

# Kick cops and corporations out of Pride!

**WWP** Pressure is building to kick cops and corporations out of Pride marches and events in LGBTQ2S+ communities across the U.S.

Activist resistance to the state and to capitalism is intensifying this year, the 50th anniversary of the historic Stonewall Rebellion in New York City, which was sparked by a violent police raid.

For five decades the New York Police Department has refused to apologize for the harassment, the raid, the beatings and arrests at the Stonewall Bar in 1969. Finally, on June 6, current commissioner James O'Neill issued a vague "sorry."

His apology was promptly rejected by organizers of NYC's alternate Reclaim Pride as a symbolic public relations stunt to frame cop brutality and state punishment of LGBTQ2S+ people as happening only in the past.

The very real, current impact of cops and the state on the lives of LGBTQ2S+ people was tragically confirmed the day after that perfunctory apology.

Layleen Polanco Xtravaganza, an

Afro-Latinx transgender woman, died June 7 in solitary confinement in New York City's notoriously abusive Rikers Island jail. She was locked up because she couldn't afford bail for a misdemeanor charge. (Workers World, June 13)

A few facts from this June alone show the current reality of state anti-LGBTQ2S+ violence.

On June 1, a trans woman from El Salvador died after seven weeks in ICE detention without medical care. On June 2, a Tennessee cop called for "the government" to execute "gay people." (think. progress) On June 8, armed neo-Nazis threatened Detroit Pride while police provided an escort for the white supremacists. On June 22, at St. Pete Pride in Florida, a cop contingent marched close behind the Sex Workers Outreach Project, sparking fears about safety and surveillance.

### Returning to radical roots

But alternate Pride organizers are challenging the state and returning to the radical roots of the Stonewall Rebellion.



At Bronx Pride, June 23.

WW PHOTO: HENRY LUNA

On June 9, in Sacramento, Calif., hundreds of demonstrators blocked the entrance to that city's festival, carrying "No Cops at Pride" and "Black Trans Lives Matter" signs. Malkia Devich Cyril, a queer activist and leader in Movement for Black Lives, has denounced the police as "a force of terror for queer and trans communities." (Guardian, June 13)

The new Pride is linked to the revolutionary acts of resistance in the three-day Stonewall street battles of 1969 led by trans people of color,

gender-nonconforming homeless youth, queer draft resisters to the Vietnam War, Black gay fighters against racism and militant sex workers using their high heels as weapons.

The Stonewall Uprising challenged both big business with Mafia ties and the paid-off police department serving the state.

Now the movement to reclaim Pride is again challenging the cops — part of the "armed bodies" of the state — and also

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Pride Means Fight Back!

WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

A poster image of the banner of the Gay Caucus of YAWF (Youth Against War & Fascism of Workers World Party), at a NYC Christopher Street Liberation Day march in the early 1970s, photographed at today's Stonewall Inn.

## Many histories converged at Stonewall Rebellion, 1969

By Leslie Feinberg

Gay and lesbian historians who view history from a materialist vantage point have emphasized that while same-sex affection and sexuality appear to have existed in all epochs of human society, the conditions of capitalism were required for the development of a distinct political and social minority identity: gay and lesbian.

But Stonewall was not just a product of capitalism, but of national oppression as well.

The historians accurately describe the Stonewall

Rebellion as a qualitative development that is a social product of capitalism.

They point out that the ascendancy of capitalist production in the United States created a vast class of "wage slaves" — workers who owned nothing but their ability to labor. The organizing of a large-scale workforce also centralized laborers, creating large-scale

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WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Leslie Feinberg speaking for freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal, Town Hall, New York City, 1999.

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ACT NOW

Save Mumia’s eyesight and demand his release!

Sign the following petition at [tinyurl.com/mumiaeyes](http://tinyurl.com/mumiaeyes).

Mumia’s vision has rapidly deteriorated. It has been confirmed that Mumia currently suffers from conditions that seriously threaten his eyesight. These include glaucoma, vitreous detachment and cataracts in both eyes. This threat seriously jeopardizes his life and wellbeing, as well as his journalistic profession.

