

# REBEL CITY

London's anarchist paper | Issue Three | Free/Donation



## Creating our own power

### *Direct action, not politicians, not even Jeremy Corbyn*

A general election has come and gone. There is a new 'left' Labour leader and many are involved in supporting him as well as campaigning for a 'left' mayor of London. Though Jeremy Corbyn may seem 'better' than the usual diet of politicians we have been fed, focusing on electing more left politicians is going to get us nowhere. We have to remember that we live in a capitalist system, ensuring that the needs of business and finance, and the rich in general, come before the needs of the working class. No politician will ever be able to make the fundamental changes needed to bring about any real improvements in our lives. Even if a politician like Corbyn tried to do anything, they would soon be up against the might of the banks and the corporations. He has already backtracked on issues such as Trident and NATO and has included New Labour politicians in his Shadow Cabinet. Just look at Greece. There are no short-cuts to social change by getting someone elected who will supposedly do it for us. We have to build up our own power and create effective and resilient movements in the community and the workplace. This is expressed eloquently by a campaigner from the Sweets Way anti-eviction campaign in north London in a blog post the day after the general election.



*One thing I think has been abundantly clear at Sweets Way is the power of collective action. Together, we have fought the twin giants of an ultra-Tory council and a private developer with strong links to national Tory brass... And have secured some wins that may seem piecemeal to some, but which have been absolutely critical in the lives of the various families involved. We've also stood by one another, using the occupation as a multifunction community space that hosts organising meetings, collective meals, and 7 year old's birthday parties, offering the emotional and practical support needed to deal with the bullshit.*

*We have been creating our own power at Sweets Way and it is not a power that was phased, one way or the other by the election results. It is a power that has emerged in spite of politicians, and which will continue to grow without them.*

## Resisting the raids - London fights back



“So the cops broke into our place at about four o’clock one morning, burst into me and my girlfriend’s room, and one of them turned to the other and said, ‘Leave them alone, they’re white.’ A lady from one of the other flats has disappeared – we haven’t seen her since.” This is one of the stories that we’ve heard on the AntiRaids Network’s *Know Your Rights* stall on Deptford High Street this summer.

The idea for the stalls started when one of us learned that some local shops have been raided four times this year already, with the immigration authorities blagging their way in with talk of faulty gas meters and electrical checks. Shop workers and customers have been questioned for hours, and local residents scared away from their own high street.

Across London, communities are fighting back against these multi-agency raids. Sometimes it’s been as simple as surrounding the immigration authority’s vans and making some noise – making it clear to the authorities that they’re not welcome in our communities. This is what happened in Peckham in May. Enforcement officers were surrounded, and eventually forced to hide out in a butchers shop until they could get away.

A month later in Walworth, it took three vans of riot cops, six police cars and some dogs to remove one guy detained by the authorities. News of the raid spread by word-of-mouth and social media, and the authorities were faced with improvised barricades and flying fruit and veg. Although sadly one guy was taken by the authorities, if every immigration raid was met with that level of resistance it would seriously screw up the State’s ability to deliver these raids.

In July, an attempted immigration raid being sabotaged by locals in Shadwell, East London. Sixteen van tyres were let down and officers were egged – a similar reception to the previous month in Walworth. To make matters worse for the immigration cops, they had were accompanied by media in a bid to do a spectacular “tough on immigration” stunt. The cops were called, and sadly two people were arrested in the incident – but who knows how many more arrests and detentions there would have been without community resistance?

When people step up and show each other solidarity, we can make immigration checks and raids a lot more difficult. We can do this not only by physically confronting the authorities, but also by knowing our rights and telling others about them.

*If immigration officers or the police stop you in the street and ask about your immigration status:*

- *You DO NOT have to answer any questions.*
- *You DO NOT have to tell them your name or address.*
- *Tell them that you do not want to talk to them.*
- *Stay polite but confident.*
- *You can walk away.*

Since starting the stalls in Deptford, we’ve had invitations to address local community and student groups to deliver workshops on how to resist raids. Other groups have started to hold stalls in places like Shadwell. All it takes to run a stall is a few people and some materials, which you can get from the Anti-Raids Network, who have news and information on the fight against immigration raids as well as information about your rights, translated into more than twenty languages. It’s time to make some noise.

