

Declaración de Mujeres en Lucha sobre Palestina ▶ Huelga estudiantes Recinto de Ciencias Médicas
Un saludo desde Cuba: un mensaje de solidaridad a la comunidad LGBTQ+ en EE.UU.

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo

Struggle-La-Lucha.org

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Socialist Unity Party

Partido de Socialismo Unido

Worldwide outcry in solidarity with Gaza: STOP THE MASSACRE



Hundreds of thousands of people around the world have taken part in protests against the war crimes of the U.S.-Israeli war machine. Above: South Africa and Yemen. See pages 11-13

Historic march for trans youth sweeps Florida city



Photos: Lexi Webster / CCR

'Rallies like this are important to us,' declared Miss Major, a veteran of the Stonewall Rebellion. 'We need each other.' See pages 3-10



The answer to job-killing automation: Shorten the workweek!

By Stephen Millies

The United Auto Workers (UAW) are taking on three of the biggest corporations on the planet: Ford, General Motors and Stellantis (Chrysler). These outfits had total sales last year of a half-trillion dollars.

That's as large as the combined Gross Domestic Product of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, and Venezuela.

The UAW members are fighting for all of us. Auto workers are rebelling against 45 years of plant closings, givebacks, and wage cuts.

Instead of equal pay for equal work, newly hired temp workers are paid \$16.67 per hour. Adjusted for inflation, that's worth \$1.90 in 1968 money — just 30 cents above the minimum wage that year.

Overworked while millions are unemployed

Automation is one of the biggest job killers. Robots replaced spot welders and other workers on the assembly line. Computers swept away office jobs.

One of the UAW's demands is a 32-hour work week to keep and create jobs. Technology should be used to make people's lives better, not to increase joblessness and misery.

It's outrageous that some people are forced to work overtime while 6.4 million people were unemployed in August. Another 5.4 million currently want a job but are not even counted as belonging to the labor force.

"The condemnation of one part of the working class to enforced idleness by the overwork of the other part, and the converse, becomes a means of enriching the individual capitalists."



UAW strikers in September demand a 32-hour work week.

That's what Karl Marx — the founder of scientific socialism, also called communism — wrote in "Capital" in 1867.

For 200 years, the world labor movement has fought for shorter hours of work. British workers struggled first for a 12-hour workday and then for 10 hours on the job.

On May 1, 1886, workers across the United States went on strike for an 8-hour workday. In retaliation, capitalist courts hanged the "Haymarket Martyrs" — George Engel, Adolph Fischer, Albert Parsons, and August Spies — in Chicago on Nov. 11, 1887.

Shorter hours mean more jobs

Even after the 40-hour workweek was won, many workers still spend at least 50 hours on their job. That's because it takes millions of workers at least an hour to travel to and from their job.

Workers should be compensated from the time they leave their homes to go to work. Compulsory overtime should be prohibited.

Unions helped end most child labor in the 1930s. As the legendary IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) leader "Big Bill" Haywood wrote, "the

worst thief is he who steals the playtime of children."

Capitalists and their politicians are bringing back this atrocity. It was legal for 16-year-old Michael Schuls to be working in a Wisconsin sawmill when he was killed on June 29. Teenagers have been found working in Alabama auto part factories.

Steven Rattner, who helped push through the cutbacks for auto workers during the 2008 economic crisis, thinks the UAW is "asking for too much: In addition to pay raises of 36 percent over

four years, the list includes a 32-hour workweek with 40 hours of pay."

Well, sir, do you know that 90 years ago, the U.S. Senate passed a law for a 30-hour workweek by a vote of 53 to 30 on April 5, 1933? Alabama Senator and future Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black introduced the bill. ("A Terrible Anger, The Waterfront and General Strikes in San Francisco," by David F. Selvin.)

This legislation was later ditched in Congress, but it shows what can be demanded. Millions of jobs could be created by instituting a 32-hour workweek, as the UAW is asking for.

The billionaire class can afford it. As UAW vice president Mike Booth pointed out, GM alone raked in \$100 billion in profits over the past decade from its North American operations. Twenty-one billion was spent on stock buybacks that only benefit Wall Street speculators.

With today's technology, demanding a 32-hour workweek is no more impossible than marching for the 8-hour day on May Day in 1886.

Read the full article at tinyurl.com/4p4996en

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Historic march for trans youth sweeps Florida city

By Struggle-La Lucha Orlando, Florida, bureau

A historic march for transgender rights took place in Orlando, Florida, on Oct. 7. Organized by a trans-led, ad hoc coalition of groups and individuals from across the country, the National March to Protect Trans Youth and Speakout for Trans Lives drew hundreds of people from across the state, from Georgia and Louisiana, and as far away as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana and New York.

Young trans people, parents and families of trans youth, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and allies rallied outside Orlando City Hall. Un-

der blazing blue skies, they marched through downtown Orlando's Seneff Arts Plaza, waving Trans Pride and Progress Pride flags, holding protest signs, and chanting, "DeSantis says get back, we say fight back!" and "HRT, HRT, over the counter and all for free!"

"Rallies like this are important to us," declared **Miss Major Griffin-Gracy (she/her)**, a veteran of the Stonewall Rebellion and a lifelong fighter for trans rights. "We need each other. We have gone through this before. We've gone through it time and time again. And we're not going to give up now.

"Whatever you do, don't give up," she urged. "We've got to fight, fight, fight!"

It was the first national mobilization against the current wave of anti-trans

hate to take place in one of the states at the epicenter of the attack on trans lives – Florida, where Republican governor and presidential candidate Ron DeSantis has signed numerous laws and administrative measures aimed at driving trans people from public life and depriving them of health care, especially targeting young people.

Orlando-area activists expressed great enthusiasm for the march, welcoming trans and cis activists from across the country to stand with them. For many, it was a welcome act of solidarity, in contrast to mainstream LGBTQ+ nonprofits and liberal figures that have urged people to flee or stay away – something many people, espe-

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Melinda Butterfield:

'Trans people will continue to resist'

By Melinda Butterfield

Talk given by Melinda Butterfield at the Oct. 7 National March to Protect Trans Youth in Orlando, Florida.

Butterfield is a member of Women in Struggle-Mujeres en Lucha and co-editor of Struggle-La Lucha.

I have a message for Ron DeSantis and the Florida Legislature: Woke doesn't come to Florida to die. Woke is alive and well and coming to kick your ass.

Trans people have always been here. No matter what laws you pass, no matter what lies you tell, trans children will continue to be born. Trans youth will continue to find ways to survive. Trans people will continue to resist.

We are the children of Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and Leslie Feinberg. We will not be silenced.

Bigots say get back; we say fight back!

We aren't alone in our struggle. Many other communities are being targeted. We have to work to create unity, solidarity, cooperation. That's why the demands of our action aren't limited to those issues specific to trans people but



Photo: Lexi Webster / CCR

include the fight against racism, for reproductive rights, for workers' rights. We are part of those communities. We are part of the working class.

We are health care workers, service workers, teachers, tech workers, sex workers. We are Teamsters and Auto Workers, actors and writers, and all too often, underpaid and unemployed workers. We live the reality of intersectionality every day.

Standing up for trans people is an act

of self-defense for all workers. An injury to one is an injury to all.

As trans people, we aren't afraid to say what the real enemy is: capitalism. Not just DeSantis and Greg Abbott, not just the Republican Party – the system that enriches their billionaire patrons, who fill their election coffers, that use divide and conquer tactics to set us against each other. They've been doing it for centuries. No wonder DeSantis doesn't want young people to learn any true history!

But the young people see through them! They want a future that puts people and the planet first instead of profits. The truth is, the bigots are afraid of us – not for any of the absurd reasons they claim, but because we herald the end of their rotten system.

I can't stand here in Florida and not say a few words about Cuba. I visited Cuba last spring with a queer delegation to learn about the country's new Families Code that expands queer rights and elevates chosen families to equality with blood families.

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Christynne Wood: Standing up to anti-trans hate in Southern California

By Christynne Lili Wrene Wood

Excerpts from a talk by Christynne Lili Wrene Wood at the Oct. 7 National March to Protect Trans Youth & Speakout for Trans Lives in Orlando, Florida.

To all our beautiful and loving Floridian rainbow family and allies, I bring our unlimited love and support from the Western end of the rainbow, the great golden state of California! With each swipe of the poisoned pens in Tallahassee, we feel your pain and share your outrage.

I fought against a very well-organized campaign at the Santee City Council, near San Diego. During that meeting a well-coached teenage girl emotionally described her horror and experience at seeing a “naked man” in the women’s locker room of the Cameron YMCA in Santee.

