

Labor's immigration cuts fuel Hanson's racism



MIGRANTS ARE WELCOME, NO TO ONE NATION

FAR RIGHT

Lessons from the AfD's
surge in Germany

RADICAL HISTORY

Hungary's workers' uprising
against Stalinism

PALESTINE

Israel's genocide
continues three years on

Solidarity WHAT WE STAND FOR

Capitalism is a system of crisis and war

Capitalism is a system of competition, crisis, and war based on exploitation of workers, producing for profit not human needs. Although workers create society's wealth, they have no control over production or distribution. Through environmental degradation and climate change capitalism has become a threat to humanity's future and life on earth.

Workers power and socialism

The working class has the power to challenge the existing system and create a better world. We stand for socialism, a society based on democratically elected workers councils which would control and plan the economy to produce for human need. The authoritarian states like Russia and China are not socialist but forms of state capitalism where workers have no power.

What about elections and parliament?

Parliament, the army, the police and the courts are institutions of the capitalist state that maintain the dominance of the ruling class over the rest of society. The capitalist state cannot be taken over and used by the working class, it must be smashed. Workers need to create their own state based on workers councils.

While parliament can be a platform for socialists, real change doesn't come through parliament. It is won by mass action in strikes, protests and demonstrations.

We are internationalists

The struggle for socialism has no national boundaries. We oppose everything that turns workers from one country against those from another; we campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose borders and immigration controls, and welcome migrants and refugees.

We oppose imperialism and support all

genuine national liberation struggles. We oppose Australian nationalism.

Australia is an imperialist power established through genocide on stolen Indigenous land. We support the continuing struggles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for land, justice and self-determination.

Oppression and liberation

We oppose sexism, racism, homophobia and transphobia. We fight against all forms of discrimination and the oppression of women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, migrants, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. We oppose discrimination against Muslims and people from the Middle East.

Linking up the struggles

We are active building movements for environmental and social change and economic equality. We are active in our unions and work to build the organisation and self-confidence of the rank and file. We work to bring activists together to strengthen each movement and build a common struggle against capitalism.

Educate, agitate, organise

Socialism cannot be introduced from above, by parliament or parties. The emancipation of the working class is the act of the working class itself.

Solidarity is an organisation of activists, anti-capitalists and revolutionary socialists committed to socialism from below. We are part of the International Socialist Tendency.

A democratic revolutionary party is necessary to deepen resistance to capitalism and to build a movement to overthrow the system. Solidarity members are beginning to build such a party out of today's struggles against the system.

SOLIDARITY MEETINGS AND BRANCHES

Sydney

Meeting 6.30pm every Thursday
Brown St Hall, 8-10 Brown St
Newtown
For more information contact:
Adam on 0400 351 694
sydney@solidarity.net.au

Melbourne

Meeting 6.30pm every Thursday
Kathleen Syme library and community
centre, 251 Faraday St, Carlton
For more information contact:
Jason on 0456 624 661
melbourne@solidarity.net.au

Brisbane

Contact Mark on 0439 561 196 or
brisbane@solidarity.net.au

Perth

Contact perth@solidarity.net.au

Canberra

Contact canberra@solidarity.net.au

Adelaide

Contact Robert on 0447 362 417 or
adelaide@solidarity.net.au

CONTACT US

Magazine office

Phone 02 8964 7116
Fax 02 9012 0814

Email

solidarity@solidarity.net.au

Website

www.solidarity.net.au

Facebook

Search for "Solidarity Magazine" or
go to fb.com/soliaus

Twitter

@soli_aus
twitter.com/soli_aus

Solidarity No. 212

October 2026

ISSN 1835-6834

Responsibility for election
comment is taken by James
Supple, 410 Elizabeth St, Surry
Hills NSW 2010.
Printed by El Faro, Newtown
NSW.

SUBSCRIBE TO SOLIDARITY MAGAZINE

Solidarity is published monthly. Make sure you don't miss an issue—pay by credit card online at www.solidarity.net.au/subscribe or send in this form with a cheque or money order and we will mail you *Solidarity* each month.

☐ 5 issues—\$15 ☐ One year (12 issues)—\$36 ☐ Two years (24 issues)—\$65

Name Phone

E-mail Address

Cheques payable to ISO Publishing. Send to PO Box 375 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012.

Things they say

I congratulate the Coalition for basically coming up with our policy. We are moving both the Labor Party, we're moving the Coalition.

One Nation's Barnaby Joyce on the Coalition's new anti-immigration policy

If I have my way, Dan Andrews, Jacinta Allan, they'll be in prison by Christmas.

Mark Nicholson, One Nation Victorian Upper House candidate, channels Trump at the One Nation launch.

Our party would be looking to assist the creation of a Pauline Hanson Prime Ministership ... Our purpose would be to support One Nation forming government.

Thomas Sewell, the head of the Nazi National Socialist Network, on his hopes for a White Australian Party

We have as our prime minister a Benny Hill impersonator who rarely met a corporation for which he wouldn't roll over

Writer Richard Flanagan on Labor's AI policy.

It's not like Giorgia Meloni in Italy, which is fine. Even [the leader of the French National Rally party, Marine] Le Pen, may be a bit on the edge, but fine. [Leader of Reform UK, Nigel] Farage, he's got his other problems, but fine. The MAGA movement, fine. Barnaby Joyce draws the line at supporting the AfD in Germany, a party increasingly dominated by Nazis

It's got to be rare, it has to have provenance and it's got to be of value Luxury watch auctioneer explaining the Australian record of \$612,000 paid for a Rolex Comsograph watch in July.

CONTENTS

ISSUE 212 OCTOBER 2026



Fighting racism and One Nation

5 Labor's cuts to immigration boost One Nation

8 Building the fight against One Nation

20 German far right AfD election wins powered by racism



Israel and sanctions after three years of Gaza genocide

6 Albanese refuses to back sanctions push on West Bank settlements

7 Sydney Uni referendum biggest student vote to cut ties with Israel to date

14 Israel's ongoing genocide exposes a savage world system

Australia

10 Labor's plan to end gendered violence failing

11 NSW Labor attacks Aboriginal Land Rights

12 Can new Greens leader capitalise on anger at political system?

12 Sydney Uni staff strike back



International

13 War in Yemen threatens oil supplies and wider war



Features

16 Victorian Socialists campaign—electoralism at expense of struggle

Cornell Seven case exposes sexual violence on campuses



A HORRIFYING sexual assault at Cornell University has produced a wave of global outrage and anger. It has exposed the sexist culture prevailing at university campuses and the shocking response of authorities that fail to take rape seriously.

A 20-year-old student at Cornell was drugged and raped by seven men over seven hours in 2024 at a university fraternity house.

The woman, known only as Jane Doe, arrived at the Chi Phi fraternity house to meet a friend at about 11pm at night. She was already intoxicated and her lawsuit states she was "incapable of consenting to" sexual activity.

But she was forced to take ketamine, and separated from her phone.

Her abuse was amplified after messages were sent to a fraternity chat group. Doe was repeatedly assaulted until she lost consciousness at 5.45am. In court documents she says "she felt as if there was no way for her to escape this room full of predatory, fraternity men".

Despite reporting the abuse to campus police who passed on evidence to country police, no criminal charges were ever laid.

The local district attorney says the evidence he received did not meet the legal threshold for charges. Yet Doe's initial statement said "I can say with

Above: Students at Cornell University rally to demand "Justice for every Jane Doe" Photo: DSA Ithaca

100 per cent confidence I was raped."

Just two of the seven men were expelled, one graduated, and two more were suspended. The others were made to write essays on the events and attend workshops.

In September this year, Jane Doe sued the university, the fraternity and the seven men. It was only then that New York state's governor announced that its top prosecutor would reopen an investigation.

An angry demonstration at Cornell has demanded, "Justice for every Jane Doe" and the resignation of university president, Michael Kotlikoff.

The shocking case has exposed deep sexism on campus. Dozens of men knew the assaults were happening but did nothing to stop it. At Cornell 38 per cent of female undergraduates reported experiencing sexual assault in a 2025 survey.

Jane Doe's abuse is yet another example of how institutions protect abusers and fail to deliver justice for survivors.

At the very top of US society, there is a President convicted of rape and who has bragged about "grabbing women".

Other examples, like the Jeffrey Epstein scandal and MeToo movement, show how the capitalist system enables and encourages sexual abuse at every level.

Jane Doe's abuse is yet another example of how institutions protect abusers

Labor's immigration cuts won't help housing crisis

LABOR'S PLANS to cut immigration are an effort to pander to One Nation—but will do nothing to address the housing or cost-of-living crisis.

International students will now be able to extend their visa only if switching to a course at a higher level. And moving to a different education provider will require a new visa. They will also be barred from bringing partners and children with them, apart from PhD students and those from the Pacific and ASEAN countries.

In July and August, the government also slowed and then quietly stopped processing working holiday visa applications from 24 countries.

It will now introduce a ballot for those who want to stay on for a second and third year, with only 5000 places for the third year. This is designed to reduce the number of backpackers by almost 40,000.

But its plans will do nothing to solve the housing crisis. Most backpackers stay in hostels and sharehouses. They are required to spend time working in regional areas, meaning they are often in temporary accommodation.

Many international students live in student accommodation and some are forced into overcrowded apartments with shared bedrooms. A study by academics at the University of South Australia found that increased numbers of international students between 2017 and 2024 had no impact on rent prices.

Response to One Nation

Unaffordable housing is not the result of immigration. Policies benefiting wealthy investors and the failure to build public housing are to blame. The surge in house prices began in the early 2000s after the Liberals introduced incentives for investors through capital gains tax and negative gearing.

