



JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN 50P SPRING 2017

# isters

2 Frances O'Grady

3 Maria Exall

4 Betty Tebbs

6 climate change

7 against bigotry

8 NAW AGM

# TUC new year message

NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM TUC GENERAL SECRETARY FRANCES O'GRADY

**W**HEN we look back, 2016 will be remembered as the year the establishment was shaken to its core. And yet the political turmoil has not benefited working people – and few feel they have taken back much control over their working lives. Indeed, in some ways we have gone backwards – not least in the disgraceful return to the public sphere of race-baiting and prejudice.

So as we look to 2017, it's clear that we need a new bargain between those at the top – enjoying soaring boardroom pay and insulated from economic change – and ordinary working people. Britain succeeds when working people succeed. And strong unions are the only way to make sure working people get their share in Britain's success.

During the industrial revolution, workers came up with an innovation that shaped our society and paved the way for mass democracy. They realised that together, acting as one, workers could change how they were treated at work.

Employers needed labour – to run the factory, the mill or the shop. But if workers withdrew their labour, everything stopped – and that cost the employer money. The threat to withdraw labour evened up the power imbalance. It brought the bosses to the table and meant they had to negotiate with their workers.

And that negotiation, backed up by collective power formalised into trade unions, won working people better pay, cuts in working time, paid holidays, safer workplaces.

It was a revelation: working people acting together in a union had power that meant they didn't have to put up with exploitation.

This is where the union movement came from. And in the union campaigns of 2016, you can see the same spirit – unions in the thick of the fight against the UK's worst bosses, taking on Uber, Sports Direct, Asos, Amazon, JD Sports, cinema chains, BHS and hundreds of other employers who aren't household names but still exploit their workers.

The union movement exists for the same reason it always did: to win great jobs for everyone. Some will always oppose that, and seek to hem us in with laws or challenge our right to stand up for our members. But what I want from 2017 is no more and no less than more working people in decent jobs, fairly paid.

Before anything else: it's critical that government and employers get wages rising. Pay still hasn't recovered since the financial crash nearly a decade ago

– and with inflation on the up, a pay squeeze is coming in 2017. Our dedicated public servants are seeing real-terms pay cuts. In short, Britain still needs a pay rise.

And three things need to happen to make sure every job is a decent job.

First: I hope that 2017 is the year when more working people – especially younger workers and our most exploited workers – get the protection of banding together into a union.

One in 10 of the UK workforce is now in precarious work. That's 3.2 million workers in casual or agency work, on a zero-hours contract or in low-paid self-employment.

Just like last century's dockers standing at the wharf gate hoping for a few hours' work, the zero-hours contract worker waiting for a text from their boss needs a union. Because if all of those zero-hours contract workers acted together with the protection of a union, the bosses would have to listen – and then, things would change.

Think of the Sports Directs of this world forced to sit down and negotiate terms and conditions with their own workers. When that happens – and happen it will – we will see the end of bosses dodging the minimum wage, paying no sick pay, sacking people at will – and the end of outrages like a pregnant worker giving birth to her precious baby in a filthy toilet.

The union movement is often accused of not moving with the times. But we want what we have always wanted: a fair day's pay for a hard day's work. Safe places to work. A fair balance between work and life. Change managed with the consent and involvement of workers – not imposed on them.

So the challenge I have set myself, and set our whole union movement, is to make 2017 the year that we get back to our roots – and help more workers get a fair deal and have a real voice.

But we can't do that with one hand tied behind our back. We need to have the legal right to go into any workplace to tell people about the benefits of getting together and starting a union. Getting unions into warehouses, factories, shops and call centres previously closed to us will mean there is no hiding place for bad bosses who treat their workers like animals.

Because the best way to enforce your rights – and win better than the legal minimum for you and your workmates – is still through a union, organised in your workplace, representing you to your employer.

Second: government needs to step up and make sure rights at work keep pace with how working lives are changing.

The Taylor Review must address the lack of rights, protection and power



that blights so many working lives.

And as we prepare to leave the European Union, the government must retain all the protections that working people in Britain rely on. Bad bosses will lobby to

water down rules they find inconvenient – like protections from working excessive hours or rights for agency workers. Unions stand ready to defend these rights – and to guard against Brexit Britain becoming an ever-more under-regulated sweatshop on the edge of Europe.