Even though several members of the YMCA staff assured her and her family that I was indeed a woman, her lie was picked up by a local right-wing media outlet and within 72 hours was both national and international news, with said girl being a keynote guest on the “Tucker Carlson Show.”

During a protest of hate coordinated by a couple of East County churches, featuring failed politicians and more



Photo: Lexi Webster / CCR

right-wing media coverage, I quietly and with resolute conviction made my way to a counter-protest that featured love, diversity, acceptance, and joy. The number of families there to support our rainbow family was overwhelming.

It was there that I introduced myself as the “scary transgender woman” who was being vilified just 50 yards away at the hatefest event. I invited them all to please join me at the next meeting of the Santee City Council where I would address the lies being spread! It was at that City Council meeting that I first met Gloria Verdieu and was introduced to Struggle-La Lucha and Women in Struggle.

Salute to Miss Major

Now it is my duty, my responsibility, and my great honor to bring your attention to a civil, human, and trans rights icon who has seen fit to grace us with her divine presence today. I refer to Miss Major Griffin-Gracy – activist, author, mentor and mother to countless of our trans sisters.

Miss Major’s accomplishments and sacrifices are far too numerous to mention during the short time allotted, but here are two quotes I particularly love: “Get off our backs and let us live,” and a particular favorite from the HBO special “The Trans List,” when asked how she would summarize her life, stated, “She came, she saw, she cared!”

Check out the magnificent interview in The Guardian by Sam Levine with Miss Major in Little Rock, Arkansas, in the sanctuary she has created.

Miss Major, our love for you is eternal, beloved mother! 📌

Melinda Butterfield: ‘Trans people will continue to resist’

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Schools and parents are obliged to provide young people with sex education, including education on sexual and gender variance. If a child feels their rights are not being respected, they have recourse to appeal to the authorities. What a contrast with Florida!

Queer Cubans and all Cubans are suffering because of the U.S. blockade. Our community needs to demand that President Biden end the blockade and take Cuba off the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

In 1963, Gov. George Wallace of Alabama stood in the schoolhouse door to prevent desegregation. President John F. Kennedy ordered the National Guard to remove him and enforce integration.

Today, Ron DeSantis and many others are standing in the door of the schoolhouse, the doctor’s office, the restroom, and the library. President Joe Biden has not lifted a finger to stop him and shows no inclination to do so.

The difference has nothing to do with the “character” of the president in question. The difference is that in 1963, there was a mass movement for

Civil Rights – one that the capitalists and their politicians feared and were unable to control. This is the example we have to look to.

When the bosses and politicians fear the people, then we will see a roll-back of the anti-trans attacks. When the fascists who invade our streets know they will be met and confronted by a united people’s movement, then they will scurry back into the holes they came from.

Today is about taking the first steps toward building that kind of movement – the kind that can win. 📌

Immigrant anti-nuke activist: Peace includes trans rights

By Tsukuru Fors

Talk by **Tsukuru Fors** of Red Berets for Queers at the Oct. 7 National March to Protect Trans Youth & Speakout for Trans Lives in Orlando, Florida.

My name is Tsukuru Fors. Born and raised in Japan, I came to the United States at age 19. I am an Asian, immigrant, and nonbinary trans person.

Looking at the world through the eyes of an Asian, immigrant, trans person, I see a common enemy. Who shows up at anti-trans rallies are often the same people who inflict violence on my Asian siblings. So, it's clear to me that we must work together.

It's been super-exciting to build the movement with all of you, and this is just the beginning. I am an antinuclear/peace/health care justice activist. I tell everyone that I meet in these spaces that trans rights are their business, too.

Peace is about human rights, so how can that not include trans rights? When we talk about health care for all, gender-affirming care must be included, because trans health care is a human right.

Ron DeSantis is trying to take away our rights to exist. And yet we are still here. We have always been here, and we are not going away.



Photo: Lexi Webster / CCR

Thank you so much for being here. Thank you so much for being who you are, loud and proud.

When we talk about states like Texas and Florida, we Californians say things like, "Oh, they are horrible states," but they are not. Coming here, interacting with all of you, I see this is a beautiful place, it's just that there are people who want to rule by fear and hate.

My new brother Lindsey Spero, when they spoke of their love for their

state, brought tears to my eyes. In my antinuclear work, I've worked with many displaced people. No one should be displaced. This is your home. You should be able to live here, be safe, be loved, and pursue dreams as who you are. That is why we fight.

For those who choose to leave, I run a grassroots initiative called Trans Migrants Support CA. We aim to support trans and nonbinary siblings relocating to California from other states.

Let me be honest by saying that housing in California is a huge challenge. In fact, I am currently housing-insecure myself. But we are fighting to hold cities like West Hollywood, a supposedly trans sanctuary city, accountable by pushing them to fund housing programs for trans people.

We are a work in progress, but here is a promise. You have a family in California. The community has your back. We protect us.

I spent most of my life being closeted. I was 50 years old when I began my HRT [hormone replacement therapy]. This fight is personal. I am fighting for the young me who was afraid and alone.

My trans/nonbinary siblings, our community is strong, joyful, caring, creative, and beautiful. You showed me what community looks like, what family looks like, after my own birth family disowned me. You showed me what belonging feels like.

If I had a way to talk to my 15-year-old self, I would tell him that this is what he can look forward to. That's why I fight. We protect us.

Lastly, I would like to honor my sibling back in California who couldn't be here. Xodiak Rose is an Indigenous Two-Spirit organizer who was arrested at the West Hollywood Pride this year due to a false police report filed by a known fascist. I would like to end this speech by inviting you to do her favorite chant with me:

It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win.

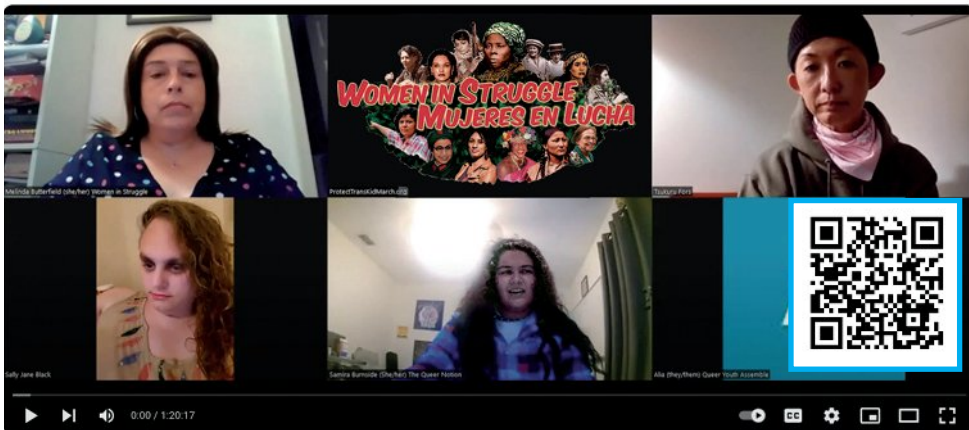
We must love and protect each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains. Thank you so much. I love you all. 🏳️‍🌈

What's next after the National March to Protect Trans Youth?

WEBINAR

Struggle - La Lucha for Socialism

youtu.be/IFHD0g_TaRI?si=QoLjfdCt3jg1tnA



Trans youth leader: 'Fear and apathy are the oppressor's greatest tools'

By Samira Burnside

Talk by **Samira Burnside** at the Oct. 7 National March to Protect Trans Youth in Orlando, Florida. Burnside is editor of *TheQueerNotion.com*.

Good afternoon everybody, thank you so much for coming out. It's one thing for trans youth stuck in Florida to see thousands gathered in Washington, but it's another for them to see them gathered back home, for them to know that people care right here.

My name is Samira Burnside, I'm a 17-year-old trans woman, I'm one of the organizers of this march, I'm the founder of The Queer Notion, and today, Oct. 7, is my birthday.

This year I have taken two trips to Washington, D.C., I have become a Google search result, I have done interviews for Time Magazine and spoken in front of crowds much larger than my 5th grade Tropicana speech competition.

In this work I have found immense joy. I have found community in the struggle. I used to sit at home and watch as the news rolled with cynical apathy, saying to myself, "Well, nobody cares, nothing will change, activism is far too dangerous to be worth it. Look at what happened to everyone who's ever stood up before me, to Malcolm X, to Fred Hampton, to Dr. King, to the many whose names we don't know because their flames were snuffed out too early."

But that fear, that apathy, is the death of every movement, it is the greatest tool of the oppressor. If you can put down a movement before it's started, then there is no need for real action – the threat will do.

