

STAND UP 
FIGHT BACK

VOTE

**RED
FRONT**

01-729 0414

THE RED FRONT

A platform for working class unity

Red Front candidates are contesting the election to give the working class a voice in the most important political debate of the decade. While all the other parties feel free to ignore the needs and aspirations of ordinary people, we are fielding a slate of *Red Front* candidates whose only commitment is to defend our people from the attacks to come, whichever party gets elected.

The 1987 general election is the most important for 50 years. The unstoppable decline of British capitalism means that, whichever party comes out on top, the consequences are inevitable: more attacks on the unions, higher unemployment, lower living standards, more state repression and the growth of racism and prejudice against women and homosexuals. *The Red Front* aims to organise a core of resistance to meet the coming offensive.

For eight grim years the Tories have presided over drastic attacks on our living standards and rights. The Thatcher government has picked off the unions one by one in set-piece confrontations. It has turned the police into a gang of paramilitary riot squads ready for use against striking

workers, black people in inner-city areas or anybody else who challenges the authorities. The Tories have used the law to criminalise trade union militancy and to clamp down on public protest.

The Tories promoted a wave of jingoist frenzy to support their bloody war against Argentina and a climate of chauvinist hostility around the myth of 'Arab terrorism' to justify their complicity in the US air-strike on Libya. They have created congestion at Heathrow to stir up anti-immigrant prejudices. In the war in Northern Ireland, the Tories have found a special focus for hysteria against 'terrorism' in general and republican freedom fighters in particular. The Aids panic has given them an ideal issue around which to promote the Victorian values which Thatcher has so long cherished.

After eight years of Tory rule millions are desperate for a change. Yet the Labour Party has failed to put up any sort of fight against the Tories and failed to provide a focus for the anger of ordinary people. The resilience of the Tory Party under Thatcher is a tribute to the weakness of the opposition under Neil Kinnock. The

Opposition gave up opposing the government a long time ago. Instead the Labour Party has become a pale imitation of the Tories.

Taking its cue from the Tory school of economics, Labour now accepts that full employment is a romantic pipe-dream that must be replaced by more realistic promises of Tory-style cheap labour schemes. On law and order and defence, the Labour leaders seek to out-Thatcher Thatcher by parading in the patriotic colours of the Conservatives. Kinnock's denunciation of demonstrators involved in violent clashes with the police at Wapping could have been delivered by any number of Tory backbenchers. His support for the government's clampdown on a BBC documentary about the Zircon spy satellite project, ostensibly in the interests of national security, stunned even the cynical British media.

Labour's 'if you can't beat them join them' strategy shows that Thatcher has scored a big victory in influencing Labour Party thinking. Political debate is now a narrow affair which takes place on terms dictated by the Tories. Labour has long lacked a distinctive programme. In recent years even the mildest policies which could be accused of radicalism have been dropped in favour of objectives that minimise controversy. Kinnock has hounded the left — from the witch-hunt against Militant to the attack on Black Sections — in a bid to impress the establishment. He has stamped on any show of militancy that might embarrass Labour at the polls, even telling the teachers to pack up their two-year campaign for decent pay in case it damaged Labour's image.

This arrogant display of contempt for our rights and living standards is typical of Labour today. Yet the leading figures on the Labour left have swallowed their self-respect and heeded their master's voice. On every issue, from anti-racism to lesbian and gay rights to defence, the left has given in to Kinnock. The price we are expected to pay in the cause of getting Labour elected is to denounce any cause which puts the interests of the oppressed and exploited first. The consequences of accepting this fate are catastrophic. It will mean that Thatcher calls the shots while Kinnock

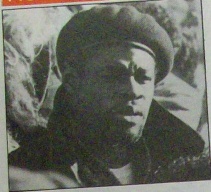
crawls to the establishment, and those who want jobs, freedom and peace are removed from the debate altogether. It is a price that those backing *The Red Front* are not prepared to pay.

Anybody seriously concerned with the future of the working class must be sick to the stomach at the prospect of another Tory government. But would a Labour government be any better? After four years of being stamped on and abused by a Labour leadership committed to policies similar to those of the present government, we should have learned that Labour has nothing to offer the working class. Once this simple fact is grasped it follows that supporting Labour makes no sense. For this reason it is vital that we set about building a movement that can express our grievances and fight for solutions now.

