

JOBS & MIGRANT WORKERS: The Facts

The BNP and other racists would have you believe that immigrants are responsible for job losses, long-term unemployment, and low wages. This is a distortion of the reality and shifts blame away from the real culprits.

Migrant workers are victims of exploitation

It is true that migrant workers are used to keep the cost of labour down. But they are not the ones responsible for this. Like us, all they want is to be able to earn money, provide for their families, and keep a roof over their heads.

It is the bosses and the employers who are to blame. They exploit those workers who are disorganised and more vulnerable, not only to undercut the cost of those they hire but also as a way of undermining and rolling back the rights and concessions which generations of organised workers have won through often brutal struggle. But this is not **because** they are migrants that this happens. The bosses will always seek to divide the working class and use the weaker group to undermine the stronger.

Today it is not only migrants who are used against natives, but also agency and casual workers against permanent workers. In the past, it was blacks against whites, Catholics against Protestants, and women against men. Even if there were no migrants in Britain at all, the bosses would find somebody to use in order to undercut wages, terms, and conditions.



Racism only makes the situation worse

In every such situation in the past, the tensions and division have only been worsened by bigotry. When the Trade Unions excluded blacks in the 19th and early 20th Century, all they did was offer the bosses an easily exploitable pool of scab labour. When we give in to racism and xenophobia and blame migrants rather than those who exploit them, we only make them more willing to be used against us.

Fascism is the logical extension of this. Since they first appeared, fascist groups and parties have served the bosses by encouraging this sectarian division of workers. The BNP continues this tradition with its slogan of “British Jobs for British Workers,” threatening migrants and turning the ire of natives towards them instead of the bosses who exploit them.

The solution: working class unity against fascism

The use of women to undermine the working conditions of men did not come to an end from a slogan demanding “Male Jobs for Male Workers,” or the expulsion of women from industry. It came from the strength of those who were willing to unite, not as a gender but as a class, across the gender line.

The same has been true of every victory workers have won in the face of exploitation and division. It is not race, gender, nationality, religion, or any other superficial criteria that unites us – it is class.

We have more in common with fellow workers of a different race than with fascists or bosses whose skin colour is the same as ours.



Liverpool Antifascists was set up by ordinary people just like you to stop the fascists and expose their lies.

GET IN TOUCH - GET INVOLVED

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