

JUSTICE FOR GEORGE FLOYD

BUILD A MASS MOVEMENT TO SMASH RACISM

● **Solidarity with the protesters. Defend the right to protest**

● **Build a united struggle for jobs, homes and a future for all. Make the 1% pay for the crisis**

● **Join a trade union - fight for a struggle for workplace safety and against the bosses' offensive on jobs, pay and conditions**

● **No more racist killings – jail the killer cops. We need police accountability through democratic control by local people and trade unions**

● **No trust in capitalist parties – for a new mass workers' party to represent the interests of the 99% not the 1%**

● **Fight for a socialist alternative to the poverty, racism and crisis of capitalism**

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FIGHTING RACISM - A WORLDWIDE ISSUE

In Britain, BAME people are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Black men were 4.2 times more likely to die than white men. The equivalent figure for Bangladeshi and Pakistani men was 3.6, and for Indian men 2.4, with similar proportions for women.

But as the pandemic has developed, the key factors that have emerged as responsible for inequalities in death rates are inequalities in society as a whole.

Poverty: in England & Wales, the most deprived areas had twice the coronavirus death rate of least deprived

Low pay: in 2019 black people were 56% more likely than the national average to be in the 'persistent low income' category. Asian people were twice as likely.

Undervalued: A higher proportion of BAME workers are in what gets called 'low-skilled' jobs than the average. Men in such jobs were four times more likely to die from the coronavirus than men in professional jobs.

RACISM - A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH – before, during and after the C-19 pandemic

Austerity cuts disproportionately affect BAME workers

Police racism: there has been a 22% increase in stop and search by the police of Black youth March - April

Institutionalised racism means BAME staff are

more likely to experience discrimination and bullying in workplaces

Economic crisis will lead to an increase in poverty, lack of affordable housing, and huge unemployment.

George Floyd's death has ignited major protests throughout the US and in many countries – with thousands and thousands of youth spontaneously pouring onto the street in fury against police racism, brutality and murders.

The Socialist Party supports these protests and calls an immediate end to police violence and repression. We fight for an end to racism and the right to a decent future for all.

We agree with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) activist who said: "These protests are about police violence and they are about poverty, unemployment and the feeling of not being heard. We say enough is enough. We want change – and we want it now!"

George Floyd's death comes after many killings of black people by police and right-wing forces. It comes during the Covid-19 pandemic which has claimed the lives of over 100,000 people in the US. There, black people have been dying from the pandemic at three times the average rate. Over 40 million are now unemployed, with figures still rising, and black workers and youth at the sharp end.

The recent riots are an explosion of anger at all the problems and violence Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people face. The state and the police escalated the conflict by firing rubber bullets, flash-bangs, and tear gas to disperse initially peaceful protestors.

On the other hand, we are starting to see solidarity by trade union members as they stand with protesters against police repression. For example, bus drivers in Minneapolis and New York refused to transport protesters for the police.

The outrage displayed in these riots can

be organised into a powerful movement - if it develops a structure and programme to unite behind.

The Socialist Party calls for an immediate end to the police and military intervention on the streets. We defend the right to protest. Democratic and accountable stewarding and management of protests with the involvement of trade unions and the community can keep protests safe and make the political message clearer.

The trade union movement should also call for control of the police to be placed under the auspices of democratically elected local police committees.

BUILD A MASS UNITED MOVEMENT

BAME workers will need to play a central part in building a new mass working class movement. But racism cannot be separated from issues of class inequality and exploitation.

The lessons of the civil rights movement and BLM's own recent history are vital. The struggles of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X led to the conclusion that fighting against racism requires fighting against capitalism.

Relying on the Democratic Party, a party that defends capitalism, a system based on exploitation, inequality and oppression, and built on slavery, resulted in the betrayal of the civil rights movement.

The Black Panthers explained: "We do not fight exploitative capitalism with black capitalism. We fight capitalism with basic socialism." They were absolutely right.

The urgent task now is to unite working-class people of all races to plan and organise an anti-racism movement – that fights for jobs, homes and a future for all.

It is the organised working class that has the power to win these rights and change society.

It is therefore urgent, to unite the struggle with a common programme - to fight for our lives and improved living standards for all.

Today this starts with workers' collective action to fight for adequate and sufficient PPE and workplace safety for all workers. That includes organising in workplaces to protect and shield the most vulnerable workers. We cannot rely on the bosses or the Tories.

The capitalist class is unable to end racism because the system it defends is an unequal system that prioritises profits over our needs. It therefore has an interest in dividing the working class on race, religious, sexual orientation and gender lines to make it easier to maintain its rule.

But, what makes the working class so important is its role in production - workers collectively make everything and without them the bosses can't make their profits.

The working class therefore has the potential power to replace capitalism with democratic socialist planning of the economy to meet the needs of all. Nationalising the top 150 companies and banks that dominate the economy and running them under democratic working class control and management is the first step.

As Malcolm X said: "You can't have capitalism without racism." Capitalism will not end racism. That is the task of the potential movement being built today – replacing unequal exploitative capitalism with a democratic socialist system capable of meeting the needs of all.

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