

# Put FIGHTING RACISM back on the Agenda

## Brighton, Sunday 24 September

(meet 11am Brighton train station from where we will march to conference centre – there is coach from LDN (see below)

### Anti-Racist Demo for Immigrant Rights at Labour Party Conference



#### Reverse the Hostile Environment of Racism in Britain *Bring Down the Government!*

#### Racism drove Brexit & Brexit is driving Racism - **STOP BREXIT!**

**Stop Scapegoating Immigrants – Defend & Extend Free Movement of People  
No New Immigration Controls – Amnesty for All Undocumented Immigrants**

**Unite the Struggles against Poverty and against Racism & Anti-Muslim attacks.  
Join Movement for Justice: Build the independent, integrated, mass, youth-led, immigrant rights & civil rights movement**

For everyone fighting this country's hostile environment of racism that has got worse since the Brexit referendum; for everyone who wants to end the racist scapegoating of immigrants; for everyone who recognises the profound connection between racism and poverty in Britain that was glaringly exposed by the crime of Grenfell Tower; for everyone who is fighting for justice and respect as a migrant worker, Muslim, asylum seeker or international student, or seeking justice for victims of racist police killings – You need to be part of the march and rally called by Movement for Justice (MFJ) at the Labour Party Conference. **Fight to break Labour from the scapegoating of immigrants, the demonisation of the Muslim community, and all the policies that create a hostile environment of racism in the UK. Demand that Labour defends the free movement of people and joins the ANTI-RACIST fight to Stop Brexit.**

The future direction of our lives is being shaped and re-shaped daily by the deepening political crisis of Brexit, which is at the heart of the concerted attack on immigrants and established immigrant communities. In this volatile situation history can be changed and Theresa May's fragile government can be defeated by **an organised, integrated, youth and immigrant led mass movement of and for the oppressed, that is independent of the established political system and does not rely on what the Labour Party does in Parliament or in government.**

We need to build this movement because the whole history of struggles to overcome oppression shows that they are won by the oppressed asserting our own power in action. Our hopes for an integrated, progressive future depend primarily on the young generation that is stepping forward, seeing the deep interconnection of fighting racism and poverty, with the fewest illusions in the decisions that politicians and corporations make above, around and without us.

#### The growing movement and the crisis in the Labour Party

The last two years have been a time of rapid change and growing divisions: we have seen Brexit and the election of Trump – and we have seen the growing movement of immigrants/refugees pulling down the fences and opening the borders of Europe & Britain to solve real & urgent problems created by war, poverty and tyranny, the mass movement of youth & students that secured Jeremy Corbyn's election as Labour leader, the growing movement of migrant workers fighting low pay and racism, and the rapid growth of the integrated, youthful movement led by MFJ to shut down Yarl's Wood and all detention centres.

During the General Election campaign thousands of Corbyn's young supporters, many of whom are part of the struggles for immigrant rights and against racism, made Labour's campaign their own. They poured into communities across the country, engaged with voters and inspired hope in the Labour Leadership's anti-austerity policies among millions of voters, who put aside anti-immigrant prejudices and voted for Labour. The impact of this integrated, youthful movement changed the character of the election, undermined May's strategy and destroyed her authority.

Since the start of the year, however, all of us who have experienced and fought against the hostile climate of racism have had to respond to Corbyn's support for Brexit and ending free movement of people between the UK and EU. MFJ and activists in the student movement and Labour movement have taken up this fight, which has won growing support inside the Labour Party before and since the election. MFJ has called this demonstration at the Labour conference to build this movement and bring it together.

The impact of all our struggles has been seen now, following the shock of Corbyn's statements in a TV interview on 23 July, when he recycled the old lies that immigrants are to blame for low pay and insecurity, and

that stopping immigration will solve those problems – speaking of “The wholesale importation of underpaid workers from central Europe in order to destroy conditions” for British workers, and of low paid workers brought here “In order to dismiss an existing workforce in the construction industry.” Now a large group of Labour Party and trade union activists has launched the **Labour Campaign for Free Movement**, initiated by two black Labour MPs, David Lammy and Clive Lewis. They say in their statement:

*“Migrants are not to blame for falling wages, insecurity, bad housing and overstretched public services...*

*“A system of free movement is the best way to protect and advance the interests of all workers, by giving everyone the right to work legally, join a union and stand up to their boss without fear of deportation or destitution.*

*“... We need to tell the truth about who and what is to blame for the crisis: an unaccountable elite who have run the economy in their own narrow interests. Ending free movement would be counterproductive to achieving all of this.”*

MFJ welcomes this statement. **It is a victory for our growing movement.**

It is time for Labour to ditch forever the Party’s long history of sacrificing the interests of immigrants, sacrificing the rights of people in the colonies, and treating the struggles of black and Asian workers & youth in the UK as secondary issues.

