts want lots of people to speak to or write to their MP to ask them to vote against the cuts. You could talk about it on social media. We'd also like disabled people and their families to protest outside their MP's office.

To contact DPAC email:
mail@dpac.uk.net



KURDISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
THE FIGHT GOES ON

Following the aggressive police raid on the Kurdish Community Centre (KCC) on 27th November 2024, the Kurdish community and its friends remain deeply committed to resisting ongoing repression. These actions by the state are seen as part of a wider effort to silence voices of dissent and target those engaged in political organising and cultural resistance.



Six individuals were arrested during the raids and now face serious charges, with court hearings begining in February 2026. These charges have been widely denounced by the community as politically motivated and unjust, reflecting a broader pattern of criminalising Kurdish activism in the UK. The accused are currently under harsh bail conditions including electronic tags, strict curfews, travel bans, and restrictions on entering the community centre itself.

The raid was a clear act of intimidation. Armed officers stormed the KCC at dawn, confiscating documents, electronic equipment, and educational materials. The operation traumatised many and disrupted a space that has long served as a vibrant hub for cultural, political, and educational activities in North London. Though some events were initially postponed, the community quickly regrouped and refused to allow the repression to break their spirit.

In fact, since the raids, participation in KCC activities has increased. People see this is an attack not just on a building, but on a movement and they are responding with even greater unity and determination. The Kurdish people and their friends are more committed than ever to defending the centre and continuing the struggle for freedom, democracy, and justice.

The impact of the raid has gone beyond the six arrested. Many in the community report feeling watched, alienated, and stigmatised. Yet these tactics have not silenced them. Weekly meetings, legal defence fundraising, and solidarity campaigns are continuing.

The state's attempt to isolate and intimidate has instead led to deeper solidarity and stronger ties within the community.

Supporters are calling on the public to follow the legal proceedings closely and speak out against the criminalisation of Kurdish political activity. The targeting of the KCC is not an isolated event, it is part of a broader, anti-democratic trend.

But the Kurdish people and their friends will not be intimidated. Their struggle continues, and it grows stronger with every attempt to suppress it.

The Kurdish people have never chosen violence, we are a peaceful community that has lived in the UK for decades, contributing to society and building strong, inclusive spaces. We refuse to be criminalised by the UK state for our identity or political beliefs. Our history is one of resistance, rooted in dignity and struggle.

No Lausanne agreement succeeded in erasing us, and no present-day repressive mentality will succeed in breaking our will or our collective spirit.

Rabble Rousing in Haringey

In 2027, Haringey will be the London Borough of Culture. The Council gets a grant of £1.36 million from the GLA to organise a number of cultural events. Astonishingly their bid is being marketed as "Haringey – the rebel borough".

This is a council who sacked rebel councillors who refused to support the Poll Tax; called the police on demonstrations opposing the council's cuts; cut funding and closed community spaces used by 1000's; claimed the riots in Tottenham were caused by "outsiders", rather than local people angry the cops had murdered Mark Duggan; and have stamped on any independent initiatives to collectively improve our borough.

Haringey Community Action Network (HCAN) is a collection of some 30 groups in the borough, including HSG, who support each other to make us all stronger. HCAN intends to put on events throughout 2026 and 2027 showing who the real "rebels" of our borough are. This will be ordinary people like you and us, showing changes we have achieved over the last 100 years, what groups are still achieving now and into the future. Things that really affect all our lives like housing, workers support, anti-racism, proper benefits, fighting poverty and real environmental improvements.

The Council's press release states "we would especially like to thank Tottenham Hotspur Football Club for their immense support".

So, they support a multi-million-pound organisation who wanted to get rid of council homes for a walkway to their new stadium and have grabbed acres of Whitewebbs Park – against local people's wishes. These are not "rebels" we want any part of.

To find out more about what HCAN are planning and to get involved in showing what real rebels in the borough have really done for the last 100 years contact us – see back page for our details. We need all of you to get involved.

Bring Back the Benches

The Antwerp Arms in Tottenham has been a community run pub since 2015. Hosting music, events and providing a shared space for all - The Antwerp is a treasured asset to many people in Haringey.



Recently Haringey Council ordered the Antwerp to remove its benches on the outside of the park, without consulting the Antwerp. These benches are used by loads of people - not just the pub.

By removing these benches the council is depriving the Antwerp of much needed income during the summer months. Supporters of the pub are angry that the council has taken this line, and want the benches back.

Sign, and share, their petition to bring back the benches - https://chng.it/xqRbyCZSKk

TODAY'S SEEDS ARE TOMORROW'S FUTURE

Is the 'top down' way our society is currently organised and run, the natural 'way things are', and the 'only way'? Do we have to put up with a system based on money, profits and greed, and on hierarchies, politicians and power structures? No! Why should we accept what inevitably comes with such a society – institutional injustice, exploitation, unfairness and discrimination, not to mention poverty, wars and environmental destruction?