An outside eye doctor is recommending surgical procedures to remove the cataracts on both eyes, but SCI-Mahanoy Dr. Courtney Rodgers is delaying scheduling the needed examinations and surgeries with Mumia’s outside ophthalmologist. Rodgers works for Correct Care Solutions, a notorious for-profit prison and immigration detention medical company that, according to the Project on Government Oversight, has been sued at least 1,395 times with complaints alleging a range of charges, including wrongful death, malpractice and inadequate health care.

Meanwhile Mumia faces increasing nerve damage to his eyes. He is unable to read or do other things requiring normal vision. This delay echoes the years of delays Mumia experienced getting treatment for hepatitis C. By the time the DOC was finally forced by federal court to treat Mumia with the Hep C cure, it was too late to prevent cirrhosis of the liver.

African Americans are 1.5 times more likely to develop cataracts than the general population and five times more likely to develop related blindness.

Not only is his overall health deteriorating as he is threatened by permanent blindness, his failure now to receive the immediate attention he requires is cruel and unusual punishment, especially as an innocent man who has been unjustly incarcerated for almost four decades.

Furthermore, considering his multiple ailments and the threat of blindness, we demand that Pennsylvania officials allow a real and humane “compassionate release” now, not

the “fake compassionate release” of transfers from prison to care facilities that Pennsylvania will only grant when a prisoner is within a year of dying. Mumia’s family, friends and supporters are ready now to provide the health care Mumia requires if he were home.

Mumia is not alone in enduring these cruel and unusual assaults on the health of those aging and ill behind prison walls. According to Bureau of Justice statistics, over 130,000 of U.S. prisoners are elderly, a 400% increase between 1993 and 2013. Mumia himself has noted the significant number of those confined at his own prison who suffer similar life-threatening illnesses that require immediate attention.

Across the nation elderly prisoners experience a torturous journey toward the end of their lives without any “compassionate release.” Once again, as we fight for Mumia’s right to treatment and for his release, we fight for the freedom of all the imprisoned from mass incarceration’s cruel and unusual conditions.

Mumia Abu-Jamal should receive cataract surgery immediately!

Mumia should be released now not only because he can receive better health care outside of prison, but also because he is an innocent man!

TAKE ACTION

1. Sign the petition at [tinyurl.com/mumiaeyes](http://tinyurl.com/mumiaeyes).
2. Call: Dr. Courtney P. Rodgers — (570)773-7851 and SCI Mahanoy Superintendent Theresa A. Delbalso — (570)773-2158. **Tell them to approve Mumia’s cataract surgery immediately.**
3. Call: PA Gov. Tom Wolf — (717)787-2500; PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel — (717)728-2573; Philadelphia DA Larry Krasner — (215)686-8000. **Tell them to release Mumia Abu-Jamal NOW because he can receive better health care outside of prison and also because he is an innocent man!**



Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans

people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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National Office

147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor  
New York, NY 10011  
212.627.2994  
[wwp@workers.org](mailto:wwp@workers.org)

Atlanta

PO Box 18123  
Atlanta, GA 30316  
404.627.0185  
[atlanta@workers.org](mailto:atlanta@workers.org)

Austin

[austin@workers.org](mailto:austin@workers.org)

Boston

284 Amory St.  
Boston, MA 02130  
617.522.6626  
[boston@workers.org](mailto:boston@workers.org)

Bay Area

P.O. Box 22947  
Oakland, CA 94609  
510.394.2207  
[bayarea@workers.org](mailto:bayarea@workers.org)

Buffalo, N.Y.

335 Richmond Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
716.883.2534  
[buffalo@workers.org](mailto:buffalo@workers.org)

Charlotte

[charlotte@workers.org](mailto:charlotte@workers.org)

Cleveland

P.O. Box 5963  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
216.738.0320  
[cleveland@workers.org](mailto:cleveland@workers.org)

Durham, N.C.