Labor's modest effort to unwind this will only slow the growth in prices. But they need to come down dramatically to make them affordable. House prices compared to average annual incomes have doubled from four times income in the early 2000s to eight times today.

Nor is Labor doing anything to reverse the decline in public housing.

Acting on this is what's needed to undermine One Nation's racism and put an end to unaffordable housing and rents.

EDITORIAL

Labor's immigration cuts and cost-of-living failure fuel One Nation's racism

THE COST-OF-LIVING squeeze is worsening but Labor is doing nothing to protect living standards. This will only fuel the rise of One Nation.

Inflation was up to 4 per cent in August, due to a 15 per cent spike in fuel prices. With no end in sight to Donald Trump's war in Iran, higher petrol prices will continue.

The Reserve Bank's response was to hike interest rates to 4.6 per cent in the fourth increase this year, taking them to a 15-year high. This will increase the pressure on anyone with a home loan and push up unemployment.

The government's reduction in fuel excise and its power bill subsidies, which temporarily brought down prices, have now both ended.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers has cast doubt on the prospect of any further cost-of-living relief. The ruling class and media establishment are demanding that Labor impose new budget cuts to bring down inflation.

Chalmers wants to give in to their campaign, saying "the need to find more savings" would shape his budget update in December.

One Nation is feeding on bitterness about housing prices and the cost of living, posturing as an alternative to the mainstream parties.

Hanson wants to turn anger against immigrants, refugees and Indigenous people. Her newly released immigration policy calls for savage cuts to net migration of 750,000 over three years, targeting international students and families of those on skilled work visas.

The Liberals are trying to compete, with their own policy to cut net migration by more than half to 100,000 for two years. Leader Angus Taylor declared it would be "the biggest cut to immigration in the history" of Australia.

Instead of standing up to this, Immigration Minister Tony Burke has announced his own measures to cut immigration.

The government will launch increased efforts to track down and deport visa overstayers, with 100 extra compliance officers and a new detention centre in Melbourne.

But its main targets are international students and backpackers on working holiday visas.

Labor is demonising international students as "visa hopping" to try to stay in the country. But studying here, after paying huge student fees, is a recog-



nised pathway to staying permanently as a skilled worker.

Burke presented Labor's approach as different to One Nation's demands. He said he was against "drastic cuts" to immigration because this would only "hurt the economy", and defended immigration as necessary to bring in the construction workers needed to build more houses.

But his measures are a capitulation to claims that migration has driven up the cost of housing and rents, fuelling the racist idea that migrants are a threat to living standards.

Anthony Albanese was forced to rule out plans to reduce the refugee intake following an outcry from refugee organisations and his own backbench MPs.

But Labor reportedly wants to remove the right to work for asylum-seekers appealing the rejection of their claims and to reduce appeal rights.

This would require legislation, which has stalled after the Coalition withheld its support in the senate.

Victorian election danger

The threat from One Nation is not going to fade away. A new prediction for the Victorian election on 28 November says it could win 16 seats. This would force the Liberals into coalition with them to form government.

One Nation's Victorian campaign launch called for more cops and harsher sentencing laws, tearing up Victoria's Treaty with First Nations

Above: High school students in Sydney taking to the streets against One Nation Photo: Solidarity

people, cuts to jobs in the public sector and cancelling renewable energy projects.

Reports said the event had the feel of one of Trump's MAGA rallies.

We need an anti-racist campaign that stands up to One Nation's anti-migrant racism instead of pandering to it as Labor does.

Just pointing to Hanson's anti-worker record, as the Getup and Victorian Trades Hall campaigns in the Victorian election do, is not enough.

The party uses racism as a false explanation for the cost-of-living crisis—and these lies need to be countered. The rally against racism and One Nation on 24 October in Melbourne is an important start.

One Nation feeds off despair about falling wages and the failure of governments to protect living standards.

More serious union campaigns for wage rises could counter this. In Victoria there have been strikes against the state Labor government by teachers, council workers, doctors and allied health workers. University staff at Sydney Uni, Melbourne Uni and in Queensland have all taken strike action.

In France high school student protests and blockades of schools against overcrowded classrooms, lack of teachers and funding have transformed the political situation.

Teachers and other workers have gone on strike in support.

This is the kind of fightback that can stop racism, low wages and budget cuts and show a real alternative to Labor's failures.

.....
The threat from One Nation is not going to fade away

Albanese refuses to join sanctions on settlement exports as Israel's genocide and ethnic cleansing rages

By Adam Adelpour

IN SEPTEMBER the UK government announced new sanctions on goods exported from Israeli settlements in the West Bank, alongside 11 other governments. Shamefully, Anthony Albanese has refused to adopt similar sanctions.

The joint statement led by France, the UK and Canada says the sanctions are a response to the “unprecedented levels of settler violence and settlement expansion”.

According to the Palestinian Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission, during the first six months of 2026 there were 11,074 Israeli military and settler attacks against Palestinians, their land and property.

The statement also cited the Israeli government's decision to publish tenders for the E1 settlement project as a reason for action. The E1 project is designed to sever the West Bank in two and make any Palestinian state physically impossible. Israeli authorities finalised issuing of tenders for 3401 settlement units in September.

The sanctions on exports from the settlements are nowhere near what is needed to end Israel's impunity. But they are a sign of the intense pressure on Western leaders from the Palestine solidarity movement.

The Albanese government must be pressured to adopt them as part of the wider fight to cut every tie with the Israeli terror state.

Albanese's shameful refusal

Albanese's refusal to adopt these minor sanctions exposes his recognition of a Palestinian state last year as a hollow attempt to deflect growing anger over Israel's genocide.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong said Israel's actions are “extinguishing the possibility of a two-state solution”. Yet her government refuses to take even the most minimal action.

This is entirely consistent with the Albanese government's attempt to silence the Palestine solidarity movement to cover up its complicity. Throughout the year the farcical Royal Commission has been used to desperately try and smear and repress support for Palestine.

Meanwhile, Australia has continued to export F-35 fighter jet parts and armoured steel to Israel and ship



Palestinians in the West Bank inspect demolished homes in homes in the village of Jinba in Masafer Yatta, south of Hebron following Israeli settler attacks

Photo: IMAGO/Mamoun Wazwaz apaimages

Australian-made explosives to a US factory that arms the genocidal state.

Sanctions on settler exports, but not on the Israeli state

During his sanctions announcement UK Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband decried the “ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in areas of the West Bank perpetrated by settler terrorists”.

But on their own the UK sanctions are nowhere near what is needed given the magnitude of Israel's crimes.

The UK has announced a ban on imports of goods produced in illegal settlements. But according to *Al Jazeera* imports from settlements into the UK amount to perhaps only 0.1 per cent of the roughly \$11.4 billion annual trade between the UK and Israel. The UK government also said it won't introduce legislation for six to nine months.

Despite their weakness, the UK government sanctions give further legitimacy to the idea that Israel must face material consequences for its actions. And settlement trade is not insignificant when considered in its totality.

Researchers at Global Echo estimate exports from the settlements to Europe alone are worth \$560 million annually. It would be a win to see this trade stopped dead.

The UK Labour government's move is a sign it is under real pressure from the Palestine solidarity movement. Hundreds of thousands of voters deserted Labor under previous leader Keir Starmer and for huge numbers of them Palestine was a big

factor.

Miliband even conceded in one interview that, “Gaza mobilised a whole generation of people and those people were right, not wrong.”

But when announcing the UK sanctions Miliband made a point of saying, “I wholeheartedly oppose the boycott, divestment, sanctions or BDS campaign.”

The announcement was also accompanied by declarations about the need to defend the “two state solution”.

But the two state solution has always been a fraud that allowed Israel to continue its expansion while Western leaders could claim to support an eventual Palestinian state on a fragment of their own land.

The Palestine solidarity movement here must seize on the UK's sanctions announcement to demand Albanese not only adopt sanctions on settlement exports, but far more sweeping, comprehensive sanctions on the Israeli terror state.

It is also essential to build boycotts and protest to sever the supply chains of genocide everywhere the government fails to act, from the weapons exports to academic boycotts.

In Australia settlement brands like King Solomon Dates sit on the shelves of outlets like Harris Farm. The movement must fight to see them removed, just as apartheid South Africa faced a boycott of its agricultural exports like oranges.

Israel must be made into a global pariah as part of the fight for a free Palestine, from the river to the sea.

The UK government sanctions give further legitimacy to the idea that Israel must face material consequences for its actions

Big student vote to cut ties with Israel in Sydney Uni referendum

By Vieve Carnsew and James Supple

STUDENTS AT Sydney Uni have voted overwhelmingly to cut the university's ties with Israel, in a student referendum held alongside annual Student Representative Council (SRC) elections.

It is the largest student vote for an academic boycott of Israel on any university campus in Australia to date.

Over 4000 students voted in the referendum, with 92 per cent backing the motion for an academic boycott of ties with Israeli universities, including exchange partnerships with Tel Aviv University, Technion and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It also called on the university to end all research partnerships with weapons companies that supply Israel.

All these Israeli universities are directly implicated in support for the IDF, which has carried out war crimes in Gaza. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, for instance, offer an "enhanced financial package" for students also serving as IDF soldiers.

SRC President Grace Street said the outcome was "a momentous result that tells the University in their own language that students do support divestment and that we won't be sidelined any longer. We will be pushing forward this referendum to the front of the University's agenda."

The referendum was initiated by Students Against War and Solidarity members, who campaigned in the elections under the Globalise the Intifada ticket. By clearing the hurdle of 3000 students participating and two-thirds support for the motion its demands have become official SRC policy.

Student elections often see student activists focus on promising services and cheaper food on campus, rather than putting wider political issues like Palestine front and centre.