While negotiations about our future relationship with the EU are ongoing, we need to continue to mirror all the protections given to European workers here in the UK.

That's my second hope for 2017: making sure that we retain all our hard-won protections at work, and win new rights so we keep pace with both the changing world of work and with our neighbours and competitors in the rest of Europe.

And finally, if we're to make sure every job is a decent, we have to build an economy that creates better jobs in towns and cities where all that is now on offer is short-term contract after short-term contract.

Britain's economy needs a new approach if we're to thrive outside the EU. We need businesses working for long-term success, and British industry thriving and innovating through the expertise and effort of workers paid well and treated decently.

Unions have championed this approach for the last decade – defending our steel industry and public services, supporting infrastructure development, demanding active intervention to grow local economies outside London and pressing for investment in workforce skills and in research and development.

I hope that 2017 is the year when unions, business and government work together to bring more and better jobs to every town and city.

So, those are my four big hopes for 2017. For working people to get that long-overdue pay rise. To bring unions to more workplaces, winning for more workers. A renewed set of protections at work that reflect the workplace of today and which enjoy wide support. And a stronger economy that works for working people across the UK. I recommit myself and our trade union movement to working for these goals in 2017.

# a new deal for women workers

MARIA EXELL, CWU DELEGATE TO THE TUC'S WOMEN'S COMMITTEE, IS THE CHAIR OF THE 2017 TUC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

**W**E need a new deal for women workers to meet the challenges of 2017 and beyond. We must meet the challenges of cuts in public funding, our pensions, and the rise of hate, and fight back with a new vision for working women in Britain

We must fight back against the drastic cuts to public services which are the result of this Government following the failed policies of 'austerity'. We need to resist the draconian performance management policies that accompany this economic neo orthodoxy in the workplace, both in the private and the public sector. We must resist the dehumanising targets and under resourcing that increase stress and lead to mental ill health.

Brexit, steered by Theresa May, threatens our rights at work, working class living standards and environmental protections. We must defend the rights of our sisters who are EU citizens to live and work here, and our immigrant sisters who are being vilified. We will not allow ourselves to be divided and ruled. We will not pay the price of Brexit!

The shrinking of state provision of social care and the massive underfunding of the NHS have greater consequences for us as those who still have the majority of the caring responsibilities in our society. And in education, underfunding and a narrowing official curriculum are reducing the chances for girls. There is persistent and persisting sexism backed up by harassment in the workplace as the TUC survey 'Still just a bit of banter' showed. Swathes of productive activity are in effect no go areas for women. Girls and young women are still persistently forced away from pursuing science, technology and jobs in the manual trades.

Young women workers in the 'gig economy' and other casualised work need employment rights that are fit for the future. We need union organisation and workplace representation throughout the new sectors. We need to articulate a new vision of working life, a new social and economic deal at work to the new generation of young women trade unionists. The continuing injustices of the gender pay gap and maternity discrimination have to be our key targets.

With a Conservative government in power there is a concerted effort to appropriate the aims of women's equality for a corporate agenda in order to culturally neutralise the challenging rise of women in the world of work and in civil society. Reactionary ideas on women's rights, on racism, on sexuality and gender identity, on

disability, are becoming fashionable again and they threaten our liberation. We need to restate the importance of ending violence against women when women hating is becoming the new normal.

The extent of working class women's support for the misogynist billionaire Donald Trump in the USA was a shock for many liberal commentators. Yet we should not be surprised at the extent of internalised sexism or deference to the rich and successful. This is not new. The scale and fervour of the current anti political mood in advanced capitalist countries is, however, nothing to be complacent about. The 'anti establishment' of the right and, its corollary, despair about democracy, are characteristic of the path to authoritarianism and have been associated with fascism in the past.

The support for the Women's March in London and for resistance to the 'normalisation' of a Trump state visit is good. Even better is engagement with those have lost out and hence feel disenfranchised. We need to learn from our trade union comrades across the pond. In their analysis of the 2016 elections in the USA Working America (the political campaigning organisation supported by affiliates of the AFL-CIO) has pointed out the importance of face to face engagement with alienated voters from working class communities. We need a politics that empowers



communities where many have become poorer, ill and without hope - a re-enfranchisement based on collective aspiration and egalitarian policies.

