

# REBEL CITY

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## May, Corbyn, Khan, Trump: THE ANARCHIST ALTERNATIVE

**Housing problems, inadequate wages and zero-hour contracts, cuts in public services, bigotry and racism - what are politicians actually doing to make our lives better? The answer is nothing - and in most cases they are the cause of the problems or making things worse! And with Brexit, they are in complete turmoil, running around like headless chickens!**

May spends her time travelling around the world with a begging bowl, sucking up to various dodgy governments like the Chinese and the Americans. Meanwhile in Britain, she does nothing to control the continued takeover of London by the rich, as ordinary people are priced out of housing and everyday activities such as going to the pub or the cinema. The government continues to make cuts in essential public services whilst at the same time ensuring that some are able to amass more and more wealth and avoid paying any tax and propping up the banking system.

Corbyn is ineffectual and seems to refuse to seriously challenge the current system. Is he really up to fundamentally changing a situation where the ones who really run London are those who own the land and control the financial system?

Khan has been mayor of London for almost a year and what has he actually accomplished? The price of housing continues to rise, pollution is reaching record highs, services are at a crisis point. Meanwhile, he surrounds himself with millionaire advisors and claims that London is 'open for business'. In other words, anyone is welcome to come to London and make their profits - with what actual benefit to your average Londoner? Will our wages go up? Will rents go down?

Trump claims to be an outsider - not part of the political establishment, but his answer to the problems in the US is to promote bigotry, racism and sexism. As a billionaire businessman himself, whose interests is he promoting?

*Anarchists reject all political parties, whether of the right or left. We realise that the only ones who can create a better society are the mass of the people - working on a grass roots level.*

**Find out more in our paper *Rebel City*.**

## Rebel unions - a new era?

**Back around 2009 various - mainly Spanish-speaking - cleaners in the City of London who had been recruited by the manifesto from the union Unite were holding large, noisy demos with a wide range of supporters. They had also, as part of the Latin American Workers Association, vigorously opposed immigration controls. At that time bosses were routinely using targeted immigration raids to smash union organising.**

Unite hated these cleaners' determined independence and finally hung them out to dry during their dispute with Mitie/Willis. Disillusioned, they joined the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) as the Cleaners Branch. Eight years later, there are now three offshoots - Industrial Workers of Great Britain (IWGB), United Voices of the World (UVW) and the Cleaners and Allied Independent Workers Union (CAIWU).

UVW has taken up other workplace issues. Recently they held a large, noisy and successful dispute with Harrods, which was keeping 75% of the waiters' tips. Hundreds of people, ranging from UVW members to Class War, shut down Knightsbridge and much of Harrods (with some arrests). Faced with even bigger demonstrations, Harrods finally gave in and agreed to the staff retaining 100% of their tips.

Currently they have a long-running dispute with the London School of Economics, demanding equal rights with in-house staff. Vociferous, determined, and thoroughly fed up, these Spanish-speaking and Afro-Caribbean cleaners held their first ever two-day strike. It included an occupation of the administration building with their student supporters, who also held a short night-time occupation in solidarity.

The IWGB, itself focussed on Deliveroo riders (along with the IWW), care workers and others, has been actively supporting UVW struggles.

CAIWU was the Cleaners Branch of the IWGB until it broke away to form a separate, exclusively cleaners' union. Their style is more often smaller unannounced

actions. Their most recent dispute has been with University College London Union (UCLU), which is trying to slash their cleaners' hours. A joint CAIWU/student campaign resulted in the student council voting against the proposed cuts. Not for the first time, UCLU management has ignored the decision. The struggle goes on.

Obviously all these unions do individual casework as well as running various campaigns and prioritising reps training. CAIWU also runs language exchanges - being able to speak English can be crucial in standing up to bosses, individually and collectively. But it is these unions' style of campaigning, and the very vocal involvement of the members, which makes them very different from the mainstream unions.

Rebel unions are not new. And they have always been attacked by the mainstream union bureaucracies. From the smashing of the original IWGB's Singer strike in 1911, aided by ASE (Engineering Union) scabbing, through to the Pilkington Glass workers in 1970 by the then GMWU, to Unite with Mitie/Willis, Unison with 3Cosas, up to the current LSE dispute - Unison again.

*But at a time when mainstream unions seldom dominate workplaces, are very rarely militant, and with workers they have frequently ignored, it's more than possible that radical, grassroots unions will survive and prosper.*

**Solidarity Forever!!**

<http://caiwu.org.uk/>

<https://twitter.com/IWGBUnion>

<https://iww.org.uk/>

<https://www.uvwunion.org.uk>

The LAWAS archive is at:

<http://maydayrooms.org/archives/lawas/>



## Organising at work

### ***Bogus self-employment? Outsourced and underpaid?***

**OK, your working conditions are crap and going downhill fast. It's easy to think you're stuck with them, but you're not. You'll have to fight to change them, but change them you can. Here's some practical tips to get you started.**

#### **Ask questions and listen to the answers**

Talk to your workmates. Ask about their concerns. Pay attention to what they say. This may be the first time anyone has taken their concerns seriously. Meetings are good, but nothing beats a face to face chat. Be discreet. Management will be quick to spot 'a potential troublemaker'.