804 Old Fayetteville St.  
Durham, NC 27701  
919.322.9970  
[durham@workers.org](mailto:durham@workers.org)

Houston

P.O. Box 3454  
Houston, TX 77253-3454  
713.503.2633  
[houston@workers.org](mailto:houston@workers.org)

Knoxville, Tenn.

[knoxville@workers.org](mailto:knoxville@workers.org)

Minneapolis

[minneapolis@workers.org](mailto:minneapolis@workers.org)

Pensacola, Fla.

[pensacola@workers.org](mailto:pensacola@workers.org)

Portland, Ore.

[portland@workers.org](mailto:portland@workers.org)

workers.org/wwp

Philadelphia

P.O. Box 34249  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
610.931.2615  
[phila@workers.org](mailto:phila@workers.org)

Salt Lake City

801.750.0248  
[slc@workers.org](mailto:slc@workers.org)

San Antonio

[sanantonio@workers.org](mailto:sanantonio@workers.org)

San Diego

[sandiego@workers.org](mailto:sandiego@workers.org)

Tucson, Ariz.

[tucson@workers.org](mailto:tucson@workers.org)

Washington, D.C.

[dc@workers.org](mailto:dc@workers.org)

West Virginia

[WestVirginia@workers.org](mailto:WestVirginia@workers.org)

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Workers World  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
New York, NY 10011  
Phone: 212.627.2994  
E-mail: [ww@workers.org](mailto:ww@workers.org)  
Web: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)



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Editor: Deirdre Griswold

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Gutierrez, Betsey Piette, Gloria Rubac

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New York, N.Y. 10011.

# Eddie Africa released after 40 years

By **Betsey Piette**  
Philadelphia

MOVE 9 member Edward (Goodman) Africa was released on parole June 21, following prior releases of Debbie, Michael, Janet and Janine Africa. MOVE 9 members Merle and Phil died in prison.

Edward Africa was born and raised in Philadelphia. Prior to joining MOVE, he experienced the street oppression faced by many Black youth in the city. Initially resisting because MOVE had white members, Eddie eventually began to work with MOVE “because what they were giving me was more complete than anything I had ever known.” In and out of jail from the age of 16 in 1963 until he joined MOVE in 1973, Eddie was then frequently stopped by Philadelphia cops. When he refused to be searched, he was beaten when he resisted. As a



From far left: Fred Riley; Carlos Africa; Eddie Africa; his son, Little Eddie; daughter-in-law Sukona; and Raymond Africa Jr.

result, he was charged with assault and resisting arrest. He was arrested Aug. 8, 1978, during the Philadelphia police assault on MOVE. Eddie wrote about himself: “I’m

one of the MOVE 9. We were each wrongly convicted of murder, assault and conspiracy by the late Judge Edwin S. Malmel and each sentenced to 30 to 100 years in prison.” (onamove.com)

Africa has four grown children and several grandchildren whom he has never been with except for brief prison visits. He will be living with family members upon his release.

He states on the Mobilization4Mumia Facebook page, “I want to say that I had no intentions of becoming a revolutionary; this system encouraged me, pushed me to become a revolutionary; JOHN AFRICA provided the direction.”

Despite serving over 40 of their 30-to-100-year sentences, two remaining MOVE 9 members, Charles and Delbert Africa, remain unjustly imprisoned. When recently paroled in May, Janet and Janine Africa stated that they have no cause for celebration until all their brothers are released. □

## CENTENNIAL OF RED SUMMER: A pivotal moment against racist terror

By **Terrea Mitchell**

During the Red Summer of 1919, a wave of white-supremacist terrorist attacks was unleashed on Black Americans. From February to November, white mobs and gangs carried out anti-Black riots and lynchings to uphold the status quo—as they saw it—and keep Black Americans in their place.

