

**ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE**



**Bulletin**

## **Convention of The Left - Final Programme** **Saturday 20th to Wednesday 24th September, 2008**

Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester, (behind Manchester Central Library)

(some Sunday meetings at the Mechanics Institute, Princess Street, and one at Briton's Protection pub)

The Convention will start at 3.00 pm, after the Stop the War/CND demonstration. (This assembles at All Saints, Cavendish St, Manchester at 12.30 and ends with a rally in Castlefield Arena at 2.00pm; the first session of the Convention starts at 3.00pm in the Friends Meeting House)

### **Protest, Power and Participation - Saturday 20th September**

**(Friends Meeting House)**

**3.00: Opening Plenary - What Unites Us** with John McDonnell MP, Tony Benn, Lindsey German & Derek Wall

**4.30: The Break up of the UK?** With Leanne Wood AM (Plaid Cymru), Chris Harvie MSP (Scottish National Party), Rupa Huq (Labour parliamentary candidate); Gregor Gall - author of "The Political Economy of Scotland, Red Scotland, Radical Scotland"; Andy Newman, contributor to the anthology "Imagined Nation - England after Britain" session sponsored by Scottish Left Review

**4.30: Campaigning against Immigration controls** with CAIC and Manchester No Borders.

**4.30: Fighting the 'Database State'** with NO2ID, Defy-ID and others

**4.30: Trade Unions and International Solidarity** with Trade unionists from Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Colombia and Zimbabwe.

**6.30 onwards: Convention Social at Saffron** Restaurant, the Old Town Hall, 107 Cheetham Hill Road. (Tickets £5/£3 concession at Convention or on the door.

Those attending the Convention can enjoy a up to 20% discount at the excellent **Saffron Eastern Cuisine** restaurant for the duration of the Convention - see full brochure for details

### **Politics - Sunday 21st September**

**(Main Hall at the Mechanics Institute)**

11.00 Working for Left Unity  
with Tariq Ali and John Nicholson

**1.00: Women and Equality: Campaigning Together** with Maria Exall (LRC), Katy Clark MP, Linda Riordan MP, Amrit Wilson, Margaret Boyle; session organised by Left Womens Network

**2.30: Where now for the Unions?** with Prof Gregor Gall, Mark Serwotka\* and Sue Bond\* (PCS), Matt Wrack\* (FBU), Pat Sikorski\* (RMT), Jane Loftus\* (CWU) and Carolyn Jones (Institute Employment Rights) \* personal capacity

**4.00: Conclusion Unity in Action Probable? Possible? Potential?** with John McDonnell MP, Councillor Salma Yaqoob

**Meanwhile, at the Friends Meeting House:**

**3.00: The Twilight Zone: slavery in Britain today** with Rahila Gupta

**3.00: Is the Tamil liberation struggle in Sri Lanka a terrorist pogrom?** a British Tamil Forum

**6.00:** Tayo Aluko's award-winning performance of '**Discovering Mr Robeson**' music and words

**7.00: Labour Against the War** with Jeremy Corbyn MP, Tony Benn and Alice Mahon

**And, at the Briton's Protection (pub, junction of Great Bridgewater St/Lower Mosley St)**

**7.30: Developments in Scotland**  
with Frances Curran, Scottish Socialist Party

**[www.conventionofthelleft.org](http://www.conventionofthelleft.org)**

## Planet - Monday 22nd September

(Friends Meeting House)

**12.30: Dangers of Globalisation: World Poverty, Food Shortages & Environmental Destruction** with John Hilary, Executive Director of War on Want

**12.30: The Economic Crises how we got there & how we get out.** The Left Economic Advisory Panel forum with Graham Turner, Raphie de Santos & Prem Sikka

**1.30: When the Levees Broke** a film by Spike Lee. A four hour film about Hurricane Katrina and the response of the authorities

**5.00: Stopping Brown's Nuclear Madness** with Martin Empson (SWP) and Greater Manchester CND

**5.00: Miami 5: imprisoned in the USA for 10 years for fighting terrorism** with Olga Salanueva and Adriana Perez, wives of two of the Miami 5

**6.00: An anti-fascist strategy for Manchester** with Chris Chilvers, Pat Walsh; and Weyman Bennett (UAF)

**6.00: Forum with 'The Link' Repeal the Anti-Trade Union Laws** with Alec McFadden, Stefan Cholewka, Derek Clarke, Rae Street, Christine Taylor

**6.00: How we can build a movement to stop climate change** with Tony Kearns (CWU), Robbie Gillett (Plane Stupid) and Jonathan Neale (author)

## People and Public Services - Tuesday 23rd September

(Friends Meeting House)

**12.30: People and Public Services: Opening Plenary** with Jeremy Corbyn MP, Javier Navasques (United Left, Seville)

**1.00: Housing** with Prof Chris Allen (author) Alan Walter (Defend Council Housing), John Grayson (author)

**1.00: Transport** with Peter Cranie (Green Party), Ken Ferguson (editor, Scottish Socialist Voice) and Ken Loach, followed by showing of '**Navigators**' the film by Ken Loach

**5.00: Education** with Bill Greenshields\* (NUT president), Martin Brown (editor of Education for Tomorrow), Barry Conway (Bolton NUT)

**5.00: Health** with Dr John Lister (Health Emergency), Karen Reissmann

**7.00: Challenging Inequality - Reclaiming Public Services** with Astorn Wahl (Campaign for the Welfare State, Norway) and contributors from the earlier sessions.

## Peace - Wednesday 24th September

(Friends Meeting House)

**1.30: Africa's Forgotten Wars** with Congo Support Project / African Liberation Support Campaign

**1.30: The Humanitarian Costs of War** with CND and Campaign Against Depleted Uranium

**1.30: If they can talk to the IRA, why can't they talk to Hamas?** with Palestinian Solidarity Campaign and friends

**3.30: Voices from Iraq** with Hassan Juma (Iraqi Oil Workers Union), Andrew Murray (STW), Iraq Occupation Focus

**3.30: Pakistan: the struggle for Peace and Democracy** with Tariq Mehmood

**3.30: Iran - Stopping the next war** with Campaign Iran, Action Iran & Hands Off People of Iran

**5.00: Living well in a low energy world: Cuba, peak oil and sustainable development** with Roberto Perez from Cuba (part of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign speaker tour)

**6.30: Question Time for The Left**  
Tickets on-line at [www.conventionofthelleft.org](http://www.conventionofthelleft.org) or at Convention itself, cost £5 or £3) with **Colin Fox** (SSP), **George Galloway** (Respect), **Lindsey German** (SWP), **Robert Griffiths** (CPB), **John McDonnell** (LRC), **Mark Serwotka** (PCS), **Hilary Wainwright** (Red Pepper), **Derek Wall** (Green Left)

## Thursday 25th September

Additional meeting

**Manchester launch of Campaign for Free Public Transport** - 7.15pm, Friends Meeting House.