<https://network23.org/antiraids/>

## Fuck Your Borders - Migrant Lives Matter!

*This article is written by a member of Black Dissidents.*

Migration and the defence and acceptance of migrants is very tied to the experience of British people of colour. Many of us and our families emigrated to the United Kingdom from a country that has previously been exploited by the British empire in order for it to grow. Whilst some of us have been able to leave, the exploitation is still ongoing and the remnants of these historic wrongs can still be felt today. Therefore Black Dissidents [1] believe that it is critical to elevate migration as a priority for the liberation of black and brown people.

Migration has been placed at the forefront of everyone's minds since the influx of refugees from Syria. The situation has gotten desperate and Fortress Europe has

responded with fences, tear gas and water cannons. But there is a growing grassroots movement providing support for the migrants not only as they make their journey into Europe but also when they arrive on its shores.

Black Dissidents are organising a solidarity trip to Calais. We believe that it is critical to make the connection between those of us who have successfully migrated to Britain with those who are still fighting to make it over. It is important to build this bond and show solidarity with our brothers and sisters. It is by building and nurturing this bond that we will be able to grow as a community and fight for our liberation.

Black Dissidents also want to provide support to the migrants who have arrived in the UK and unfortunately

find themselves abducted and held indefinitely at a detention centre. Yarl's Wood is one of the most notorious detention centres in the country. Detainees there have been sexually assaulted, died in custody under suspicious circumstances and been subjected to racial abuse. The population is also 90% female which has led to campaigners using the rallying cry, "Set Her Free!"

Black Dissidents have been working with the Movement for Justice [2] to organise protests outside Yarl's Wood to demand its immediate closure along with the closure of all detention centres. There have been two national demonstrations to date. The imposing fences surrounding the prison have been torn down twice. The walls have also been covered in graffiti by demonstrators with pro-immigration messages. The protest isn't limited to the outside of the detention centres. Inside many detainees also join in by chanting out of the window and banging on the windows and walls.

The next national demonstration [3] is planned for 7

November. Coaches are available from London and Birmingham. We will once again join the hundreds of people from across the country outside the prison and the detainees protesting inside to demand the end of detention centres. We will not stop until each and every single detention centre is shut down. No one is illegal. Fuck your borders!

#### NOTES

Black Dissidents are a UK based group of militant black and brown activists, fighting for liberation by any means necessary.

#### Links

1. Black Dissidents -
2. Movement for Justice Website - <http://www.movementforjustice.org/>
3. [www.facebook.com/events/755942137885113/](http://www.facebook.com/events/755942137885113/)

Also see the work done by the Calais Migrants Solidarity Campaign:

<https://calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com/>

## Take back the East End



The East End is under siege. Everywhere housing estates, markets and pubs are under threat as the property developers, aided by councils and housing associations, eye up the profits to be made by driving out the working class that have lived here for so long. The Blitz didn't do it but the property developers with a big thumbs up from this government think they can.

East London is rapidly becoming the playground of the rich as luxury flats go up everywhere. Not content with this, they want to steal our history too and see the East End as a theme park peopled with the token Pearly King or Queen or the odd sanitised pie and mash shop if you're lucky.

One glaring example of their attempt to take over our history is the new Ripper Museum in Cable Street. It was originally pitched to Tower Hamlets Council as a museum dealing with the history of women in the East End by the businessman Mark Palmer-Edgecumbe, former diversity officer with Google (joke!). Permission was granted in October 2014. We do not know if he had the intention from the start to actually make this a museum to the murderer called Jack the Ripper by the press at the time, or whether he realised later on that he could make more money. We know that he started buying Ripper artefacts from the Police Museum in London quite early on. When the wraps came off in July

local residents realised to their horror that the museum was now one devoted to a serial killer and mutilator of working class women.

