Defy the criminal justice act

Right to silence gone to the dogs

Anger reaches fever pitch

Cancel the debt

Liberation! does the business

Fighting militarism

getting away with murder

who needs the Age of Consent?

WHY WE HATE THE POLICE - page 5
Student poverty on the increase

André Berry

Students are getting poorer every year. Fewer and fewer young people are turning to education or further training of some kind to escape the dole queue or from low-paid, boring jobs. But at what cost?

During the late 1980s the Tories removed all entitlements to state benefits for most students on full-time courses. Around the same time they scrapped fair rents. Average student rents in many cities have doubled since 1985, while income has fallen sharply before inflation is even taken into account. The NUS has estimated that undergraduates on a full grant and student loan receive around £10 less per week than unemployed people aged 18-24. Average student debt levels are well over £2,000, increasing to nearly £5,000 for students aged 22-26.

Many students work during term-time to make ends meet, or these figures would probably be far higher. The number of students dropping out because of financial problems or difficulties finding time to study because of their jobs is also rising. Yet, these students are better off than those who receive no grant at all, because their local authorities have refused them a grant for the course they are doing, or because parents won't or can't make the full parental contribution required of them.

Part-time work of the kind students do is generally poorly paid. But some students, vocational trainees, are used as a free or very cheap labour force. One such group is student nurses. In London they receive £272 a month, with no housing benefit or student loan. For this they have to work all hours, with no extra money. Any training is strictly on the job. Expectations of third-year Project 2000 nurses are the same as those of a member of staff. They are held fully accountable for their actions, but not as entitled to full wages for their work. Students and vocational 'trainees' of all kinds deserve better than this. The National Union of Students must fight for grants which meet the cost of living for all students. Trade unions should also take up the issue of 'trainees' seriously, fighting for better training, real wages for those doing real jobs, and the right for all workers in a workplace to organise around working conditions. Unfortunately, so far mass protest hasn't been key to the NUS strategy. Rather than waiting for the NUS leadership, students must organise to fight for their own rights to financial support.

Vocational Training?

Elkie Dee

Learning to be a highly skilled super-dom in nine months! Train to be a top secretary!

Many textbooks and information packs for secretarial students are designed to brainwash young women into believing that the pinnacle of achievement is to become a secretary. It's time to take control of your own future.

One booklet suggests that a secretary's job is to enhance her boss 'to do his job with maximum efficiency' so that 'The secretary will win'. If the manager wins, the company will win and as a result the country should win.

Being a patriotic secretary, a servant to your country and to the greater glory of capitalism. This is how trainee secretaries and office staff are taught to forget their own interests as workers and to see work in terms of personal self-development towards being a better secretary, manager and businesswoman.

Besides typing, shorthand and word processing, many college courses include subjects like business studies and management appraisal, designed to reinforce the idea of the benefits of the free market and train secretaries in methods of exploiting other workers, more efficiently.

All this is designed to make students believe what it is in the interests of the bosses, owners of big business, the ruling class.

Office work has traditionally been seen as a part-time job for women, rather than the full-time career of the working class. The bosses need the servents to think they're part of their side, not to get funny ideas about joining trade unions and demanding rights.

Yet most secretaries, types and other office workers are women, often in very low-paid jobs.

They are subjected to physical health hazards such as headaches, damage to eyesight, backache, Repetitive Strain Injury and stress. A recent survey showed a dramatic increase in the number of work-related health and safety cases, but as of yet no proper information is available. It's a far cry from the old days when factory workers were fought for by office workers organised in trade unions.

Secretarial students and others on vocational courses need to ask lots of questions and learn how to organise and stand up for themselves collectively, in readiness for when they get jobs.

Liberation! is unique! Young people don't have much power in the world - so we need to organise to get our ideas around.

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The siege of Claremont Road

Lisa Winters

Claremont Road was sealed off in November, the day before Budget Day to minimise media coverage. Apart from local TV there was a virtual news blackout, of one of the longest, costliest police operations of 1994.

For more than 6 months, campaigners had prepared. The siege began on Tuesday afternoon and escalated into a stand-off on Thursday night.

Barricade

People were barricaded into tree-houses, rooftops and bathrooms chained to roofs. Hundreds more simply occupied the street until chased out by police charges.

2 years ago the core of the No Milt Link Road Campaign was 20-30 residents of Leyton and Leytonstone, many part of an artists' housing association, in houses bought under Compulsory Purchase Orders by the Department of Transport.