We need more women political representatives to give voice to our concerns and lead us towards a more equal and liberating society. We need a new political deal. In the parliamentary and local government selections and elections which will take place in the next few years black women, LBT women, and women with disabilities should be encouraged to put themselves forward to ensure the diversity of working class women's experience in our political life.

## an agenda for 2017

NAW PRESIDENT ANITA WRIGHT PREVIEWS THE AGENDA FOR THE 2017 TUC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (LONDON 8-10 MARCH)

**T**HE TUC is the voice of Britain at work. With over 50 affiliated unions representing 5.6 million working people, it aims to raise the quality of working life and promote equality. It campaigns for a fair deal at work and for social justice at home and abroad. Women now make up just over half of all union members and are a powerful force for change. The annual TUC Women's Conference brings together women from all walks of life and from all levels in the trade union movement. The conference provides an opportunity for women to share their experience and celebrate their successes.

This year the 50+ motions cover a range of issues, most notably the impact of Brexit and the need to protect employment and equality rights; condemning the rise of hate-crime and calling for unions to stand in solidarity



with migrant workers and to campaign for EU workers in Britain to have the right to remain.

This is particularly important in the NHS where a significant percentage of the workforce is from the EU.

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# farewell and thanks to **Betty Tebbs**



BETTY TEBBS 1918-2017 WAS CHAIR OF THE NAW FOR MANY YEARS

THE FOLLOWING IS THE EULOGY GIVEN BY LINDA CLAIR AT BETTY'S FUNERAL

**B**ETTY and I met almost 40 years ago at a Communist Party conference. We became comrades first, but we very soon became friends, enjoying political activities together, demonstrating at US bases, supporting workers on strike. Spending time at Greenham Common together in the early 80s. That was great, sleeping in Betty's camper van at night, six of us, after days spent with other women from around the world. I remember, just after we arrived, building a fire so we could boil a kettle for tea, and finding things to sit on, in no time at all there were a number of young women sitting round the fire, listening to Betty talk about campaigning and the need to commit to the struggle for peace, they hung on her every word.

By the time we met, Betty had had a long history in the trade union and labour movement starting when she joined the union at the age of 14, in a paper mill. Then joining the Labour Party and becoming a local councillor. I think she became quite frustrated in the Labour Party and so with her second husband Len, joined the Communist Party. It was fortunate for me as that brought us together. She was already involved in the National Assembly of Women and I joined, we then contacted women we knew in different areas to organise local branches.

Betty always wanted to encourage young people, and women in particular, to become active in the progressive movement, working for peace and a new society where everyone had equal opportunities, a home, a job, an education and a decent way of life.

I remember years ago, just before a general election, the Tory candidate in Bury South was David Sumberg. We were all active on behalf of the Labour Party and Betty decided to go out at 2am one morning, with a paint gun and a ladder, she climbed up to the hoardings saying VOTE SUMBERG AGAIN, and sprayed the word NEVER in front of the word AGAIN. A young man saw her and wanted to help, but they both had to hide in the grass as a police car drove past. She played the innocent next day when the sabotage was discovered.

Of course many of you will know

she was arrested at Faslane Nuclear Weapons base, aged 89. The police asked if she had any ailments, hoping they wouldn't have to keep her overnight in the cells, she said "No, except when I think of Trident" and just a few weeks ago at the hospital waiting for treatment, the nurse asked if she had any allergies, she said "Yes, this government". Such quick responses were part of who she was.

In 1986 at her suggestion I went to Palestine on behalf of the NAW. An experience that changed my life, and I have been committed ever since to the struggle for peace and justice for Palestinians. Betty supported me in all my activities and wanted to learn as much as she could about the issue and we read and talked often about it, particularly after my subsequent visits. We travelled to Copenhagen for the World Peace Congress in 1986 where she pushed me to speak about US bases in the UK. This resulted in us being invited to organise a delegation to Libya on the first anniversary of the American bombing of Tripoli. She also encouraged me to speak about Palestine at the same conference thereby making lots of contacts in the solidarity movements and we attended conferences in Moscow and Vienna.

But we also did the everyday activities of branch meetings in the New Communist Party and the National Assembly of Women, fundraising for the *Morning Star*, collecting signatures on the streets against nuclear weapons and so much more. We also enjoyed going out to lunch, particular-





ly in Heaton Park, she loved to be among the trees and flowers.