As Guardian reporters discovered Palmer-Edgecumbe: "first became interested in opening such an "attraction" in 2008, when he was involved in an exhibition about the serial killer at the Museum of London Docklands. He declared this on the museum's website, although the page has now been taken down. He was also listed as a co-director of a company called Jack the Ripper Museum (London) Limited in 2012. That company was wound up in March 2014. He's listed as the co-director of another company, 5S Visual Supplies limited, which was incorporated in October 2013 and changed its name to Jack the Ripper Museum (London) Limited in May 2014."

The real history of the East End is a history of struggle. It's the Match Girls strike, dockers' strikes and tailors' strikes. It's a history of Rudolf Rocker and the Jewish anarchist movement, of Sylvia Pankhurst and her papers Women's Dreadnought and then Worker's Dreadnought. It's the Battle of Cable Street where local people stopped Mosley's Blackshirt fascists marching through a Jewish area. It's about the mass squats of the 1960s and the fight against the National Front in the 1970s. It's about self-organisation and direct action. It's not about a sordid glorification of a serial killer to make a fast buck. East Londoners will not accept this further insult to our culture and heritage.

This museum must not be allowed to continue. Tower Hamlets Council now needs to reconsider the application. If there is to be a museum on Cable Street, it should be one devoted to the rich social history of the East End, to women's struggles or indeed the fight against fascism for which Cable Street became famous. Tell Mark the Rip-Off to get lost and stand proud for our class and the East End.

There are regular protests at the museum supported by a number of groups. For up-to-date information on the next protest see:

<https://www.facebook.com/classwarparty>

## Focus on a Developer: Poplar HARCA



### Not Popular, Not a Social Housing Association

One of the biggest landlords in the London borough of Tower Hamlets is Poplar HARCA (Housing and Regeneration Community Association), the so-called social housing association, managing 9,000 homes. Like other 'social' housing associations it inherited many council estates from both the Greater London Council and the local council.

Housing Associations were meant to be a brick in Tony Blair's Third Way between capitalism and socialism (ha!). The reality is that at least 40 executives of housing associations earn more than the Prime Minister. He's on £142,500 per year, while Steve Stride, chief executive of Poplar HARCA is on £166,000!!! This year Stride received one of the biggest bonuses for housing association executives, a tidy sum of £21,000. This ranks as the biggest bonus for housing associations of less than 10,000 homes.

### HARCA and the HSBC

HARCA has many links with the disgraced bank HSBC. Bernadette Conroy was HSBC's Global Head of Planning and Strategy and now sits on HARCA's finance and audit committee as well as being Chair of the HARCA board. Inside Housing (March 2005) tells us: "the banking giant HSBC has a long association with Poplar HARCA". She took over from Stephen Green in 1998. Stephen Green served for many years on the board of Poplar HARCA. Green is now Lord Green, Tory peer. He was the chairman of HSBC during the years of dodgy accounts, on £3million a year. Why are ex-officials of HSBC, serving on HARCA? When HSBC was involved in enabling money laundering by Mexican drug lords and had conducted business with companies with links to terrorism (according to an investigation by the US Senate). In addition they enabled more than 100,000 clients from over 200 countries to evade tax worth hundreds of millions of pounds through HSBC's Swiss

private bank (See the Panorama programme Bank of Tax Cheats).

### Agent of gentrification, not social housing provider

The HARCA board also includes Tanya Martin "employed within....the private property sector in residential sales and lettings." There are also links with Argent (Property Development) Services LLP, a property developer involved in the "regeneration" around King's Cross. Alexandra Woolmore (current HARCA board) works for Argent as Project Director.

People associated with property development involved in managing a supposed social housing association? Bit like putting Jesse James in charge of the Bank of England!

Poplar HARCA's business strategy is to evict social tenants and replace their homes with properties for private sale and 'affordable' rent, which we know is unaffordable to most. They have already sold off a lot of the social housing stock.

Take Balfron Tower in Poplar. HARCA, which the tenants of Balfron Tower voted in to manage the block, claims it can't afford to refurbish the block and rent properties at social rents. However, if full, Balfron brings in around £1.5m a year in rents, which would be enough to pay the necessary loan off over 20-years. And what has happened to all the rent Poplar HARCA took since it began managing Balfron in 2007? The residents know it's not gone on maintenance.