The referendum ensured Palestine remained a key focus in this year's elections at Sydney Uni.

All of the other left groups on campus gave it their full support as well as all four presidential candidates. Even PENTA, a self identified apolitical group made up of international students, included the referendum on their how to vote leaflets. Members of the Labor Left and Right and The Greens promoted it on their social media and filmed videos sup-



Above: Student campaigners celebrate the referendum results at the end of the election

porting it.

At the same time staff at Sydney Uni have also been organising to demand a "convocation", a mass meeting of university staff and alumni, to discuss the university's ties with Israel and attacks on freedom of speech.

Attack on Globalise the Intifada

The referendum result was also a rejection of the attempt to crack down on Palestine solidarity at Sydney University and campuses around the country.

The initiators of the referendum ran in SRC elections under the ticket name "Globalise the Intifada". In a shocking attack on free speech, they had their materials deemed a "psychosocial hazard" by the university and removed from some areas of the campus.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, NSW Premier Chris Minns and federal Education Minister Jason Clare took the extraordinary step of contacting the university to demand censorship of the ticket, joining a campaign by the Daily Telegraph to smear the slogan and the pro-Palestine campaign as antisemitic.

Following the elections, the university released a statement attacking the phrase as "hateful" and "distressing" to members of the university community and threatened disciplinary measures against students and to cut the SRC's funding.

But intifada is an Arabic word that means "uprising" or "throwing off oppression". It was used to describe the

two mass Palestinian uprisings against Israel's illegal military occupation, the First Intifada from 1987 and the Second Intifada from 2000.

The Palestinian intifadas involved mass protests, strikes and boycott campaigns supported by almost the whole of the Palestinian population.

The referendum result shows the student body overwhelmingly stands with Palestine and for boycott, divestment and sanctions against the genocidal state of Israel.

At the beginning of this year, Chris Minns tried to ban the slogan "Globalise the Intifada", and posters were taken down by USyd security during O Week because they included the phrase. But student activists stood up to this and have fought repression on campus every step of the way.

Also this year, when USyd security tore down posters which featured the Handala symbol, with management citing it as being potentially "antisemitic and violent", Students Against War led a campaign to say there is nothing antisemitic or violent about the cartoon drawing of a Palestinian child. This forced management to walk back their previous statements and admit that it is not antisemitic to call for an academic boycott of Israel.

Students at Sydney Uni have shown both how to defend the right to protest and the deep opposition to Israel's genocide and apartheid that exists on campus. This is the kind of fight needed to end the complicity of university managements and our government with Israel's ongoing genocide and apartheid.

The referendum result shows the student body overwhelmingly stands with Palestine and for boycott, divestment and sanctions

Building the fight against One Nation: Speaking out against racism and division

Unite against Racism in Melbourne brought together a panel of speakers in the lead up to the Victorian election in November to discuss fighting racism and One Nation. Below is an edited transcript of the speeches



We cannot accept that migrants are the problem. Migrants are workers. They build our houses—
Rathy Barthlote

Rathy Barthlote, Tamil refugee and co-founder of Refugee Women Action for Visa Equality

Right now, people are struggling. Rent keeps going up. House prices are out of reach. Food, electricity and healthcare are getting more expensive. People have every right to be angry. But instead of solving the problems, politicians tell us to blame somebody else—blame refugees, blame migrants, blame Muslims, blame people who came from another country.

We have seen this before. For decades, refugees have been used as political footballs in Australia. And now One Nation wants to take this politics of fear and division even further.

We cannot accept that migrants are the problem. Migrants are workers. They build our houses. They work in our hospitals. They care for our elderly. They work in construction, factories and warehouses. They help keep this country running.

We are being divided by race, religion, language and where we were born. Why? Because divided people are weaker.

Unity is powerful. I know this from my own experience. I helped lead a campaign for permanent visas for thousands of refugees who had spent years living in limbo in Australia. We were told nothing would change, but refugees organised.

The union movement stood with us. The Palestine solidarity movement stood with us, refugee organisations stood with us, ordinary people stood

with us and we won permanent visas.

We didn't win because politicians suddenly became compassionate. We won because ordinary people organised, fought back and refused to be ignored.

That is an important lesson for our fight against racism and One Nation. Our answer cannot simply be, don't be racist. We also need to fight for solutions to the problems people are facing.

When they say migrants are taking your homes, we say build more public and affordable housing. When they say migrants are taking your jobs, we say raise workers' wages and protect workers' rights.

Let's organise in our workplaces. Let's organise in our unions. Let's organise our communities. Let's fight together for housing. Let's fight together for decent wages. Let's fight together for health care, education, and properly funded public services. And wherever racism appears, let's stand against it. We have to build a movement that challenges racism wherever it appears.



Imam Alaa Elzokm, Elsedeaq mosque, Heidelberg Heights

Every day we hear Pauline Hanson and One Nation pushing a toxic narrative that blames migrants and refugees for the cost-of-living crisis, soaring rents and the housing shortage.

The facts completely dismantle these lies. When immigration dropped

to virtually zero during the pandemic, housing prices did not fall.

Migrants are not draining essential supports like the NDIS. They are the front-line workers caring for the most vulnerable people in our community.

Racism is nothing more than a deliberate distraction to deflect public anger away from failed economic policies.

There is a well-documented tactic known as strategic inaction. The ruling authority deliberately stands by watching hate speech and division escalate without enacting protections. It postures as a safe alternative and the lesser of two evils to demand vulnerable communities support them unconditionally because the alternative, the far right, is worse.

This strategy is not new. Between 1881 and 1905, the Tsarist regime in Russia faced mounting economic failure. Instead of addressing this, the Tsarist regime invented scapegoats. Public anger was channelled towards vulnerable minority communities.

Reactionary gangs known as the Black Hundreds carried out violent pogroms, while the police and authorities stood by. The regime sent a message to the targeted communities that you have no protector except the Tsar.

Today we see the modern echo of that playbook.

We have to build cross-community solidarity by refusing to rely on promises from political leaders. We must build coalitions across unions, refugees and migrant workers and First Nations.

We need to organise community support whenever any group comes under attack. We have to stand together. We have to be in the streets. Your fight is my fight, and my fight is your fight.

We will not let Labor or Liberal control us through silence and inaction. Instead of condemning the genocide of over 70,000 people, including more than 20,000 children, in Gaza, the Labor Party welcomed the Israeli President here.

Our power lies in our solidarity and collective struggle.



Uncle James Williams, Wakka Wakka man and Greens candidate for Essendon, Victorian state election

This continent has carried my people for tens of thousands of years. Long before there was an Australia.

Pauline Hanson's own presence on this land depends entirely on invasion, on dispossession, on the violence done to my ancestors and the violence that continues to this day.

That woman has appointed herself the gatekeeper of who belongs. That is so wrong. You don't get to define who is on my Country, nor my brothers' and sisters' Country, it's up to them to say.

I say refugees are welcome here, migrants are welcome here. Everyone has come to this land seeking safety, seeking a future, seeking dignity.

One Nation are rising because people are hurting. And instead of pointing at the people actually responsible, they're pointing at Black and brown people.

They point to anyone who looks like an easy target rather than pointing at who is actually driving the cost of living.

It's not the refugee working two jobs, it's not the migrant family living next door. It's billionaires like Gina Rinehart. And they are the very people that One Nation cozies up to.

We know that a divided community cannot fight for better wages. A divided community cannot hold power to account.

In the 1990s, we ran One Nation out of town before. So here is what I'm asking of you: get organised in your workplace, in your school, on your campus. Don't let racist remarks pass unchallenged. Put One Nation last.

This land has never belonged to hate. It never will.

We need to say that One Nation is racist and if they're elected, we will all fight them tooth and nail
—Lucy Honan

Lucy Honan, Fight the Crisis and Australian Education Union activist

We're hot off a really empowering campaign. It's been a couple of intense months of fighting this Labor government. The pretty miserable working lives that so many people have is a reality that doesn't get talked about. It's not articulated well enough by anybody who is supposed to represent us.

In the Australian Education Union, we also unfortunately found that that was true of our own union leaders. They couldn't articulate how bad the situation is in schools, let alone the Labor government that is supposed to represent working people admitting that.

When you have that situation, people listen to other voices. And unfortunately One Nation are the loudest ones saying there is a crisis and I've got the solution. Theirs is a toxic non-solution, but the articulation that there is a major problem hits a nerve.

There has been an argument put to us as unionists that the antidote to this is to wrap up our own fights. In the Australian Education Union, we were told that, close to the election here, our campaign against the Labor government is going to get awkward. We need to focus on fighting One Nation.

That is a disaster. To stop fighting Labor in order to fight One Nation is to confirm all the views of the people who are leaning towards the far right. They say you're just part of the system



that protects the Labor government and the people who have run us into the ground.

Unions have the power to blow Pauline Hanson out of the water and fight the Labor government and that sense of demoralisation that One Nation feeds off.

In the course of our campaign the teachers' union went from 35,000 members to 50,000.

There are park rangers out on strike, council workers out on strike, the doctors and all the Melbourne hospitals are out on strike because of conditions where they can't take a break for 12 hours on end. Melbourne University staff are going out on strike and transport workers have mobilised in their thousands.

We have to fight to put One Nation last and support candidates who are talking about racism. But this won't be resolved through the election.

We've seen in Europe and in the US with Trump that the far right is on the rise.

We have to confront Pauline Hanson and fight her on the streets. In Melbourne we have tried in various ways to confront the far right on the streets. But we need an orientation to getting many different groups of people, not just the far left, out against the far right, that sees mosques, members of political parties, churches, unionists all standing together on the streets against One Nation. Taking this action together will help discredit her as any alternative.