Things could be, should be, and must be better than that. But in what way? And how do we get from here to there?



Firstly, whilst those with wealth and power, such as transnational corporations and governments, are relentlessly and ruthlessly working hard to maintain their domination of our world for their own profits and power, billions of people throughout every community are acting in a different way in our everyday lives.

Real Normal Behaviour

Families share their resources and encourage the real human values of cooperation, mutual aid and respect. In every workplace, workers try to do the same. In every neighbourhood and community, there are countless examples of such daily common sense, communication and solidarity. This is, in fact, the real 'natural way' things should be done and how our whole society should be run. On top of such daily sensible, human connections everywhere, people are continuously making collective efforts at the grassroots to organise themselves, to share and spread skills, to articulate their views, to promote their common interests, to defend their rights, and to challenge things that are wrong.

Organising Ourselves

This is done through a number of groups, initiatives, projects and associations of all kinds (it is estimated there are a million voluntary associations in the UK) - from bee-keeping societies, to robot-wars conventions, sports clubs to choirs, from childcare sharing arrangements to evening classes, and from park user groups and residents associations to trade union branches. In Haringey we have hundreds of such groups and at least 7 borough-wide networks and federations. Many, possibly most, of these groups will employ democratic principles (for example everyone being equal), be based around volunteering and sharing, and encourage collective initiative.

What this proves beyond doubt is that ordinary people are in fact extraordinary, and very capable of organising and empowering ourselves. This human way of doing things could be a real alternative to capitalism and governments if people realised that 'politics' is not about voting for politicians but about WHAT WE CAN DO OURSELVES FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

It's our world – let's take it back! We need to up our game, organise ourselves and take action together to build community counter-power in every street and workplace. At the same time activists need to build strong local solidarity groups in every town across the UK and beyond, to support our communities, local campaigns, and to spread anti-authoritarian ideas.

People Power

There is amazing history of grassroots 'people power' movements, strike waves and social revolutions throughout the world which should inspire us. Such movements should not only be AGAINST what's wrong but also be FOR what is right – where people aspire to seize control of their own lives, communities and workplaces and run them collectively together for the benefit of all.

SCRAP THE PREVENT DUTY



Prevent is the name given to a controversial part of the UK government's counter-terrorism strategy, which Amnesty International has described as having a "chilling effect on human rights".

It requires public sector workers (particularly in education or healthcare) to refer individuals to counter-terrorism police based only on assumptions and suspicions that someone is "vulnerable to radicalisation", without individuals actually having committed any crimes.

There is no evidence base for the process of spotting risk advised by Prevent, so referrals are often based on prejudice and stereotypes. The health justice charity Medact found that Asians and British Asians were four times more likely to be referred to Prevent than people from other ethnic groups, and Muslims were eight times more likely to be referred.

The vast majority of Prevent referrals (90-95%) are "false positives" and don't progress to any kind of police intervention. The independent Prevent commissioner Lord David Anderson has admitted that Prevent has completely failed in its aims in relation to two tragic and high-profile recent cases (the murder of children in Stockport and the murder of MP David Amess). But unbelievably, rather than scrapping this system, he now argues that the powers of Prevent should be expanded to profile people based on their social media activity.

Prevent harms relationships between people and their schools, universities and healthcare services. Individuals referred to Prevent face delays in being referred to mental healthcare, social care or housing services

It further stigmatises individuals with mental health problems, and treats some of the most vulnerable people in our communities as potential terrorists, rather than as being in need of the mental and social care that we are all entitled to.

You can find out more about Prevent by reading the reports "The Prevent duty and its chilling effect on human rights" by Amnesty International or "False Positives" by Medact – both freely available by searching online.

These groups are organising against the Prevent duty, as are: **Liberty, Mashlaha, No More Exclusions, and Rights & Security International.**

EDUCATION FOR ALL

The Antiuniversity Now Project is an alternative education initiative that encourages people to teach and learn any subject, anywhere, without the need for expert expertise, and happens in a number of venues throughout London between 13th to 19th October. All events are free to attend.

The project's democratic style of learning sets it apart from mainstream education, and its ethos of collaboration, resourcefulness, inclusion, and engagement guides decision-making. The Antiuniversity is shaped by everyone who participates, as organiser, host, or guest, and aims to create safe autonomous spaces for radical learning that follow anti-capitalist, anarchist, feminist, anti-racist, de-colonial, anti-fascist, queer, trans, and sex worker-inclusive values through conversation and direct action.