While mainstream sources referred to these attacks as “race riots,” they were really acts of “anti-Black collective violence,” according to historian David Krugler in his book, “1919, The Year of Racial Violence: How African Americans Fought Back.” African Americans were not rioting. They were fighting back, counterattacking and repelling violence. They were resisting.

From 1917 to 1923, white mobs destroyed dozens of Black towns and communities, murdering thousands of African Americans, injuring thousands more, and displacing tens of thousands. The year 1919 marked the zenith of these terrorist attacks.

Many catalysts led up to Red Summer: Veterans were returning home from World War I, causing a glut of workers in the job market. Black Americans were migrating en masse from the South to Northern cities. Black sharecroppers in the South were organizing for better pay and to end debt peonage. The “new Negro movement” of the early 1900s was becoming a force to be reckoned with, thanks to African-American veterans and civilians. This was a self-help movement started by Black elites who used respectability politics as a pillar.

### Black veterans on ‘front lines’ against racists

But the overwhelming factor was that returning Black veterans were determined not to go back to dehumanizing, oppressive Jim Crow rule, second-class citizenship and subservience to whites. They brought this spirit back to their communities.

Another popular narrative pushed by politicians and the white media—and reinforced by military intelligence and the Justice Department—was that agitators, namely Bolsheviks and anarchists, were stirring up Black Americans. The 1917 Russian Revolution set off the Red Scare in the West. The uncertainty and trauma of World War I only exacerbated these fears.

There were 39 reported instances of collective acts of anti-Black violence instigated by whites in U.S. cities and rural counties in 1919. They included an attack in Syracuse, N.Y., and several in Harlem, N.Y.

The first large-scale so-called riot occurred in Jenkins County, Ga. Police had gone to an outdoor family gathering

at Carswell Baptist Church and arrested Edmund Scott. They hit him in the face and shot Joe Ruffin in the head, as he was trying to negotiate with them for Scott’s release after agreeing to pay his bond. The ensuing white mob shot and burned Joe’s two youngest sons — a 24-year-old veteran, and 13-year-old Henry.

The most intense fighting took place in Washington, D.C., and Chicago. The greatest number of African Americans were murdered in Elaine, Ark., where Black sharecroppers were organizing to stop exploitation of their labor and debt peonage.

White mobs frequently lynched African Americans. Lynching has enabled whites-only rule to prevail. Dispensing rough justice by collective lynching was the primary motive of racist mobs. It was viewed as a legitimate punishment of African Americans who defied white supremacy.

Collective acts of anti-Black violence in Charleston, S.C., Longview, Texas, and elsewhere aimed to punish Black Americans who defied Jim Crow and asserted their equality with whites. Now the state uses the police and the criminal justice system to oppress and punish African Americans.

When African Americans were attacked, white officials usually handed the victims over to mobs. City and town officials did nothing to quell white violence until it was too late, especially in Washington and Chicago. After days of racist attacks in Chicago, violent encounters later that summer were stopped within hours. Police monitored Black communities and disarmed Black citizens.

### Resistance and armed self-defense

When white mobs marched on Black communities, their members — men and women, veterans and civilians — set up armed posts, checkpoints and blockades to defend their families and property. Many Black folks in Knoxville, Tenn., Elaine, Ark., Washington and Charleston died doing so.

In Charleston, after an evening of mob attacks against Black individuals on May 10, Krugler explains: “Black Charlestonians got wind of the trouble and dispersed a rock-throwing mob. However white violence increased and Blacks continued to defend themselves and also began to retaliate.” Resistance tactics included banding together, carrying weapons, issuing advance warning of approaching mobs and engaging them.

Across the country, Black residents under attack by marauding white mobs responded with individual and collective acts of self-defense. They repelled or



COLLAGE DESIGNED BY TARYN FIVEK

slowed down gangs of white attackers. In many cases, they prevented them from attacking Black neighborhoods. Armed resistance by African-American communities was not an anomaly.