If permitted, around £20m will be spent on refurbishing the 1960s block before the majority of its 146 properties are sold off to bankers and investors with no chance of its original and intended residents to return.

There were around 135 socially let homes at Balfron. After the refurb there will be none. They did the same on previous occasions with the Leopold Estate (135 socially let homes, now 71 'affordable' rent) and the Aberfeldy Estate (211 homes for social rent, now 190 'affordable' rent).

Now Stride and HARCA have their eyes on the Chrisp Street Market, one of London's oldest. A recent article on Stride in Inside Housing noted that he wants to turn Chrisp St into the next Shoreditch, a 'tech city' of post-industrial offices. A market that has been a supplier of cheap food and goods to the working class of the East End is to be gentrified out of all recognition, the cheap shops removed as well as 100 social housing flats surrounding the market.

The refurbishment of Balfron Towers and the 'regeneration of Chrisp St are being done in partnership with leading developer Telford Homes. They have a 25% interest in the sell-off of the Balfron Tower flats so together with the Chrisp St development they are expected to make over 300 million pounds. This extract from their website gives an idea of the close links between HARCA and Telford Homes.

The regeneration of Chrisp Street market is a major development opportunity in partnership with Poplar HARCA. Telford Homes has a longstanding relationship with Poplar HARCA and will now work together with them to further their vision of transforming the area around the existing market square into a new commercial and leisure destination (<http://www.telfordhomes.london/news/Telford-Homes-Acquisition-Regeneration-Business-UHD>).

In the final analysis, Poplar HARCA acts more as an agent of gentrification in the East End, rather than a provider of social housing.

**Are the good times about to end?**

In April 2015, HARCA was audited by the Homes and Communities Agency (the government’s social housing regulator). As a result their ‘viability’ was downgraded. (This is a bit like a school getting a poor report from Ofsted). The reasons were: things are tight financially, they are planning cuts (‘efficiency savings’) and relying on being able to put rents up. HARCA is excluded from new government restrictions on rent rises by a waiver that allows it to hike up its rents more in 2015-16 than

other social landlords:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-judgement-poplar-harca-limited-2>.

But HARCA is not out of the woods yet. It is in massive debt to the banks. This is reflected in the way estate cleaners and other staff are being cut back, whilst as for repairs you’ll be waiting a long time. There is a growing attitude of arrogance towards tenants and resident among HARCA staff, and the much vaunted ‘transparency’ that HARCA used to boast about has rapidly disappeared, with HARCA becoming increasingly secretive about its plans for the future.

**The future of Chrisp St Market: Public meeting: October 20th 7 pm.**

**Address: St Matthias Community Centre, Poplar High Street, E14 OAE**

This will be the first meeting to bring residents, shoppers and traders together to demand a say in Poplar Harca’s plans to redevelop the site.

More info about the campaign:

<https://towerhamletsrenters.wordpress.com/>

**Bridge over troubled Boris**



In the last two issues of *Rebel City*, we’ve touched a lot on two topics. One is the transformation of London into a kind of theme park for the super-rich. The other is the London Mayor Boris Johnson’s fondness for madcap schemes. These two things often come together as Boris uses his special executive powers to give developers free reign against the wishes of local communities.

Now that Boris’ plans for a rebuilt Crystal Palace have collapsed (see *Rebel City* 1), his biggest wheeze is the Garden Bridge. According to its website, the garden bridge will be an “enchanted space” stretching from Temple tube station to the South Bank. Not just one space either, but a garden of “several sequential spaces... so that a pedestrian crossing the bridge will walk through an ever-changing seasonal landscape.”

At a mere £174 million, who could refuse? Certainly not Boris. And

with Joanna Lumley as a celebrity backer, there’s no wonder he thinks it’s absolutely fabulous. Enthusiasm for the garden bridge goes beyond the enchanted space between Boris’ ears, stretching all the way to Downing Street, with George Osborne pledging a grant of £30 million of public money while welfare budgets are cut. Boris has followed suit, ordering TfL to make a matching grant of £30 million – more public money.

