

International trade union network of solidarity and struggle
Réseau syndical international de solidarité et de luttes
Rede Sindical Internacional de solidariedade e de lutas
Red sindical internacional de solidaridad y de luchas
Rete sindacale internazionale di solidarietà e di lotta

www.laboursolidarity.org

Support the love activists who occupied the disused bank of England in Liverpool

In Liverpool a group of activists called "Love Activists" occupied the disused Bank of England, near the old town hall, in Liverpool from 18 April to when they were evicted on 12 May. The occupation was carried out to highlight the plight of the homeless in Liverpool and to help the homeless with food, clothes and shelter, over 50 homeless people turned up everyday.

It also developed a sense of worth, value and community with the many homeless people who became involved.

On 29 April Occupiers published a list of demands (see below). These demands were directed at the Labour Party Mayor and the Labour Council. They demanded they meet with the Mayor and that the homeless be housed. The political representatives in the city did not meet a single demand.

When issuing the demands the Love Activists also said: *“We intend to use this building for the community, to inspire a feeling of community, which is lacking. We do this in direct response to a local council and government who are lacking in their efforts to help those in need and in fact, the local Council and government seem intent on making matters worse for the people by putting more and more austerity measures in place. We wish by the direct action of occupying an empty unused building and using said building to provide certain needs for the street people or for that matter anyone else who needs to use what is provided by donations, which come from the local community. The Love Activists understood that the fight for Homeless people was against the austerity plans of the national government and its implementation by local councils including those controlled by the Labour Party”*.

In a poll conducted by the Echo newspaper (the main local daily newspaper) during the occupation 52% said they supported the occupiers continuing in the disused Bank of England site. However the Echo reported many inaccuracies about the occupation as if they were fact and on a number of occasions refused to print the facts provided by the occupiers.

During the occupation the police used dispersal orders, when a person has a dispersal order they cannot go back to the area for 48 hours, if they do it could mean arrest. Dispersal orders however would have to be agreed by the City Mayor, Joe Anderson, a member of the Labour Party.

The police erected barriers to try to prevent food and water being handed into the occupiers. None of the police attempts could have been done without the complicity of the Mayor, the Police Chief Constable or the Police Commissioner, Jane Kennedy who was a Labour MP in Liverpool before becoming Commissioner.

During the occupation the FBU (firefighters) carried an emergency motion at their national conference supporting the Love Activist Occupation and stating the FBU firefighters will not be used as police to make or help evictions. Their role remains one of public safety and is not a police role (they cited a case in Spain where firefighters there refused to carry out an eviction of an elderly person). Local UCU branches, Liverpool TUC and other trade union branches also supports the Love Activists occupation and continuing fight.

The police invaded the Bank of England building early in the morning on 12 May. As the last one left the three week occupation and since then, 19 activists have been arrested and are due to appear in court in August.

After leaving the Bank of England, the activists continued their fight for the homeless and are now occupying a building in the city centre (3 June)

Juliet Edgar a leader of Reclaim and of the occupation can be contacted at thereclaimgroup@aol.co.uk 00447528194137

List of demands, 29 April 2015

1. We demand Mayor Joe Anderson meets with us before the end of this week
2. We demand the Merseyside Labour councils and Joe Anderson Mayor rejects the cuts and says no to austerity and no to the cuts. We are suffering 'Enuf is Enuf' - we and they need sanctuary.
3. We demand all of the homeless we have been supporting, helping to provide a sense of worth and belonging are re-housed immediately.
4. We demand Social Services and Mental Health Services undertake rapid assessments of those we are supporting, they are very vulnerable.
5. We have learned the drug and alcohol rehabilitation services are underfunded and unsupported, with long waiting lists, cuts to funding. These services must be well resourced and protected. We say no to privatisation.
6. The voices of the homeless must be heard and their requests must be actioned and they must be treated as equals.
7. We have also learned that the Homeless Provision in Merseyside is at breaking point, we have been working with the Whitechapel Centre in particular and will continue with that positive relationship.
8. We demand that the first step to recovery for those with addiction issues is a roof over their heads, this is a priority over their recovery.
9. We would also like to thank the community and businesses of Liverpool and further afield for their generous support in solidarity of our direct action to occupy the Bank of England - we have only got this far with that support.
10. We continue to peacefully resist our removal from the Occupied Bank until our demands are met in full.