That fear has thoroughly suffused itself throughout Florida. Organizations like Equality Florida and the Human Rights Campaign have put out statements advising trans people against traveling to Florida, urging them to uproot their lives and flee. Tampa Pride this year was quiet. Queer events have started hiding their addresses out of fear, becoming invite-only, insulating themselves from the wider community.



SL photo: Gary Wilson

Organizations like Metro Inclusive Health and many others felt the way the wind was blowing way back in December and abandoned trans kids to predatory online HRT scams and out-of-state care before the laws even told them they had to.

'Fear suffused the queer community'

There are buses that take kids up north to safer homes. There is a new class of political migrants. Every day, another one of my friends resolves to flee. Most folks I know at least have escape plans, many have abandoned their in-state dream colleges for the ability to live their lives.

This fear has suffused every single level of the queer community in Florida. Lovers afraid again to hold hands in public, rainbow flags quietly taken down, flashing signs on roadsides calling for our deaths.

But the Nazis advertise their events brazenly: details, dates, times. It's all intimidation, it's all intentional.

They want us scared.

And by they I mean DeSantis; And by they I mean Republican legislators who vote along quietly with their venomous allies on hypocritical platforms;

And by they I mean the Democrats up in Washington who sit around and pay their dues to the Rainbow Caucus and have meetings with trans youth like ME, that leave halfway through and take a few pictures for social media and that talk about how much their heart aches for us before sending me back home and not taking a single action to protect kids like me;

When I say THEY I mean the Democrats who campaign on our tears;

When I say THEY I mean the Democrats who fuel this endless cycle of legislative violence against us so that they don't have to make any real change, because the other side will kill us and at least THEY will keep things the same, but complacency is violence too, it's just a little quieter.

But we can't be complacent. We can't let them skate by on fear alone any more – we need to pressure them into real, direct action for our community if they want our votes. And to do that, we need action from our communities.

We need formidable, resilient, PRIDEFUL queer communities that commit to the grassroots organizing that this community was founded upon, so that one day maybe some queer kid won't have to.

'Live in a burning house'

I've thought a lot, as I have thrown myself further and further into this work, about the lives I could have lived if I didn't HAVE to do this. I think about my yesterday art school dreams and my love of film and direction, I think about all of the out of state colleges I could have considered. I think about the many different lives that could have sprung out ahead of me as I enter adulthood and the way that this fight has narrowed my options so severely.

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Sally Jane Black: 'We have to do the work' to build a united movement

By Sally Jane Black

Talk given by Sally Jane Black of the Louisiana Women's Action Committee at the Oct. 7 National March to Protect Trans Youth and Speakout for Trans Lives in Orlando, Florida.

I have lived my entire life here in the South, part of the country so many people have abandoned and written off. But I am standing right here in Florida, seeing all of you marching with us, and I am inspired.

I am honored and inspired to be here in solidarity with you. I am honored and inspired to stand with those of you who are right here on the front-lines of the fightback against fascism here in Florida and the Ron DeSantis regime. Y'all are standing up against DeSantis and against the billionaire backers who pull his strings.

Back home in Louisiana we have our own fascist puppets to worry about. Right now state Attorney General Jeff Landry – an arch-racist scumbag – is running for governor and leading the far-right agenda there. The same capitalists who are funding DeSantis here are funding his campaign. The same people who fund them, they're also funding the Democrats across the country.

The same people are funding the anti-trans laws, the anti-abortion laws, the attacks on our immigrant siblings, and they're attacking all of our social programs and all workers' rights which we've won over the years. And the same people are responsible for endless war and climate change.

We all have this common enemy, the capitalist class. They're very organized, and so far they have been successful at keeping us divided. That's the purpose of these laws and the attacks upon us, to make us hate each other instead of standing united against them.

But there are more of us than there are of them. We outnumber them greatly. Today we've shown them: We're certainly outnumbering the fascists here today.

Today has to be the start of building

a movement that remains united. Today has to be the start of all of us coming together.

'Turn hundreds into millions'

As many of you here saw, our demands go beyond just the attacks on trans people here in Florida. We're standing here today in solidarity with everyone who is under attack by the fascists and the capitalists who back them, the capitalists who coordinated their campaigns around the country. We have to continue that fight. We have to sustain this. We have to build from this. We have to turn the hundreds who have turned out here today into millions. And we can do it.

In order to do that, in order to build a movement that is united, we're gonna have to do the work. We're gonna have to keep showing up. And the un-fun part is we're gonna have to get out there and talk to people who might not yet be on our side, who might not yet know that we are all in the same fight.

We're gonna have to be willing to talk to people who don't yet agree with us. I'm not talking about the fascists or the Klan, but I am talking about people who might not have heard anything about trans rights before today. They might not realize these attacks on trans people are attacks on them as well. We have to be willing to talk to them, and get that message to them.

If they can tell us how to dress and which bathroom to use, they can tell anyone how to dress and which bathroom to use. If they succeed at these




SLL photo: Gary Wilson

attacks on us, they'll succeed with these attacks on everyone. That's what they're doing right now.

I encourage all of you to help us keep building this movement, because in the coming year, we're not just gonna be facing the continued attacks of these fascists and the capitalists. We're also going to be facing massive campaigns from both Democrats and Republicans to draw everybody into the election next year.

I'm not telling you not to vote. You can vote, that's fine, but it's gonna take more than voting. We have to build a movement. We have to grow that movement. We have to bring every progressive group and force out there together, so that no matter who is in office, they will answer our demands.

That's what it's gonna take to beat back the fascists, to beat back the capitalists, and to win our liberation. We owe it to ourselves to do this. 

Historic march for trans youth sweeps Florida city

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cially youth, simply cannot and don't want to do.

We keep us safe

Women in Struggle-Mujeres en Lucha, the initiator of the march, together with several protest organizers and speakers, was the plaintiff in a lawsuit seeking emergency relief from Florida's so-called bathroom ban, which makes it illegal for trans people to use the restroom that aligns with their gender in public buildings and facilities, including airports, rest stops, libraries, schools, and colleges.

The Center for Constitutional Rights and Southern Legal Counsel attorneys represented the plaintiffs. A federal court refused to grant a hearing before the march, dismissing the case on procedural grounds at 5 p.m. the night before. Nevertheless, organizers said the case brought attention to the protest and helped build excitement for Saturday's march.

"We filed the case in the middle district of Florida," said CCR attorney **Zee Scout (she/her)**. "Last night, we learned that a judge disagreed with our case and dismissed our appeal for emergency relief.

"That doesn't mean we're done. Today's march is everything, but above all, it is a message that this movement will continue."

In the days leading up to the march, the event was targeted on social media by anti-trans hate groups. Organizers of the National March prepared a robust people's defense plan to keep the pro-trans crowd safe.

Only a handful of bigots actually showed up to counter-protest, and they were effectively blocked by protest signs and members of the Umbrella Brigade, an Orlando-area abortion-rights group, wielding their rainbow umbrellas. A few locally known white supremacists who showed up to menace the crowd were chased off by the security team.

"The security preparations for the rally and march were very comprehensive," **Anais Kochan (she/her)** told Struggle-La Lucha. "I was proud to join the group securing the march. But the most useful aspect were the incredibly talented people, local groups and orga-

nizations, who came to us with their skills and intelligence, ready to help us pull off a safe event. I loved working with them."

'I can't leave'

The Oct. 7 rally and speakout was co-chaired by **Samira Burnside (she/her)**, editor of *The Queer Notion*, from Tampa, Florida; **Andie Albanito (they/them)** of the Umbrella Brigade in Orlando; **Tsukuru Fors (he/they)** of Red Berets for Queers, from Los Angeles; and **Sally Jane Black (she/her)** of the Louisiana Women's Action Committee, based in New Orleans.

Seventeen-year-old Samira Burnside was a leading organizer of the National March. She said: "There are buses that take kids up north to safer homes. There is a new class of political migrants. Every day, another one of my friends resolves to flee. Most folks I know at least have escape plans. Many have abandoned their in-state dream colleges for the ability to live their lives.

"To be trans and to not be an activist is to live in a burning house and to ignore the smoke. I can't leave all the people who can't leave. I can't leave all the people who can't get their medicine. I can't leave all the poor trans people who could never just pack up and go. I can't leave all the people like me who have known and loved this place since they were born.

"And it's in this resolution that I contend with this simple fact: That Ron DeSantis and those like him are trying to steal my future and trying to steal yours too."

Another Florida activist, **Lindsey Spero (they/he)**, works to support trans youth. In February, they boldly injected their testosterone hormone therapy during a protest in front of the Florida Board of Medicine. Spero said: "Despite the hostility that brings us here, I am surrounded by some of the most brilliantly kind and beautifully bold humans this world has to offer.

"Each person in this space is changing the world simply by breathing. Every day of life, you are defying a state that says you should not exist.