Trades Hall is running a campaign to put Pauline Hanson last. But Trades Hall, Getup and other organisations have gone really hard on the anti-worker politics of Pauline Hanson and really soft on her racism.

The most likely outcome of this election is that Pauline Hanson and the Liberals win.

We need to say that One Nation is racist and if they're elected, we will all fight them tooth and nail.

Below: High school students marching against racism and One Nation Photo: Solidarity



Albanese's plan to end gendered violence is failing

By Jean Parker

IN APRIL 2024 Albanese described violence against women as a “national emergency”. The Albanese Government introduced a \$4.7 billion plan to end violence against women and children in a generation, 2022-2032.

We are now halfway through. But this year 52 women and 21 children have already been killed in family and domestic violence homicides and sexual assault rates are at their highest level in 33 years.

Far from ending gender-based violence, under Albanese, things are getting worse, fast.

Cost-of-living pressure cooks the family

The cost of raising children has risen 30 per cent faster than wages, with a third of that increase going to paid childcare costs for under-fives. Surveys are showing that 45 per cent of parents are now experiencing moderate psychological distress and 12 per cent high distress.

While economic necessity forces mothers to work longer hours sooner after childbirth, they are still, on average, losing 55 per cent of their income in the first five years of each child's life.

The struggle to make ends meet, constantly juggling work and parenting responsibilities also drives social isolation.

These economic pressures and social isolation are super-charging domestic and family violence. NSW Police statistics for 2025 show a 49 per cent increase in domestic violence reports including a “serious threat”, echoing the ever-growing requests for help to the frontline services covered by Domestic Violence NSW.

Inflation also makes escaping violence much harder. Financial abuse, made easier with the proliferation of electronic surveillance, is a key element of coercive control, threatening access to the funds needed to escape a violent relationship. Research by Anglicare found that the costs of fleeing abuse have grown by 71 per cent over the last decade.

For those who are able to access emergency refuge housing, there is no affordable accommodation to move them into afterwards. For all the talk about Albanese's housing package, there are no affordable rentals and



Above: Marching as part of a national "No more" rally against violence earlier this year
Photo: What were you wearing

stocks of public housing are lower than ever.

While Minister Tanya Plibersek talks up the \$700 million the Labor government has spent since May 2025 on Domestic Family and Sexual Violence (DFS) services, on the ground there is an “avalanche” of women seeking support, with wait lists of 6-12 months in Western Australia, three months in NSW, and up to three years in Tasmania.

Sexual violence and toxic misogyny

The horrific seven-hour gang rape by Cornell University fraternity students in the US has brought the savagery of sexual abuse back into the headlines.

Here, the spate of high-profile sexual assaults involving the Sydney Swans, and two separate gang-rapes by Sydney private school boys, forced Albanese to again take the issue to National Cabinet in August.

Much of the increase in sexual assaults is being perpetrated by young men and boys against girls and young women.

This correlates with the frightening new research with school children finding that one in three Australian boys believe gender equality has “gone too far” and that 40 per cent of teenage boys agreed with the idea that women lie and domestic and sexual violence.

Among boys aged 13-17, 30.1 per cent believe men have more of a right

to a job than women when jobs are scarce. Almost 25 per cent believed feminism is “damaging to our society and should be resisted with violence if necessary”!

At the same time, Gen Z girls were twice as likely as millennial women to believe marriage entitled a husband to sex even if his wife did not want intercourse.

The children polled have been through four years of “respectful relationships” education that is the “prevention centrepiece” of Labor's Plan.

But it is clear that Labor's horror at online misogyny and its futile attempts to control social media access and regulate algorithms has done nothing to counter the prevailing sexist attitudes. The manosphere is a symptom not a cause.

Labor presides over a system that maintains sexist stereotypes, a gendered workforce and discriminatory wages. Labor oversees a privatised childcare system that subsidises private providers where the majority female workforce is highly exploited and undervalued.

Labor cuts taxes for the rich and spends billions for nuclear submarines while domestic violence services are starved of funds and the cost-of-living crisis removes women's options.

Until the underlying causes are addressed, the rates of sexual and domestic violence will keep getting worse.

.....
Economic pressures and social isolation are super-charging domestic and family violence

By Paddy Gibson

CHRIS MINNS has pushed through a racist attack on Aboriginal land rights, with amendments to the law governing Crown Land passing the NSW parliament in September.

When the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA) first passed in 1983, Frank Walker, Labor's Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, promised "vast tracts of Crown Land" would be available for claim to "redress the injustices of dispossession".

More than 40 years later, less than 0.2 per cent of the state has been returned to Aboriginal ownership and a backlog of more than 44,000 claims has not even been considered.

Under the ALRA, Crown Land can only be claimed in very limited circumstances, including if it is "unused".

Recent court cases have established that if land is being used under a lease that was granted unlawfully, Aboriginal land claims can still proceed.

In one prominent case, a sub-lease granted to the tennis company Love and Deuce at Tallus Reserve in North Sydney, Crown Land gazetted for "public recreation" was ruled to be invalid because the company was making profit.

This opened the door to a successful land claim by Metropolitan LALC and they took over the reserve in 2022.

Love and Deuce continued to operate, but this year Metro said the arrangement was unviable given ongoing maintenance costs and entered a sub-lease with another company, Racquet Club, to run the courts.

Disgracefully, Labor used the case to run a racist fear campaign, amplified by the corporate media, and legislated so all leases can be declared valid retrospectively.

Minns told 2GB that without the laws, Land Councils would take over and evict surf lifesaving clubs and other community facilities, claiming "we could lose an enormous amount of land in our state".

This has directly fed into Pauline Hanson's hateful and false rhetoric that Aboriginal people receive special privileges at the expense of the rest of the community.

Ray Kelly, Chair of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC), slammed the "outlandish" claims, calling on the NSW government to negotiate, resolve all outstanding claims and deliver land justice.

NSWALC organised its biggest protest in decades when the legislation

NSW Labor Attacks Aboriginal Land Rights



Above: Protest against the attacks on land rights in NSW called by the Land Council in May
Photo: Solidarity

was announced, part of a campaign that also addressed delegates at Unions NSW, who resolved to oppose the laws.

This campaign did make some ground. Initially, Labor planned to rule

out claims on Crown Land if a lease had ever been issued, even if it was currently unused. But the disgraceful provision to retrospectively validate leases is now law.

Residents fight eviction from Aboriginal housing in Darwin

HUNDREDS OF Aboriginal people, including many children, chronic disease patients and DV survivors are facing forced relocation from Yilli Short Stay Accommodation (YiSSA), an Aboriginal community-controlled housing complex in Darwin for people suffering homelessness.

The NT Country Liberal Party (CLP) government is refusing to extend funding for a lease over the complex and has told residents they will need to relocate to a cheaper facility at Batchelor, more than 100 kilometres out of Darwin.

This takes families away from the schools and other essential services they rely on and could push many back into homelessness.

Rose, a YiSSA resident leading the campaign said: "We need places like this to support our children, our sick people, those of us doing a small amount of casual work... What will happen to my sister-in-law, my aunty, others that are renal patients? There will not be any transport.

"This is what the CLP is doing to First Nations people—killing us, destroying us."

The Indigenous homelessness rate in the NT of 1865 per 10,000 people is more than 50 times the

national non-Indigenous rate of 35 per 10,000.

These horrific numbers are getting worse. And under new draconian Child Protection laws passed by the CLP in July, many more Aboriginal children face forced removal from their families due to lack of safe accommodation.

The CLP has seemingly endless funds to lock up Aboriginal people, committing in August to build a new private prison with 1200 beds at a cost of more than \$1 billion.

In contrast, the entire site hosting YiSSA could be purchased for just \$6.5 million. The Commonwealth has already offered to front half of this cost, a proposal rejected by the CLP as "a waste of hard-earned taxpayers money".

The campaign group Justice Not Jails (JNJ) is demanding the Commonwealth purchase the site outright and intervene to stop the evictions. More than 4000 people have signed the JNJ petition.

A rally of 250 people against the evictions took place on Wednesday 7 October as Solidarity went to press and residents and supporters have vowed to resist any attempt at forced eviction, scheduled in coming days.

This has fed into Pauline Hanson's hateful and false rhetoric that Aboriginal people receive special privileges

Can new Greens leader tap the anger at Labor?

By David Glanz

THE GREENS' party room has elected David Shoebridge leader after Larissa Waters stepped down for health reasons.

The vote for Shoebridge and the close runner-up, Mehreen Faruqi, represented frustration with the party's opinion poll numbers flatlining around 12 per cent under Waters and a desire for a more combative style. Significantly, the most conservative candidate, Sarah Hanson-Young, could persuade just one MP to back her.

The Greens have stood still while One Nation has benefited from widespread anger and contempt for Labor and the Coalition.

Shoebridge is aiming to emulate Zohran Mamdani in New York and Zack Polanski of the Greens in Britain, both of whom have picked up support with assertive, left reformist policies.

There is no doubt that Shoebridge will give the Greens a harder edge. His elevation to the leadership will also boost two of his signature campaigns—to scrap the AUKUS military pact and to oppose giant AI data centres.

But his nationalism means that his calls for dumping the nuclear-powered submarine program are combined with a willingness to spend on weapons of war in the name of “national defence”.

He announced in the run-up to the May 2025 election that the Greens were committing for the first time to military spending—\$4 billion on items such as drones, unmanned underwater marine craft and short and medium-range “defensive” missiles.

Despite the change in leadership, the Greens still face two major hurdles. Many see the Greens as part of the political establishment, given their alliance with the Gillard Labor government and their continuing focus on getting outcomes in parliament through negotiating with Labor.