Some workers will be content with a moan, but some will be prepared to do something. Start with them, however few.

#### **Map your workplace**

Knowledge is power. Not quite, but it's a good start. Find out as much as you can about your workplace and your employer. Start mapping the structure; distribution by location, by mother tongue etc. Get copies of your employer's policies and procedures, including typical contracts. Find out about your employer's business. Where is it vulnerable? Is public image a concern?

#### **Be organised**

Organisation doesn't need to be bureaucratic, but it must exist. Initially a contact list and somewhere to share information may be all you need.

#### **The balance of power**

The purpose of organising is to change the balance of power to your advantage. Going with a workmate to a disciplinary is important, but solving individual problems won't improve your working conditions. This will only happen when management understands a concern relates to everybody, and there will be problems for them until that concern is resolved.

#### **Find the natural organisers**

Workers always form groups and every group has its movers and shakers. You have come a long way if you get these workers on board, but be wary of the supervisor who is 'everyone's friend'.

#### **Get other workers involved**

Most workers develop through active participation. When someone shows an interest suggest something practical they can contribute; find out a piece of information, translate something. Take an interest in the outcome. Don't patronise but don't overwhelm. With workers new to action start small and scale up.

#### **Start with small victories**

Confrontation with the boss is inevitable. Small victories build confidence and draw in others as workers recognise it pays to fight. Every positive action makes it possible to win greater victories. Organising is about tipping the power balance in your favour.

#### **Be prepared for setbacks**

The boss isn't just going to roll over, so be prepared for setbacks. If you're not successful first time, be patient. Bosses and organising opportunities come and go. An unforeseen event may tip the balance in your favour.

#### **Retain your sense of humour**

You are trying to create a better future. Use your imagination; cartoons, songs, jokes and stories. Accentuate the positive and remember to share your vision and your conviction that you will win.

#### **You are not alone**

There are now four fighting unions in London you can join for support, advice and solidarity: CAIWU, IWGB, IWW and UVW (*see the article on Rebel Unions for further information*).

**The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life - IWW**



## The Labour Party is our enemy

**Labour Councils in London (and elsewhere in Britain) are attacking local services. At least £100 billion has been slashed from public spending bills in the last decade. The Cameron government imposed a further £12 billion in cuts, and is phasing out the £18 billion central government grant to Local Authorities. Adding the rising cost of inflation, councils will face a further cut of 6.7 percent in real terms by 2019-2020.**

In Croydon the Labour Council is to make 60 redundancies as part as a £36 million package of cuts over the next three years. Lewisham council is facing a growing funding shortfall of £20.8 million by 2019-2020, having already imposed cuts of £150 million since 2010. These cuts will have drastic effects on services.

Not long after Corbyn's election, his close ally Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell and Jon Trickett, the Shadow Communities and Local Government Secretary, sent a letter to all Labour councils demanding they abide by the law and impose austerity cuts set by the Conservative government '...the situation councils are now in is if they don't set a budget, a council officer will do it for them. There is no choice for them anymore. As you know, councils must set a balanced budget under the Local Government Act 1992. If this does not happen, i.e. if a council fails to set a legal budget, then the council's Section 151 Officer is required to issue the council with a notice under Section 114 of the 1988 Local Government Act. Councillors are then required to take all the necessary action in order to bring the budget back into balance.' No indication here that Labour Councils could band together to pool general

reserves and make use of prudential borrowing to set budgets that didn't involve cuts. That they could use prudential borrowing to build 100,000 council houses throughout Britain, and that they could tie this to inciting mass defiance of cuts.

But of course they have no intention of doing this. They are firmly set against bringing any such mass movements into existence. Instead Labour councils have enthusiastically embraced these cuts. Corbyn's own constituency is in Islington where Labour hold 47 of the 48 seats. Islington Labour has had £220 million slashed from its budget in a decade. Islington now plans a further £70 million of cuts, with possible redundancies. In order to be able to charge for services, it has set up a council-run private company called iCo.Labour.