The Red Front — a platform for working class unity — has been launched by the Revolutionary Communist Party and supported by other left-wing groups and individuals, to fill the gap left by Labour. Building *The Red Front*, by uniting all those committed to the defence of workers' interests, could provide a focus for the anger and aspirations of our class. *The Red Front* cannot influence the immediate outcome of the election, but it could give shape and leadership to people's aspirations for change, and ensure that such sentiments cannot be ignored by the capitalist class. A credible electoral showing by *The Red Front* would be a warning to the authorities that if they push us, we're going to hit back.

The Red Front represents a call to fight. It is based on a compelling argument: the more of us who stand up and fight back now, the better we will be able to defend our class in the future. Our aim is to stop Labour from hijacking people's hopes and aspirations, and to ensure that the working class has its own voice in the period ahead. This is something worth fighting for. The message of *The Red Front* is to put loyalty to our class before loyalty to Kinnock. From those whose first loyalty is to the working class, we are fully entitled to demand support for our campaign and our policies. Join us.

KUNLE OLUREMI



Vauxhall

Kunle Oluremi has worked as an economic researcher at the London Strategic Policy Unit since he lost his job at the Greater London Council after abolition in May 1986. As a Nupe steward at the GLC he was active in the rank and file Fightback campaign in defence of jobs and conditions. He is still an active trade unionist, a member of Camden Nalگو executive committee and a founding member of the LSPU black workers' group. Since his days as a student in South London, Kunle has been involved in radical black politics. He has kept up the pressure on his union to address the issue of racism — particularly the question of police harassment of black youth — and has recently highlighted the cases of Trevor Monerville, beaten by police in Stoke Newington, and Clinton McCurbin, strangled by police in Wolverhampton. He has a record of support for the struggles of black people in South Africa and Palestinians in the Middle East.

JOHN FITZPATRICK



Hammersmith

John Fitzpatrick is a solicitor and has been working at the Hammersmith eight years ago. He has specialised in housing and immigration work, and has been involved in campaigns with tenants and also with those threatened with deportation. He is from an Irish family and has been an active campaigner for many years to get the troops out of Ireland. He is the local organiser for the Irish Freedom Movement. John is an active trade unionist, president of Hammersmith Nalگو and a delegate to the Hammersmith and Fulham trades council.

MICK GAVAN



Holborn and St Pancras

Mick Gavan is the coordinator of Camden Unemployment Action Centre and a member of the transport and general workers' union. He has led campaigns against work tests and cuts in benefits, and has organised opposition to cheap labour schemes like YTS and JTS. Before coming to Camden in 1986, Mick was involved in similar struggles at the unemployment centre in Tower Hamlets, where he is still president of the trades council. He was secretary of Tower Hamlets miners' support group, which was twinned with Shirebrook pit in Derbyshire. He was also chair of the printers support group and was arrested on the Wapping picket line. He found himself on the wrong side of a police truncheon again, when he was arrested along with 11 others on a picket-line protest against the Inner London Education Authority's refusal to challenge racism in schools.

YASMIN ANWAR



Hackney North and Stoke Newington

Yasmin Anwar works for Islington council, where she is currently involved in a dispute with her Labour employers over unfilled vacancies. She is a member of the shop stewards committee and the Nalگو executive committee, as well as being active in her black workers' group. Yasmin grew up in Belfast and London and has experienced British Army brutality and police racism at first hand. She is an active campaigner for Irish unity and independence, and last year canvassed the rally at the annual anti-interment demonstration in London. She has long been involved in radical black politics, but most recently has been campaigning for Trevor Monerville, a local youth who emerged battered and brain-damaged from Stoke Newington police station.

PAM LAWRENCE



Manchester Gorton

Pam Lawrence is a nurse who has worked locally at Manchester Royal Infirmary and at the North Manchester General Hospital in recent years. She has become well-known as an activist in her union, Nupe, during 10 years of working for the NHS. It was as a result of her campaigning work that union members debated the issue of racism at Nupe's 1982 conference and agreed a policy of opposition to all immigration controls. She played an active part in the 1982 health workers' strike, and has helped organise solidarity for other striking workers such as engineers at Laurence Scott in the early eighties and miners in the 1984-85 dispute. Pam has a long record of supporting local black people threatened with deportation — Cynthia Gordon, Nasira Begum, Anwar Gitta, George Roucou, Cynthia Mendis — and has also organised opposition to race checks in the NHS.



