

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

## The Treatment of Asylum Seekers: A Matter of Humanity

**T**he treatment of thousands of human beings by the British government and its authorities as illegal and

unworthy of rights, is a matter of deep concern to the working class and people and presents itself as a question of the rights of all.

After fleeing persecution in other countries, people in this awful predicament are coming to Britain to seek refuge, with the projected thinking that Britain

will provide the safety from the inhumane treatment of the country they are fleeing. This illusion is shattered on entering

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## REPEAL THE ANTI-TRADE UNION LAWS! FOR THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE WORKERS AND THEIR TRADE UNIONS!



**A** militant demonstration was held on Thursday, October 18, outside the House of Commons to demand

the repeal of all anti-worker, anti-union laws, and for the rights and freedoms of the workers and their trade unions.

Workers and their trade union banners gathered for a demonstration and a subsequent Rally in the House of Commons on the

eve of the second reading of the

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### Commentary

## The EU Reform Treaty and the Right to Decide

**T**HE PRIME MINISTER, GORDON BROWN, IS ATTENDED A SUMMIT MEETING OF THE LEADERS of the European Union in Lisbon on October 18-19. The main item for discussion will be the so-called "Reform Treaty", a new EU constitution in everything but name. It aims to replace the EU constitution, which was widely opposed in many EU countries and formally rejected by referenda in Holland and France two years ago. The new treaty reforms the previous treaties of the EU agreed at Maastricht and Rome. Media reports suggest that

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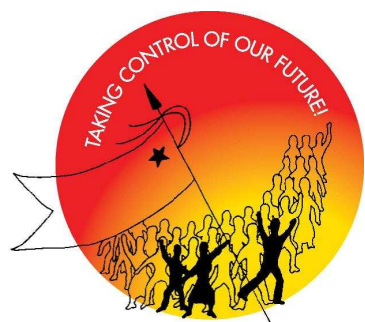
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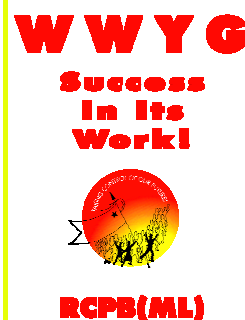
Published by RCPB(ML)  
170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA  
Registered as a newspaper  
Printed by Millennium Press



# Attacks on the youth

## Oppose the Criminalisation of the Youth

Commemorative poster presented by RCPB(ML) to Workers' Weekly Youth Group at a social on October 19 organised by them to celebrate its work.



## YOUTH+STUDENT

### page of the Workers' Weekly Youth Group

**A**s the fabric of society is being eaten away, the youth are coming under more and more attacks. From the inherent poverty lack of access to education and work, the youth are being subjected to all the problems of the decay of society. Without all of the basic rights that by dint of being human youth should have, the times are not allowing youth to flourish. Instead the youth are blamed for the decay. Now at this time not only are they being blamed but are being openly attacked.

The line given by the government and authorities through the media is that the streets aren't safe because of the youth. They are using this line to attack the youth by brining in measures to stop and search specifically black youth. The outgoing leader of the National Black Police Association (NBPA) was attacked by all sides following claims he called for the police to stop and search more young black people to tackle "rising gun crime". Also Muslim youth who are being affected already by the "anti-terrorism" laws being portrayed by the state as "the enemy within" would be even more severely targeted by stop and search policy. So it can be seen by these proposals that

it is the youth who are not safe on the streets as they are being further targeted by police who want to use stop and search routinely, trying to criminalise youth further and stop them from progressing.

This progression is also curtailed with thousands of youth being sent to juvenile detention centres having their liberty taken away. Now they are being violently attacked as the ministry of justice is planning on bringing in the use of batons to use against youth who are detained in these prisons. The Prison Officers Association (POA) called for protection, and this is the so-called solution to this problem. The POA should be tackling the problems facing society. The government is pitting them as the "gatekeepers" to the youth's freedom. Where there is division amongst the people, there should be unity, in opposing criminalisation of the youth, and on the question of the treatment of inmates and staff, organising to defend each others' interests. Also being proposed in the new Criminal Justice Bill 2007 is legislation for

Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YRO). This will see youth being constantly monitored with compulsory electronic tagging, voluntary work, and curfews amongst others. This draconian legislation is not seeking to prevent crime but seeking to further alienate the youth

from the society and make them the question. What should the question be? Is it not the responsibility of society to treat people as human beings, to involve people in building a new society where the youth will no longer be stuck on the margins?