Councils have been enthusiastically involved in social cleansing and attacks on what is left of social housing. Sir Robin Wales, Labour leader of Newham Council, told mothers being evicted from the Focus E15 hostel in 2013 'If you can't afford to live in Newham, you can't afford to live in Newham'. Camden Labour council revised its overcrowding rules to recategorise living rooms and dining rooms as bedrooms as part of a scam to reduce eligibility for a council home and reduce its waiting list from 27,000 to just over 5,000. These councils are, in the long tradition of the Labour Party (with a few exceptions like Lansbury in Poplar in the 1920s and Clay Cross in the 1970s) totally committed to not breaking the law, rather than inciting campaigns of mass mobilisation and civil disobedience.

***Resistance to austerity, to social cleansing and gentrification cannot come from them, it must spring from grassroots action by us.***

## No such thing as a free lunch? In Haringey or anywhere else

**Councillors in the London Borough of Haringey have once again covered themselves with the whiff of corruption. These fine upstanding career politicians, who look so smart in their little 'New Labour' suits, have been practicing a brown-envelope philosophy towards the borough-wide housing crisis.**

For the last couple of years, our very own pigs at the trough have been wined and dined by Terrapin Communications who are 'PR and lobbying specialists' – mainly for property developers. Terrapin work for the offshore tax-dodging developers Far East Consortium International Ltd, who have somehow been awarded the contract to turn a community treasure, Hornsey Town Hall, into a 'boutique hotel' and 'luxury flats'.

Council records show that hungry Haringey cabinet members were wined and dined on the sell-off by Terrapin Communications on 13 occasions between July 2, 2014 and October 25, 2016. Several councillors have enjoyed multiple dinners with these lobbyists. Worse, careerist Councillor Adam Jogee actually works for Terrapin Communications.

One of these Terrapin dinners was on a yacht at MIPIM, a prestigious international real estate conference in Cannes in the South of France. Our 'representatives' were there at council tax payers expense and didn't hold back by all accounts.

Shouldn't these councillors be standing up for the citizens of the borough, the 'ordinary' people who get up every day and keep the machine running, and not that of PR firms, big business, greedy housing benefit-sucking landlords and profiteering property developers? The sad fact is they will never leave the gravy train (unless they are pushed off at high speed).

***And Haringey is not alone. It's happening all over London. Just take a look at your own, so called, elected officials.***



## Housing: How it could be?

**Surely there must be a better answer for something as essential as a roof over our heads. Well, we think there is. Rather than our benefits or wages going to finance some smug landlord or pay interest to a rich banker, there are other ways housing could be organised.**

We could start building thousands of new council houses and rent them out cheaply to those of us who needed them. It's a win – win situation. Building houses mean more people working. Rents would go back into the council funds to build more housing or provide needed services. Only landlords and bankers lose out – what a shame!

Or, people could set up housing co-operatives. Some presently build their own and others buy existing properties. The co-operative is run by the people who live in the homes and their rents pay off the mortgage. When the mortgage is paid off, rents can

come down. The co-operative owns the house or flat so people pay quite cheap rents and run the properties they live in. When they leave, the house or flat stays with the co-operative, so new tenants also enjoy the benefits.

***But, in the long run things could go even further. Every street could be run by the people who live there. The houses could be collectively looked after by a form of residents association for each street. Nobody would need to own their own home, but street level groups would meet to decide what repairs needed doing, set the rent levels to cover repairs and maintenance and discuss allocation of empty properties on the street. This would bring neighbours together to discuss their collective needs around both housing and things like maintenance of the street and road as well. We don't want an apple - we want the whole bloody orchard!***

## Time to abolish landlords!

Sally is 26. She finished university four years ago but had to move back in with her parents because she was working as an intern and couldn't afford to rent anything. She then got a job but on £23,000 a year and wanted to move out. Fortunately she has a partner to help share costs and they managed to find a small one-bedroom apartment an hour's commute from central London where they worked. The rent is low by London standards- £850 between the two of them plus bills. But with the price of transport, they have little left over at the end of month to spend. The lease is coming up for renewal soon and she is worried about what the landlord will do. He could easily find someone who is willing to pay more than them. So they could be flat hunting again soon. There is no question of buying anything.

Does this sound familiar? It could be worse - average rents are much higher than this and not everyone has a partner to help share costs. And, many people earn less than Sally. The annual living wage for a full-time job is less than £20,000. The average income in Tower Hamlets is only £17,000. Many people are forced to live in overcrowded conditions with no security of tenure.

So why are so many, especially young people, in this situation?

The following facts tell the story:

- In 1979 42% of people lived in council houses, now it is under 8%.
- There are now 4.1 million households in the socially rented sector (2.2 council, 1.9 housing associations) out of 29.1 million.
- 40% of all ex-council flats are now rented out at much higher rents.
- 52% of existing council tenants and 35% of existing housing association tenants expect to buy their property.
- London house price average is £585,000 pounds.
- 37% of families with children are now in the rented sector.
- Londoners spend 62% of their average income on rent.
- Rents rise by at least 5% year on year, with many renters seeing much greater percentage increases.