DANNY LEES



Pontefract and Castle

Danny Lees is a shop bolter/makers' union at Scotland. He has lived and became secretary of a local union. He has organised solidarity pickets and canvassed support for workers. He resigned the support of the union after the local trades council's support of women's causes.

CERI DINGLE



Sheffield Central

Ceri Dingle first got involved in a shop steward during a strike. She played a key role in the miners and led a picket line in London. She is the local organiser for the Sheffield Central Trades Council. Now back in Sheffield, she is campaigning in defence of organising opposition.

CAROL MEGHJI



Bristol South

Carol Meghji is a carpenter and has been active in the Bristol South local branches of the NUJ and the NUJ. She has supported the local printers to Warrington in their battle with ECU. She has supported the local printers to Warrington in their battle with ECU. She has supported the local printers to Warrington in their battle with ECU.

SUE CONNOLLY



Manchester Wyth

Sue Connolly is a local Wythenshawe. She was active in the Wythenshawe where she was active in the Wythenshawe and is now working for the Wythenshawe. She is a member of Nupe. She has experience in the success of local trade unionist in time demonstrations for against deportations in Labour Party meetings. She persuaded the immigrants.

INTRODUCING YOUR RED FRONT CANDIDATES

Castleford
 is a shop steward for the general, municipal and union at Eggborough power station. Born in has lived most of his life in Pontefract where he secretary of his local Labour Party. Danny helped pickets during the miners' strike and support for the strikers from his fellow power workers from the Labour Party in disgust over its resignation, stating that Labour no longer deserved of working class people. Danny is a delegate to trades council, where he has spoken out for the women's liberation, Irish freedom and anti-racism.

Central
 first got involved in politics in Sheffield as a Co-sec and during the 1982 health workers' strike for better pay. She played a central role in organising the strike locally and is a well-known face on the trades council. After she worked in Glasgow, where she organised solidarity pickets and led a successful strike of women workers, where she got involved in the rank and file campaign to defend jobs at the Greater London Council back in Sheffield and unemployed. Ceri is active in defence of lesbian and gay rights and opposition to local council cuts and redundancies.

th
 is a carpenter. She has lived in Bristol for and is a well-known local activist. In the early eighties she worked for the Launceston workers fighting for their jobs at the Launceston Staffs occupations to Bristol and took them round to Warrington in 1983 to support NGA members with Edna Sheehy for union rights and jobs. And she supported the fight for jobs in the pits and at Wapping. She organised pickets and demonstrations in the city last year in protest at the joint US/British air-strike on a campaign for troops out of Ireland and self-education for the Irish people.

ter Wythenshawe
 is a local activist, born and brought up in ave. She worked for some years in a tax office, was active in the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, working for an Immigration Aid Unit, where she is a at Niles. She will be making use of her recent in the successful campaign to stop the deportation of unionist George Roucou to get the unit's anti-work underway. Sue helped to organise a work-demonstration for George in February, taking the case into court. She has helped to organise a work-demonstration into scores of union, workplace and party meetings. The big turn-out on the march and the Immigration appeals tribunal to back down.

KIRK WILLIAMS Newcastle Central



Kirk Williams is an unemployed steelworker from Stockton-on-Tees. He has not had a job since he was made redundant from British Steel's Grangetown plant after the 1980 steel strike. This experience, and the hunger-strike by 10 Irish republican prisoners during the following year, got him thinking about politics. He went to college in London and got involved in anti-racist activities in the East End. He helped organise solidarity action with Asian workers on strike at Britains toy factory in Walthamstow and at Heatfields cable drum factory in Slough. In 1982 he went on a youth delegation to Northern Ireland and has been campaigning for Irish unity and independence ever since. He is now in Newcastle, organising solidarity for strikers at HFW Plastics in Gateshead, and campaigning against the deportation of local Libyan student Mohsem Medi.

DEREK OWEN Glasgow Central



Derek Owen was born and brought up in Glasgow. He has been a schoolteacher for five years. He is an active trade unionist, a rep in the Educational Institute of Scotland and secretary of Ayrshire EIS Rank and File. As a member of the Caterpillar support group in Glasgow, he organised solidarity for the Cat workers fighting for their jobs in Uddingston. As a youth growing up in the West of Scotland, Ireland was always an important issue for Derek. He has campaigned to get the troops out ever since. Derek says he has been political as long as he can remember and thinks that the general election is a good time to argue for a left-wing alternative to the Labour Party in a city which has suffered more than most from its failure to defend our class.