#### **Fighting racism is not a ‘choice’**

Fighting racism is not a ‘choice’ for us; it is a life-and-death struggle. Talk is cheap; our real situation demands clarity and action. We reject Labour’s current coded racism of ‘managed immigration’. We are fighting to maintain and extend the free movement of people, end the vicious circle of ever more inhuman immigration laws, shut down every detention centre, end the anti-Muslim *Prevent* strategy and reverse the hostile environment policies that criminalise immigrants and asylum seekers, make our health service, schools and homes a front line for immigration controls, and foster racist prejudice & discrimination throughout society. We demand an unconditional Amnesty for all undocumented immigrants & asylum seekers, many of whom have lived in limbo for decades.

And we call on the Labour leadership to recognise what its young, black, Asian, Muslim and immigrant supporters understand, **that Brexit is a nationalistic, anti-immigrant, scapegoating project, and FIGHT TO STOP IT.**

#### **Why this fight matters**

Corbyn has committed to Brexit and ending free movement because, like most Labour politicians, he wrongly believes poor and working class white voters are so tied to racist prejudice that it can’t be overcome. That means Labour, under their leadership, **is failing to be a voice for the youth, immigrants and black, Asian, Muslim and Latinx communities who are the most dynamic force for change in Britain.**

The reality is that there cannot be an effective, united struggle against poverty and austerity on that basis.

Racism and immigrant-bashing are the most important weapons of the rich & powerful to weaken and divide the poor, working class and oppressed. Racism manipulates the hopes and loyalties of citizens, and allows politicians of all parties to impose cuts and increase poverty. Brexit is the product of these policies. **We can’t build a successful movement against poverty by avoiding the issue of racism.**

MFJ is demonstrating at the Labour conference because a serious **anti-racist** fight in the Labour Party against Brexit, a fight to ditch all anti-immigrant policies and reverse the hostile environment of racism, will increase the confidence and hope of millions and greatly boost a mass movement that will change the balance of social forces in favour of the poor and oppressed. Thousands of hopeful young Labour activists who are part of the growing movement against racism and poverty are taking up that fight. MFJ calls on them to join the rally on 24 September.

#### **A new movement is emerging to fight racism & poverty**

While the powers-that-be are in crisis our side, the oppressed and youth, is asserting its power in a series of struggles that challenge a racist system. A growing movement of low-paid immigrant workers is boldly defying the alliance between racist managements and the immigration authorities that keeps them poor. Migrant workers have fought with their unions or created new ones, and won a series of victories. Hundreds of cleaners, porters etc. at the St. Bart’s group of hospitals are waging the most inspiring strike against low pay in decades. Cleaners and other workers at SOAS & LSE have won battles to end outsourcing and bring them ‘in-house’. They are doing this, not ‘despite’ being immigrants, **but because they are immigrant workers.**

The powerful action of survivors of social murder at Grenfell Tower and their community in North Kensington – predominantly black, Arab, Moroccan, Muslim, Latinx, Asian and immigrant – has prevented the Government from covering up this crime. Survivors, community members and youth have proclaimed the plain truth, invaded council offices and confronted the powers-that-be whenever they organise a meeting to ‘calm things down.’ On the MFJ’s Day of Rage (21<sup>st</sup> June) hundreds of us marched from Shepherds Bush Green to the opening of Parliament – six miles on the hottest day of the year, many fasting for Ramadan - to send a message to the Government that **we won’t return to business as usual** – until there is justice there will be no peace.

Movement for Justice exists to unite all these growing forces in a dynamic movement based in our communities, workplaces, schools, colleges etc. We fight to Open the Borders of Britain and Europe because that is what hundreds of thousands of immigrants are doing, and because the alternative is barbarism and a world of tyranny. We always speak the plain truth about racism and fight to win By Any Means Necessary. **Join Movement for Justice**

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**FB Event: <http://bit.ly/2udNWmK>**

**London Coach: <http://bit.ly/2udNWmK>**