African Americans fought a three-pronged war against white mob violence, a point Krugler crystallizes in his book. On the first front, they mobilized to defend against armed white mobs that formed to drive African Americans from industrial jobs or white neighborhoods, to punish them for their wartime prosperity, to protect white women from alleged crimes committed by Black men and as revenge for perceived or imagined slights against white folks.

On the second front, African Americans battled for the truth about the so-called “riots.” White corporate newspapers and local officials erroneously blamed African Americans for the riots, characterizing self-defense and armed resistance as unprovoked violence against whites.

The media openly and routinely described Black Americans in a racist tone, using bigoted language. The “blame-the-victim” narrative, still used today when police execute a Black, Brown, Indigenous or trans person, was fed by rumors and lies.

### The fight for justice

Finally, on the third front, African Americans fought for justice. Black Americans faced hostile law enforcement officers and biased court systems in 1919, just as we do today. Black self-defenders against mob attacks were wrongly arrested and prosecuted in city-after-city when they had lawfully protected themselves. To get justice in court, they had to successfully correct the narrative and set the record straight about the origins of the “riots.” Publicizing the facts was imperative. Here, the Black press played an important role.

The NAACP, National Urban League and many other organizations undertook this task. They laid the groundwork so that Black defendants could get some sort of justice. This proved especially important in Elaine, Ark., and Jenkins County, Ga. Local juries convicted Black defendants in

kangaroo courts. However, wrongly convicted Black folks did get some justice in state and federal courts.

Nevertheless, no whites in Southern states were ever prosecuted or jailed for harming or murdering African-American residents. In Charleston, white sailors had started the riot, but Black sailors and civilians were jailed. In Chicago, Black and white residents were convicted and imprisoned. In Elaine, Ark., 21 Black Americans pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, but their convictions were later overturned. Convictions of 12 Black men charged with murder and then imprisoned on death row were overturned in 1925 due to the vigorous defense by attorney Scipio Africanus Jones.

**‘Red Summer led to Black Lives Matter movement’**

What was the ultimate impact of Red Summer? It was the start of a long process which eventually ended Jim Crow and undid institutional bigotry, if not structural racism. It laid the groundwork for the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s and the current Black Lives Matter movement.

It was the dawn of Black militancy and a precursor to the Black Power movement. Significantly, the events of Red Summer illuminated clearly that Black peoples across the planet must work in solidarity toward freeing all peoples in the African Diaspora from Jim Crow rule, colonialism and imperialism.

Black political resolve was strengthened in 1919 in response to the white mobs which organized to put Black people down. “The red summer sparked a long effort that led to the integration and participation of Black Americans into every aspect of society and government,” wrote Cameron McWhirter in “Red Summer: The Summer of 1919 and the Awakening of Black America.”

Today, African Americans’ rights to dignity and equality are under attack. We must remember the most important lesson of Red Summer: Resist and fight back against the oppression and repression by those who would destroy us—even if we die trying. □

# Philadelphia on horizon in Domestic Workers drive

By Joe Piette  
Philadelphia

Domestic caretakers, nannies and house cleaners are, like farmworkers and people with disabilities, excluded from many local, state and federal workplace protections, including minimum wage, overtime and health, safety and sick benefits.

As mostly women of color, domestic workers are subjected to all the abusive sexist and racist horrors so common within the U.S. patriarchal, white-supremacist, capitalist system. Mostly immigrants and often undocumented, they work in highly responsible yet difficult jobs for low pay and are often under threat of deportation at a moment’s notice.

Like many gig workers, domestic workers are isolated from thousands of other workers doing the same work, and they are forced to deal with ever-more-demanding bosses as individuals.

Despite such harsh working conditions, courageous domestic workers across the U.S. are making significant strides to get Domestic Worker Bill of Rights (DWBR) legislation passed. Those protections they hope will ensure respect, professionalism and safety on the job for millions of workers. Nine states (New York, Massachusetts, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Nevada, Oregon, Hawaii and New Mexico) and the city of Seattle have already extended DWBR protections to domestic workers. According to the National Domestic Workers Alliance, over 2 million people in the U.S. do domestic work. There are 67 million domestic workers worldwide, according to the U.N.’s International Labor Organization.