Over 1,000 people stood to lose homes. We held jumble sales, street parties and benefice gigs, and offered help and advice. Security men bullied and occasionally attacked residents in the streets; empty houses were guarded by security men and quickly demolished.

Community

We started an "East London Community Action League" and rescued a few, but we just didn't have enough people.

Support grew when residents of leafy Wanstead started to worry about their chestnut trees.

Kate Ahrens

As well as criminalising squatting, removing the right to silence, banning raves and stopping demonstrations, the new Criminal Justice Act also ventures into the sexual arena, by reducing the gay male age of consent from 21 to 18.

Although at first glance this lowering of the age of consent may appear to be a positive move, in practice the new law is an encouragement to the police to crack down even harder on young gay men under 18.

The use of an age of consent in law has always been used to prevent all young people from making their own choices about whom to have sex with, but gay men are further discriminated against by having a higher age of consent than straight people (lesbians are not recognised as existing in the age of consent laws).

The Criminal Justice Act continues this discrimination and the debate on the subject in the House of Commons proved again that prejudice and homophobia are unfortunately alive and well in the corridors of power.

The truth is that the Age of Consent laws serve no useful purpose whatsoever in protecting young people from sexual assault or rape, and these crimes are dealt with by completely separate laws.

The age of consent means that young people are taken into care, put in Borstal, sent for psychiatric examination and separated from loved ones, all for the crime of having sex when they wanted to.

Gay men additionally risk being sent to adult jail, as the age of consent for them is higher.

All age of consent laws should be abolished, but the absolute first step must be to fight for an equalization of the age of consent for gay men.

Keep the State out of the bedroom

Manchester fights the CJA

Adelle McGowan

Whilst much has been made of the effect the Criminal Justice Act will have on squatters, ravers and travellers, the reality is that the CJA will affect the vast majority of people in Britain in one way or another.

Manchester Defiance Alliance (MDA) was formed as an alliance of a number of diverse organisations in Greater Manchester, from political groups to trade union branches to environmental groups, joined together in opposition to the Criminal Justice Act.

Environmental

The Defiance Alliance recognizes that the way to defeat the act is to unite a broad range of forces opposed to the Act using a wide range of tactics including environmental action, strikes and many other forms of political protest.

The MDA organised 100,000. People in Piccadilly last December and is planning a demonstration in February, together with a rally building up to the Demo in late January.

If you would like to affiliate to the MDA, want a speaker or would like more information, contact the Manchester Defiance Alliance.
Building a Liberation! branch

> Liberation! supporters in Chichester

‘Student grants have to be cut... there is not enough money to go round’

‘Equal educational opportunities are available for all’

‘Poverty is inevitable... people cannot have it all’

‘Women have got what they want’

This ‘reality’ is questionable, but do these phrases sound familiar?

We in Chichester believe that inequality is not inevitable simply because it exists at the moment. The gas workers’ 16% pay cut announced in December 1994 preceded the 70% wage increase by their ‘Big Boss’. Arguably then, pay is not ‘inevitable’ as the class struggle continues, but is bound up in our ever-exploitative capitalist system which seeks to further the interests of the rich at the expense of the majority. We believe nothing will change without a raising of social awareness. The majority achieved by an organised fight against the destructive system.

We recently set up a local Liberation! branch in Chichester. We hope to raise awareness in our college of the problems that really do affect us.

Our first venture was to involve people in the campaign against student grant cuts. We have designed and produced leaflets which have been distributed around the college. We hope to follow this up with a public meeting aimed at raising awareness and increasing support for both demonstrations and Liberation!

Who needs sexist images of women?

> Barbara Vandenberg

Photography is not an expression of sexuality but a furthering of the exploitation of society’s victims. Why is pornography the fastest growing industry in Europe? It reflects an exploitative society and a system where women have a lower status than men. It obvious that most pornography today isn’t about sex - it’s about sexism and men’s power over women.

It’s filled with repetitive images of weak women, ruled either by the sexual ‘apartheid’ or by the men around them.

In a largely restrict and repressive hierarchy, pornography is a form of male dominance over women.

Photography is used - just like all the other sexist products of society - to make men think that women are objects and victims. It strengthens the images of women given out in capitalist society.

Even when a woman is in full time work she is often considered responsible for household tasks.