Shoebridge declared that he aimed to replace Labor, not prod it leftwards. But the logic of parliamentary politics means the Greens will be under pressure to use their numbers in the senate to amend and support Labor bills.

In addition, the Greens are seen as middle class. While some Greens are active in their unions, the party does not acknowledge the central strategic importance of class struggle. The party dismisses unions as just one of many



Above: David Shoebridge at a protest against the arms trade Photo: Matt Hrkac

players in civil society.

If Shoebridge helps tilt the electoral balance against One Nation, that will be welcome.

But a real fight against racism, poverty and war must involve

struggle in workplaces and campuses, and movements on the streets.

To get that, we need to build a left alternative that understands that our power to fight for change is outside parliament.

Sydney Uni staff strike for job security and pay

UNIVERSITY OF Sydney staff are holding a stopwork meeting on 13 October to discuss further strike action on 22 October, after walking off the job for 24 hours on 2 September.

Union members are fighting attacks on job security and freedom of speech and demanding improved pay and guardrails on the use of AI.

Management sent an email to all students saying that “almost all scheduled classes will move online” during the strike and that “our campuses remain open and accessible”.

But from 7am picket lines at every main campus entrance, with students joining striking staff, brought the campus to a standstill.

Student activists successfully disrupted multiple strike-breaking classes. In one computer science tutorial the teacher was convinced to cancel the class and vow to join the union. Students also intervened in online Zoom classes, arguing that the classes were strike breaking.

“The university wants free rein to implement AI to replace staff in teaching and professional roles, and degrade the quality of education,” said Ricky Scanlon from the School of Geosciences. “We want adequate protections to ensure that doesn’t happen.”

Sydney Uni has signed a multi-year contract with OpenAI in a slap in the face to staff demands.

Staff workloads are a major concern. “The burden of actual work against the time that we’re paid for is unsustainable and not fair,” professional staff member Luke said, disputing the claim the university “doesn’t have any money”. USyd recorded an operating surplus of \$194.1 million in 2025 (and \$545.3 million for 2024).

Another demand is for better protections for freedom of speech, including for those speaking out on Palestine. Chancellor David Thodey has rejected a request for a convocation made by more than 600 alumni and academics to discuss the university’s ties to Israel and restrictions on free speech—showing management’s contempt for this.

The last round of USyd strikes in 2022-23 forced management to concede 30 days of gender affirmation leave, sick pay for casual staff and the best university pay deal in the country at the time.

To force management to meet staff demands, further strikes and even more staff and students on the picket lines, and stopping strike-breaking classes, will be needed. This campaign can help build the power needed to make universities work for the social good, not as corporate degree factories complicit in genocide.

Georgie Marks

Shoebridge is aiming to emulate Zohran Mamdani in New York and Zack Polanski of the Greens in Britain

New threat to oil supplies in Yemen threatens to ignite wider war

By David Glanz

THE CRISIS created by the US and Israel attacking Iran has spread from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea, with Iran's allies in Yemen seizing control of the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

The Ansar Allah (Partisans of God) movement, commonly referred to as the Houthis, has won control of the entire west coast of Yemen, allowing it to interdict tankers carrying oil produced by its enemy, Saudi Arabia.

The result has been another spike in world oil prices, even as the US has had some success in moving oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

Higher petrol prices are causing political pain in the US and Australia. The price of fertiliser, highly dependent on oil prices, is also higher than for most of the past three years, pushing up the cost of food.

The Ansar Allah forces, which hold the national capital Sana'a, made gains amid an upsurge in fierce fighting with the internationally recognised government, based in the southern city of Aden and backed by neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

The conflict is threatening to draw in Saudi Arabia's allies, further destabilising global trade systems and raising the risk of a more general war.

Casualties

The human cost of the fighting in Yemen is rising, in a country where civil war between 2015 and the start of 2022 led to more than 377,000 deaths.

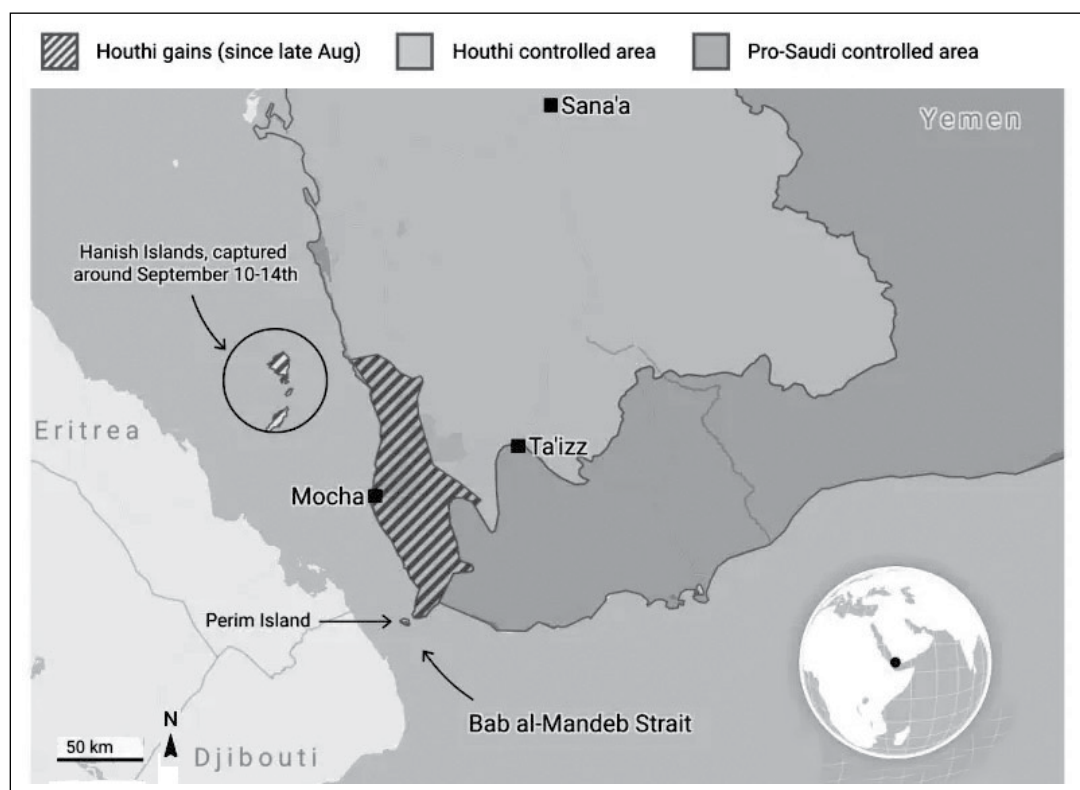
The World Health Organization has documented 838 deaths and another 3600 casualties since 6 August. The UNHCR reports that fighting has displaced more than 100,000 people, with some Yemenis fleeing across the Red Sea to Djibouti.

At the beginning of the month, Saudi-backed government forces said they carried out hundreds of attacks on Ansar Allah forces.

Meanwhile Ansar Allah missiles have hit both government forces and Saudi oil and military facilities.

There is a real risk of the conflict spreading. Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia have activated the Mecca defense pact, and will deploy forces to Gulf kingdom against Houthis.

France is sending troops and radar systems to protect the Saudi Red Sea oil export hub of Yanbu. Britain is sending an RAF Voyager aircraft to refuel Saudi jets in the air, allowing



Above: Map showing Ansar Allah gains in September around the Bab al-Mandab Strait off Yemen

Source: The Conversation/The Institute for National Security Studies

them to remain in action longer.

Foreign Ministers from the G7 nations—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States—issued a statement on the sidelines of the UN's General Assembly calling on Iran to end its arming and support of Ansar Allah.

Last month, Donald Trump rejected two requests in one day from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that the US attack Ansar Allah.

He held off partly because Ansar Allah has promised not to harm US shipping in the Bab al-Mandab Strait. But it also reflects the way the war against Iran has weakened US imperialism.

However, the US is starting to show its ally more support. There are more than 100 US military advisers in Saudi Arabia providing intelligence, geospatial targeting support and battlefield technology for the campaign against Ansar Allah.

Axios reported that in the last two weeks of September, the US military provided the Saudis with more than 200 Ansar Allah targets to strike. And on 2 October, cabinet members met at Camp David to discuss next steps in the Iran war and the conflict in Yemen.

Saudi-UAE rivalry

The situation is further complicated by Saudi Arabia and the UAE backing

different "official" government factions in the south.

Lebanese socialist Simon Assaf told *Socialist Worker* in Britain, "The thing we need to do is place this in a wider context—in terms of the retreats of United States' imperialism, everything is up for grabs."

"The Saudis were always the bulwark of reaction in the Middle East but the UAE is now a competitor. They are both trying to spread their influence, trying to position themselves amid a weakening of US hegemony."

"The UAE has its fingers everywhere—Libya, Sudan—and in projecting this regional power they are treading on the Saudis' toes, especially over who has control of Aden."

Amid this rivalry, the hope for Yemeni workers and peasants rests on a revival of the revolutionary spirit of 2011. Rural communities had been hit by the collapse of agriculture, while urban professionals and workers suffered rising prices.

As part of the broader Arab Spring, rural and urban communities rose in a mass movement against an autocratic elite. Sadly, their rising was diverted into a new, pro-US government.

But for a short while, ordinary Yemenis showed the potential to take events into their own hands and bring real change.

The conflict is threatening to draw in Saudi Arabia's allies, raising the risk of a more general war

ISRAEL'S ONGOING GENOCIDE EXPOSES A SAVAGE WORLD ORDER

James Supple looks at how Israel is continuing its Gaza genocide, ongoing Australian complicity and how we can fight it

UPDATED SATELLITE photos on Google Maps in September brought home the horrifying destruction resulting from Israel's genocide in Gaza. They show whole cities such as Rafah completely turned to rubble.