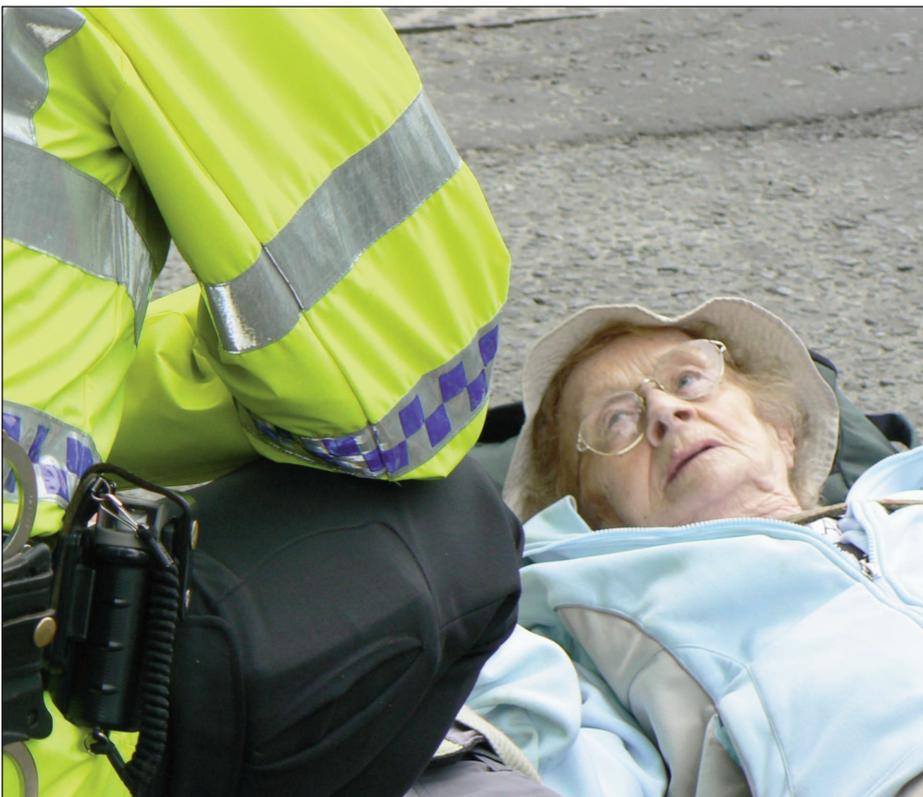
When her sight began to fail I read to her every week, always political books, it took a long time to finish a book as every few pages we had to discuss what we read, especially when we read Hugo Chavez on Venezuela. She wanted him here in the UK to help us achieve change.

Last June Betty was made a Radical Hero at the Manchester People's History Museum. Maxine Peake, a dear friend and comrade to us both, facilitated the event. It was wonderful, over 200 people filled the museum hall, and there was a waiting list of another 100. It was a memorable occasion. In

September I accompanied Betty to the Labour Party conference in Liverpool, where she was speaking at a fringe meeting organised by Unite the Union and the *Daily Mirror*. Len McLuskey and Andy Burnham were also speaking, but Betty was the only one to speak about the need for peace and socialism, two sides of the same coin, for which she got a standing ovation.

We didn't always agree on things and we had many heated discussions, but her influence on me, her encouragement and comradeship was immense. For those who will pick up her baton will be her legacy.

**Farewell beloved comrade.**



*continued from page 3*

Although not as large a proportion as non-EU workers, the Institute of Public Policy Research reported in February 2016 that 57,063 of the NHS's 1.2 million staff are from other EU countries, with 7,000 working as consultants or specialist registrars and more than 21,000 nurses and health visitors.

It is clear from many of the motions that women still face huge discrimination at work – particularly during pregnancy with 77% of pregnant and new mothers reporting some form of discrimination compared to 45% in 2005 – and the introduction of tribunal fees has adversely affected women's ability to challenge employers. Similarly the gender pay gap still remains shockingly large at 13.9% despite the Equal Pay Act being passed over forty years ago. Traditionally "women's work" has been low paid and at a lower rate than men's. Poor pay progression, the rise in casualisation of work and the precariousness of employment, inevitably impacts on women's pensions. Women on average have barely half the pension savings of men and combined with the increased pension age will result in more women living in pension poverty.