This is not a biological issue. After all why - simply because it is the female that gives birth - should she be the house bound?

Women’s position is often dependent on their economic position in society. It is bound up in capitalism.

A working woman with her own wage can be in independent of a male partner and a family if she wants to be. But if that’s her choice it’s said to be wrong by the moral right and the Tories.

Major’s ‘back to basics’ scheme was allegedly in order to crack crime, prevent delinquency and so on. In fact it was a hysterical campaign used as a means of pushing females back into the home at a time when industry doesn’t directly require their assistance.

The sexist images and ideas in John Major’s speeches are like those in pornography. The images are designed by those in the capitalist class to maintain their interests.

Sexist, images and ideas reduce the value and importance of women and the choices they try to make for themselves.

Sexism presents women as passive, not as powerful beings.

The capitalist class and all the teachers, writers and ‘idea makers’ they employ tell us that women should be subject to men’s desires and are incompetent, politi
cally.

So sexism divides the sexes meaning that, for example, the unequal di
vision of labour in society is legitimised.

Opposing the Labour right

> George Thompson

The Young Labour Conference in Brighton on 4-5 February is the first chance for youth in the Labour Party to express their opposition to the di
rection in which Blair is heading the party.

In the past 6 months he has consistently failed to stand up for young peo
ple’s interests. He has refused to oppose the CBI, attempted to back
slide on Labour’s mini
mum wage commitment, and promoted the idea of a graduate tax.

Now the private school
boy wants to ‘de
nationalise’ (through rewriting Clause 4) and organise the market to
solve our problems.

Recent history shows the market has produced increasing homelessness, un
employment and spiralling mortgage debt.

Unemployment is a constant feature of its, and our living standards, are at the mercy of sharks who through day’s successful gambling on the pound in the currency markets can make billions at our ex pense.

Opposition to Post

Opposition to Post Of
courts privatisation shows it is not true to say there is little by way of a worker’s movement. Public

Right to silence undermined

> Mark Jansen

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act was developed fol
lowing a whole series of miscarriages of jus
tice that undermined wide layers of people’s faith in the courts, the police, and the legal system.

The government was forced to concede that they had falsely impris
oned the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six after denying them the right to appeal for years, the West Midlands Seri
ous Crime Squad was suspended for wide

scale corruption after it was exposed for fitting up numerous victi
ms, and numerous other miscarriages of justice were coming to light.

This forced the government to commis
sion an inquiry into the whole system of criminal justice.

It is ironic that, that the result of this inquiry was one of the most repres
sive pieces of legislation for years, the Criminal Justice Act.

One aspect of the Act effectively undermines the ‘right to silence’ and therefore fundamentally shifts the whole balance of the British Legal Sys
tem. Although the right still formally exists, refusing to answer questions can now be used in court as evidence of a person’s guilt.

Rather than preventing future miscarriages of justice, the CJIA will now make it much easier for the police and the courts to fit up innocent people.

It is quite clear that there are numerous other innocent people in British jails, the only ex
ceptional thing about the Birmingham six and the Guildford four was that the criminal justice sys
tem was exposed.
Another racist killing by Stoke Newington Police

> Simon Deville

On Friday 16 December, Oswojji Lapite, a 34 year old Nigerian was stopped by police for "acting suspiciously", twenty minutes later, he was dead.

Police initially claimed that they found a package of "crack" cocaine in his pocket, although later their story had changed to claim that they saw him throwing it away.

The death of Oswojji Lapite generated a great deal of anger in the local community, with a 200 strong demonstration or ganised on 23 December, the first person to die at Stoke Newington Police station since 1971.

Stoke Newington Police Force has built up a number of years reputation for violence, malpractice and corruption.

Only last November they were forced to pay out £70,000 damages to a local taxi driver amidst accusations of assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

Officers have also been implicated in both dealing and planting drugs. A campaign has already been established around this most recent killing.

A spokesperson from the campaign said "The death of this family man at the hands of the notorious Stoke Newington police, though not surprising, has horrified the local community. "Shiji is yet another victim of police brutality. It appals everybody black people are abused and brutalised by police officers.

"Unless the arbitrary and violent abuses of police powers are stopped the guilt between the black community and the police will reach breaking point."

Get Active!

The Shiji Lapite Campaign is demanding the sacking of the two officers and for criminal changes to be brought.