All this money comes from transport budgets (because a bridge is a form of transport, right?) when the original bridge plans were to be entirely funded by a charitable trust funded by private donations. But what will we get for our £60 million-and-counting?

What is being created is a privately managed tourist landmark rather than a bridge – using the definition of a public right of way across the river. For a start, it’s only accessible between 6am and midnight, unlike the Victorian foot-tunnel from Greenwich to the Isle of Dogs, which is open 24 hours every day (as long as you can manage the steps at each end), meaning that the bridge is not a right of way.

There aren’t many details of how the bridge will operate, but there will be limits on group sizes, suggesting a ticketing system will be introduced. The bridge will also be closed once a month for corporate events and plans no longer include provision for cyclists. So we’ll be able to use it when we like, as long as it’s not too early or too late, we have a ticket, there’s not a corporate shindig happening, we’re not part of a large group and none of us is on a bike. Sounds great!

And wherever there is Boris, there are shenanigans. An internal Transport for London report has revealed that vital paperwork relating to the garden bridge was destroyed by officials despite (or because of!) knowing London Assembly members and others were asking questions about its design and procurement. So we will never get to see the detail of how the garden bridge went from 100% privately funded, to getting a loan from TfL, to getting a grant from TfL to getting a grant from TfL plus future maintenance costs.

## Garden Bridge or Workfare Bridge?

**BOYCOTT  
WORKFARE  
REAL JOBS NOW  
NO TO WORKFARE  
EXPLOITATION**

*This article comes from the excellent Johnny Void, a tireless campaigner and independent researcher on workfare, benefits and more. You can check out his blog here: <https://johnnyvoid.wordpress.com/>*

All those struggling with ever more vicious cuts to social security will be delighted to learn that millions of pounds of public money is soon to be spent building a new bridge in Central London with a garden on it. And if that isn't enough of an insult at a time of soaring hunger and homelessness then – if Lambeth Council get their way – some of those building this bridge won't even get paid.

Over £60 million has been pledged already by the publicly owned Transport for London to build a Garden Bridge across the River Thames just yards away from two other bridges. This vital project,

which developers say has the support of business leaders and a famous architect, is the latest attempt to turn the capital into an elaborate Disneyland and playground for the global super rich. With gentrification fast turning London into a cultural desert then ever more gimmicks like this will be necessary to ensure middle class dickheads from across the globe keep flocking to the city in the hope of bumping into Harry fucking Potter.

With planning permission granted it looks likely the bridge will now be built, although Westminster and Lambeth Council are still squabbling over the details. As part of the negotiations, late last year Lambeth Council drew up proposals calling for the construction of the bridge to include “training and job opportunities” for those that face significant barriers to work and “need support to get their foot in the door”.

Elsewhere in the document Lambeth say the developers should deliver Traineeships and Apprenticeships to local unemployed people. Traineeships are a workfare scheme which include up to two months unpaid ‘work experience’ and are used to prepare young people for becoming an Apprentice where they will be paid just £2.73 an hour for the first year. Let the good times roll.

Lambeth Council have also called for paid work experience placements in horticulture once the bridge is open, although they acknowledge that this would require some funding. With the Tories promising permanent workfare for those under 21, then it is likely their flagship Westminster Council, who also get a say, will have their own plans to push young people into unpaid or poverty paid work on the bridge.

Nowhere in the document do Lambeth call for those working on the bridge to receive the London Living Wage, so we should, especially at the moment when the developers are pretending to be everybody's friends. You can contact them on twitter [@TheGardenBridge](https://twitter.com/TheGardenBridge) and via their Facebook page to demand that everyone who works on this bridge, whether they are training or not, gets a proper fucking wage.

## Workers take on Sotheby's

On the first of July, the United Voices of the World (UVW) launched a campaign for a real living wage and sick pay for cleaners and porters at Sotheby's Auction House in Bond St. Considering that Sotheby's deals in art work worth millions, you would have thought that they would be able to afford it! However, the morning after the protest, the cleaners and porters who were involved in the protest got banned (aka sacked) from site!

Since then there have been five protests, demanding the reinstatement of the sacked workers, with the numbers supporting increasing each time.