The struggle against austerity continues and the savage benefit cuts are blighting the life chances of millions of children. Two thirds of children living in poverty have at least one working parent. The replacement of Tax Credits with Universal Credit erodes in-work support and the benefit cap and two-child limit makes things worse. The government has refused to monitor the gender impact of Universal Credit and repealed crucial aspects of child poverty legislation in an attempt to hide the true impact of these policies.

The government's neo-liberal economic and social policies are having a deleterious effect on ordinary working people and their families and resulting in a sharp rise in mental health problems. An NHS enquiry in 2016 showed that 26% of women aged 16 to 24 years were suffering from a common mental disorder up from 19.2% in 1993. Yet Mental Health Trusts in England face serious budget cuts with 40% of the 58 trusts experiencing cuts in 2015/16. Since the current Government came to power almost 5,000 mental health nurses and over 1,000 mental health beds have been cut.

It is inevitable that the tone and content of many of the motions catalogue the bleak situation faced by many women. But women are the backbone of the trade union movement and the future lies in our hands. The call to campaign for equality and justice remains strong; to fight against sexual and domestic violence, and to reject attempts to divide us by our race, colour or religion. This sense of unity of purpose has always been at the heart of the TUC Women's Conference and long may it remain so.

# climate change is a woman's issue

NAW MEMBER LYDIA MERYLL ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP22) ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN NOVEMBER 2016. SHE TRAVELLED BY TRAIN AND BOAT ON BEHALF OF A SMALL NGO, PLANET HYDROGEN, ACCREDITED BY THE UN

**W**OMEN'S organisations were very well represented and they won the right to have international climate financing dependent on showing "gender-responsive action". The Momentum 4 Change awards highlighted the innovative projects brought forward by women in the private and civil society sectors; off-grid solar in Nepal (Fearless energy!) and a water project in an arid part of Morocco (Catching Fog!) <http://www.dw.com/en/catching-fog-in-the-moroccan-mountains/av-36246997>

Only when the solutions are embedded in the culture of the locality can they really succeed long term and contribute to combating poverty and isolation as well as climate change. WOCAN promises to be a very useful lobby group. Gender justice and climate justice are clearly linked. [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech\\_nov\\_2016/application/pdf/auv\\_cop22\\_i15\\_gender\\_and\\_climate\\_change\\_rev.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/application/pdf/auv_cop22_i15_gender_and_climate_change_rev.pdf)

Young people were everywhere;

interviewing, singing, making pop up protests: The need for Action NOW! They made the point about being the majority population on the planet and having the least power. They are the next green workforce, designers, scientists and technicians. So many young women came to find out about green gases and made passionate speeches about biodiversity. They are determined to be part of the solution.

Cities were encouraged to share their best low carbon solutions and ways to cut pollution. At an event sponsored by the Japanese delegation, Karolina Skog, the Minister for the Environment in Sweden called upon cities to recognise the trend to mass urbanisation. She saw this as both a challenge and an opportunity as the new investment can be made to be climate-sensitive, low energy build and transport savvy. Sweden is aiming to be the first Fossil Free Welfare Nation. Designers were being encouraged to be innovative and think outside the traditional boxes when it comes to new cities. Women need to join this debate NOW and help prevent unsustainable and inequitable urban design.

The connections with resource wars associated to climate injustice and

commercial gain were never far away and the immediacy of vast movements of people from climate devastated areas was on some agendas. Climate refugees are a real probability as the sea level rises and deserts take over more arable land.

Transparency in negotiations was essential. It was possible to watch the line by line amendments to the framework for financial arrangements to be made with developing nations, including small island states. It is hoped that they will receive financial assistance not just for mitigation measures, but for very urgent adaptation to help deal with flooding, sea level rise and the impacts of severe weather reported in all parts of the globe.

There were intense talks in vast tents and small conversations in small tents. Action was the watch word and optimism was in the air. But by the end of two weeks of debate there were open ended agreements to be tied down and fear about the impact of the changes in American governance (and financing). Fiji is to host the next COP talks (in Bonn) as that small island state is threatened with sea level rise.

The full (formal) outcomes can be seen at: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop22-key-outcomes-agreed-at-un-climate-talks-in-marrakech>

Needless to say the corporates were also there, selling extraordinary technofix ideas at huge sums. An Eco BMW was strategically placed by the main exit! Solar companies were everywhere and wind technology featured large – big turbines not always sensible in small countries. But the tension was between talk of financing mitigation schemes to drive down carbon, and the immediacy, for some of the poorer countries, to put money, now, into adaptation. For example, Mauritania has seen the evidence of the polar ice melt and the reality of sea level rise. They need money, now, "to build a ditch to save our city".