These crimes have only been possible due to the arming and support of Israel by the West, including the Australian government.

One year since the so-called ceasefire began, Israel continues to kill almost every day through bombings, drone strikes and gunfire.

More than 1400 Palestinians have been killed since it began in October last year, bringing recorded deaths from three years of genocide to over 74,000.

More than ten were killed in one day in September, including a pregnant woman, Iman Shalouf. "We heard the sound of gunfire while I was praying," her mother-in-law told *Anadolu*. "My daughter asked me, 'Where is Iman?' I told her she was in her tent. She went to check on her and found her covered in blood."

Israel continues to impose a barbaric siege on the whole population of over two million people through blocking basic aid and reconstruction. This is a blatant war crime.

Most people have spent years living in tents or makeshift shelters.

"When it rains, the sand under the tent turns to mud, and water seeps in from several places.

"We lift the mattresses and pile things on top of each other, then wait for the rain to stop," Rasha Salama, a 36-year-old mother of three, told *The New Arab*.

"We've been living like this for three years. The summer suffocates us, the winter terrifies us and, in between, we just try to keep the tent standing."

In September the World Health Organization announced it was unable to

supply diesel to operate generators for electricity at more than 20 hospitals and medical centres.

"We are short of even the most basic medicines and equipment, such as gauze," Fadi Husam, who works in the Khan Younis emergency department, said.

Israel restricts a long list of items that it claims can be used for military purposes. These include toilet seats, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, tents and construction materials.

Even wheelchairs have been prevented from entering—including 900 wheelchairs donated by the Australian charity Kids on Wheels Alliance that have been barred since October 2025. Israel's bombing means Gaza has the largest number of child amputees per capita in the world.

"Today it is engine oil and spare parts; tomorrow it will be something else," said Felipe Ribeiro, an aid worker with MSF. "The items change, but the logic remains the same: reducing people to conditions in which life becomes untenable and dignity is systematically stripped away ... It is a deliberate effort to make existence itself impossible."

Basic services like running water cannot be repaired because Israel refuses to allow in spare parts. Most people are reliant on water trucks provided by aid groups.

Nada Arouqi told *Al Jazeera* that trucks often reach their area in Gaza City only twice a week. Some weeks they do not make it at all.

The collapse of the sewerage system means that 150,000 cubic metres of untreated sewage is discharged daily, spreading disease and creating a breeding ground for insects and rodents.

Israel aims to create inhuman conditions so that the population will feel they have no choice but to leave. This is a policy of genocide aimed at

.....
**Even children's
wheelchairs
have been
prevented
from entering
Gaza**
—————

ethnic cleansing.

Far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has made this explicit, releasing a plan to empty Gaza in seven years through what he called "voluntary migration".

Defence Minister Israel Katz, too, has declared that Palestinians will eventually leave, saying this was "the only solution" and the problem was only finding countries to take them and gaining US approval.

Trump may have retreated from his immediate support for ethnic cleansing, following opposition from Egypt. But he has backed Israel continuing the genocide and blatantly violating the ceasefire.

Israel has still not met its obligations to cease armed attacks and end restrictions on aid set out in the October 2025 agreement. In August, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu bluntly rejected a new agreement that Trump negotiated for Hamas to disarm, showing Israel's disinterest in peace.

Israel insists on Hamas's complete capitulation, demanding that it fully disarm before Israel even begins to withdraw from Gaza. Israel has extended the area it occupies from the 53 per cent of Gaza set out in the ceasefire and now controls between 60 and 70 per cent.

Yet Trump is planning another \$2.8 billion arms sale to Israel, including tens of thousands of massive 2000-pound bombs, the *Washington Post* says.

Israel is stepping up ethnic cleansing in the West Bank, too, with violent settler attacks reaching unprecedented levels aimed at driving Palestinian villagers from their land.

At least 103 new illegal settlements and outposts have been authorised under the current Israeli government, including the E1 project that would effectively cut the West

Bank in two.

Brutal world order

Israel is a terror state that has spread death and destruction across the region. It continues to wipe out whole villages in Lebanon and helped push the US into the disastrous war on Iran.

The West's backing of Israel has exposed the brutal reality of the imperialist world order and the barbarism that the US and its allies like Australia will support.

This is not the result of the Zionist lobby, as some say. It is based on a brutal calculation about how to boost US power.

For decades, the US has viewed Israel as an indispensable ally in controlling the Middle East. The region's oil remains vital for the functioning of the global capitalist economy.

This is shown by the disruption of oil supplies after Iran blocked the Strait of Hormuz, with initial panic about the threat to the global economy and ongoing anxiety about resulting inflation. Emergency measures to maintain oil supplies have partially overcome this.

The region's importance is shown by the string of US wars and efforts at regime change, from the coup in Iran in 1953, support for Saddam Hussein's eight-year war against Iran during the 1980s, two invasions of Iraq in 1991 and 2003, and the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

Israel has been the only reliable watchdog state for Western interests in a region plagued by uprisings and opposition to the bloody history of Western imperialism.

Albanese's support for Israel is a product of his determination to maintain the US alliance. Albanese is constantly trying to show his support for US power, chasing selfies with Donald Trump and throwing his support behind the \$368 billion AUKUS nuclear submarines.

This is seen as the price for securing a world order where Australia has a seat at the table, alongside Australian control of the south Pacific. The Australian ruling class is prepared to throw hundreds of billions into supporting US global domination.

The fight for Palestine needs to be linked to opposition to Australian imperialism and the preparations for war on China, including the growing number of US bases here.

Surging military spending also means cuts to services from schools and hospitals to the NDIS. The impact of this on working class people here provides a basis for broadening oppo-



Palestinians living in tents among the ruins of Gaza City
Photo: IMAGO/Bilal Osama apaimages

sition and winning union support.

Resisting repression

Since the Bondi attack last December, Albanese and pro-Israel groups have tried to attack the movement for Palestine, slandering it as somehow responsible and launching a Royal Commission into antisemitism aimed at silencing it.

Their determination to crack down on the movement shows the ruling class concern about how far support for Palestine has spread.

But they have failed to shift the broad opposition to Israel's crimes. This was symbolised by the visit of Israel President Isaac Herzog in February. Albanese was left humiliated after tens of thousands joined protests across the country just two months after Bondi, defying anti-protest laws and police violence.

Australians have one of the world's most hostile attitudes towards Israel, with 79 per cent viewing it unfavourably according to a Pew international poll this year.

The horror at the Gaza genocide that saw 300,000 march across the Sydney Harbour Bridge last year has not gone away.

But governments are trying to intimidate people against speaking out for Palestine. The Queensland government has banned Palestine slogans "From the River to the Sea" and "Globalise the Intifada", while NSW Premier Chris Minns hopes to follow suit.

Activists can lose their jobs for comments on social media, as seen in the recent effort to ban John Morris

from teaching in Sydney. At Sydney Uni the Students Representative Council has had its funding threatened after allowing an election ticket named "Globalise the Intifada".

It is possible to stand up to repression. Students have beaten efforts at disciplinary action at Sydney Uni, Melbourne Uni and ANU, through mobilising in defiance of threats from university administration. An outpouring of support saw Sheik Wesam Charkawi, an activist with the Muslim Vote, reinstated to his job at a Sydney high school. The Adelaide Writers Festival had to back down and re-issue an invitation to speak to Randa Abdel-Fattah for 2027.

The UK's decision to impose sanctions on West Bank settlements shows how pressure for Albanese to act can resurface. Albanese has tried to avoid action by pretending his government is not involved in Israel's genocide. There is still not enough understanding of the scale of Australian complicity and ties with Israel.

The government continues to help arm the genocide through allowing the export of weapons parts for F-35 fighter jets, explosive material for tens of thousands of artillery shells and military grade steel, and sends military intelligence from Pine Gap.

There are also ties with Israel and the weapons companies arming it on university campuses, workplaces and events like the Sydney marathon.

Campaigns for sanctions and to cut ties can impose real costs on Israel, help broaden the understanding of its crimes and expose the depth of Albanese's complicity.

VICTORIAN SOCIALISTS— ELECTORALISM AT THE EXPENSE OF BUILDING STRUGGLE

Ian Rintoul argues that the Victorian Socialists' *Manifesto* and election campaign relies on reformist politics instead of making any attempt to argue for or connect with struggles

THE PROSPECT of One Nation winning a significant number of seats in the Victorian election in November is frightening. Some polls are predicting they could take up to 15 seats.

This is the context for the Victorian Socialists' considerable electoral campaign, running candidates in all 88 lower house seats. Hundreds of members have been mobilised to door-knock electorates. In August, Corey Oakley, secretary of the Victorian Socialists, was even suggesting that "we have a serious chance of getting our Northern Metro and Western Metro candidates into parliament."

The Victorian Socialists recognise the threat of One Nation. Their *Socialist Manifesto for real change* opens with the threat of One Nation's advances leading to a "greater normalisation of far right politics."

So you might think that the fight against One Nation would be a big part of their manifesto. But you would be wrong. There is nothing in the manifesto about actually fighting One Nation.

According to the *Manifesto*, "Victorian Socialists is the alternative." Everything in the *Manifesto* is about voting, "In November, we are putting forward a vision of hope, solidarity and working-class unity."

"Putting a socialist in parliament" is a legitimate tactic for revolutionary socialists. But just electing a socialist is not going to beat Pauline Hanson. A socialist electoral strategy needs to be one part, a subordinate part, of an overall strategy for social change that looks to the power of the working class in the streets and workplaces.