- In more than a third of rented accommodation, the bill is paid in part or in full by the taxpayer. In 2013/14, landlords were paid £9.2 billion in housing benefit. UKIP Work and Pension spokesperson Andrew Charalambous was the tenth biggest housing benefit private landlord, receiving £826,000 in the 2014-2015 tax year.

These facts show why private landlords are able to make a financial killing out of providing people with a basic human right. Many people aspire to buy their own home. However, this is increasingly impossible for most people in London with the huge increase in prices and the relatively low income levels of the population. Most home buying has been done by council tenants who are subsidised by the taxpayer.

Meanwhile, council properties are becoming a rare commodity. This is partly because of the tenants buying up the property so it is no longer available for social rent and also due to the demolition and privatisation of estates, with housing built for the private market and often a reduced number of homes for social rent. Those who are in council properties, mainly older people, are unlikely to move out and there is no building of new council homes.

So, unable to buy and unable to rent from the council or a housing association, people, especially young people, are forced to turn to the private landlord. This might be a leaseholder of an ex-council property, one of the many properties offered by buy-to-let landlords or a property owned by a speculator, often based overseas. All of these people are in the business of making money - not providing a decent home at a price people can afford. Therefore, with so many people forced into the rental market and no rent controls whatsoever, landlords can charge what they want. End result, housing misery for millions.

However, many people are fighting back. Private renters groups have been set up to challenge landlords and estate agents. There are plans afoot to set up a private tenants' union. Landlords are very vulnerable to bad publicity. The main thing is to realise that you are not alone and to join with others to get housing justice.

See Radical Housing Network: <http://radicalhousingnetwork.org/> for more information about private renters groups, the tenants' union project and other support on housing issues.



# Following Charlton across land and sea

By Svartfrosk



**In 1905, a group of football-mad boys met in Charlton and founded a football club. Just over 111 years later, I found myself marching in a provincial Belgian town to protest against the club's current owner, Belgian multi-millionaire Roland Duchatelet.**

Sint Truiden is a market town of around 40,000 people; it also happens to be Duchatelet's home. On March 4th this year, over 250 Charlton fans made the 11 hour journey there for the first large-scale international protest by football fans. Duchatelet had put pressure on the mayor and police chief to stop the march. It was allowed, despite the owner's dire warnings. Once it got started, it was noisy and good-humoured, which took the police by surprise and they became more relaxed, and at the end thanked us for our behaviour. Local residents were supportive as well – it became clear that Duchatelet was unpopular in his own backyard as well.

Charlton Athletic is the only professional club in England with its roots in self-organisation. Most other clubs originated as works teams or were set up by churches or businessmen. While the club has been owned by businessmen since the 1920s, some of its supporters are still keen on that self-organising tradition, famously seen in the 1990s when supporters successfully fought to get the club back to its traditional ground, The Valley. Most clubs' fans have a sense of moral ownership, though few show it as often as the Addicks.

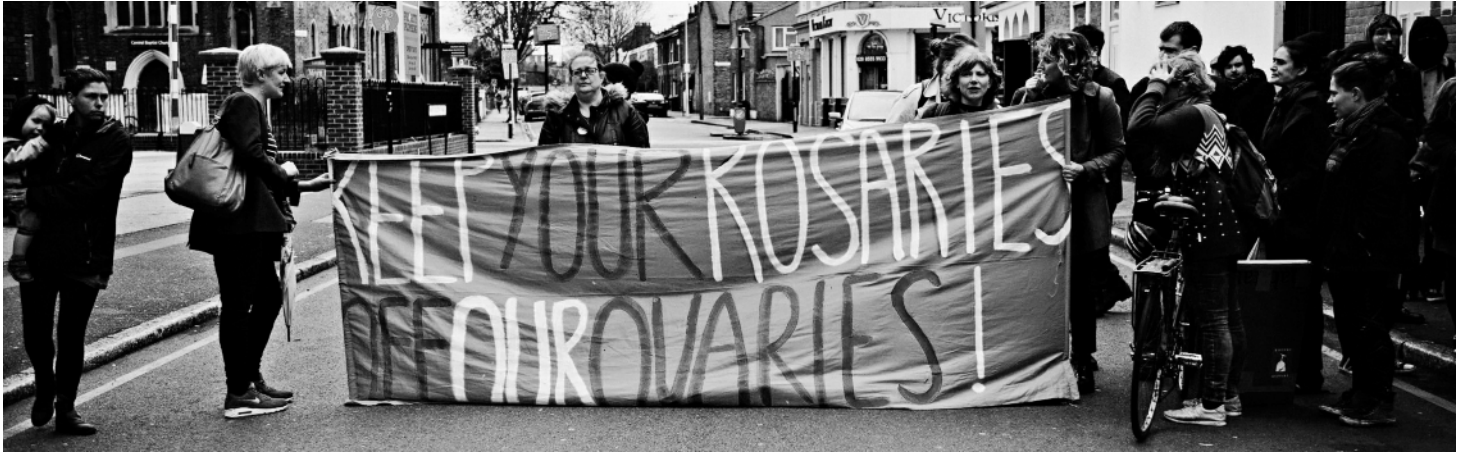
Duchatelet bought the club in January 2014. At first, he talked about the club living within its means, while making use of his network of clubs in Europe and taking advantage of the new Financial Fair Play regulations. He installed inexperienced Belgian