In recent months, the media have sensationalised so-called criminal activities of the youth. This all-out hysteria comes at a time when the government is waging wars in other parts of the world, murdering and torturing people, so it seems an attack on the youth is a way in which to distract from the true crimes being committed. The youth must ask: who are the real criminals? Who and what do we oppose?

The government, media and authorities are all in league trying to destroy the future of the youth by criminalising them, demonising them and oppressing them on all fronts, from work, to university, to putting them in prison. Youth must oppose this line as part of the whole social climate. In so doing, the youth must see that it is they as part of the working class that can act on their own programme to end the oppression of all.

*Workers' Weekly Youth Group* condemns these attacks, and upholds that the youth are political and will together find the way out of the crisis.

**Below: Many youth demonstrated against the G8 summit at Gleneagles in July 2005**



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# Workers' Weekly

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Website: [www.rcpbml.org.uk](http://www.rcpbml.org.uk)

October 27, 2007 Volume 37, Number 17

Subscription rates within Britain (including p&p): 4 issues - £2.95, 6 months - £18.95, Yearly - £33.95. For any subscription applications from abroad or for bulk subscriptions, please contact *Workers' Weekly* directly. Cheques should be made payable to 'RCPB(ML)' and sent to 170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA.



**Commentary**

# The EU Reform Treaty and the Right to Decide



**Meeting held in October 2004 as part of the European Social Forum**

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**the new treaty is likely to be agreed by government leaders during the summit, although it may not be formally signed until December. It will then still have to be ratified by individual countries, with several promising further referenda.**

The Reform Treaty has already been controversial, with some arguing that it is simply a re-written version of the discredited EU constitution. The government has denied that this is the case, not least because it made a manifesto commitment to call a referendum over an EU constitution, while it is refusing to do so in regard to the Reform Treaty. The Conservative Party have seen this as an issue on which they can attack the government but some trade unions that have also demanded a referendum. For their part, the Liberal Democrats have called for a referendum on membership of the EU.

The government has also claimed that it has managed to opt out of various parts of the new treaty, on matters pertaining to justice and home affairs, tax and social security, foreign and defence policy. It has also secured an opt-out from the legally-binding Charter of Fundamental Rights, which was first agreed in 2000 but will now have legal force once the new treaty is signed. The government has negotiated for itself a legally binding protocol, which says no court can rule that the "laws, regulations or administrative provisions, practices or action" of Britain are inconsistent with the principles laid down in the charter. It has also added a clause to the effect that the charter

can create no new rights enforceable in Britain. There continues to be some debate about whether the government's apparent ability to opt out of parts of the treaty is legal under international law, as well as the precise character of the treaty and other issues. However, there is little discussion about who should decide such matters, nor the fundamental nature of the EU itself.

## **A reactionary alliance**

The EU is a reactionary alliance of the big European monopolies and their representatives, a means to attempt to coordinate the dictate of the monopolies throughout Europe and internationally. In recent years, it has expanded in eastern and southern Europe, so that its current borders reach as far as Russia and North Africa. As the Prime Minister explained before he left for Portugal, "This summit comes at a critical juncture for the European Union. For the first time in its history, the EU has an opportunity to become a genuinely global player." The Reform Treaty is therefore part of the measures that are being taken to allow the EU to strengthen its reactionary role in alliance and contention with the other big powers. It is also aimed to reconcile some of the differences between the big powers within Europe and between the big powers and more recent members of the EU. Several measures are envisaged which will allow the EU to act more effectively in the global arena, including the creation of an EU Council president and a foreign affairs minister. The decision-making process will also be

streamlined with fewer veto powers and a voting system which favours the big powers.

It is clear that the Labour government is fundamentally opposed to the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which sets out the rights that are supposed to be enjoyed by the citizens of Europe, including the rights of workers such as the right to strike. At the same time it is an enthusiastic supporter of the reactionary EU in general, which it sees as a suitable vehicle to advance the interests of the big British monopolies. Britain's membership of the EU and its very existence must be opposed, not simply on the basis that it is an attack on Britain's sovereignty, but rather as a further manifestation of the dictate of the big monopolies in the conditions of neo-liberal globalisation.

