

# DEFY KEIR STARMER'S ANTI-SOCIALIST PURGE

Unions must with-hold funds and local parties refuse to recognise bans

**R**ight wing members of Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC) are proposing a motion to expel members of four leftwing organisations who have opposed Keir Starmer's leadership and the witch-hunt of anti-Zionists and Marxists.

While the total number of members is small, the proposal to 'proscribe' (i.e. ban) Socialist Appeal is a reference back to Neil Kinnock's purge of the left that cleared the way for the Blairite ascendancy. This point will not be lost on the media barons who have been clamouring for Starmer to drive the left out of the party altogether.

Leftwing NEC members and Momentum have both criticised the proposed ban. But they need to recognise that this is not simply a symbolic attack designed to play well in the right wing press.

We must be clear: whatever our political and tactical differences, the purge of these groups is a prelude to the final counter-revolution against the modest gains in leftwing policy made under Jeremy Corbyn's leadership. It is an attempt to bully socialists out of the party and intimidate those who remain into silence.

If the NEC does pass the motion, branch and constituency parties should refuse to recognise expulsions of their members. Momentum, an organisation whose membership is restricted to Labour Party members, should refuse to recognise this undemocratic purge. We should demand that affiliated trade unions withhold funds until the ban is repealed.

Thanks to the lack of national leadership by the official left—Momentum and the Socialist Campaign Group—the unelected party bureaucrats have been able to silence the membership for over

a year. Whole executives have been suspended, AGMs cancelled, conference delegate elections gerrymandered. Tens of thousands at least, have left and the balance of forces has shifted dramatically in favour of the right.

Rather than the left facing another witch hunt, it is the pro-capitalist leaders of the party and its bureaucracy who should be driven out. This means Momentum must organise in the party and its affiliated unions for a decisive confrontation with Starmer. This fight has been avoided and delayed for too long – the more members who are expelled and suspended or who are demoralised into quitting, the easier it will be for Starmer to complete his transition back to New Labour.

The claim that Labour is a 'broad church' is a lie. Since its foundation the Labour Party has been ruled by an unelected apparatus of trade union and liberal bureaucrats united in their opposition to accountability, democracy, and socialism. A left wing is tolerated so long as it is impotent and marginalised.

It is the bureaucrats and their friends in the PLP and the trade union officialdom who need to be driven out of our movement. But when the decisive opportunity came in 2015-19, the Labour lefts bottled it—desperate to avoid a split with the right, they compromised and were inevitably overthrown.

In the coming struggles against job cuts, closures and evictions, Starmer will betray Labour's working class voters at every opportunity. The Labour left must now organise to use their number to deny Starmer those opportunities, by resisting his leadership within the party, and, most

importantly, by joining the protests and picket lines in resistance to the new Tory austerity.

Since Starmer has made clear he won't fight for the radical socialist measures we need to solve this crisis, Momentum should take the lead by refounding local branches in every community to fight for a genuine socialist alternative based on class struggle, workers' democracy and internationalism.

## ABOUT US

**We are a revolutionary communist organisation fighting to replace capitalism with workers' power and international socialism.**

- Our goal is communism: a society liberated from exploitation, oppression and war through the abolition of the class system.
- We organise a **revolutionary tendency inside the Labour Party** in order to oppose its reformist leadership and promote an anticapitalist programme.
- We campaign to **democratise the trade unions through a rank and file movement** which dissolves the unelected bureaucracy, and fights for workers' control of production.
- **We oppose all forms of discrimination** based on race, age, disability, sex or sexual orientation. We oppose all immigration controls and support black self-defence against racist and state attacks.
- We **unconditionally support** all those fighting against imperialism or national oppression, while fighting for socialist, not nationalist, leadership of those struggles. We are for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all British troops from Ireland and overseas bases. Britain out of Nato. Replace the standing army with a workers' militia.
- Against the dictatorship of capital **we stand for a society based on common ownership and democratic planning**. The bosses will never allow their wealth and privilege to be voted away. **That's why we fight for revolution and workers' power.**
- At the core of our strategy is the building of fighting organisations of the working class - factory committees, industrial unions, councils of action, and workers' defence organisations.
- We are internationalists and members of the **British section of the League for the Fifth International**, an organisation fighting to build a new world party of socialist revolution.

**If you agree with what we stand for - join us!**

**REDFLAG**