

THINK GLOBAL >>ACT GLOBAL

23 MARCH 2024
BIRKBECK, UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Internationalism for new times

10.30am-11am Registration

11am-12.30pm

The many faces of imperialism and colonialism in the 21st century *Ending impunity, confronting hypocrisy and supporting universal human rights of all*

John McDonnell MP • Mira Hammad Palestinian human rights lawyer • Elia J. Ayoub The Fire These Times collective • Yuliya Yurchenko Ukraine Solidarity Campaign • Chair: Mohammed Elnaiem The Decolonial Centre

Russia and Israel are two states that practice settler colonialism outside of their international borders. Yet, this commonality in shared practices of dispossession is rarely acknowledged let alone seriously discussed. In a moment of spiralling war crimes and genocide this panel will discuss how we dismantle imperial and colonial systems, end impunity for all those that commit crimes against humanity, confront hypocrisy and reclaim a genuinely universal human rights system. It will place these questions in a broader international and historical context amid the ongoing global threat from authoritarian nationalism.



12.30pm-1.15pm Lunch / Stalls / Informal discussion

1.15pm-2.45pm

What does a 'climate internationalism' look like?

Hamza Hamouchene Transnational Institute • Cleodie Rickard Global Justice Now • Harpreet Kaur Paul Tipping Point • Chair: John Feffer Foreign Policy in Focus

Climate change demands internationalist thinking and collective action. Yet as the crisis deepens, we face various new challenges. The race to secure critical resources risks new imperialist dynamics. At the same time, the far right is insisting on the global north's right to use fossil fuels. In this context how do we end the fossil fuel era globally?

1.15pm-2.45pm

System change in the 21st century: what comes after neoliberalism?

James Meadway economist, Macrodose podcast • Mary Kaldor professor of Global Governance at LSE • Chair: Luke Cooper Another Europe is Possible

How do we make sense of this unfolding moment of global system change? Is neoliberalism over? Is 'what comes after' neoliberalism necessarily better? This session will discuss how we find a new and transformative path ahead in a world in crisis.

1.15pm-2.45pm

Migration, decolonisation and dismantling borders

Co-facilitation: Munya Radzi Regularise • Julia Tinsley-Kent Migrants Rights Network • Seema Syeda European Alternatives

Europe's past and present political challenges can't be addressed without a deeper understanding of colonialism, its influence on migration patterns, and what anti-colonial politics can do to unite migrant communities and allies against oppression. Join in to disrupt and reject established narratives of migration and borders and begin to imagine a world beyond them.

2.45pm-3pm Break

3pm-4.20pm

Trump 2.0? Trumpism and the global democratic crisis

John Feffer Foreign Policy in Focus • **Seema Syeda** Another Europe Is Possible • Chair: **James O'Nions** Global Justice Now

2024 will see over two billion people in 50 countries going to the polls. A fact that has been heralded as the 'biggest election year in history'. Yet, in many of these contests – not least in the United States and India – democracy is hanging by a thread. This session will take stock of Trumpism and its global bedfellows. How do we turn the tide? And how do we work for the best but prepare for the worst?

3pm-4.20pm

Brexit, the economy and the next UK government: what do progressives say?

Zack Polanski Green Party deputy leader • **Laura Parker** Good Law Project, Another Europe is Possible • **Olaf Stando** SNP Socialists • **Klajdi Yem** Young European Movement • Chair: **Ana Oppenheim** Another Europe is Possible

2024 is set to be an important moment of change in UK politics. A Labour or Labour-led government is likely, but with an unpopular leader with no mandate for real change. Public opinion now recognises that Brexit has failed, but will our politics ever catch up? This session will discuss strategy on the European question.

3pm-4.20pm

Peace and justice for all: building solidarity across borders

Raga Makawi Sudanese democracy activist • **Ahmed Abofoul Al-Haq** • **Maxine Betteridge-Moes** New Internationalist magazine

In a world of growing impunity from violent authoritarians, how do we recover an internationalism 'from below' that protects fundamental human rights? Spotighting the conflicts in Israel-Palestine and Sudan, this session will create dialogues across these frontiers with a focus on accountability, global solidarity and securing justice for all.

4.20pm-4.30pm Changeover break

4.30pm-5.15pm

Towards a new internationalism: what next?

This interactive plenary session will review emerging themes from the day and discuss next steps.

5.15pm-6pm

Progressive politics in dangerous times

Clare Short former International Development Secretary
Madhuresh Kumar Global Tapestry of Alternatives
Chair: **Nick Dearden** Global Justice Now



What does a progressive politics with a global, internationalist perspective look like in 2024? This concluding session will consider how lessons from history can inform our approach to the challenges of today, while also recognising the novelty of the situation that we face. With the world requiring a rapid transition away from fossil fuels at a time of growing political crisis and turmoil, how do we link the nexus of issues from human rights to climate transition and social justice to create a paradigm shift?