## **The right to decide**

Britain's continued membership and the negotiations over the new treaty throw into high relief the fact that the people of Britain are continually denied the right to decide, not only in regard to the EU but over every aspect of life in Britain. What must be demanded and fought for is a political system that recognises that all individuals have fundamental inherent rights by virtue of being human. One of the most important of these rights is to fully participate in the decision-making process, to make decisions regarding the future of the individual, the various collectives of the people and society itself.

**Latin America:  
Constitutional  
Reforms Vest  
Sovereignty in  
the People, Block  
US Imperialist  
Interference**

**Ecuador:**

# Millions Vote for Constituent Assembly

**M**illions of Ecuadorians went to 37,000 polling stations across the country at the end of September to elect a Constituent Assembly. The 9.3 million registered voters in Ecuador chose 130 assembly members out of 3,229 candidates, local media said. Among the 130 assembly seats, 100 went to provincial representatives, 24 to nationwide representatives and the remaining six to representatives of Ecuadorians overseas.

The election to the Constituent Assembly followed two rounds of voting in the presidential election and a referendum that cleared the way for the creation of the Constituent Assembly.

The Constituent Assembly will start work on October 31 and will have 180 days – a mandate that can be extended by 60 days – to write a draft constitution that will be put to a referendum in 2008.

The creation of the assembly was initiated by Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa who said the assembly was a key component to make Ecuador a more just country.

*(Source: China Daily)*



# The Treatment of Asylum Seekers: A Matter of Humanity

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the asylum, where immediate detention is the norm in places such as Campsfield. And now acknowledged by an independent inquiry, thousands of people are living on the streets of Britain in abject poverty. Senior lawyers describe this travesty as government policy, where they are trying to force people who can't go back to their own countries. There are 280,000 people living in poverty in Britain after having their leave to remain in Britain refused. Many sleep rough with no shelter and few have access to healthcare, both of these being inviolable human rights. The inquiry said that these people have been "failed" by the place where they thought they would be safe.

In an impassioned plea to the Independent Asylum Commission, Iranian Afshin Azizian, whose asylum case is still undecided after 12 years, said: "Thousands and thousands of asylum seekers have been made destitute. I ask those in the Home Office to think, if you were to spend one day in my shoes how would you like to be treated? We never had much of

a voice until recently. If you don't have a piece of paper from the Home Office you're not considered human. How can you call yourselves civilised?"

The treatment of people under the "Asylum Laws" can be seen as anti-human and racist, not only making someone poor and destitute but also actually treating someone as illegal. To treat someone as illegal is to deny them being human beings. So what is the pretext for such treatment?

The pretext is such that it is posing the question as one of "defending our way of life" and that these people should be seen as outsiders who threaten the security and livelihoods of the rest of the people. People who come to this country must be seen as part of the British working class and people and not as the "enemy within". The hysteria that is created as a pretext about the threat of terrorism which is part and parcel of illegalising asylum seekers must be rejected.

The rights of all must be defended and a broad movement developed to do so and reject the racist and inhuman policy of the government. It is unacceptable that basic human rights are violated in any shape or form, let alone as a norm of policy. The struggles of the working class and people in defence of their livelihoods and against the violation of their own rights must be as one with the struggle to uphold the principle that no one is illegal.

For the people to succeed in building a new future for Britain, the working class and people must see that those who are being alienated on grounds of nationality and their class are part of the society, and part of the working class and people who must defend the rights of all.



# REPEAL THE ANTI-TRADE UNION LAWS! FOR THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE WORKERS AND THEIR TRADE UNIONS!

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Trade Union Rights and Freedoms Bill. This was scheduled for October 19, among a number of other private members' Bills. The United Campaign to repeal the anti-trade union laws is supported by 24 national trade unions. If enacted the Bill would give, in the words of the Campaign: better protection for striking workers; simpler and fairer industrial action balloting and notice procedures; reform of the use of injunctions by employers; allowing solidarity action in certain circumstances; prevention of the use of replacement labour during strikes; trade union rights for prison officers.



## Workers' Daily Internet Edition

Daily On Line Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Web site: [www.rcpbml.org.uk](http://www.rcpbml.org.uk)

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WDIE sent by e-mail daily (Text e-mail): 1 issue free, 6 months £5, Yearly £10  
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