lawyer Katrein Meire as Chief Executive, but neither were interested in meeting fans. Fans began to grumble about decisions made under the new regime. Charlton have always sold their best players, but now they were being replaced by more expensive players from Europe who could not adapt to the English game. Talismanic striker Yann Kermorgant was sold to Bournemouth and helped fire them into the Premiership: he was replaced with an untried teenager who played less than five minutes as a substitute. Player and manager turnover rose and Meire delighted in making bizarre statements that angered fans, such as comparing them to customers or dismissing the club's history. The club has been inept on and off the pitch.

Protests began with demonstrations outside the ground after games, to marches and in-game protests that have involved supporters throwing stress balls and plastic pigs ("Pigs might fly") onto the pitch. This got attention in the media; fans took to wearing different-coloured scarves as a protest to get Duchatelet to spell out his plans "in black and white".

Duchatelet has not attended a game since 2014. He is losing large amounts of money and no one has any idea of what his plans are.

***Duchatelet does not visit Charlton often so he can safely ignore protests there, so small groups started going to Belgium to protest there. It got a reaction - after one visit he fired the manager. There are several different protest groups but this year they have come together to organise the first international protest by football fans in numbers. The message from fans was clear - "just sell the club". The pressure will not let up and a return visit is on the cards if there's no movement.***



## Struggling for our families and our lives

**When we're deciding whether or not to have children, where and how to bring them up, when, and with whom, we're influenced by social forces which are outside our control. These social forces influence who has more freedom to make these choices, according to how they want to live. For everybody to enjoy this freedom, for reproductive justice, we require access to legal abortion, free childcare, healthcare and education, the ability to leave an abusive relationship, stable housing and secure, well paid jobs.**

Recently we've seen increased repression of reproductive justice around the world. The most obvious example of this is attacks on access to abortion. In 2016, the Polish government attempted to pass legislation which would ban abortion in all circumstances. They only backed down after a strike by thousands of women across the country. In the USA, it seems attempts to end funding for Planned Parenthood, which provides abortions as well as other reproductive healthcare services to people on low incomes, will be successful. Here in the UK, abortion clinics are being targeted for harassment by anti-choice religious groups and right-wing newspapers.

Since 2008, governments across Europe and in the USA have been using the financial crisis to impose harsh austerity measures on the working class people least responsible for, but most harmed by, the crash. Times of austerity often mean increased social conservatism, with the right winning elections by promising to defend 'traditional family values'. But they are talking about defending a very specific type of family – a white, heterosexual, wealthy couple who can afford to pay for childcare and own a home in an area with well-funded schools and hospitals.

Whilst our bosses, landlords and MPs are protected from the effects of austerity measures, working class people in the UK are struggling to raise their families in the face of cuts to the services they are forced to rely on. Since 2010, 763 Sure Start children's centres have closed. 34 domestic violence refuges have closed, and Rape Crisis has a budget shortfall of

£10 million. Combined with cuts to benefits, this leaves victims of gendered violence trapped in dangerous relationships and homes. Companies like Sports Direct, who use zero-hour contracts and pay poverty wages, leave many families without a reliable income. Schools in Derbyshire, near the Sports Direct depot, reported sick children coming in to school because their parents were afraid that taking time off to care for them would result in their hours being cut. With more people than ever living in rented accommodation, rip-off rents mean that families are living in poor quality, precarious housing, or are being discouraged from having children altogether. In the north and south of Ireland, it is working class women, non-binary and trans people who cannot afford to travel to England for a safe, legal abortion.

These problems are worse for migrants, who are now at risk from increased gate-keeping in the NHS. After a trial at St George's Hospital, 20 NHS hospitals will require a passport and utility bill before treating patients, leaving many without access to sexual health and maternity services. Migrants also face the constant threat of deportations which leave families divided across continents.