Speakers

Ahmed Abofoul is an international lawyer and an Advocacy Officer with the Palestinian human rights organisation Al-Haq.



Elia J. Ayoub is an academic, activist and presenter of The Fire These Times podcast. He has written extensively on topics including the politics of justice and transformation in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine.

Luke Cooper a Research Fellow with the LSE Conflict and Civicness Research Group, author of *Authoritarian Contagion: The Global Threat to Democracy*, and co-host of the Another Europe Is Possible podcast.

Nick Dearden is Director of Global Justice Now and author of *Pharmanomics: How Big Pharma Destroys Global Health*.

Mohammed Elnaiem is director of the Decolonial Centre, a recently-established project of the Pluto Educational Trust.

John Feffer is the director of Foreign Policy in Focus at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington DC and author of books including *Right Across the World: The Global Networking of the Far-Right and the Left Response*.



Mira Hammad is a barrister at Garden Court North Chambers specialising in inquests and protest law, and an advocate for Palestinian rights.

Hamza Hamouchene is North Africa Programme Coordinator at the Transnational Institute and co-editor of *Dismantling Green Colonialism: Energy and Climate Justice in the Arab Region*.

Harpreet Kaur Paul is a human rights lawyer and consultant specialising in climate justice policy and works with Tipping Point UK, a climate justice organisation which she co-founded.



Madhuresh Kumar is an Indian climate justice activist-researcher currently based in Paris and a facilitator of the civil society network Global Tapestry of Alternatives.

Raga Makawi is a Sudanese democracy activist and is the Sudan project coordinator with the LSE Conflict and Civicness Research Group.



James Meadway presents the Macrodose podcast. He was economics adviser to John McDonnell as Shadow Chancellor and has been chief economist at the New Economics Foundation.



John McDonnell is a veteran of the Labour left, was Shadow Chancellor from 2015 to 2020 and has been the Labour MP for Hayes and Harlington since 1997.

Laura Parker is Chief of Staff at the Good Law Project and a member of the Another Europe Is Possible national committee.

Zack Polanski is the Deputy Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales and is a member of the London Assembly, for which he's standing to be re-elected this May.



Munya Radzi is a founding member of Regularise, a grassroots collective of migrants and British citizens that seeks to improve the quality of life of all undocumented migrants.

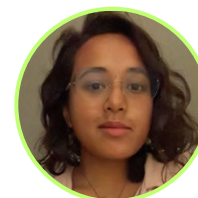
Cleodie Rickard leads Global Justice Now's campaign work on global trade and investment agreements and has a background in climate movement organising.

Klajdi Selimi is President of Young European Movement UK, which promotes the European project and youth participation in it.

Clare Short was Secretary of State for International Development from 1997 to 2003, and is author of books including *An Honourable Deception? New Labour, Iraq, and the Misuse of Power*.

Olaf Stando is the International Officer for Young Scots for Independence, a member of SNP Socialists and works for the National Union of Students.

Seema Syeda is co-author of *Creeping Fascism*, a campaigner at Another Europe Is Possible and Head of Communications at European Alternatives.



Julia Tinsley-Kent is the Policy and Strategic Communications Manager at the Migrants' Rights Network where she oversees campaigns and political education.

Yuliya Yurchenko is a Senior Lecturer in Political Economy at Greenwich University and an activist with the Ukraine Solidarity Campaign and with the leftwing Ukrainian organisation Sotsialnyi Rukh.

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Internationalism for new times

Free markets were once sold as the route to global prosperity but now that spell is broken. Yet, the contours of the new system in formation are uncertain and the role of progressives complicated. The future we face is full of dangers as well as opportunities. Environmental disasters are unfolding in front of our eyes. In too many places it is the far right - threatening a new age of calamity and war - that are seizing the initiative.

In the resistance to these dangers a vibrant internationalism is forming for these new times. 2024 may mark a major turning point for this tumultuous new era. Two billion people go to the polls. The choice in most of these contests is stark. Global democracy is in genuine peril.

So what do we do? How do we make sense of - and respond to - the dramatic changes that are unfolding? What does internationalism in these new times look like? How do we need to change? And what practical steps should we take?

THINK GLOBAL ACT GLOBAL brings together activists, practitioners and thinkers from around the world to work together on finding answers to these questions. It is a process, not just an event. It is about building a movement of hope for new times.

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