### ‘Enduring legacy of slavery’

Philadelphia is home to an estimated 16,000 domestic workers who make an average of \$10,000 annually, according to analysis by University of Pennsylvania professor Pilar Goñalons-Pons.

A nanny and member leader of the Pennsylvania Domestic Workers Alliance (DWA), Annie Johnson wrote in a March 4 guest editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer: “We don’t get the basic labor protections other workers do. We don’t qualify for minimum-wage and overtime protections. We aren’t protected by the federal Civil Rights Act, which governs gender and racial discrimination.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

June 20 domestic workers rally, Philadelphia.

“We don’t get workplace safety protections. We don’t have the ability to unionize. And we’re not protected from retaliation if we do speak up about the ways we’re abused and taken advantage of. It’s no mistake we’re denied these basic protections — it’s part of the enduring legacy of slavery. Domestic workers and agricultural workers were left out of 1930s’ labor law because the vast majority were Black descendants of slaves.

“This means that, in the poorest major city, we are among the lowest paid and most exploited of the working poor. The vast majority of us are women of color — Black and immigrant women, many of whom are undocumented. Domestic workers frequently experience wage theft, verbal abuse, sexual harassment, threats to call [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] if we speak up about our working conditions, daily instances of racism and prejudice and employers who refuse to pay and who barge into living quarters after work hours are done for live-in nannies and caregivers.”

### Philadelphia: Pass the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights!

On International Domestic Workers Day, June 20, about 50 Philadelphia-area domestic workers and their allies rallied outside City Hall. After hearing speeches from domestic workers and several City Council supporters of the bill, they entered City Hall where DWBR legislation was officially introduced. The bill will go up for a vote this fall. Once passed, Philadelphia would not only be the largest city to do so, it will also be the most ambitious

standards-raising law on the books across the industry.

Participants in the rally included Philadelphia Jobs with Justice, Domestic Employers Network Community, Legal Services of Philadelphia, Pathways Pa, Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses & Allied Professionals, Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition, United Home Care Workers of PA and other allies.

The bill would mandate:

- Workers are entitled to up to five days of paid time off (PTO). The PTO will likely be a tiered system based on time worked;
- Employers must use a contract to specify hours, pay rates, schedules, holidays and other employment terms;
- Workers are guaranteed paid rest and meal breaks (a 10-minute rest break for every four hours worked consecutively and a 30-minute meal break after more than five hours). Live-in workers such as nannies and caregivers are guaranteed one unpaid day off after working six consecutive days;
- The city will create a “portable benefits” system for workers’ hours to follow them, not the employer, meaning those with multiple employers can still accrue enough hours to qualify for paid time off;
- Freedom from discrimination and sexual harassment, protection against retaliation; and
- Employers must provide two weeks’ notice before terminating an employment contract (four weeks if the worker is live-in), except in cases of “significant misconduct.”

A Domestic Work Working Group will meet this summer to develop a proposal for a Domestic Worker Standards and Implementation Board to monitor enforcement and regulation.

Nicole Kligerman, executive director of the Pennsylvania Domestic Workers Alliance, told the Philadelphia Inquirer she expects the board to create “template contracts” for workers. If an individual doesn’t have a contract, it will be presumed they’re working under the city’s template of minimum terms. (June 20)

The rally ended with a chant the DWA use at their events; everyone starts in low voices chanting “Unity! Dignity! Power!” over and over, increasing in volume each time, and finally ending in one loud voice: “Unity! Dignity! Power!” □

# Refinery explosion threatens Philly communities

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

A massive explosion at the Philadelphia Energy Solutions oil refinery in the predawn hours of June 21 lit up the sky with a fireball so large it was captured by a weather satellite. Some eyewitnesses thought they were seeing a nuclear bomb. It marked the second fire at the plant in 11 days.