Contact the campaign at PO Box 273, Forest Gate, London E7.

For a law against racists?

> Mark Jasen

Some people in the anti racist movement have begun a new law against racist attacks.

We would argue that racist attacks are already illegal and that the real problem lies not with the lack of legislation, but with the way in which it is applied.

Indeed in many cases it is the police themselves who are carrying out racist attacks, and it is the state who looks after asylum seekers in specially built prisons such as Campsfield.

Not surprisingly, the call for a new law has also proved unpopular amongst grass roots anti racist campaigners, who have to face the racism of the state on a day to day basis.

The State and the Police

BIG IDEAS Made Simple

Jonathan Davin

The state: laws, the police, religious institutions, government. All these arose, in one form or another, thousands of years ago to organise society.

The state institutions came into existence once agriculture had developed enough to support a class of people who did not have to produce their own food. They could live on the labour of others.

In capitalist society, the state benefits the tiny minority who own the banks, the factories and companies. The state is not neutral. It intervenes (often violently) in favour of the ruling group. It develops a complex apparatus to support class rule - parliament, the courts, the police, an intelligence service and so on. All these bodies were used in 1984-85 to attack the miners.

That is why we disagree with those who say that the state should simply be abolished.

In the transition to socialism, some kind of state body will still be necessary, for as long as the capitalist class is able to organise against socialism. This would be controlled by the producers and would benefit the whole of society.

In contrast, the current capitalist state benefits only a small minority.

Some socialists argue that we can transform the existing state into a democratic workers' state, using parliament, through elections onto councils, and simply implementing socialist policies.

There is not a peaceful road to socialism because the state is not neutral, but rather is an expression of class rule.

If revolutionary socialists found themselves a majority in parliament, the bodies through which the capitalist state intervenes, such as the police and the army would intervene violently. This happened in Chile when a left wing Popular Unity president and government was elected.

A military coup overthrew the government, killing the president and thousands of militants, and imposed a repressive right wing government. The capitalist state needs to be smashed and replaced. We would support all genuine resistance and reforms under capitalism. For example we would defend welfare rights, health care, education and full employment, and we would also support those fighting to defend those against the powers of the ruling class.

We would, however, recognise that there are limits to how far we can take reforms under a capitalist system which is organised on the basis of profit rather than human need. We would also recognise the futility of attempting to reform the repressive forces of the capitalist state.

Some socialists would describe the police as workers in uniform", for example Militant Labour. They argue that the police should be unionised, and that their demands for better conditions should be supported.

Whilst we could support the unionisation of the police since it helps to undermine discipline within the force, they should not be regarded as part of the workers movement.

It is difficult to see how we could support demands for better conditions for the forces of state repression, the very bodies that the state uses to fight back against those demanding reforms.

Mark Jasen on the streets to harass working class communities." police on picket lines, perhaps, longerunches? No way!

Liberation! is a newspaper produced by and for young people working together against poverty and injustice.

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Spanish youth resist militarism

10,000 young men, referred to as ‘insumisos’, have refused to do military service in Spain. The Spanish state has thrown 150 of them into prison. It hopes to deter other resisters of military service by imposing harsh penalties.

Category 1 prisoners spend 23 hours a day in isolation. Category 2 can mix with other prisoners, Category 3 prisoners are given day release for work and study.

Demonstrations against military service and the imprisonment of conscientious objectors show that they are not alone. In Zaragoza on November 19th last year, ‘Over three thousand demonstrators marched to a prison shouting slogans in favour of the ‘insumisos’ and against their imprisonment. We excreted the prison carrying torches and we were heard and seen by four “insumisos” who had then been on hunger strike for twenty-two days.’

Category 3 prisoners refuse to recognise the legitimacy of their punishment by not returning to the cell at night. NORBERTO CASAUS, spoke to MANUELES NOGUERAS, a Category 3 prisoner resisting military service for Liberation.

NORBERTO: Manues, why are you an “insumiso”?

MANUELES: I am against military service and the civilian alternative service (P.S.S.) imposed by the government. I am totally opposed to the army and wish to live in a non-militarised society. I oppose the P.S.S. because it legitimizes the military service.

NORBERTO: Why are there different categories of ‘insumisos’ prisoners?

MANUELES: Because the governing party cannot face the opposition to its policies and so is forced to ‘soften’ the conditions of imprisonment for total objectors. We were transferred from category two which allows prisoners to live communally with others to category three allowing us temporary freedom in the daytime.