Women are already feeling the brunt of the changes, so NAW and our sisters in trades unions can support them. We need a campaign to show what huge risks face women worldwide from climate change, floods, drought, water and food scarcity. We need to head off climate induced wars.

Women are rarely consulted and often not considered when clever technofix solutions are being bought or sold. The solutions are often simple and women already know what is possible. They are simply not asked. Women at the conference in Marrakech in November showed that we have a right to be heard and a right to contribute to solutions which are meaningful and local and also help our sisters in other even more vulnerable parts of the planet.

## save Umm al-Hiran

CAMPAIGN TO STOP THE DEMOLITION OF A PALESTINIAN VILLAGE

**H**ANEEN Zoabi MK is the first female Palestinian member of the Israeli Knesset on an Arab List and member of the Balad party. She is a brave advocate for equal citizenship rights for the Palestinian citizens of Israel, as well as being on board the Mavi Mamara flotilla to Gaza in 2010.

In January Haneen travelled to the UK to visit the Palestine Solidarity Campaign. She addressed hundreds of members at the AGM to a standing ovation, as well as the Richmond branch, speaking about the daily oppression Palestinians face in Israel.

PSC organised several media opportunities for Haneen to get the message out to the British public on the situation in Palestine. On the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme, Sky News, LBC, and in a *Guardian* interview, she spoke of the reality Palestinians face. Home demolitions in the Bedouin village of Umm al-Hiran, expulsion from their land, the unending siege of Gaza, the threat posed by Trump, and the 86 discriminatory laws Palestinians are subject to within Israel. Haneen also met with several MPs to create new relationships and build their knowledge of Palestine.

These early successes are part of PSC's new media and communications push across Britain, and are critical to reaching a wider audience. Palestinian voices are not often heard by the British public, and consequently their experiences are marginalised. This week, millions of British people heard Haneen speak passionately and truthfully on Palestine – the *Today* programme has 12 million listeners alone.

Just before she travelled to London, Haneen attended a protest against the demolition of Umm al-Hiran, a Palestinian Bedouin village in the south of the Negev desert. Eight houses were demolished and two people killed – Yaakub Abu al-Qiyan, a schoolteacher, and Erez Levy, a policeman. The village is still under threat of demolition.

Haneen needs your help to raise the international outcry and stop the villagers from being evicted from their homes. We need you to take action and write to your MP asking them to bring this matter to the Foreign Secretary as a matter of urgency. The British government can make a difference here – international protest stopped the bulldozers last time, and can do so again.

[WWW.PALESTINECAMPAIGN.ORG](http://WWW.PALESTINECAMPAIGN.ORG)

# united against bigotry

**D**ONALD Trump has achieved a few things in his first few weeks in office. He has become the President with the lowest rating ever at this stage of the Presidency. And he has created a mass movement against him, both in the US and internationally, which is unprecedented against an incoming President.

There were plenty of reasons to oppose Trump before he came into office but every day since has underlined in the most graphic way the need to drive him from office. The day after his inauguration millions marched worldwide in support of women's rights. But what has galvanised the most recent protests is the ban on Muslims from seven named countries from travelling to the US.

The ban is racist to the core, adding insult to injury to citizens of those countries who have already suffered bombing and occupation by the US. It has provoked rage in Iraq, where there are still stationed thousands of US troops. But it has provoked a huge wave of protests in the US itself, with huge numbers demonstrating at airports across the country, demanding an end to the ban and the immediate release of those caught in the ban.

The protests in Britain have also been very large spontaneous actions. A huge crowd gathered in Downing Street, and thousands took part in demos from Edinburgh to Bristol. The mood in Britain is not just a reaction to Trump but to our own government.

Theresa May has played a uniquely bad role in supporting Trump. First, she rushed with unseemly haste to be the first European leader to meet Trump. She and her advisers cooked up the idea of offering him a state visit, complete with banquets with the Queen and enough gold and splendour to impress even Trump. This is unprecedented so early in any Presidency, let alone with a President as unpredictable and disliked as Trump.