Please write to:

Echo newspaper: Editor andrew.campbell@liverpool.com

Chief Constable: Sir Jon Murphy, commcen@merseyside.pnn.police.uk

Police Commissioner: Jane Kennedy info@merseysidepcc.info

Mayor Joe Anderson: julie.billington@liverpool.gov.uk

Model message that could be sent:

We support the aims of the occupation that took place over three weeks by the Love Activists to help build a movement of and for the homeless. We support their ten demands.

We refute the heavy handed manner of the police on the morning of 12 May, namely the use of shields, dogs arrests.

We condemn the arrests by the police.

We call for the dropping of all charges against those arrested.

Les organisations membres du Réseau syndical international de solidarité et de lutte

Organisations syndicales nationales interprofessionnelles

- Central Sindical e Popular Conlutas (**CSP-Conlutas**) - Brésil.
- Confederación General del Trabajo (**CGT**) - Etat espagnol.
- Union syndicale Solidaires (**Solidaires**) - France.
- Confédération Générale du Travail du Burkina (**CGT-B**) - Burkina.
- Confederation of Indonesia People's Movement (**KPRI**) - Indonésie.
- Confederación Intersindical (**Intersindical**) - Etat espagnol.
- Syndicat National Autonome des Personnels de l'Administration Publique (**SNAPAP**) - Algérie.

- Batay Ouvriye - Haïti.
- Unione Sindacale Italiana (**USI**) - Italie.
- Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs - Solidarité Ouvrière (**CNT SO**) - France.
- Sindicato de Comisiones de Base (**CO.BAS**) - Etat espagnol.
- Organisation Générale Indépendante des Travailleurs et Travailleuses d'Haïti (**OGTHI**) - Haïti.
- Sindacato Intercategoriale Cobas (**SI COBAS**) - Italie.
- Confédération Nationale du Travail (**CNT-f**) - France.
- Intersindical Alternativa de Catalunya (**IAC**) - Catalogne.
- Union Générale des Travailleurs Sahraouis (**UGTSARIO**) - Sahara occidental.
- Ezker Sindikalaren Konbergentzia (**ESK**) - Pays basque.
- Confédération Nationale de Travailleurs du Sénégal Forces du Changement (**CNTS/FC**) - Sénégal.
- Independent Trade Unions for Egyptian Federation (**EFITU**) - Egypte.
- Sindacato Autorganizzato Lavoratori COBAS (**SIAL-COBAS**) - Italie.
- General Federation of Independent Unions (**GFIU**) - Palestine.
- Confederación de la Clase Trabajadora (**CCT**) - Paraguay.
- Red Solidaria de Trabajadores - Perou