NORBERTO: Your struggle is not as well known outside Spain as it ought to be. Is there anything supporters from other countries can do?

MANUELES: Of course. We receive letters in prison which cheer us up. Some are from Britain. More letters are welcome. Supporters could also write letters of protest to the Spanish embassy in their own country. By the time you read this Manues among others will be imprisoned under stricter conditions for their defiance of their unjust prison sentences. The repression is not going to stop their and our struggle for a better society.

French youth under attack

ELLA DEE

Civil liberties are also under attack in other parts of Europe. Charles Pasqua, the extremely right-wing French Prime Minister, is busy giving the French police more powers to harass people and attack demonstrations. “Security” laws are proposed which focus particularly on attacking the right to protest. They:

- legalize camera surveillance of public places,
- make it illegal to carry anything which can be used as a weapon or missile on a demonstration,
- allow police to search any vehicle in the area around a demo taking place.

Demonstrators convicted of breaking the law will be banned from taking part in demonstrations for the next 5 years. If someone defies this, he/she may be fined over £2000 or imprisoned for 2 years.

Powers of interpretation and implementation of these laws are, of course, in the hands of the police. Someone can be convicted without proof, simply on the word of a cop.

This will make it harder to protest against other laws introduced by Pasqua’s government, such as the anti-immigration laws. The French police are not known for being nice people and it’s very likely that they will make the most of this opportunity, that this legislation will quickly be implemented quite savagely. Young socialists there are arguing the need to unite against Pasqua, that anybody there may come under attack.

Troops out of Ireland now!

SIMON DEVILLE

January 30 marks the 23rd anniversary of the “Bloody Sunday” massacre, where British troops shot and killed 14 people on a peaceful civil rights demo in Derry.

Every year since, there have been demonstrations both in Britain and in Ireland, to commemorate the massacre, and to demand a withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

In 1921, British imperialism imposed partition, creating a Northern State based on sectarian privilege, as a way to divide and rule, with the result that they could no longer rule together by sheer force alone.

Despite the ceasefires, this year demonstrates just as relevant as ever, troops are still being used in the north of Ireland, and Catholics and nationalists still face massive discrimination.

The conflict in the North of Ireland is usually portrayed as a religious conflict between 2 warring factions.

With this analysis, we should see that the ‘peace process’ that is currently unfolding is the first step towards overcoming the religious divide.

Such views, however, completely obscure the real nature of the conflict, one of a long history of resistance to colonial rule.

The Downing Street declaration offers nothing other than to maintain the British Government’s commitment to a divided Ireland with a Northern statelet and a sectarian privilege on the island.

Whether or not resistance to this sectarian division takes the form of armed struggle, it is certain that resistance to both British imperialism and to sectarian privilege will continue as long as the sectarian Northern statelet does.

Get Active!

Demonstrate for British withdrawal from Ireland, Saturday 28th January
Assemble 11.30, Platt Lane, Manchester.
For further details contact Troops Out Movement 01925 600 1742.
East Timorese youth lead new year’s uprising

Paul Walker

On 1 January yet another uprising took place in East Timor led by youth and students. These riots followed the events of 12 November 1994 when East Timor was gripped by a mass insurrection against the 20 year Indonesian occupation as East Timor occupied the grounds of the US embassy in the Indonesian capital Jakarta. Reports indicate that the latest incident, an insurrection in Baucau, a town of some 25,000 inhabitants 220 miles east of Dili, capital of East Timor, was sparked by the murder of an East Timorese youth by an Indonesian soldier. Hundreds of East Timorese youth responded to the murder by attacking police stations, markets, shops and houses owned by Indonesian transnational. Transmigration is the process whereby the Jakarta regime moves Indonesians into East Timor by offering them the best business opportunities and jobs. The aim is to colonize the country and to eventually swamp the indigenous population. Any symbol of the Indonesian occupation is thus seen as a legitimate target by the East Timorese youth. According to sources inside East Timor a group of 500 youth remained gathered in the centre of Baucau on 4 January and that security forces remained on stand by but away from the area. All the signs are that 1995 will see a continuation of East Timorese resistance led by youth and students against the Indonesian occupation. Pressure has been building up against the regime throughout 1994 and there are signs that splits are occurring in the Indonesian regime about what to do next in East Timor.

