

NO TO THE IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL NOT TO IMMIGRATION CONTROLS UNITE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

The Government Announced through the Queen's Speech, the Immigration Reform Bill. This is a vicious attack on migrants. But it is part and parcel of an attack on all of us. They are attacking welfare benefits for everyone. But it will be worse for migrants. They are attacking the NHS, but it will be harder for migrants. They are attacking benefits but they will be out of reach of many migrants. The idea is that non-migrants can feel a bit better that they are not suffering as much as the migrants, that the authorities are putting Britons first. But what will be tried out for migrants first will lead the way for worse things to come for the rest of us. We need to unite as a class to fight back at the capitalist system, not at scapegoats.

The provisions of the Bill are

Tougher action against businesses that use 'illegal labour'

There would be no such thing as 'illegal immigrants' if there weren't immigration laws which defined groups of people as illegal because of where they came from. The creation of such 'illegal labour' is convenient for employers because they can try and use the threat of deportation against workers to make them work for worse wages and conditions. Despite this migrant workers fight back. What we need to do is to all fight together for a living wage and ensure that everybody has proper contracts of employment. This can only be done on the basis of Equal Rights for All and No One is Illegal.

Restrict migrant access to the NHS

Already most migrants from outside Europe do not have the right to access the NHS except in emergency situations and even then they might end up with a hefty bill. Now they want to extend this to migrants from Europe. And they want to make doctors, nurses and other health staff to investigate everybody's immigration status.

Brits abroad with an NHS card can access the health services in other EU countries, so it should work both ways. There are 750 thousand Brits living in Spain and 250 thousand in France who can access their health services, benefits and have the right to work.

Far from reducing the strain on the NHS the requirement to police migrants seeking help will create masses of unnecessary work.

All this is to divert attention from the real problem - government cuts and privatisation - so that we blame migrants for the problems in the NHS.

If people are ill they need health care. End of story. Health professionals agree with this. Hopefully they will refuse to act as immigration police. Defiance not Compliance.

Legally require private landlords to check the immigration status of their tenants

In Hitler's Germany they mobilised people to inform on Jews and critics of the regime.

They would try to get one or two people in every street, or every block, to be responsible for collecting this information and give it to the Gestapo who would come

and arrest the Jews and take them away. Here and now the Government is trying to do something very similar. Landlords inform on their tenants. If they are 'illegal' the UK Border agency comes to take them away. This is the thin end of the wedge for all of us.

Prevent 'illegal' immigrants from obtaining UK driving licences

No On is Illegal

Only those cases that raise important immigration issues would have a right of appeal

Who decides what is an important issue. If you think that its important but the court's don't, how do you appeal.

Give enforcement officer's more powers

But they have massive powers already, and they just bring the police along with them to do anything they can't do.

Stop the 'abuse' of the right to stay in the country because of family connections for people who have committed a crime

If one member of a family commits a crime, why should the whole family suffer being split up because of it. The most high profile case of Abu Qetada which has led to this, has nothing to do with family unity, but about the use of evidence obtained by torture.

But in addition to this bill they plan to bring in other legislation which involve further attacks on migrants. Amongst the most important and ones which have been put into the media limelight are:

Limit access to certain benefits for European jobseekers to six months

The Coalition Government is squeezing everybody receiving welfare benefits - trying to drive us all into low wage dead end jobs. This is an extra turn of the screw against migrants. Don't think this is a competition with migrants. If they get away with it for migrants today they turn the screw against the rest of us.

This proposal also plays up the myth that migrants come to Britain in order to claim benefits. Rubbish. The vast majority come to work and/or to join their families. A lower proportion of migrants take up their benefit entitlements than the rest of the population.

All welfare claimants - disabled, in poverty, out of work, in low paid work and migrants unite against the attacks on welfare benefits.

We will make sure that only those with a well-established local residency and local association qualify for social homes in their area...through statutory housing allocations guidance.....period of residency would be between two and five years

Because of the right to buy brought in by the Tories and continued by the Labour party and the failure to build more social housing or bring empty properties in to use there is a crisis of homelessness and massive waiting lists. This proposal aims to talk up the myth that the cause of the problem is migrants taking all the housing. Again this is

nonsense. Unite to fight for decent homes for all.

Most migrants must be lawfully resident for at least 12 months before they can access to civil legal aid

Consider a recent migrant who is being harassed by their neighbours, for example and the police do nothing. No civil legal aid, no injunctions or anything like that unless you have a lot of money. Again this is the thin edge of wedge as the Government tears up all our rights to legal aid. Access has been dramatically reduced in the last year, being unavailable for most employment cases, most landlord and tenant cases. It is now being proposed that legal representation will be put out to tender so you will only be able to get the cheapest company which could be a global monster like G4S!! Cuts in 30% for long criminal cases

So decent legal representation is a privilege just for the rich. For the right to quality legal representation for all regardless of immigration status!

Two years ago David Cameron said ***"The real issue is this: migrants are filling the gaps in the labour market left wide open by a welfare system that for years has paid British people not to work... So immigration and welfare reform are 2 sides of the same coin. Put simply, we will never control immigration properly unless we tackle welfare dependency"***

So low wages, benefit cuts and immigration controls are all part of the same attack on the working class. We must fight back together - workers, welfare claimants, disabled people and migrants. Don't let them divide us.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!