PERVAIZ KHAN Birmingham Sparkbrook



Pervaiz Khan was born in Pakistan and brought up in Sparkbrook, where he worked as a community worker for some years. He has since worked for a black and third world film circuit, and is now a media coordinator at a media and arts centre in Birmingham. He was involved in producing *Hardsworth Songs*, a film about British racism set against the backdrop of the anti-police disturbances of 1985. Pervaiz campaigned against the deportation of Muhammad Idrish, a local community worker and Nalco member, and was the election agent when Idrish stood on an anti-deportation ticket in Sparkbrook in the county council elections in 1985. More recently, he has been fighting on behalf of Melso Moncrieffe, another local man whom the home office wants to deport.

KENAN MALIK Nottingham East



Kenan Malik was born in India and came to Britain in 1967. He first became active in politics in the early eighties when he got involved in campaigns against the immigration laws. He worked for Islington council in London and was active as a shop steward in Nalco. During the miners' strike he was living in South Wales, organising solidarity for miners at Bedwas and Collymen South pits, and was active in the Cardiff and Newport miners' support groups. Kenan has lived and worked in London for the past two years and is a well-known anti-racist campaigner. He has helped to organise defence campaigns against racist attacks at schools like Daneford and Morpeth in East London, and among Asian families in places like East Ham and Newham. He has organised protests against the Tories' treatment of Tamil refugees, and has travelled to Germany to meet Tamil refugees held in concentration camp conditions.

DAVE HALLSWORTH Knowsley North



Dave Hallsworth is an unemployed engineering worker. Born in Lancashire, he worked for many years in the Merseyside area and now lives in Tameside near Manchester. Dave is a veteran trade union activist. He was involved in organising on the railways in Liverpool in the fifties and played a full part in the engineering strikes and occupations in the seventies. He was victimised for his role in organising industrial action among Asian textile workers in the struggle against closure and mass redundancies at the Laurence Scott engineering factory in Manchester in 1981 and 1982. Until recently he was for many years the secretary of Tameside trades council, which has a proud record of support for the causes of women's liberation, Irish freedom and anti-racism. Dave contested the Knowsley North seat for the Revolutionary Communist Party in the 1986 by-election, after the Labour Party imposed its stodge candidate George Howarth against the wishes of the local party, and polled 664 votes.

A PLATFORM FOR WORKING CLASS UNITY

The Red Front is putting forward the following proposals in the general election as a basic platform to defend the working class today.

WORK OR FULL PAY

To survive in capitalist society everybody needs either a job at a living wage, or the same level of income in the form of benefits. We cannot afford to go poor just because employers cannot make enough profit out of our labour, or because the state cannot afford to maintain our living standards. What constitutes a living wage? This can only be decided by wage-earners and those who rely on benefits. We reject all state attempts to regulate wages by means of incomes policy.

DEFEND UNION RIGHTS

We stand for the repeal of all laws that restrict the rights of workers to take action in defence of working class interests. We reject all restrictions on striking, picketing and solidarity action. We reject all state intervention in strike ballots, union elections or any other labour movement activity.

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL

We are in favour of the widest extension of civil liberties and for equal rights for all. We reject all measures which strengthen the power of the capitalist state and extend the interference of its repressive forces in society. We repudiate attempts to criminalise sections of society as a way of winning public approval for more repression.

We oppose discrimination against women at work and call for the establishment of free nurseries, available all day for children of all ages, to free women to go out to work. We demand free abortion and contraception on demand.


We oppose discrimination against black people in all spheres of society. We call for the repeal of all restrictions on immigration which divide the working class and give official approval to racism.

We reject the Aids panic as a propaganda campaign designed to take advantage of a fatal disease to proscribe homosexual activity and bolster conventional morality. We defend the rights of lesbians and gay men to full equality in society.

STOP THE WAR DRIVE

We oppose all forms of militarism, both conventional and nuclear, and all alliances among imperialist powers, particularly Nato. We condemn Western military interference in the third world and support countries such as Argentina or Libya against imperialist aggression. We support anti-imperialist struggles, especially those of the Palestinians in the Middle East, black people in South Africa and liberation struggles in Central America. We place a particular priority on supporting the fight for freedom in Ireland.

If you want to fight for these demands, don't just vote for *The Red Front*, join our movement to put the working class in power!



I would like to know more about *The Red Front*

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE TELEPHONE

Send to *The Red Front*, BM RCP, London WC1N 3XX