In 1996 the first deliveries of Hawk ground attack aircraft will take place from British Aerospace to the Indonesian regime. The coalition “Stop The Hawks - No Arms To Indonesia” has launched a yearlong campaign to stop the delivery of the Hawks which will be used against the East Timorese resistance. The British government is the main ally of the Indonesian regime and is allowing British Aerospace to give the

Cancel the Third World debt

Jodley Green

Imagine that you have taken out a loan. You have paid ten times the value of the original loan in interest, but you are still in debt. You work in order to pay of the debt, but the people you owe money to also control how much you are paid.

You sell some of your possessions, but the people you owe money to also control the price at which you can sell. Maps in desperation you would take out another loan just to pay the interest of your first loan.

Nightmare

Does this nightmare sound like being in debt to a cross between a loan shark, the mafia and a con man? The situation described is the one that exists for the poorest nations of the world which have massive debts.

The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the G7 (Group of seven richest countries) use their power to keep wages low in the poorest countries, and to keep down the price of the goods they export. They can decide to reduce the value of weak currencies at will.

The system is basically unfair and inhumane. Countries where famine and starvation are an everyday reality produce cash crops such coffee and sugar in order to pay off the debt.

The International Monetary Fund has the power to intervene into local economies, forcing cuts in public spending, such as the health service.

The year of action will include trespasses onto BAe sites, mass protests and other forms of non-violent direct action.

Get Active!

If you want to get involved in the coalition then contact Stop The Hawks c/o Norman Cherry, Islington High Street London N1 8EG. A Year Of Action campaign is available for £1.20. Cheques payable to Stop the Hawks.
Mass action can break the CJA

New the Criminal Justice Bill is law. But the fight isn’t over. Liberational supporters are still working to take on the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

We think it’s possible to make it hard to put the Act into practice, and to force the coming Labour government to scrap the Act. Starting out we have to learn some things from the campaign against the Bill. First things first. Building the campaign by “keeping it sweet” doesn’t work if it means trying to persuade the Tories that the law is unfair. But that’s what some people thought we could stop the CJA. Liberation calls this the liberal view. The Tories aren’t interested in being fair. They are interested in who has the money and who have the votes. Arguments from one person or one group of people don’t count for much with them.

What worries the Tories is the possibility of alliances - of real action that links the young people who oppose the new law to mass social forces - the trades unions, the black communities, the unemployed and others. Imagines if those who opposed the Bill had been able to convince a couple of trades unions to strike against it. The people who run this country aren’t stupid. They can see the danger of students and youth linking up with working people - the majority in this country - who have real social power. In the 1970s, the threat of a general strike by the trades unions forced Edward Heath’s Tory government out of office.

There’s another point of view that’s just as wrong as the “keep it sweet” brigade. We think it’s wrong to think that calculated confrontations between small, well organised groups of people with the police will force the Tories to back down. Liberation calls this the ultra-left view.

An ultra-left is basically a liberal who has been defeated. Liberals get frustrated when reasoned argument doesn’t convince those who rule us. Ultra-lefts try to embarrass them, to try and force the police to be more repressive in order to “expose” them. That’s how an ultra-left person thinks the ruling class works.

We disagree. Just like the liberals, the ultra-lefts don’t act as though they think they can win a majority of people to oppose the CJA. We think the Tories introduced the CJA as part of their fight against young people and the working class. When the Tories explain why they need CJA they bad mouth its most isolated victims - young people and those campaigning for social justice.

But most victims of the CJA will be working class people up in court and trades unionists: groups of people with potentially crucial weight in social struggles.

The way for young people to defeat the CJA is by linking up with those bigger forces and to make the fight against the CJA a part of the class struggle.

By building opposition to the CJA into the fight of the working class majority in this country, the CJA will become part of the relationship of forces in the big social struggle. It will become too risky for the Tories to push it through in the way they want. It would also be impossible for the Blair leadership of the Labour Party to refuse to scrap the CJA without looking like traitors to young people and trades unionists.

We aren’t opposed to certain actions by small groups - of course not. But we need to tie the CJA into the issues where people are moving against the government and create united mass mobilisations around them, in order to maximise the numbers involved.

That means we need lots of mobilisations that are peaceful and well organised, maybe even legal if that is the best way to make particular mobilisations big. Mobilisations like those, which involve masses of working class people, are what will smash the Act.