***We cannot, and should not, expect the state to support our struggle for reproductive justice. In the face of these attacks on our everyday lives, on our choices and our families, we must build working class solidarity. We need to work together to defend our local abortion clinics from harassment by bigots, resist immigration raids which violently split up migrant families and stand up to fascists when they attack our communities. We should support doctors who refuse to check the immigration status of their patients and make sure other parents know that they aren't required to give schools census information about the ethnicity of their children. We should be active in our unions and workplaces, organising against precarious work and low wages with our migrant fellow workers. In the fight for control over our bodies and our lives, we can only win if we stand together as a class.***



## Black Lives Matter

**In December 2015 Jermaine Baker was shot while asleep in his car outside Wood Green Crown Court. Shortly afterwards the police officer who fired the fatal shot was arrested - probably in an attempt to head off any repeat of the anger that followed Mark Duggan's death at the hands of the police.**

So what's been happening since? Well, not much, since the wheels of justice move slowly when there's a cop in the dock. After a year investigating, the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) - an organisation made up of former police officers - concluded that "a crime may have been committed".

After the arrest, the Police Federation said that officers may refuse to volunteer for firearms teams.

We should be so lucky: In August 2016 the Met deployed a further 600 armed officers in London.

The cop in charge of the operation was, scandalously, allowed to take early retirement rather than face a misconduct hearing. The IPCC initially promised to support Baker's family in a legal battle to prevent this, before pulling out at the last minute and leaving them high and dry.

**Since Jermaine was killed, six more men have died after being shot by the police - most recently Yasser Yakub in Bradford who, like Baker, was shot in his car. Each time, families who demand justice are met with the same lies and evasions. No Justice, No Peace.**

**People have only as much liberty as they have the intelligence to want and the courage to take - Emma Goldman**

## Snooper's Charter self-defence: Part 1

The Investigatory Powers Act 2016, also known as the Snooper's Charter, went into force on December 30th, 2016, supported by both major UK political parties. The state, including the Metropolitan Police, the Home Office and the Department of Work and Pensions can now gain access, without a warrant, to the record of all the websites you visit (browsing history) from your Internet Service Provider. NSA whistle-blower Ed Snowden calls it "the most intrusive and least accountable surveillance regime in the West". Jim Killock from the Open Rights Group says "it is the most extreme surveillance law ever passed in a democracy." Even before the Snooper's Charter was passed, corporations were already doing the state's dirty work by collecting data on their unsuspecting users and handing it over to the authorities on request. Thankfully, the hard work of some very tech savvy people means there is a lot we can do to protect ourselves. None of this requires you to be tech savvy yourself, and none of it will hurt your productivity online. In fact, once you have followed the steps below you can use the internet just as you do now, but without big brother looking over your shoulder.

### Step One: Browser

Use Firefox on your phone, tablet and laptop/desktop:

<https://www.mozilla.org/en-GB/firefox/new/>

Install the 'uBlock Origin' add on in Firefox:

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-GB/firefox/addon/ublock-origin/>

Install the 'Privacy Badger' addon in Firefox:

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/privacy-badger17/>

Install the 'HTTPS Everywhere' add on in Firefox:

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-GB/firefox/addon/https-everywhere/>

Unlike Google's Chrome, Microsoft's Internet Explorer or Apple's Safari, Firefox is developed by a not-for-profit foundation and respects your privacy. These three 'add ons' to Firefox improve your browser's security by blocking ads, preventing websites from tracking where you go after you leave their site, and by forcing your browser to use HTTPSecure instead of the standard HTTP. Once you have installed Firefox and the three addons, make sure to use Firefox as your default browser.

### Step Two: VPN

VPN is a service to hide your location. You should use a VPN on your phone, tablet and laptop/desktop.

For less than a fiver a month a VPN will hide all your traffic from your Internet Service Provider (BT, Sky, Vodaphone etc). This works by routing your internet use through a third party, so instead of your service provider seeing a list of all the different websites your computer/phone has connected to, they only see you connecting to the third party server. VPN servers are usually hosted in countries with less oppressive communications laws than the UK and US.

A good VPN provider will give you step by step instructions on how to get the VPN working on all your devices and should take

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no more than five minutes to be up and running. If you can't follow the provider's instructions on their website, go with another provider.

### Step Three: Tor

If you don't want to pay for a VPN, Tor is a free way of hiding your traffic. It works in a similar way to a VPN, but instead of routing your internet use through one big server abroad, it routes your traffic through many small servers all over the world, making it impossible to trace back to you. One caveat: Tor will only work (by default) when using the Tor browser, which does not have all the features of Firefox. Websites may also load slower with Tor than they would with a VPN.

Use Tor on your laptop/desktop:

<https://www.torproject.org/download/>

Use Orbot and Orfox on your Android phone and tablet:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.torproject.android>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=info.guardianproject.orfox>

Use Onion Browser on your iOS phone and tablet:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/onion-browser/id519296448>

### Step Four: Search Engine

Use 'Startpage' search engine instead of Google on all your devices. Make it Firefox's default search engine:

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/startpage-https-privacy-search/>

To make it your default search engine, look for 'options' or 'settings' in the top right of your Firefox browser window, then click 'search' and look for 'Startpage HTTPS'.