She then allowed herself to be pictured holding hands with a man

regarded as odious by millions of women. Worse, she was informed about the ban during her visit and obviously agreed with it, to the extent that when she was questioned the following day, she refused three times to condemn or even criticise it. Her craven determination to win a trade deal with Trump, and to appear as though she can maintain the "special relationship" with him, has led her down the path of supporting him uncritically.

This is not a good place for her to be. Outrage at this behaviour is palpable, even from within May's own Tory party. Jeremy Corbyn was right to say that there should be no state visit while the ban stands.

The potential to build a really huge movement against Trump is already there. The proposed state visit can be stopped. Already there is talk of postponing it or scaling it down, and it is possible to get it cancelled altogether. When George Bush had a state visit in 2003, months after the Iraq war, we brought London to a halt with hundreds of thousands demonstrating on a weekday. This time will be even bigger.

The movement must be built as broadly as possible. We must get on the streets. Stop the War is part of an organising group to protest against the ban and the state visit. That means involving the Muslim community, a number of whose organisations are co-organising the march. It also means we need the trade unions, students, community organisations, faith groups, charities and NGOs, women's organisations, school students, and everyone who wants to stand up against the kind of racism, bigotry, militarism and Islamophobia that Trump represents.

The rising tide of islamophobia and attacks on migrants is growing across Europe and the US. In Canada, six Muslims were shot in a Montreal mosque, allegedly by a far-right terrorist. In Texas, a mosque was burned down over the weekend. Politicians



and media are fanning the flames of hate for cheap electoral advantage. May is interpreting the Brexit vote in a way which can only give succour to UKIP and the far right. In France, the Netherlands and Germany, the right are expected to do well in upcoming elections.

That is why the street movements are so important, and why we need the broadest possible unity across the left in order to combat the right. There are issues we can fight on which unite us all: against Trump's racist ban and the state visit, against scapegoating of migrants and Muslims, and for those issues which can help lessen scapegoating and racism: defence of public services such as the NHS, and a mass programme for decent council housing.

We also need to break the "special relationship" between the US and Britain. This has always been harmful to Britain, most recently dragging us into the disastrous war in Iraq. It is now, under a Trump Presidency, positively toxic. Stop the War is campaigning to end the special relationship now.

There is a huge amount at stake here. Working people are feeling the terrible effects of austerity, and they are fearful and angry about the future. We must unite to ensure that this anger is channelled at the people who caused their misery, not those who are at present being blamed. If events so far are anything to go by, this year looks as though it will be marked by a series of mass protests. Nothing could send a better message to Trump and May that they do not represent us and that we will resist them.

BY LINDSEY GERMAN, CONVENOR OF STOP THE WAR

[WWW.STOPWAR.ORG.UK](http://WWW.STOPWAR.ORG.UK)



# save the NHS!



## international women's day

Greetings from the NAW to women worldwide and here's to the continued fight for peace, progress and equality

## NAW annual general meeting

The National Assembly of Women's AGM will be on **Saturday 20 May**, 11am to 4pm at the UNISON Centre 130 Euston Road London NW1 2AY

Put the date in your diary and make every effort to be there as it's bound to be a lively day of discussion and debate and an opportunity to meet other NAW sisters

NAW members will receive full details by post in March

The closing date for nominations and motions is **Monday 10 April**

### Do you pay your NAW membership by standing order?

If you currently pay your NAW membership by standing order into our Co-operative Bank Account we would like you to cancel it and take out a new standing order into our new **Unity Trust** Bank Account:

**Account Number 20364894**  
**National Assembly of Women**  
**Sort Code 60-83-01**

Membership runs from 1st January to 31st December

Please consider making a regular monthly contribution to cover your membership fee plus a donation to the

## what's on...

**NAW Executive Committee** meetings are open to all members. If you would like to attend please contact the Secretary on [naw@sisters.org.uk](mailto:naw@sisters.org.uk) or at NAW, Bridge House, Newport Street, Hay on Wye, Powys HR3 5BG. The next meeting will be on **Saturday 1 April** in London

A colour pdf of Sisters can be downloaded at [www.sisters.org.uk](http://www.sisters.org.uk)

## join the NAW now!

*I would like to join the NAW. Here is £20 for the annual subscription (£10 unwaged) which includes my subscription to **sisters**, the journal of the NAW.*

*Our organisation would like to affiliate to the NAW. Enclosed is: £20 (local organisation/NAW branch), £45 (regional organisation), £60 (national)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: NAW, 1 Lee Close, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0DW