Residents in the city, and as far away as Deptford, N.J., reported waking up to explosions that shook their homes. Aerial footage of the massive refinery, the largest in the U.S. northeast, showed the complex nearly engulfed in flames. Five workers were injured.

Residential areas in South and Southwest Philadelphia surround the 1,400-acre refinery. Officials are now revealing just how close the city and surrounding region came to experiencing a major catastrophic accident — the explosion was that close to a hydrofluoric acid storage tank.

Exposure to HF can cause severe health problems and even death. At room temperature, the chemical can form a toxic cloud that can travel 7 miles in 10 minutes. HF burns may be initially painless since it destroys nerve tissue. In higher concentrations, HF also causes cardiac arrest. (Reuters.com, June 21)

Around 300,000 people live within 3 miles of the PES facility, and more than 1.1 million people live within a 7-mile radius. The multinational, working-class community surrounding the refinery is being encroached upon by gentrification, but concerns over the danger and toxicity of the facility leave many unable to sell their homes or move away. Several residents reported that the explosion rained large chunks of debris on their property.

PES, the largest stationary polluter in Philadelphia, has been in violation of the Clean Air Act in 9 of the last 12 quarters. The company declared bankruptcy in 2017, which raises worries that PES’s continued financial struggles have resulted in neglect of necessary maintenance



PHOTO: RACHAEL WARRINER

Philly Thrive press conference, June 21.

and layoffs of workers. The refinery’s 150-year-old infrastructure leaves it prone to dangerous accidents.

Required to file a risk-management plan every 5 years, PES reported an incident in 2017 that involved the release of 8,000 pounds of propane after equipment failure. The risk-management plan lists chemicals that the Environmental Protection Agency says would cause significant off-site problems in the event of a major release.

Over the last five years, PES has been fined \$649,417 in penalties for violations of air and water protections. (Philly.com, June 22) According to a 2017 study by the NAACP, the National Medical Association and the Clean Air Task Force, the refinery is responsible for 72 percent of toxic air emissions in Philadelphia. (Philly.com, June 23)

While refinery officials claim the fire is no longer a threat and air management services claim the air is “fine,” residents and environmental activists groups disagree. The environmental group EDGE Philly says that black smoke and a continuing fire, at a site full of toxic and explosive substances, constitute an ongoing health threat to residents. (EDGE stands for Ending Dirty Gas Exploitation by Encouraging Development of a Green Economy.)

Hours after the explosion, Philly Thrive, a community

organization of residents living near the refinery, responded with a press conference at City Hall. Thrive has protested PES’s deadly pollution since 2015. Their press release noted: “Philadelphians living near the refinery are dealing with a health epidemic of asthma, cancer, heart disease and other complications related to heavy air pollution.”

### Refinery a ‘silent killer’

“Enough is enough — we have to act before half the people in South and Southwest Philly are dead,” said Sonya Sanders, Philly Thrive member and Grays Ferry resident. “Do you know how scared I was this morning to be shaken out of my sleep by the explosion? I do everything I can to close my windows and keep this pollution out of my house. But when these fires happen, it shows there really is nothing we can do to protect ourselves.”

Another Philly Thrive member, Sylvia Bennett, said, “The pollution from the refinery is a silent killer, and we’re breathing that in. It’s taken the lives of babies, elders and everyone in between! We have the right to breathe clean air, and we need to hold the refinery accountable for what they’re putting out into the community.”

To draw attention to the crises they face, Philly Thrive has staged weekly protests outside the refinery and recently blocked truck access at the refinery’s entrance. They demand that the City Council fund and mandate a study for decommissioning and repurposing the facility. They want the city to transition the refinery area until it’s restored public land with community-owned energy projects.

For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public meeting with all agencies involved, coordinated through Philly Thrive, to report on toxic releases and enforcement actions.

### Unions cite HF risks to residents, workers

The facility was a problem for surrounding Philadelphia communities long before PES took over. In

Brooklyn, N.Y.