Parliament is the high-point of capitalist democracy, but it hides the reality of capitalist class rule. We might get a vote every three or four years for parliamentary representatives but there is no economic democracy; no vote on who runs the factories or the call centres; no vote on the police or the judges. As the old saying has it, "Whoever we elect, the bosses rule."

The separation of politics and economics underpins capitalist parliamentary democracy. The economic struggle is confined to trade union activity while the political realm is confined to parliament.

Overcoming this division and arguing for the working class to use its industrial power for political ends is an essential element of socialists' argument to challenge capitalism. But the *Manifesto* does nothing to disturb the idea that parliament is the fundamental arena of change.

The *Manifesto* says, "We hope we can play a role in limiting [One Nation's] gains, but more importantly we hope that there's also a surge in the socialist vote that's impossible to ignore." There is nothing about how the vote is going to be turned into action.

Every socialist has to answer the questions: Is activity in parliament directed towards encouraging and strengthening mass struggles outside of parliament? Or are those movements subordinated to a supporting role for the socialists elected to parliament?

The Victorian Socialists answer is the entirely reformist one, "building more powerful movements for change outside parliament is the only way change can be won inside parliament"! And, "Our solution isn't merely to elect socialist parliamentarians ... it's to have those parliamentarians do everything they can to build the socialist movement outside parliament to back up their efforts within it."

When the *Manifesto* does talk about "being active" (struggle doesn't get a mention), they talk about themselves (ie Victorian Socialists) being active, not building and supporting wider struggles.

One example of activity they use, the recent Victorian teachers' industrial campaign and the role of Socialists in Schools, is particularly telling. The sectarianism of Social-

A socialist electoral strategy needs to be part of an overall strategy for social change that looks to the power of the working class

ist Alternative that controls Victorian Socialists unfortunately is manifested in the exclusive membership of Socialists in Schools (SIS). Membership is limited to members or supporters of Victorian Socialists; so no non-aligned members, no Labor supporters, no other socialists.

It is an approach that cuts SIS off from other left-wing activists in the union and places a singular importance on Victorian Socialists' membership, not on building the struggle of rank-and-file workers.

It also puts the lie to the Victorian Socialists' claim that they are "putting forward a vision of working class unity".

The drastic political failure of SIS during the recent teachers dispute in Victoria has been dealt with elsewhere—suffice to say here that SIS failed the most elementary test of solidarity when they mobilised to oppose fellow union members from calling stopwork action and then scabbed on local sub-branch stopwork actions.

At a key moment in the campaign where the union leadership was close to wearing down members into accepting a deal, their priority focus was on elections.

On the Victorian Socialists' website this is spelled out: "Socialists think that the teachers and education support staff ... should run the school system. That's why teachers who have helped lead the recent rank-and-file rebellions against the Department of Education and the leadership of the AEU are setting their sights on parliament." (my emphasis).

No connection with struggles

The overarching political methodology of the Victorian Socialists is also thoroughly reformist. The demands are typical politicians' "promises", a grab-bag list of policies that the Victorian Socialists think might get them votes, but have no possibility of delivering. Among the list: A state bank and a

publicly-owned energy operator; free publicly-owned child care, free school lunches, free public transport, free to air sports coverage including all AFL games. None of these policies are remotely able to be delivered by electing even two or three Victorian Socialists to parliament.

Their policies are not concerned with connecting to, or mobilising, actual local or working class struggles. So there is no demand to cut ties with Israel to connect with the pro-Palestine movement, or to connect with the wave of strikes against the Labor government by raising the need for a fight to break Victoria from the shackles of the federal industrial relations system that restricts the right to strike.

In the fine print they say that they will introduce “an immediate 2.5 percent above inflation pay increase for nurses”, which of course they can never deliver; but there is nothing about organising the industrial campaign needed to break the government’s wage cutting pay cap.

As the left-wing Queensland Greens member and former local councillor Jonathan Sri noted comparing The Greens and the Victorian Socialists, “In the 2025 federal election, you could’ve swapped the names and branding on the two parties’ flyers and few people would’ve been able to tell the difference.”

But perhaps Sri is too generous. The Victorian Socialists’ core flutes say “Vote for Real Change” while The Greens at least have some concrete demands like “Tax the Big Emitters.” The Victorian Socialists are touting a “vision” for socialism, but it’s a top-down vision. They have nothing to say about the political ideas or the struggle needed to fight for real change.

The *Manifesto* is more evangelical than political. A vision does not create an audience for revolutionary socialist politics. Ideas need to be connected to everyday aspirations and the real demands of ordinary people. People have no reason to listen to us unless we are prepared to show that we can fight around the issues that matter.

Socialists have to wage concrete struggles over wages, opposing cuts, racism and over Palestine to show that there is an alternative to Labor’s management of capitalism and to One Nation’s racist scapegoating of migrants.

In Brunswick, the Victorian Socialists candidate says she hopes the election produces a few more confident socialists. But she had nothing to say about ASU members fighting



Above: A Victorian Socialists campaign stall

for months for an EBA at Merri-bek Council, which covers the area.

The door-knocking priorities of the Victorian Socialists were starkly on display in early October when the Victorian Socialists were conspicuous by their absence from the anti-racist rally at One Nation’s election launch.

The *Manifesto* says “there are glimmers of hope. Millions of people in recent years have voted for parties like the Victorian Socialists.”

The real glimmers of hope in terms of struggle—the hundreds of thousands who marched for Palestine across Sydney Harbour, the struggle to drive ICE out of Minneapolis, the port workers’ strikes in Europe to stop arms to Israel—don’t get a mention.

There are no shortcuts. Lenin argued in *Left Wing Communism*, which was in part an argument for socialists participating in elections, that “for the working class to be won to revolution propaganda and agitation are not enough ... for the working class to be won to revolution they must have their own political experience. Such is the fundamental law of all great revolutions.”

To do this a revolutionary party, he went on, must have the ability “to link up, maintain the closest contact, and—if you wish—merge, in certain measure, with the broadest masses of the working people”. Combined with this, correct political leadership, strategy and tactics can win workers to revolutionary politics “provided the broad masses have seen, *from their own experience*, that they are correct”. In short, leadership in struggle

is crucial.

It is impossible to understand the Victorian Socialists’ approach without recognising it as an extension of the abstract propagandism long practised by Socialist Alternative, the group that controls the Victorian Socialists.

Instead of a focus on connecting socialist politics with workers in struggle and organising the rank-and-file, or building broad movements with a life of their own, their focus is on trying to win individuals to socialist ideas in the abstract.

The outcome of the Victorian elections will have national implications. But the outcome of the Victorian Socialists’ campaign, not so much. People will be horrified by One Nation winning seats. One Nation is already setting the national political agenda as both Labor and the Coalition make concessions to One Nation’s anti-migrant racism.

To the extent that the Victorian Socialists’ campaign helps to limit One Nation’s vote, it will be useful. But people are going to vote socialist, Greens and Labor to try to keep the Coalition and One Nation out of parliament.

The task for socialists is to tap that real anti-racist mood and build a movement that both fights racism and poses a real alternative to Labor and the cost of living crisis. The movement to defeat One Nation will need to unite revolutionaries and reformists of all stripes, together in struggle.

HUNGARY 1956

HOW WORKERS ROSE UP AGAINST STALINISM

Matilda Fay looks at how workers in Hungary exposed the lie that Stalinist Russia was socialist through rising up to try to take control of society into their own hands

IT HAS been 70 years since Hungarians rose against their rulers in 1956. The revolution is often remembered for the devastating invasion when Russian tanks crushed the resistance, demonstrating the brutality of Russian imperialism to the world.

But it is also worth celebrating the revolutionary power Hungarians built. The revolution was based on workers' power and exposed the lie that Stalinist Russia represented real socialism.

Workers toppled their government through mass protests in the streets, mobilising through organs of mass democracy known as workers' councils. Operating across key urban centres, the workers' councils took over production and effectively ran society during the revolutionary upheaval, ensuring the people maintained access to transport, electricity, food and medical supplies.

There are lessons in this for anyone aiming to wage revolutionary struggle today.

Historical context

Hungary in 1956 was part of Russia's empire in Eastern Europe. Its rulers claimed it was a socialist country run in the interests of the working class but in reality it was under the control of a bureaucratic ruling class.

The Russian revolution of 1917 was a genuine socialist revolution that for a short time saw workers take control of society. But foreign invasion and civil war led to the collapse of workers' democracy and allowed a new ruling class under Joseph Stalin to impose a counter-revolutionary dictatorship.

Russia developed a form of state capitalism focused on military and economic competition with the West, which involved intense economic exploitation. The same system was imposed on Hungary after the Second

World War. For years the country was led by Mátyás Rákosi who described himself as "Stalin's best pupil", building up heavy industry at the expense of living standards.

But Stalin's death in 1953 produced a series of political disputes within the Russian ruling class, and likewise in the Russian satellite regimes in Eastern Europe. Russia's rulers were fumbling to maintain and advance their power. This culminated in Krushchev's "secret speech" to the twentieth congress of the Russian Communist Party in 1956 in which he denounced Stalin in order to assert his own power and modernise Russia's economic program.

This instability created space for demands for reform and struggle from below in the Eastern bloc countries. In 1953 East German workers struck, seized control of key municipal buildings and freed prisoners, until the uprising was crushed by Russian tanks. In Poland in June 1956, strikes broke out in Poznań, leading to a mass uprising. The Poznań rising set off solidarity protests in Hungary and sparked the revolution.

A worker in a telephone factory described how the events in Poznań, "caused quite a stir ... These articles were posted up and workers would immediately discuss them ... the workers were politically very active ... There was a tense political atmosphere, for a fresh breeze had entered the factory against the suffocating pressure of the party."