As a result of the successful protests two workers have been reinstated but two are still being victimised and have just been told Sotheby's will not allow them to return to work because they are active members of a trade union!

UVW continues its campaign. The next protest is on October 15 at 6 pm. Sotheby's Auction House 34-35 New Bond Street W1A 2AA London. You can keep up-dated on the campaign at:

<https://www.facebook.com/unitedvoicesoftheworld>



## The Radical Assembly (RA)

This initiative grew out of the anger people felt at another Tory government. However, the RA is different from the typical Leftist approach in that it aims to build a network of grass roots campaigns from the bottom-up, with no central leadership and a focus on direct action rather than getting the right politicians elected. It had its fourth all-London in October and will have these periodically but the main focus has been the building of a number of local assemblies.

*Since the first Radical Assembly in May, the large numbers attending these events have begun a process of federating downwards and acrosswards into sets of autonomous groups. There are now six regional groups, for the North, East, South East, South West and West of London, as well as one specific local campaign group, Reclaim Hackney. These groups are now organising outside the General Assembly, have begun creating links amongst other grassroots campaigns, and are planning their own direct actions and community engagement. This is the first step towards the Radical Assembly being able to take effective collective action, with both a resilient structure and the maintenance of individual group autonomy.*

*(from blog post <https://lifeglug.wordpress.com/2015/06/13/the-growth-of-radical-assemblies-part-1/>)*

This is a very positive initiative and is helping to bring various groups and single issue campaigns together. We hope that the Radical Assembly will grow from strength to strength and will continue to reject electoral strategies now favoured by so many on the Left with the election of Corbyn as Labour leader.

If you want to get involved, look at the facebook pages for events organised by the different local groups. The next all London Assembly will be early in 2016. There will soon be a website: <http://www.radicalassembly.com/>

## The Radical Housing Network is made up of London based groups fighting for housing justice

<http://radicalhousingnetwork.org/>

The Radical Housing Network (RHN) has led the way in helping to build an effective housing movement. It is composed of over 30 local campaigns and groups who are all fighting social cleansing and gentrification by resisting evictions and demolitions of estates and demanding more social housing.

**Housing:** Groups within our network work on a wide range of housing issues, including but not limited to, private renting, social housing, squatting, access to benefits, homelessness, and co-operative housing.

**Radical:** We feel we are not represented by mainstream politics, and seek to organise a movement for housing justice from below, across tenure, rooted in people's everyday housing needs. We support a diversity of tactics, including direct action.

**Network:** The network is a horizontal association; a "group of groups". We connect and cooperate with each other, across tenure, within and beyond our local neighbourhoods.

### UP-COMING EVENTS

#### The international property developers fair (MIPIM)

Public meeting Oct 15th

<https://www.facebook.com/events/738030146341207/>

MIPIM protest Oct 21st

<https://www.facebook.com/events/130361393983443/>

#### RHN Conference November 14th 10am – 6pm

All Saints Community Centre: rear of 105 New Cross Rd, London SE14 5DJ

This conference will be one of reflection as well as one of planning for the future. The sessions are:

#### 1. Roots of the Crisis

- How capitalism works to produce a crisis
- History of housing in Britain
- The crisis today: Government policy and the global context

#### 2. The State: Friend or Foe

- What role does the State play in the fight for housing justice? The movement makes 'demands' of the State and looks to the State to implement reforms. Is this the right strategy? What are the alternatives?
- How should we relate to the planning system? Is it something we can use as part of our campaigns or is it a way for the authorities to keep control and exclude us?

#### 3. The Activist Response

- How does the housing struggle relate to the general struggle against capitalism and other forms of domination? What role can it play in creating a completely different society?
- How can the housing movement link up the workers' movement?
- What is the role of direct action in the housing struggle?
- What lessons have we learned from the campaigns that we are involved in?

# A Sideways Look

Recently, I had to spend far too much time in the Accident & Emergency Department of a South London hospital accompanying my dad. It's never a pleasant experience and can be incredibly frustrating. Long periods of boredom and waiting are interspersed with brief intervals of action, often stressful or painful. This is a feature it shares with warfare, something confirmed by memoirs but airbrushed out of films and television in much the same way as my A&E experience didn't feel like an episode of Casualty.