"Trans liberation is a collective goal we share as we seek to heal our bodies, nurture younger generations, and

build healthy, lasting communities while we pursue bold, creative love. But we still gotta fucking pee! Access to bathrooms is a basic human right."

'Trans people are part of the working class'

Melinda Butterfield (she/her), a member of Women in Struggle and co-editor of *Struggle-La Lucha*, said: "We aren't alone in our struggle. Many other communities are being targeted. We have to work to create unity, solidarity, and cooperation. That's why the demands of our action aren't limited to those issues specific to trans people but include the fight against racism, for reproductive rights, for workers' rights, against censorship. Trans people are part of those communities. We are part of the working class.

"We are health care workers, service workers, teachers, tech workers, sex workers. We are Teamsters and Auto Workers, Amazon delivery drivers and Starbucks baristas, screen actors and screenwriters. All too often, we are underpaid and unemployed. We live the reality of intersectionality every day.

"Standing up for trans people is an act of self-defense for all workers. An injury to one is an injury to all."

Christynne Lili Wrene Wood (she/her) is a trans woman who was targeted by a national hate campaign that started earlier this year in the San Diego suburb of Santee.

She asked the crowd: "How would one go about destroying a civilization? Here's what I would imagine: Destroy legitimate public education and dedicated teachers and administrators who have sworn their lives to the ethical and honest portrayal of history, whether it hurts certain feelings or not!

"Point number 2: Replace qualified and ethical medical professionals with 'doctors' that shouldn't even be allowed to attend to houseplants much less human beings, and then threaten the legitimate medical professionals with imprisonment for speaking the truth!"

'We have a common enemy'

Emmett Santisi (he/him) of the Teamsters National LGBTQ+ Caucus said: "Connecticut, where I come from,

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is seen as a safe space for trans people, and I'm seeing a lot of people moving there from places like Florida. But this is a false sense of security, as we are seeing a steady increase in transphobic and fascist propaganda cropping up all over the state.

"Any rights that the queer community has enjoyed were won as a result of grassroots organizing over the course of decades, involving huge numbers of ordinary people like you and me, who refuse to stay in the closet."

Santisi announced that the Pride Caucus of Teamsters Local 1150 was holding a simultaneous trans rights rally in New Haven.

"The same capitalists who are funding DeSantis here are funding Jeff Landry's gubernatorial campaign in Louisiana," explained Sally Jane Black. "The same people who fund them are also funding the Democrats across the country. The same people are funding the anti-trans laws, the anti-abortion laws, the attacks on our immigrant siblings, and they're attacking all of our social programs and all workers' rights, which we've won over the years. And the same people are responsible for endless war and climate change.

"We all have this common enemy, the capitalist class," she said. "They're very organized, and so far, they have been successful at keeping us divided. That's the purpose of these laws and the attacks upon us: to make us hate each other instead of standing united against them.

"But there are more of us than there are of them. We outnumber them greatly. Today we've shown them: We're certainly outnumbering the fascists here today. Today has to be the start of building a movement that remains united," Black concluded.

'DeSantis is the snake's head'

Adria Jawort (she/her) is an Indigenous Two-Spirit trans woman from Montana and executive director of Indigenous Transilience: "People asked: Why are you going all the way down to Florida? Because DeSantis is like the snake's head of anti-LGBTQ and transphobia. Whatever happens here is like a contagious disease; it starts spreading out to all the other states, including my state, Montana.

"I love giving lectures on Indige-

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SLL photos: Left, Sharon Black; above, Gary Wilson

Samira Burnside

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I can't leave this place. To be trans and to not be an activist is to live in a burning house and to ignore the smoke. I've said it before. I can't leave all the people who can't leave, I can't leave all the people who can't get their medicine, I can't leave all the poor trans people who could NEVER just pack up and go, I can't leave all the people, like me, who have known and loved this place since before they were even born.

And it's in this resolution that I contend with this simple fact: that Ron DeSantis and those like him are trying to steal my future and trying to steal yours too, you just can't see it.

They are systematically trying to snatch away the future of every trans person now unable to transition, of every trans youth forced to stay with an unwelcoming parent, of every trans person who has watched their friends leave, of every trans person who has had to leave the place that they love and grew up in behind, they are stealing the future of every person whose lives would have been irrevocably changed by the presence of that person in it, he has stolen the future of every one of our siblings found dead by suicide induced by state-led hate campaigns, and if we do not stop him and the ideology that fuels him and fills his campaign coffers



Adria Jawort

SLL Photo: Gary Wilson

he will steal the future of everyone here today and everyone who watches this tomorrow too.

Will you stand for that? Will you allow that?

Or will you stand against hatred, against intolerance, against bigotry and against authoritarian edicts that threaten our very existence?

And will you stand up for FREEDOM, in all of its beautiful and highly individual manifestations?

Will you stand up in the name of our siblings who lived and died before us, who were unable to breathe the air of equality and walk in dignity as who they were?

And will you stand up for the future generations so that they will only need to hear old stories of a world that would not have embraced them but live unafraid to be their most authentic selves?

And will you stand up for YOU! For YOUR inalienable right to be and voice and express EXACTLY who you are?

We can't let fear pigeonhole us into terrible futures anymore, our future is our own to design and that starts TODAY.

I want Every. Single. One of you to leave here today with a future action in mind and a plan in motion. This march started because Melinda approached me in a crowd and asked me to join her and I sent an email.

I want you to find someone, anyone in the crowd, and I want you to start talking, and I want you to start planning, and I want you to start laying the bricks for future actions. It's just as easy as talking to your neighbor. This, this today, it doesn't change anything, it doesn't move the needle, but what you do, no, what WE do tomorrow? That changes things.

So tell me, are you gonna fight for your future?

Say it with me: I'm GOING to fight.

Say it with me: It WILL be hard.

Say it with me: But we're going to WIN!

Greetings from Cuba: Message of solidarity to the U.S. LGBTQ+ community

On the day of the National March to Protect Trans Youth – held on Oct. 7 in Orlando, Florida – the U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia Delegation received this solidarity message from our friend, Aylen, at Norteamérica ICAP.

Greetings from Cuba, a country that is advancing in the defense and deepening of equal opportunity rights for homosexuals and transsexuals. It is a privilege for me to learn about social problems you face on a daily basis.


Our struggles will be guided by achieving full rights for all people. That is why we defend the right to solidarity, respect, and tolerance. We reject the imposition of patriarchal dogmas, discrimination, and transgression of personal rights. We defend – as a right – the access to health and education without discrimination based on sexual orientation, skin color, social or religious status.

The right to health constitutes a fundamental right for all human beings.

I am an advocate for all social justice for all people, which also depends on respect for free and responsible sexual orientation and gender identity.

Cuba is moving forward in the implementation of the Family Code. We know that law alone does not achieve transformation. But in Cuba, love is the law.

A hug, and let us continue in struggle.

Lesmes Bonachea Aylen, Norteamérica ICAP
North American Division of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples 

Un saludo desde Cuba: un mensaje de solidaridad a la comunidad LGBTQ+ en EE.UU.

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de oportunidades para homosexuales y transexuales. Es un privilegio conocer los problemas sociales que enfrentan ustedes en la vida diaria.

Nuestras luchas están guiadas siempre por alcanzar todos los derechos para todas las personas. Por eso, defendemos los derechos de la solidaridad, el respeto, y la tolerancia. Rechazamos la imposición de dogmas patriarcales, la discriminación, la transgresión, de los derechos personales. Defendemos – como derecho – el acceso a la salud y la educación sin discriminaciones por orientación sexual, color de la piel, estatus social o religioso.

El derecho a la salud constituye un derecho fundamental de todos los seres humanos.

Soy defensora de todas las justicias sociales para todas las personas, que dependen también del respeto a la libre responsable orientación sexual e identidad de género.

Cuba avanza en la implementación de un Código de las Familias. Sabemos que solo la ley no lo logra. Pero, las transformaciones con el amor son posibles.

Un abrazo, seguimos en lucha.

Lesmes Bonachea Aylen, Norteamérica ICAP
División Norteamericana del Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos 

Historic march for trans youth sweeps Florida city

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nous LGBTQ Two Spirit history,” Ja-wort said. “I got an email from the library where I was scheduled to speak at the start of Pride Month saying, ‘We have to cancel your lecture over the new drag law.’ I had testified against the anti-drag bill, saying this law could be used to target trans people. The proponents said, ‘Oh no, it won’t.’

“I knew there had been complaints about my lecture the week before. I figured it was white nationalists. Sure enough, they posted on Reddit, ‘After our campaign of complaints we got this event canceled.’ So the county catered to the whims of actual Nazis. When your policies are on the side of Nazis, you’re on the wrong side of history.”