Protest becomes revolution

On 22 October students at the Budapest Technological University called a demonstration for the following day "in solidarity with our Polish brothers".

At first the government gave permission for the march and allowed

Stalin's death in 1953 produced a series of political disputes within the Russian ruling class

details to be broadcast on the radio. Permission was then suddenly withdrawn. But it was too late, excitement had spread in Budapest.

The next day 100,000 people gathered in the streets peacefully. Speeches were delivered in solidarity with the Polish struggle. Their most prominent demand was for Imre Nagy, a previous leader who had been an economic reformer (although by no means an opponent of the Kremlin) to take over government in Hungary. Other demands were for an independent national policy on the basis of equality with Russia, and for factories to be run by workers.

Hungary's ruler Erno Gero broadcast on the radio asserting that the demonstrations were nationalistic and were slandering the Soviet Union. The crowd demanded the right to broadcast a reply and moved toward the radio station. The AVH, Hungary's brutal political police force, blocked the building. The crowd of tens of thousands began to get agitated. The AVH responded with tear gas and then fired a machine gun.

After shots were fired at the crowd, peaceful demonstration turned into revolution. People fought back and armed themselves with anything they could find.

Thousands took to a 16-metre statue of Stalin, tearing it down by cutting through its legs. The statue's severed head was left in the streets, with people chipping off parts as souvenirs.

Barricades were put up and people attacked the organs of the state, in particular the AVH who had brutally repressed them. When Russian tanks were brought in, people resisted with molotov cocktails.

The Hungarian state collapsed. A new government led by Nagy was declared the next morning. It called on

Russian troops to “restore order”.

On 25 October an unarmed demonstration in parliament square was fired on by snipers, killing up to 100 people. This only escalated the resistance and it continued to spread and deepen.

Workers’ power

When revolution took hold in the streets, it very quickly spread to the factories.

By 26 October “revolutionary councils” had sprung up in industrial centres. They called mass strikes but also prioritised essential work to support the revolution, such as distributing food and maintaining communications through the post and newspapers.

They took over local radio stations at Gyor and Miskolc and broadcast statements from the workers’ councils. In Miskolc they took control of the garrison and police.

The government tried to recognise the existence of the workers’ councils in an attempt to bring things back under their control. A Budapest telephone factory worker told of going into work to find the trade union council was trying to run an election for a workers’ council with government-approved candidates, but the workers proceeded to elect their own representatives instead.

Representatives of workers’ councils placed demands on the Nagy government. They echoed the demand on the streets: Russian troops out.

By the end of October, Nagy’s government was forced to promise immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Budapest.

Russian units were withdrawn from the major cities. A new government was formed. Nagy announced the abolition of the one-party system and placed the government in control of “cooperation between coalition parties”.

It seemed that the people had won. Hungarians now had the freedom to openly politically organise and many flocked to join political parties. But while political parties could debate how to run society, the workers’ councils were already doing so.

The revolution had reached a position of dual power, where formally the state apparatus was still in place but workers were functionally wielding democratic control through their councils.

But the people faced a larger military opponent than just their own state. The Soviet Union, which claimed to stand for workers’ power,



Above: Stalin's head torn off a statue and dumped on the road in Budapest during the uprising in 1956

Photo: Fortepan/
Wikimedia Commons

could not tolerate seeing it in practice.

After Nagy proclaimed Hungarian neutrality, a delegation was sent to Russia to negotiate the terms for a full withdrawal. Its representatives were arrested by the KGB and imprisoned.

The next morning tanks rolled into Budapest, wreaking intense destruction and killing thousands. Hungarians fought back valiantly—in the streets and with a general strike.

The power of the movement in the street and the workers’ councils did not immediately fall away, even up against the armed force of the Soviet Union.

The councils continued essential work to keep society functioning in the absence of a functioning state. Even as they were outlawed and leading militants arrested, they continued to organise from underground for months, until finally the revolution was crushed completely.

Learning from 1956 today

The Hungarian revolution is often seen in the West as a precursor to Hungary shaking off Russian control in the revolutions of 1989 that brought down Stalinism.

But the democratic control that the workers’ councils represented in 1956 was greater than any so-called freedom that was to come in 1989 with free market capitalism and parliamentary democracy.

1956 showed the brutal imperialism of the Soviet Union. But the Western “democratic” states, too, are run by brutal imperialist ruling classes.

In 1956, while the Soviet Union

was crushing Hungarians, Israel invaded Egypt in response to Nasser nationalising the Suez Canal, colluding with Britain and France.

The West did nothing to support Hungary because it had been given to Russia as part of the imperialist carve up of the world at the end of the Second World War.

Today, our rulers have armed a genocide in Palestine with billions of dollars of weapons, because they depend on Israel to stand as an outpost for US power in the Middle East. Satellite images show Gaza razed to the ground by countless US bombs, dropped from F-35 fighter jets with parts made in Australia.

It is hard to imagine the Soviet tanks in Budapest without also picturing the tanks we see today rolling through Gaza and the West Bank, built with steel from Australian manufacturer Bisalloy.

Hungary in 1956 produced confusion within communist parties around the world, which believed that Russia was a socialist country. It helped to shatter this illusion and open space for the anti-Stalinist left and a revival of the real Marxist tradition.

There is no shortage of avenues to carry on the legacy of the Hungarian revolutionaries today. We can build the fight for Palestine, the fight for wage rises amid a cost-of-living crisis, and the fight against the rise of the far right.

In these struggles we can see glimpses of what workers were able to build in Hungary: the power needed to bring down the state, and the revolutionary democracy that can replace it.

GERMANY AND FRANCE: THE POWER TO BEAT THE FASCISTS IS IN THE STREETS

By Finnian Colwell

GERMAN POLITICS is in turmoil after the fascist AfD (Alternative for Germany) outpolled all other parties in two state elections.

In Saxony-Anhalt the AfD won 44 per cent of the vote, more than doubling their vote since 2021. The party will likely take the post of state prime minister. In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern the AfD also topped the polls with 38 per cent.

The AfD promotes extreme racism and is increasingly dominated by Nazis inside the party.

Influential AfD politician Bjorn Hocke has been twice fined for quoting Nazi-era slogans.

Ulrich Siegmund, its leader in Saxony-Anhalt, is a Hocke ally. He pledged “deportation from minute one” and to introduce a “Remigration Task Force” alongside Citizens’ Watch Groups, vigilante groups which would help the police crackdown on left-wing activists.

In 2023, Siegmund was among AfD politicians who secretly met with open Nazis and other far-right groups in Potsdam to plan to “remigrate” non-European migrants.

AfD leader Alice Weidel now embraces “remigration” openly, and a program of mass deportations.

The AfD also seeks to increase refugee detention pending deportation and to exclude children without permanent residency from regular state schools.

They also want to ban pride flags from schools and exclude disabled children.

The AfD is capitalising on anger at austerity policies from the mainstream parties.

Chancellor Friedrich Merz, of the right-wing Conservative Democratic Union (CDU), leads a coalition with the SPD (similar to the Labor Party), which is cutting spending on pensions, welfare and healthcare while increasing Germany’s defence spending to 5 per cent of GDP.

Automobile companies plan massive sackings. Even as Volkswagen looks to benefit from government defence contracts, they announced up to 100,000 job cuts across Germany.



Protest against the far right AfD in Germany Photo: Aufstehen gegen Rassismus

Young people are leaving Saxony-Anhalt in their thousands. Deindustrialisation and the closure of plane, train and chemical manufacturing have produced mass unemployment.

The AfD presents itself not just as an “anti-establishment” party but demands a vicious racist crackdown as the solution.

They accuse migrants and refugees of taking jobs, draining the German welfare system, and exacerbating an “accommodation crisis.”

Asked why they support the AfD, 96 per cent of its supporters in Saxony-Anhalt pointed to its promise to keep out migrants and refugees.

Rather than challenging this, the CDU and SPD have boosted the racism. Merz talks tough about excluding “illegal migrants” and boasts about the government’s own deportation policies. But Merz’s cuts are deeply unpopular.

Pauline Hanson’s surge in Australia echoes the rise of the AfD, and other far right parties in Europe and Donald Trump in the US.

Their use of racism as an explanation for economic and social problems

must be challenged.

Anti-fascist opposition

In early 2024, over a million Germans protested the Potsdam “remigration” meetings.

Protests reignited in January 2025, when the CDU accepted AfD votes to pass a motion to turn asylum seekers back at the border and restrict migration.

This mass movement has boosted the fortunes of the radical left Die Linke party. In 2024-5, it doubled its membership from 60,000 to 132,000. Die Linke also won the Berlin elections in September this year with 25.7 per cent of the vote.

But its electoralism has led it to collaborate with mainstream parties and it was part of a government in Berlin which privatised state assets and carried out deportations.

As socialist Christine Buchholz explained, “Because of such experiences, many people do not perceive Die Linke as a credible anti-establishment party.” In both Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Die Linke lost votes.

An insurgent left that looks to struggle outside parliament is the alternative needed.

In Germany, tens of thousands blockaded an AfD conference in July. Sections of the blockade chanted for an intifada against pension and wage cuts, and for a free Palestine.

In September, 40,000 school students struck against conscription. Almost 200,000 workers rallied against austerity and job cuts. That’s the power that can beat Merz and the AfD.

In France where the fascist National Rally is leading the polls for the 2027 presidential election, the mass high school student demonstrations are showing the way forward.

Teachers and other workers are striking to join the student revolt that is rocking the Macron government. “We are all anti-fascists,” chanted students, in southeastern France, as they protested.

Linking anti-racism with anti-austerity is the way to forge a real movement to challenge the rise of the far right.

The AfD is increasingly dominated by Nazis inside the party

Solidarity