Organisations syndicales nationales professionnelles

- National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (**RMT/TUC**) - Grande-Bretagne.
- Centrale Nationale des Employés - Confédération Syndicale Chrétienne (**CNE/CSC**) - Belgique.
- Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores del Sistema Agroalimentario (**SINALTRAINAL/CUT**) - Colombie.
- Fédération Générale des Postes, Telecom et Centres d'appel - Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail (**FGPTT/UGTT**) - Tunisie.
- Trade Union in Ethnodata - Trade Union of Employees in the Outsourcing Companies in the financial sector - Grèce.
- Syndicat national des travailleurs des services de la santé humaine (**SYNTRASEH**) - Bénin
- Sindicato dos Trabalhadores da Fioacruz (**ASFOC-SN**) - Brésil.
- Organizzazione Sindacati Autonomi e di Base Ferrovie (**ORSA Ferrovie**) - Italie.
- Union Nationale des Normaliens d'Haïti (**UNNOH**) - Haïti.
- Confederazione Unitaria di Base Scuola Università Ricerca (**CUB SUR**) - Italie.
- Confederazione Unitaria di Base Immigrazione (**CUB Immigrazione**) - Italie.
- Coordinamento Autorganizzato Trasporti (**CAT**) - Italie.
- Confederazione Unitaria di Base Credito e Assicurazioni (**CUB SALLCA**) - Italie.
- Syndicat des travailleurs du rail - Union Nationale des Travailleurs du Mali (**SYTRAIL/UNTM**) - Mali.
- Gıda Sanayii İşçileri Sendikası - Devrimci İşçi Sendikaları Konfederasyonu (**GIDA-IŞ/DISK**) - Turquie.
- Syndicat National des Travailleurs du Petit Train Bleu/SA (**SNTPTB**) - Sénégal.
- Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Administrativos de la Caja de Seguro Social (**ANFACSS**) - Panama.
- Conseil des Lycées d'Algérie (**CLA**) - Algérie.
- Confederazione Unitaria di Base Trasporti (**CUB Trasporti**) - Italie.
- Syndicat de l'Enseignement Supérieur Solidaire (**SESS**) - Algérie.
- Palestinian Postal Service Workers Union (**PPSWU**) - Palestine.
- Union Syndicale Etudiante (**USE**) - Belgique.
- Sindicato dos Trabalhadores de Call Center (**STCC**) - Portugal.
- Sindicato Unitario de Trabajadores Petroleros (**Sinutapetrolgas**) - Venezuela.
- Alianza de Trabajadores de la Salud y Empleados Públicos - Mexique.
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers / Syndicat des travailleurs et travailleuses des postes (**CUPW-STTP**) - Canada.

Organisations syndicales locales

- Trades Union Congress, Liverpool (**TUC Liverpool**) - Angleterre.
- Sindacato Territoriale Autorganizzato, Brescia (**ORMA Brescia**) - Italie.
- Fédération syndicale SUD Service public, canton de Vaud (**SUD Vaud**) - Suisse
- Sindicato Unitario de Catalunya (**SU Metro**) - Catalogne.
- Türkiye DERİ-İŞ Sendikası, Tuzla et Izmir (**DERİ-İŞ Tuzla et Izmir**) - Turquie.
- L'autre syndicat, canton de Vaud (**L'autre syndicat**) - Suisse
- Centrale Générale des Services Publics FGTB, Ville de Bruxelles (**CGSP/FGTB Bruxelles**) - Belgique
- Arbeitskreis Internationalismus IG Metall, Berlin (**IG Metall Berlin**) - Allemagne
- Sindicato Unificado de Trabajadores de la Educación de Buenos Aires, Bahia Blanca - (**SUTEBA/CTA de los trabajadores Bahia Blanca**) - Argentine
- Sindicato del Petróleo y Gas Privado del Chubut/CGT - Argentine.
- UCU University and College Union, University of Liverpool (**UCU Liverpool**) - Angleterre.

Organisations syndicales internationales

- Industrial Workers of the World - International Solidarity Commission (**IWW**)

Courants, tendances ou réseaux syndicaux

- Transnationals Information Exchange Germany (**TIE Germany**) - Allemagne.
- Emancipation tendance intersyndicale (**Emancipation**) - France.
- Globalization Monitor (**Gmo**) - Hong Kong.
- Courant Syndicaliste Révolutionnaire (**CSR**) - France.
- No Austerity - Coordinamento delle lotte - Italie.
- Solidarité Socialiste avec les Travailleurs en Iran (**SSTI**) - France.
- Basis Initiative Solidarität (**BASO**) - Allemagne.
- LabourNet Germany - Allemagne.
- Resistenza Operaia - operai Fiat-Iriscus - Italie.