Tsukuru Fors said: “When we talk about states like Texas and Florida, we Californians sometimes say things


like, ‘Oh, they are horrible states,’ but they are not. Coming here and interacting with all of you, I see this is a beautiful place. It’s just that there are people who want to rule by fear and hate.

“In my antinuclear work, I’ve worked with many displaced people. No one should be displaced. This is your home. You should be able to live here, be safe, be loved, and pursue dreams as who you are. That is why we fight.”

Other speakers included: Andrea Montanez, an immigrant trans woman from Colombia; Gina Davila and Laura Rodriguez of the Tampa 5, student protesters facing felony charges; youth organizer Zander Moriczon; Tatiana Quiroga, executive director of Come Out With Pride Orlando; Simon Rowe, a young trans member of Teamsters Local 79 in Tampa; and Jamila Nicole, Orlando for Gender Equality.

Also: Serena Sojic-Borne, New Orleans Real Name Campaign; Joseph Rosenzweig, Workers Voice Socialist Movement; Lizz Toledo and Gregory E. Williams, Socialist Unity Party; and Karla Correa, Party for Socialism and Liberation. Musical performances were given by Leo Roger and Milo Paul.

“I met a young trans woman who traveled to Orlando by bus from the small Florida town where she lives,” Melinda Butterfield told SLL. “It was her very first protest. She stayed the whole day. When I spoke to her again at the end of the rally, she was very enthusiastic and grateful for the sense of community she found with us. Her bravery was so inspiring to me.

“Providing hope and solidarity to the next generation of fighters is everything. That’s the guarantee that we will win.” 

Worldwide outcry in solidarity with Gaza: STOP THE MASSACRE

Update, Oct. 28 — Over the past two weekends, large-scale demonstrations have occurred globally to oppose the genocide against the Palestinian people by the U.S.-Israeli war machine. Millions of protesters participated in almost every major city worldwide, with turnout reported to be higher than the previous week. Around 100,000 people marched in London alone.

On the day before, Oct. 27, a large protest was held at Grand Central Station in New York City, organized by the group Jewish Voice for Peace. Thousands of demonstrators closed down one of the city's largest transportation hubs.

Meanwhile, the Israeli armed forces have invaded Gaza, according to the New York Times.

CNN reports that U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. James Glynn, who led the battle of Fallujah in Iraq in 2004, "provided his expertise as a lead planner."

A report on the battle of Fallujah to the United Nations Human Rights Council says: "It is almost impossible to list all the crimes that the American forces had committed in Fallujah during these two major offensives, but in brief, these include the deliberate destruction of the whole city [heavy U.S. bombardment, including the use of white phosphorus and depleted uranium shells], killing civilians and wounding persons, torture of the civilian populations, prevention of distribution of food and medicine, all can be easily categorized as war crimes, crimes against humanity and grave violations of international humanitarian law. There has been nothing like the attack on Fallujah since the Nazi invasion and occupation of much of the European continent — the shelling and bombing of Warsaw in September 1939, the terror bombing of Rotterdam in May 1940."

And now Gaza. 📍

— Gary Wilson



London, Oct. 28.

Free, free Palestine!

By Gary Wilson

Oct. 16 — Hundreds of thousands of people around the world have taken part in protests against the war crimes of the U.S.-Israeli war machine.

Over 12,000 people filled New York's Times Square from 42nd Street to 36th Street on Oct. 13 in solidarity with the people of Palestine. They marched to the Israeli mission and the United

Nations despite an army of police and a racist campaign of lies and intimidation by the corporate media and corporate politicians, including the governor and the mayor, who attacked the right to protest.

On Oct. 14, over 15,000 protesters shut down the streets of Chicago.

Other protests have taken place in Atlanta; Baltimore; Dearborn, Michigan; Denver; Los Angeles; New Orleans; San Diego; Washington, D.C.; and dozens of other cities.

Earlier in the week, protests were staged at colleges and universities across the country.

The University of California-Los Angeles, Rutgers University, the University of Virginia, the Ohio State University, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Kent State University, New York University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Illinois, the Arizona State University in Tempe, and Purdue University are among the schools actions were staged, reports, the National Students for Justice in Palestine.

In Europe, Africa, Asia

Around the world, mass protests were also seen in the French cities of Paris and Marseille and the British cities of London, Sheffield, Birmingham, Manchester, and Brighton. Protests were reported in Jakarta, Indonesia; Edinburgh, Scotland; Toronto, Canada; Sydney, Australia; and cities in South Africa.

Demonstrations in support of Palestine also took place in Geneva, Switzerland; Turin and Rome in Italy; and Dublin, Ireland.

Rallies were also reported in Albania, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, Venezuela and Yemen. 📍



PALESTINE



Photo: Tsukuru Fors

Queers say NO to GENOCIDE

By Tsukuru Fors

On Oct. 24, the LA queer community (3 dozens of us anyways) showed up at Rep. Gomez’s office to let it be known that queers stand firmly against the genocide of more than 2 million Palestinians.

The legacy of our community is standing up for justice and human rights for all. As a trans non-binary person fighting for the liberation of our siblings, I cannot stand idly by and let this atrocity unfold in front of our very eyes. It is our fight as well. IT IS UP TO US TO STOP THIS GENOCIDE.

- #NoPrideinGenocide
- #NoPrideinApartheid
- #NoPrideinOccupation

We will not back down. We will keep fighting till we win. The Palestine Liberation is our liberation!!! 🏳️‍🌈



San Diego ‘All OUT FOR GAZA!’ protest, Oct. 15.

SLL photo: Gloria Verdieu



Baltimore, Oct. 13.

SLL photo

Bronx march



SLL photo: Lallan Schoenstein

By Bill Dores

Several hundred people took to the street on Fordham Road from Congressman Richie Torres’ office and marched to the U.S. military recruiting station on Grand Concourse on Oct. 24. The response from people on the sidewalks and in cars in New York’s poorest borough was overwhelmingly supportive. There wasn’t a single heckler or hostile remark. Meanwhile, Representative Torres was not in his office. He was away addressing a well-heeled crowd in the wealthy neighborhood of Riverdale. 🏳️‍🌈

A week of actions in Atlanta

By Lizz Toledo

Oct. 22 — All over Atlanta, anti-racist, anti-imperialist, and anti-Zionist activists took over the streets despite the attempts by the APD and the Georgia State Patrol to surround us and get us off the streets. “Whose streets, our streets?” chants rang out from downtown Atlanta to the Israeli Consulate to Piedmont Park.

Families, youth, Jews, Palestinians, BLM, and LGBTQ+ united against the Israeli terrorist state. “Netanyahu, you can’t hide; we charge you with genocide.”

Placards like “Israel bombs hospitals” and “End all aid for Israel’s crimes” clearly expressed the need for unity in the U.S. in support of Palestine.

The lies that the U.S. and its paid Israeli clients are telling were chal-

lenged by many speakers, particularly the one about the number of deaths of settlers allegedly killed by Hamas. “Where are the bodies?” When were the funerals for the 1,200 people killed by Hamas?

Civil rights icon Mukasa Dada, who traveled from Alabama, would have been arrested had it not been for the intervention of the activists who took to the streets and surrounded the cop car chanting, “Let him go, leave him alone.” After a few tense moments, the cop told Brother Mukasa he was free to go.

The legendary activist, community organizer, and leader in the struggle for rights for African people around the world said, “What can you expect? These cops were trained by the Zionist occupiers in Israel. They wanted to arrest me for demanding that Israel stop



Photo: Al-Manar

bombing hospitals.”

The pressure against the U.S.-Israeli war machine must continue. It’s the one thing we can do here in the imperialist center and around the world to end the occupation and genocide of Palestine.

Free Free Palestine!



Protesters shut down Grand Central Station, New York City, Oct. 27.

Louisiana: Which way forward for the anti-Landry movement?

By Gregory E. Williams

Dismal statistics

Mothers, neonates, and infants die at high rates in Louisiana. That's been documented for years. A 2023 report by the United Health Foundation shows that it's getting worse: They ranked Louisiana 48 out of 50 states for worst health outcomes for women and children. The death rates are increasing faster than national averages. The only states ranking lower are Arkansas and Mississippi.

The data from 2016 to 2021 reveal that, for Louisiana, infant mortality increased by 5%. Child mortality increased by 16%. The Louisiana Department of Health reported in 2019 that Louisiana ranks 47 out of 48 states for maternal mortality.