Why not just use Google? Because Google collects data on you every time you search for something. "You might like these so-called free services [Google and Facebook], but we don't think they're worth having your email or your search history or now even your family photos data-mined and sold off for god knows what advertising purpose", said Apple CEO Tim Cook. Ironically, Apple also collect huge amounts of data on their users. Google, Facebook, Apple and Microsoft are all guilty of selling out the people who use their services and should not be trusted with ANY of your personal information, especially not records of your internet use.

The above steps are the bare minimum we should all be doing. Tell your friends.

All the links and more can be found on the Anarchist Federation's blog: <https://aflondon.wordpress.com/>

## First of May is an anarchist day!

The idea of turning the 1st of May into a day of action for workers was proposed for the first time at the 4th congress of the American Federation of Labor (AFL). It was then decided to launch, starting from the 1st of May 1886, a big campaign for a forty hour working week. The most radical actions took place in Chicago. Following the 1st of May in 1886, strikes were still going on as the fight with employers became tougher. On the 4th of May, a giant meeting gathering around 15,000 people was attacked by the cops. Both sides suffered numerous dead and wounded. Eight of the main organisers, all anarchists, were arrested and sentenced to death. The sentence was turned to life imprisonment for 3 of them. On November 11th, 1887, four were hanged. One committed suicide the day before to avoid the execution. A few years later, they were acquitted and the court admitted that the police and justice system set up the case to criminalize the workers movement. The 3 survivors were set free.

### State, police and capital

The first of May reminds us that the fight against capitalism is still going on. Working hours are no better than they were back in the 1880s; despite advanced technology people are still devoting most of their time to work. The difference between rich and poor keeps growing, the financial markets are back in the saddle and traders are still handling billions of dollars. While half of the world's wealth is owned by 1% of the population, workers are asked to make more and more effort to 'save' the economy and put the State back on its feet. We are heading toward a neo-liberal capitalist system

in which the State's main purpose is to maintain social control so capitalism can develop without constraint.

Workers produce everything and own very little. Although this is common knowledge, workers in Europe slowly gave up the fight for a fair redistribution and instead just hoped that troubles would fall on someone else. In addition, if you don't want to be a good worker who produces and obeys, you're seen as a parasite.

As anarchists, we think that human beings shouldn't be defined by the profit they bring to capitalism. Work should be organised to satisfy our own needs, not for their profits. No capitalist society will ever achieve full employment. It needs a pool of unemployed, so having to work makes us accept bad working conditions. To re-organise work, we need a society free from class and leaders, and in which society is managed in a self-organised way. This is what we as anarchists are fighting for.



**Freedom without socialism is privilege and injustice; socialism without freedom is slavery and brutality” - Bakunin**

## **Libertarian communism - at the heart of humanity**

**Libertarian communism (another way of saying anarchism). It's a great idea but it won't work - it's impractical. How many times have you heard that? What needs to be recognised is that communism has worked and does work. And that does not mean those distorted parodies of communism seen in Russia, China, Cuba, North Korea and other dictatorships. By definition there's absolutely nothing collective or communist about a hierarchical state-run system.**

Libertarian communism is the only genuine kind of communism on offer. Elements of it have existed in many forms and contexts, including briefly when the Russian Revolution broke out and in Spain during the Civil War.

Modern capitalism is a little over 200 years old. The centralised state dates back not much further. Other more primitive versions of the state go back a lot longer, as do patriarchy, exploitation, bureaucracy, armies, wealth accumulation and inequality. But that leaves millennia of earlier human existence without these things and where the main social form was small, independent communities, mostly based around resource-sharing. Even if feasible, few would choose a hunter-gatherer lifestyle today - but add the advantages of scientific and technological development to a free communal existence and you're getting somewhere.

Look around. We help each other out all the time - within friendship groups and families, in our local streets and neighbourhoods, as workmates. Fellow-feeling comes naturally and brings out the best in us. Many associations and groups work away quietly and consistently on a mutual basis: some amateur football clubs, women's groups, choirs, grass roots unions, reading groups, tenants associations, credit unions, allotment societies. Most of these will not be examples of communism, but they exemplify a common approach to human organisation based on pooling resources, and sharing responsibility and decision-making. They indicate the direction in which we can shape a better, fairer world, while fighting the social and class struggle.

This co-operative way of doing things is clearly not foreign to us. More than that - it's the unacknowledged glue that keeps us and our

societies together and can make life bearable when it's tough, and joyful when times are better. Such co-operation and mutual aid is an observable built-in reality that the greedy individualists running governments and big business don't want us to think about, let alone take seriously. The contemporary (and temporary) fashion for extreme capitalist individualism proclaims that selfishness and greed are good. Such anti-ideals have shallow roots.

