

Hackney South and Shoreditch Election statement by the Communist League

Global depression and war: a revolutionary working class response

World capitalism has entered the deepest social and economic crisis in living memory, driving Britain's wealthy ruling families on a course to make the toiling majority pay, here and abroad. The rulers' offensive has barely begun.

Talk of "hard choices" means more job losses, lower wages, speed-up, homelessness, and attacks on health care, pensions, transport, and education - gains won by working people over decades - with increased pressure on the individual family to shoulder the burden of these social responsibilities and inevitable consequences for women.



Worker resistance will grow, like the miners strike in 1984-85.

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Their brutal wars in Afghanistan and else-

where, to defend their class interests and strengthen their hand against imperialist rivals, will spread. At home they tighten workers' political rights with increased domestic spying, armed cops, bans on political organisations and non-jury

trials - all preparation for inevitable resistance by working people.

"Divide and rule" is their watchword, as they scapegoat foreign-born workers with calls for "British jobs for British workers" and even foster resent-



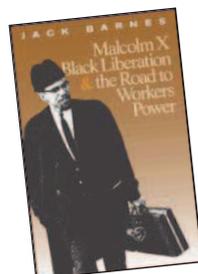
Dole queues and war are what the rulers have in store for working people. Official unemployment stands at 2.5m. Almost 50% of black youth are out of work.



ment against the unemployed themselves - putting wind in the sails of ultra-right outfits like the British National Party and the English and Scottish Defence Leagues.

In the general election the Communist League is putting forward a perspective of revolutionary struggle by workers and working farmers in their millions to overturn this dictatorship of capital and place state political power in our hands. We must reorganise the economy and all social relations, from top to bottom, in our interests.

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PAUL DAVIES, 48, is a meat factory worker. He is standing in Hackney South and Shoreditch. Working alongside fellow workers from around the world, he has supported fights by African, Caribbean, Latin American, Chinese, Asian and Turkish born workers against deportation and for employment rights, "a life and death question for the labour movement".

Last year he was involved in building solidarity with Visteon workers occupying plants in Belfast, Enfield and Basildon against job cuts, reporting on-the-spot for the *Militant* newsweekly.

He has built protests for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, and organised university meetings on the Cuban revolution and in defence of the Cuban Five.

"The Cuban revolution is a living example of how working people can win state power and forge a government to combat all forms of exploitation and oppression. In Britain, revolution is not only possible - revolutionary struggle is inevitable, as workers are driven to resist government and employer attacks."

Caroline Bellamy, 47, is a factory sewing machinist and member of the GMB union. She is standing in Edinburgh South West. In 1999 as an assembly line worker at Ford in Dagenham she was part of a successful strike against racist bosses.

This year, she has been involved in building support for the 20 February counter-protest in Edinburgh to the ultra-right Scottish Defence League. She has travelled to Cuba several times, most recently to participate in the Havana International Book Fair and learn about the conditions of working people there.



Communist League candidates stand and fight for:

Immediate, unconditional withdrawal of UK and all foreign troops from Afghanistan and elsewhere. Not a penny, not a person for imperialist war.

Free the Cuban Five: Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González - five Cuban revolutionaries framed up on conspiracy charges and locked up in US jails for over 11 years.

We put forward immediate demands to protect working people in face of the devastation the ruling class is organising and to unify the working class in struggle.

- Guaranteed unemployment benefits at rates set by the unions for all workers until they find a job. Increase the minimum wage to a rate set by the unions.
- Crash programme of public works to provide work at union rates to build houses, schools, hospitals and roads and improve public transport.
- No cuts in social welfare services.
- Nationalise the land and housing stock - the only way to provide working people inexpensive, quality housing without fear of eviction; and to prevent working farmers from being forced off their land.
- End immigration raids and deportations. Immediate, unconditional legalisation of all undocumented workers. No preferential hiring for British born workers. Lift employment restrictions on foreign-born workers.

VOTE DAVIES, COMMUNIST LEAGUE

X