These are dismal statistics, and they contain within themselves all the other dismal statistics relating to the state, like a hellishly repeating fractal. Reflected here is all the systemic racist violence (the death rates are much higher for Indigenous and Black mothers, infants, and children); it reflects the war of the rich on the working class, with poverty being high (poor white people are not doing well here, let it be noted); it reflects the mass incarceration; it reflects the fact that the oil and gas companies are poisoning the water we drink and the very air we breathe.

So, what's the use of a 'war on woke'?

With our quality of life being so low and getting worse, it's hard to fathom how anyone could imagine that things could be made any better by policing who uses what bathroom or censoring classroom discussions of race; such attacks only make our lives worse, as is evident from Ron DeSantis' tenure as Florida's governor.

Nevertheless, far-right bigot Jeff Landry is now governor-elect. He asserted in his victory speech that "today's election says that our state is



Photo: Louisiana Abortion Rights Action Committee

Sept. 12, 2022, march for abortion rights in New Orleans.

united." He wants us to think he has a mandate to rule.

Is that true? Voter turnout hardly demonstrated mass enthusiasm for his Ron DeSantis-style "culture war" politics, centered on attacking trans people and other oppressed groups on behalf of the capitalist class.

He got only about half (51%) of the vote, and that's just the start of the election turnout story. Very low voter turnout meant that only 35.8% of the state's 3 million registered even went to the polls. In Orleans Parish, voter turnout was just 27%. Put another way, 64.2% of registered voters didn't vote. Yet another way: Only 18% of registered voters voted for Landry. So much for a state united around him.

On the other hand, the fascistic right wing was activated, and we know that it only takes a small number of them to shift the balance of power – not least of all because they're well-funded. For example, one person, book-banning Landry lackey Connie Nichols Phillips – who faced a sheriff's department summons for assaulting a library supporter outside of a St. Tammany Parish council meeting – filed over 150 library book complaints in that parish.

Phillips is what has been called a "serial filer." That's typical of the book-banning movement nationally. Nationwide, a mere 11 people filed 60% of library book challenges in 2021-

2022. However, with the backing of Landry, she and the group she co-founded, the St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project, led a successful campaign to ram through a bill to restrict minors' access to library books. The cooked-up controversy was based on scapegoating queer and trans people.

We know who he serves

Landry was a state representative and has been attorney general since 2016. While in office, he

has demonstrated what his politics are about and which class he serves (the rich). As an oil and gas millionaire, Landry has consistently promoted the interests of fossil fuel profits, even as the state suffers catastrophic effects of climate change. He has fomented hatred of Muslims and LGBTQ+ people, even though his own brother is gay (some "family values"). He championed the near-total abortion ban, which is now in effect after the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*. In 2018, he supported a lawsuit jeopardizing Medicaid coverage for some 850,000 people in the state with preexisting conditions.

During the gubernatorial campaign, he stated emphatically that he opposed raising the state's \$7.25 an hour minimum wage and even that the minimum wage should be abolished. That would make his donors happy!

Landry's path to governor's mansion

As the current attorney general, Landry has made a name for himself, energizing the ranks of the far right by attacking oppressed groups and the working class. While acting as the state's top cop, he paved his way to the governor's mansion, using the whole past year – at least – to campaign. He got the coveted Trump endorsement. This year, he and the Louisiana Republican Party paid nearly \$22,000 over

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Saltwater threatens south Louisiana drinking water

By Gregory E Williams

A massive wedge of saltwater is coming up the Mississippi River, threatening drinking water for thousands in south Louisiana. This happened before in 1988, 2012, and 2022, though on smaller scales. The current saltwater intrusion is expected to last far longer — for many weeks. President Joe Biden approved an emergency declaration for the state on Sept. 27.

Freshwater flowing down the river normally prevents denser saltwater from moving upriver from the Gulf of Mexico. However, historic drought conditions affecting the entire Mississippi River Valley have caused low water levels, allowing Gulf water to move north. The long drought is intensified by human (that is, capitalist) driven climate change. Louisiana has gotten almost 20 inches less rainfall this year than usual.

On Sept. 20, saltwater overtopped the underwater barrier — or sill — constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in July. The Corps is currently scrambling to raise it from -55 to -30 feet to buy time.

The Corps also plans to bring in 36 million gallons of water daily to dilute the river water coming into treatment facilities. This will take a lot of boats, and that solution only works for the smaller facilities. To meet the demand of the Carrollton water plant, the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board is planning to construct a \$100-\$250 million pipeline to bring fresh water from upriver. Neighboring Jefferson Parish plans to construct two.

Saltwater in drinking water

In the far south, saltwater has already entered the drinking water for communities in Plaquemines Parish. People there are relying on bottled water distribution centers. The parish's Boothville water treatment facility just obtained a reverse-osmosis system to remove salt. For weeks, the southern end of the parish saw tap

People in Plaquemines Parish are relying on bottled water.



water salinity exceed 1,600ppm, six times the EPA's standard.

Unrelated to the saltwater intrusion — though having the same cause, i.e., drought — the system was plagued by line breaks and boil-water advisories throughout the summer as the shifting of dry ground damaged aging pipes. Saltwater intrusion is one more problem added to the pile.

This is a major environmental justice issue. The poverty level in Plaquemines is 14.5%, three percentage points higher than the national average. Twenty-two percent of the parish population is Black, with 8.4% being Latin American and 1.7% indigenous. The oil and gas industry exploits the parish's working class with Plaquemines being home to multiple refineries.

Initially, the majority of New Orleans drinking water supply was expected to be affected by Oct. 28, impacting about 1 million people. However, as of Oct. 4, the Corps reports that the wedge is moving more slowly. They now expect greater New Orleans facilities like the Carrollton and Gretna plants to remain unaffected until late November. If this new timeline holds, outcomes may be far better.

Pregnant people with health conditions like high blood pressure are at greatest risk. There are also concerns that corrosive saltwater could damage pipes and appliances, as people in Plaquemines have reported. Also troubling: The corrosive saltwater could cause toxic heavy metal releases

in the New Orleans area's antique lead pipes, which are interspersed among newer infrastructure.

Environmental racism

If the water crisis drags on, the NOLA area will be counted among other municipalities whose drinking water supply has been compromised due to systemic class violence and environmental racism. Flint, Michigan, is the well-known example, but Jackson, Mississippi, is even closer. This writer witnessed water gushing up out of the streets in Jackson in 2013 while canvassing with organizers around deceased Jackson mayor, Chokwe Lumumba Sr. In 2023, racist disinvestment continues to make Jackson's water unsafe after climate-change-driven flooding damaged the system in 2022.

Outside the U.S., Basra, Iraq, and Alexandria, Egypt, are experiencing saltwater incursions affecting their water supply. Basra is a city of over 1 million, and Alexandria has more than 5 million residents. It is worrisome that such incursions have happened two years in a row in New Orleans and are now happening in at least two other regions at the same time. Even if the crisis in south Louisiana is largely averted, the lesson is clear: With sea-level rise and an increase in extreme weather, saltwater incursion may be a significant, and expensive, threat for the world's populations living at the nexus of river and sea. 📍

Louisiana: Which way forward for the anti-Landry movement?

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the course of a few months to Trump's Mar-a-Lago for fundraising events there. Between 2019-2022, his campaign spent \$54,000 at a Trump-owned hotel in Washington, D.C.

He spent \$9 million on TV ads. But all that paid off because he raised far more money than any other candidate. And as we know about U.S. elections, candidates pay to play.

Before all that happened, the Republican Party eschewed norms and endorsed Landry the moment he announced his campaign last year—before any other Republican candidates came forward. The anti-democratic thrust of this is glaring and is even commented upon in the bourgeois press.

What about the Democratic Party?

The Democrats didn't galvanize anybody or offer an alternative vision to Landry's anti-woke campaign. The state party was effectively absent throughout the campaign season. In the days following the election, editorials and news segments are filled with calls for the leadership to resign.

Even if they had expended more energy on their candidate, Shawn Wilson, it is not clear that voters would have been moved. They've had a Democratic governor for eight years and have not seen much change in their lives except for the worse. And he's an anti-abortion Democrat, no less!

We also have a Democrat in the White House. While offering nothing to the millions of people struggling to get by in this country, Biden just got on television and said he wants to spend many more billions of our tax dollars on U.S. wars and the militarized southern border. He's building part of Trump's border wall.

Whatever the case, it is evident that the Democratic Party will not come to save us as Landry and the Republican supermajority state legislature intensify the attacks on working class and oppressed communities. People should vote if they want to. There have been bitter but righteous struggles for voting rights, and the far right is trying to roll back those rights across the country. But we're going to have to organize ourselves in the streets.

What kind of movement is needed?