Some of the most developed examples of libertarian communism appeared in Spain in 1936. In 2016 the journalist and writer Neil Ascherson (no anarchist) wrote:

“Barcelona in those years.... was a brief revelation of something latent but dazzling in humanity: the hope to fly like angels... The granite mountains of government and wealth, the ravines of class and the dark forests of the law, suddenly turn out to be cardboard stage scenery. Ordinary people kick them down and fall into one another's arms. Everything is to be held and done in common; nobody is to be unwillingly obeyed; in the sunlight of what Robert Burns called ‘social love’, human beings return to their true nature of unselfish sharing...”

***Authoritarian Russian-style ‘communism’ and capitalism are the gods that have failed us. Now it's humanity's turn to take the stage, with grassroots democratic communism the best option. Call it communalism, co-operation, mutuality, collectivism, commonality or the commons - communism is a quintessential part of who we are.***



## Rebel City has changed!

After meeting with other anarchists in London over the last few months to discuss better coordination and mutual support, members of London Anarchist Federation offered to throw open the pages of *Rebel City*, to other groups and individuals. In short, *Rebel City* is no longer to be the specific voice of London AF but speaks for the broader London revolutionary anarchist movement. In this issue we have articles from the Anarchist Federation, Haringey Solidarity Group and individual members of the Industrial Workers of the World, the Solidarity Federation, and Feminist Fightback. As a result, we hope that *Rebel City* will be able to report in a more comprehensive way on struggles happening in London and will spread anarchist ideas more widely throughout this enormous city.

Any other groups and individuals who would like to be involved should contact the *Rebel City Collective* at:  
[aflondon@riseup.net](mailto:aflondon@riseup.net)

## Where to find out more about anarchism/libertarian communism

### Freedom Bookshop:

Angel Alley, 84b  
Whitechapel High St.,  
London E1 7QX

<https://freedompress.org.uk/about-freedom/>

### Housmans Bookshop:

5 Caledonian Road,  
Kings Cross, London,  
N1 9DX

<http://www.housmans.com/about.php>



AGAINST ALL AUTHORITY  
**ANARCHISM**

## DIRECTORY

### Get involved!

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

### London-wide

- Anarchist Federation: <https://aflondon.wordpress.com/>
- Anti-Raids Network: <https://www.facebook.com/antiraids/>
- Black Lives Matter: <https://www.facebook.com/BLMLondon/>
- Community Food Growers Network: <http://www.cfgn.org.uk/>
- Disabled People Against Cuts: <http://dpac.uk.net/>
- Empty Cages - campaign to abolish prisons: <http://www.prisonabolition.org/>
- English Collective of Prostitutes: <http://prostitutescollective.net/>
- Feminist Fightback: <http://www.feministfightback.org.uk/>
- Homes not Borders: <https://homesnotborders.net/>
- Industrial Workers of the World: <https://www.iww.org.uk/londongmb>
- London Anti-fascists: <https://londonantifascists.wordpress.com/>
- Radical Assembly: <https://radicalassembly.wordpress.com/>
- Radical Housing Network: [www.radicalhousingnetwork.org](http://www.radicalhousingnetwork.org)
- Reclaim the Power: <https://reclaimthepower.org.uk/>
- Sex Workers Open University: <http://www.sexworkeropenuniversity.com/>
- Sisters Uncut: <http://www.sistersuncut.org/>
- Solidarity Federation: <http://www.solfed.org.uk/local/south-london>

### Local groups and campaigns

- Friends of Queen's Market - Upton Park: <http://www.friendsofqueensmarket.org.uk/>
- Haringey Solidarity Group - local group that campaigns on a variety of issues, such as workfare, as well as producing a regular paper: <http://www.haringey.org.uk/content/>
- Haringey Housing Action Group: <http://haringeyhousingaction.org.uk/>
- Housing Action, Greenwich and Lewisham: <http://www.housingactiongl.com/>
- Housing Action, Southwark and Lambeth: <https://housingactionsouthwarkandlambeth.wordpress.com/>
- North East London Migrant Action: <https://nelmacampaigns.wordpress.com/>
- Reclaim Holloway: <http://reclaimholloway.strikingly.com/>
- Southeast London Radical Assembly: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RadicalAssemblySEL/>
- Westway 23 - campaign to protect the area from gentrification: <http://www.westway23.org/>

### Events

- June 10-16 - The Anti-university: <http://www.antiuniversity.org/>
  - October 28th - The Anarchist Bookfair: <http://anarchistbookfair.org.uk/>
- Check the different organisations and campaigns for more events and actions.