Spending a lot of time there, you realise that a lot of the facilities for those non-essential people like family members are not open when you need them. The hospital is not actually near anywhere, either, so you can't just pop out for twenty minutes. I can only hope there are separate arrangements for the staff as the canteen closed at 7pm. Additionally, in response to the government's idea of a "truly 24/7 NHS" it wasn't the doctors or nurses who weren't there at the weekend but the support staff – radiographers and social workers. I asked one why: his answer came as no surprise – there was no money to pay for it.

Observing the waiting room, I regularly heard people whisper that they had been there longer than the person being seen. It seems wrong to the British culture of Buggins' turn; those who wait longest should be seen next. But emergency medicine works to different priorities: the triage system. Triage is about allocating scarce resources where they can best be used. It selects patients for treatment on the grounds of who needs it most. Those likely to live or die regardless receive a lesser priority than those who may die if not treated immediately. The need is assessed by someone medically qualified. Patients are ranked according to need and can be bumped down the queue if more urgent cases arrive. Crucially, other factors that might count for something in wider society, such as wealth, social class or immigration status, count for nothing in the emergency room. It is the one area of medicine where the rich cannot queue jump and there seems to be a terrible shortage of private A&E departments, perhaps it's just not profitable enough. Scarce resources being directed firstly at those most in need, regardless of other factors, sounds a lot like communism. If it works for one area of life, why not others?

*Svartfrosk*

## Sisters Uncut

<https://sistersuncut.wordpress.com/press/>

Sisters Uncut is a direct action feminist group who is campaigning against cuts in funding to domestic violence but has taken pro-migrant action, eg a militant protest at the Daily Mail in August.

Their demands are:

- No more cuts to domestic violence services
- Restore funding that has been cut
- Secure funding for specialist domestic violence services; this should be ring-fenced at a national level
- Local Authorities to fully meet the demands of their communities, recognising that different women have different needs
- Guaranteed access to legal aid for women experiencing domestic violence
- Provide access to safe and secure social housing for women who otherwise cannot afford to flee
- Panic rooms should not be classified as a spare room under the Bedroom Tax
- Safety should not be subject to immigration status; extend access to safe housing to women with no recourse to public funds

## Get involved!

Here is a selection of campaigns and groups that are helping to make London the Rebel City.

### London-wide

Industrial Workers of the World: <https://www.iww.org.uk/londongmb>

### East London

Action East End: publishes The Howler and supports local campaigns: <https://actioneastend.wordpress.com/>

Tower Hamlets Renters/Save Chrisp St Market: <https://towerhamletsrenters.wordpress.com/>

Boleyn Development 100: campaign calling for 100% social housing on the West Ham site: <https://boleyndev100.wordpress.com/>

### North London

Haringey Solidarity Group: local group that campaigns on a variety of issues, such as workfare, as well as producing a regular paper: <http://www.haringey.org.uk/content/>

Haringey Housing Action Group: <http://haringeyhousingaction.org.uk/>

Radical Islington: <http://islingtoninciter.blogspot.co.uk/>

### South London

Housing Action Lambeth and Southwark: <http://housingactionsouthwarkandlambeth.wordpress.com/>  
Lambeth Housing Activists: <http://housingactivists.co.uk/>

## Are you interested in finding out more about anarchism?

The Anarchist Federation aims to support and make links between campaigns that empower working class people or that challenge capitalism and all systems of power. The London group of the Anarchist Federation meets twice a month and also hosts monthly discussion meetings.

**E-mail:** [london@afed.co.uk](mailto:london@afed.co.uk)

**Facebook:** London Anarchist Federation group

**Twitter:** @AfedLondon

**Blog:** [aflondon.wordpress.com](http://aflondon.wordpress.com)

We also publish the paper *Resistance* and a magazine *Organise*, as well as a range of Pamphlets. For more information about these publications as well as the Anarchist Federation in general see the website: [www.afed.org.uk](http://www.afed.org.uk).

**Produced by the  
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Anarchist Federation**