We can sum up some things we know. A) Quality of life in our state is low and getting worse. B) The "war on woke" will do absolutely nothing to improve our condition and will only lead to more harm; C) There was no groundswell for Landry. He won the governorship by spending a huge amount of money to activate a small section of extreme right-wing voters at a time when much of the state appears to be disillusioned with electoral politics. D) Landry represents the interests of the rich and no one else. We know what his politics are because they have been on display for all the years he has held office. E) With his track record—aided by the Republican supermajorities in the state legislature—he will likely unleash far-reaching and vicious attacks on the population. F) The Democratic Party is not coming to our rescue.

This sounds rather bleak, but there may be some advantages in the situation. We are not without fighting organizations. There is already an anti-Landry movement.

In the aftermath of the Trump-stacked Supreme Court's overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, groups like the Louisiana Abortion Rights Action Committee hit the streets with a clear message about the danger of Landry. The action has not just been in New Orleans. Various groups have protested the attacks on queer and trans people at the capitol in Baton Rouge and confronted Landry at the gubernatorial debate held in Lafayette. Participating organizations in that action included Real Name Campaign NOLA, Reproductive Freedom Acadiana, Louisianahbrah, DSA Southwest Louisiana, and Socialist Unity Party/Struggle - La Lucha.

Local fightbacks alone will not be enough. We can learn from these recent experiences and deepen our connections across the state. We should link up now, not waiting for the attacks to come. But as they do come, we will have more opportunities to carry out exposure of Landry and the racist, sexist, homophobic, and transphobic capitalist class that he represents.

We should be able to join forces with everyone who is struggling, for example, with Rise St. James and other

activists who have bravely struggled and won major victories against the petrochemical plants destroying their communities along the Mississippi River; these are largely working-class and Black activists who are living at the heart of the contradiction, where racism and environmental degradation meet.

We need to be ready to forge connections and find ways to bring working-class people who are not already activists into the movement and to develop them as leaders. We will need a united movement that can serve as a "tribune of the people," as Russian revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin put it; that is to say, a movement, with movement organizations, that can respond to every attack on the people no matter what it is and serve as the people's mouthpiece.

Unionization rates are low in Louisiana, but we do have unions. We'll need them. If Landry is emboldened enough to attack Medicaid again, we'll need all the forces of the working class to fight back.

And God forbid, but what about the next hurricane? What struggles will emerge then with Landry in the governor's mansion?

One more thing. A Louisiana-only movement may not be enough. Landry is part of a wave of far-right, really fascist politicians, not just limited to the U.S. But we can see the trend right in neighboring states like Texas, with Greg Abbott; Tate Reeves in Mississippi; Kay Ivey in Alabama; and DeSantis in Florida. We must build a united movement across the country and especially across the South.

Many of us who are active in the New Orleans LGBTQ+ and women's struggles participated in the Oct. 7 National March to Protect Trans Youth in Orlando, Florida. We met people from across the country and Florida itself. We learned from Floridians' struggles and raised our voices so that they don't have to face DeSantis alone. I am convinced that this type of national organizing is the way forward. I'm convinced that when we fight Landry in the coming period, Orlando and people from many other states will have our backs. 📌

Africa says no to sanctions: Stop strangling Zimbabwe

By Stephen Millies

Over 3,000 Palestinian children have been killed in Gaza by U.S.-made bombs and missiles launched by the U.S.-financed Zionist regime. Gaza and all of Palestine have been under siege for decades, not only by bullets but also by economic sanctions.

Belarus, China, Cuba, Iran, People's Korea, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Venezuela, Yemen, and Zimbabwe have had their economies targeted by U.S. and European banksters for destruction.

In response, the 16-nation Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) designated Oct. 25 as Anti-Sanctions Day. This year, thousands of people marched in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, on Oct. 25 to say No! to this economic warfare.

Zimbabwe Vice President Constantino Chiwenga described the damage inflicted on the African country by these sanctions:

"Since 2001, we estimate that Zimbabwe has lost or missed over 150 billion U.S. dollars through frozen assets, trade embargoes, export and investment restrictions from potential bilateral donor support, development loans, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank balance of payment support, and commercial loans."

Since 15 million people live in Zimbabwe, these sanctions have cost every person living in the African country \$10,000. Zimbabwe's "crime" was for Africans to reclaim their land from the colonial settlers who stole it.

That should have happened in the United States in 1865 following the Civil War. Justice demanded that the plantations be taken over by the Africans who tilled the land and the Indigenous nations that it was stolen from.

Capitalists stopped this from happening because they wanted to exploit Black labor instead. Their descendants



Oct. 25 Anti-Sanctions Day march in Harare, Zimbabwe.

are now putting the screws on Zimbabwe and other sanctioned countries.

Solidarity in Brooklyn

In solidarity with Anti-Sanctions Day, the December 12th Movement held a meeting at Sistas' Place in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. Three members of D12 were in Zimbabwe attending the Anti-Sanctions march and other activities.

Lateefah Carter of D12 chaired the meeting. A BreakThrough News video was shown featuring Rutendo Matinyarare, chairperson of the Zimbabwe Anti-Sanctions Movement (ZASM). Eugene Puryear and Rania Khalek interviewed him.

Matinyarare described how, in its first decade, independent Zimbabwe built 5,700 schools. Zimbabwe was attacked after war veterans who liberated the country started to take over the settler-owned farms.

President George W. Bush — who let Black and poor people drown and starve in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina — issued "targeted sanctions" against Zimbabwe. Bush was joined by what Rutendo Matinyarare called the "Berlin Conference Cabal," meaning those European countries that divided up Africa in that infamous 1884-1885 meeting.

Colette Pean pointed out that settlers had stolen 86% of Zimbabwe's land. Despite the sanctions, Zimbabwe has

built hydroelectric dams and shared development projects equally among its 10 provinces.

Pean, a December 12th member, said that Zimbabwe has had bumper harvests the last three years. Good news about Africa like this doesn't find its way into the corporate media.

Roger Wareham of D-12 pointed out how the United States supports Britain, Zimbabwe's former colonial overlord that called the country "Rhodesia." The people of Zimbabwe waged a nearly 20-year-long "Chimurenga" liberation war to win their freedom.

The U.S. Senate voted in 1971 to allow imports of chrome from "Rhodesia" in violation of United Nations sanctions against the settler regime. The Senate now helps to impose sanctions on independent Zimbabwe.

Roger Wareham said Zimbabwe is hurt by the "brain drain" of health workers and other skilled people, many of whom work in Britain.

U.S. and other capitalists now want to grab Zimbabwe's large lithium reserves, vital to making batteries for electric cars. December 12th Movement member Vinson Verdree said Zimbabwe won't let its lithium be stolen. The country will build a battery plant and other facilities to process the raw material.

Despite the sanctions and the lies in the media, Zimbabwe is moving forward. [@](#)



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Low-wage workers of the world, unite!

By Gary Wilson

Lenin's "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism" was written and published during World War I to show that the war was imperialist on all sides. Lenin also exposed the Second International's betrayal. The leading socialist parties abandoned international working-class solidarity to give support to their own governments in the war.

Lenin denounced the opportunism and social chauvinism of Karl Kautsky and the leaders of the Social Democratic parties. The betrayal, however, was not simply blamed on flawed leaders. Behind these leaders stood material interests that are based on larger economic forces.

Colonialism and imperialism had oppressed, colonized, and enslaved peoples around the globe. They had been robbed of their land, resources, and culture.

In "Imperialism," Lenin finds the root of the betrayal in imperialist superprofits.

Lenin writes that "capitalism has now singled out a handful of exceptionally rich and powerful states which plunder the whole world ... Obviously, out of such enormous superprofits (since they are obtained over and above the profits which capitalists squeeze out of the workers of their 'own' country), it is possible to bribe the labor leaders and the upper stratum of the labor aristocracy. And that is just what the capitalists of the 'advanced' countries are doing: they are bribing them in a thousand different ways, direct and indirect, overt and covert."

The class struggle

The exploitative relationship between imperialist monopoly capitalism and the working class and oppressed peoples constantly shifts as conditions evolve. In its drive for profits, monopoly capitalism is always seeking new ways to exploit workers as the economic and political landscape transforms.

Even as workers organize and fight to improve working conditions and increase wages, the system undermines



United Auto Workers march through Detroit, on Sept. 15, 2023. Second-tier auto workers start at \$16 an hour.

those gains for the benefit of the capitalist class.

In the current era, advances in science and technology have dramatically increased the productive capacity of workers in industry and agriculture — especially in robotics, computer-aided design/manufacturing, energy production, health care, transportation and logistics, automated warehouses, self-driving trucks, and AI. These developments have allowed monopoly corporations to reshape global production networks and supply chains.