Find out more and how to take part:
www.festival.antiuniversity.org

Palestine Action. British State. Who are the real criminals?



On 5th July this year Palestine Action, a pro-Palestinian, direct action group "committed to ending global participation in Israel's genocidal and apartheid regime," were outlawed or "proscribed" as a terrorist organisation by the British state.

This followed the group's action at RAF Brize Norton, where activists sprayed red paint into the engine of a Voyager aircraft. The decision, pushed through by Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, now makes it a criminal offence not only to participate in or support the group's actions, but to be affiliated with it at all, even through symbols or verbal expressions of solidarity. Many have been arrested as a result of this.

Since its founding in 2020, Palestine Action has carried out more than 300 actions of sabotage and occupation against UK-based arms firms, especially Elbit Systems which supply drones and weapons to Israel. Its actions have included rooftop occupations, factory shutdowns, and symbolic interventions like defacing a portrait of Earl Balfour in Cambridge.

These actions have caused millions of pounds' worth of damage, forced site closures, led to investors and suppliers abandoning the company, and brought the UK's involvement in the Gaza genocide into the public mind.

People might agree or not with the tactics employed by Palestine Action, but a recent YouGov poll showed that 55 percent of British people oppose Israel's military campaign in Gaza, with 45 percent of British adults recognising it as genocide.

So why is the government so keen to proscribe Palestine Action as terrorists? Could it be the influence of a powerful pro-Israeli lobby? Declassified UK reports revealed in February 2024 that 20%, about 80 Labour Party MPs including 13 members of the cabinet, have received funding from pro-Israeli groups or individuals, totalling £280,000 in donations.

The Open Rights Group suggests, "Proscribing Palestine Action as terrorists is not about public safety – it is about suppressing protest that we may disagree or agree with, but that stands well short of being an attempt to strike fear into the British public through the use of indiscriminate violence against people. In equating support of damage to military property and businesses with support of terrorism, it endangers legitimate debate about the UK-Israel arms trade."

As time goes on the government's line has gradually changed to one that is more critical of the Israeli state. It appears that they are stuck between the pro-Israeli paymasters and an ever increasing demand from the British public to take firm action against the genocide and ethnic cleansing taking place in Gaza and the West Bank.

Maybe one day Palestine Action will be viewed differently. Nelson Mandela was condemned and imprisoned for 27 years as a terrorist. He is now celebrated and has a statue in Parliament Square. This should serve as a reminder to the government that the moral cause is a just cause.

It is only the will and courageous actions of the people that can change things.

Keep showing your support for the pro-Palestinian activities.

A MAJOR VICTORY

WARDS CORNER OPEN FOR BUSINESS AGAIN

After some 20 years of campaigning, the mainly Latin American traders at Wards Corner see a major victory for all their hard work. In the early 2000's the massive developers Grainger and Haringey Council planned to kick all the traders out of the market there and bring in lifeless chain stores and luxury flats! The traders and community kicked into action to save the area and the market, developing their own "community plan".

Grainger eventually pulled out as a result of the community's campaign, and Transport for London (TFL) took back the site. But in 2020, aided by the police, TFL kicked the traders out, closing the market for "safety" reasons. The traders fought on, to save their market.

Eventually, TFL agreed the old market would be fully refurbished and all traders could move back, but that this would take a while. In the meantime, a temporary market has been built on the same road and traders are beginning to move in. The market, we hear, will formally open in September 2025. This is a MASSIVE VICTORY for the traders and the campaign. Well done to them from all of us at Haringey Solidarity Group. When the permanent market is back on its old site the victory will be even sweeter.

Part of the temporary space includes a community space for anything from yoga to meetings, exhibitions, and everything else. So the community around Seven Sisters also get a much needed space for themselves.

To enquire about the space email: elena@wardscorner.org

There will be a crowdfunding appeal to raise money to properly support this community space. Details are not available as we go to press, but will be soon. Look out for it, and support it.

But the fight isn't over. While TFL have agreed to a community led development, they haven't agreed what that development will look like yet, so continued pressure on them is still important.



WHO WE ARE

FIND OUT MORE AND GET INVOLVED

Visit: **www.haringey.org.uk**
Befriend us on **Facebook**
Write to:
PO Box 2474, London N8
Email: **info@haringey.org.uk**

In 1991, Haringey Solidarity Group (HSG) emerged from the Anti-Poll Tax campaign. 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. We think people should take control of their community and workplace struggles, support each other, encourage practical solidarity, build the necessary skills and knowledge for these 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 state controls.

Come and share your views at our monthly meeting. We welcome your involvement and with practical activities including distributing this newsletter and producing other materials including posters and leaflets.