They have incorporated hundreds of millions of low-wage workers worldwide into industry and services. This globalization has broken down many borders, internationalizing jobs and wages. By accessing labor in the Global South, monopolies are driving down wages and benefits of workers in the imperialist industrialized countries. The scientific-technological revolution has thus enabled a new phase of exploitation and oppression. This relentless pursuit of profit through global labor arbitrage impacts the working class everywhere.

Globalization drives migration

Global labor arbitrage means moving jobs to countries with low wages and where business costs (such as environmental regulations) are inexpen-

sive. At the same time, impoverished workers migrate to countries with higher-paying jobs.

In the past, the imperialist powers were limited in their ability to exploit workers by geographical constraints. However, advances in science and technology have removed these barriers. Multinational corporations can now easily tap into labor forces across the entire planet. Workers anywhere can potentially be subjected to super-exploitation in the drive for ever greater profits.

The scientific-technological revolution has enabled a new form of boundary-less capitalist exploitation. The tools of high-tech globalization have allowed exploitation by monopoly capitalists to become truly global in reach. Geography and borders no longer restrict their ability to maximize profits through labor exploitation worldwide.

When Lenin was writing in 1916, imperialist export of capital, colonialization, and its superprofits were used to cultivate an opportunist section of labor leaders and politicians in the imperialist countries. While that has continued, it is being scaled back.

With the global exploitation of labor, the export of capital and the drive for

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Low wage workers unite

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imperialist superprofits are going in another direction. Today, it is used to lower living standards for all workers in imperialist countries, not just the most oppressed. The top tiers of workers and parts of the middle class are being down-graded. Job security and social benefits are being dismantled. Rather than pacifying a privileged layer of workers, imperialist monopoly capital now uniformly undercuts wages, benefits, and rights across the working class in the imperialist countries. It aims to maximize profits globally.

The continued global integration of production and the rapid expansion of the international working class has made cross-border solidarity an urgent necessity. As more aspects of work become globally interconnected, workers around the world are facing common challenges of exploitation and oppression under imperialist capitalism.

The only way to fight back is through unified resistance across all borders. The growing ranks of international labor from all corners of the world have shared class interests. Workers need to build solidarity networks across borders to confront the forces of monopoly capital.

In the U.S.

Over the last four decades, most of the working class in the United States has experienced a continuous erosion of wages and benefits. Throughout these 40 years, workers struggled unsuccessfully against an unrelenting and oppressive union-busting campaign. Union membership has been severely eroded. The United States now has the lowest union membership rate (about 10% of workers) of any of the imperialist industrialized countries.

Wages have stagnated or declined in the U.S. since 1973. Real (inflation-adjusted) wages have fallen by 4-10% since then. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, women still make 20% lower wages. The U.S. poverty rate rose to 12.4% in 2022 from 7.8% in 2021, the largest one-year jump on record, the



At the Harriet Tubman Center, Sept. 24.

SLL photo

'Cuba in Africa' cheered at Los Angeles showing

By Scott Scheffer

"Cuba in Africa," a new documentary film by Negash Abdurahman, was shown at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice in Los Angeles on Sept. 24. The meeting, which included reports from a recent delegation to Cuba, was opened up by Carlos Sirah of the Black Alliance for Peace and Jefferson Azevedo of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice.

The film, "Cuba in Africa," is currently being screened at film festivals. It celebrates the long history of Cuban solidarity with the African struggle against imperialism, including their military intervention that helped bring about the downfall of racist

apartheid in South Africa. Abdurahman answered questions by Zoom after the film.

Pastor Kelvin Sauls of Sanctuary of Hope (SOH) joined the meeting from South Africa via zoom. He introduced the youth leaders from the SOH delegation to Cuba. Each of them shared their enthusiasm and astute observations about their trip. It was clear from their talks that these young people were already scholars of the revolutionary process underway in Cuba. A short video of the visit was shown as well.

There was also an announcement about Los Angeles' role in the national effort to get Cuba #OFFTHELIST.

The Black Alliance for Peace and Let Cuba Live-LA co-sponsored the meeting.



Census Bureau reported Sept. 12. At the same time, poverty among children has more than doubled.


The summer of 2023 has been marked by a wave of strikes across the United States. Workers in a variety of industries, including health care, education, manufacturing, and transportation, have walked off the job to demand better pay, working conditions, and benefits. Rising inflation has seriously cut wages.

In order to win, these strikes require unity across the working class through solidarity with other labor and community organizations. That

means fighting for equality for Black, Latinx, Asian, and Native peoples; fighting for equal pay for equal work for women workers; defending equality for lesbian, gay, bi, trans, and queer workers; equality for immigrant and undocumented workers.

Labor must build these alliances and show support beyond just their membership. Isolated strikes will struggle. But strikes backed by a united working-class front can win. Solidarity is key.

To borrow a phrase:

Low-wage workers of the world, unite! 

Declaración de Mujeres en Lucha sobre Palestina

Mujeres en Lucha – Women in Struggle, organización basada en los Estados Unidos y miembro de la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres, condena el Genocidio que el estado asesino de Israel está cometiendo contra la población palestina en la franja de Gaza. Población compuesta en su mayoría, de niños y niñas y de mujeres.

Condenamos asimismo la actuación criminal del gobierno de los Estados Unidos que hipócritamente repite hasta el cansancio la justificación de ayudar a la “defensa” de Israel, enviándole poderosos armamentos para que de este modo, Israel tenga la capacidad de arrasar este territorio invadido que constituye la cárcel más grande del planeta. Pero, ¿qué más se puede esperar de un país como los Estados Unidos que quemaron vivos a decenas de miles de japoneses en Hiroshima y Nagasaki? ¿Que lanzó bombas de fósforo blanco contra el pueblo vietnamita? ¿Quién le proveyó el fósforo blanco, prohi-

bido por las Leyes Internacionales, a Israel para usarlas contra Gaza y el Líbano según reportó ONG Human Rights Watch (HRW)?

Resulta además asqueante e indignante que para justificar masacrar a un pueblo utilicen como escudo el fervor religioso de las personas alrededor del mundo.

Rechazamos y condenamos asimismo, el silencio de los gobiernos que por intereses económicos excusan y condonan este genocidio.

Nos abrazamos sin embargo al pueblo palestino y apoyamos su justa lucha de Resistencia que no ha cesado desde el inicio de la invasión y ocupación por el sionismo israelí. Recalamos que la Lucha Armada en contra de la subyugación de un pueblo colonizado, su derecho a resistir de la forma que lo crea conveniente y posible, es válida dentro de las Leyes Internacionales.

¡Viva Palestina Libre!

Huelga estudiantes Recinto de Ciencias Médicas

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

En esta colonia, la administración gubernamental dirigida por el Partido Nuevo Progresista, un partido que busca la anexión a los Estados Unidos, y que cada día más demuestra su carácter mafioso, ha recibido un mensaje contundente de los estudiantes de Ciencias Médicas.

Y es que en la Escuela de Medicina de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, que es la universidad pública del país, se había designado a una rectora que había sido rechazada anteriormente por la misma administración de la Escuela, por actos de corrupción. Pero como es una afiliada muy activa del partido en el gobierno, las presiones políticas ganaron haciendo que se volviera a nombrar.

Ante esto, los estudiantes de me-

dicina iniciaron una huelga a la que eventualmente se adhirieron médicos, sindicatos, profesores, trabajadores del recinto y público en general.

La importancia de la exigencia es que por la presencia en la institución de esta rectora, la Escuela podía perder su acreditación. Ya por situaciones administrativas, el año pasado se perdió la acreditación del Programa de Neurocirugía. Esto quiere decir que tardarán años en que se vuelva a graduar una clase de neurocirujanos. Ya aquí hay una gran escasez de médicos especialistas, la gente tiene que esperar meses para tener una cita. Incluso quienes pueden, optan por irse a los Estados Unidos a recibir sus servicios de salud.

Al gobierno no le importa la salud ni el bienestar del pueblo, todo lo contrario. Su misión es enriquecerse a cos-



Foto de Richard Gutiérrez/The San Juan Daily Star

ta de ese mismo pueblo. Pero gracias al activismo de estos estudiantes, la administración tuvo que remover a la rectora corrupta y así salvar el Recinto.

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio



Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci

Un saludo desde Cuba: un mensaje de solidaridad a la comunidad LGBTQ+ en EE.UU.

El día de la Marcha Nacional para Proteger a la Juventud Trans – celebrada el 7 de octubre en Orlando, Florida – la Delegación de Amigos Estadounidenses Contra la Homofobia y la Transfobia recibió este mensaje de solidaridad de nuestra amiga Aylene, en Norteamérica ICAP.

Un saludo afectuoso desde Cuba, país que avanza en la defensa y profundización de los derechos por la igualdad

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