‘Rehire the workers’

By Siddika Degia  
New York

The Laundry Workers Center, alongside groups like the People’s Power Assemblies, held a picket line June 22 in front of the Sunshine Shirt Laundry Center in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, N.Y. This emergency demonstration was called after the laundromat decided to fire the workers after telling them they were closing up shop. But the laundry was in fact not closing and is still receiving clients.

The two workers, Ricarda and Maria, are owed \$200,000 in back pay from chemical burns, physical abuse and wage theft. The firings are an obvious form of retaliation against the workers who spoke up and demanded fair wages and safe working conditions, and because the workers and the community have been pressuring the laundry every week with demands for the back pay.

Management has definitely been feeling the pressure. That is what led to one of the workers, Ricarda, being physically assaulted by the landlord of the laundromat while passing out flyers in the community.



WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

However, the community and the workers are not silent about the laundromat firing the workers unjustly. As a spokesperson in the People’s Power Assemblies said at the rally: “Rehire the workers, rehire them now or else the community will haunt you. We will come to your home, we will come to any new laundromat you open in the neighborhood, and we will continue pressuring you until you rehire the workers and give them what you owe them.” □



June 15.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Disability Pride rocks Philadelphia

By Worker World New York  
City Disabilities bureau  
Philadelphia

Many hundreds of people with disabilities and their allies commemorated Disability Pride Week by attending Philadelphia’s 8th annual Disability Pride Parade June 15.

In a highlight of the rally before the parade, Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Resources Independence for Everyone Thomas H. Earle led the crowd in a song. Like the Raging Grannies, who rewrite lyrics of popular songs in protest against war, racism and injustice, Earle changed Harry Belafonte’s Banana Boat lyrics to “Olmstead, Olmstead, daylight come, and I want to go home!”

Olmstead v. L.C. was the most significant civil rights decision for people with disabilities. Based on the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S. Supreme Court in 1999 upheld Omstead’s provisions of the qualified right of people with disabilities to receive state-funded supports and services

in the community rather than being forced to live in institutions or nursing homes — if there is appropriate support in the community; if the disabled person chooses to live in the community; and if such accommodation is deemed “reasonable” when considering the overall needs of the entire disability community.

The Olmstead decision was based in part on a successful disability civil rights precedent in Philadelphia argued by the Disabilities Law Project in 1995.

The parade featured many colorful costumes and puppets, and a festival followed the parade. Several New Yorkers travelled to Philadelphia and told everyone about the Disability Pride Parade coming up next month in New York City for the fifth consecutive year.

New York’s disability community will gather in Madison Square Park July 14 at 10 a.m. Then we will roll, ride, scooter and walk from Madison Square Park down Broadway for a Disability Rights Festival from noon to 3 p.m. at Union Square Park. □

30th anniversary of Pastors for Peace Cuba Caravan celebrated in Bay Area

Judy Greenspan  
Berkeley, Calif.

Friends of revolutionary Cuba gathered at the Berkeley Fellowship Hall in the Bay Area on June 18 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Pastors for Peace Cuba Caravan, which has consistently broken the U.S.-imposed blockade on that country. The evening was

sponsored by a coalition of groups, including Task Force on the Americas and the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity. Along with the Venceremos Brigade, which just celebrated its 50th anniversary, the Caravan provides humanitarian aid and support to the Cuban government.

The event featured two special guest speakers. Catherine Murphy, a San

Francisco-based filmmaker who produced the well-known film “Maestra” about the 1961 Cuban literacy campaign, represented Pastors for Peace. A Cuban educator, who was the youngest participant in the literacy brigade, also spoke. The educator has worked for nearly 60 years since the brigade, as an activist and then as a teacher, supporting the revolutionary process in Cuba.

The Cuban educator recalled the campaign with great fondness. “I was the youngest child in the campaign, and it was all made possible because of the work of the entire Cuban people,” she noted. “Everyone had a role to play and this was the foundation of our entire education system.”

Both featured guests emphasized that education at every level, as well as health care, are completely free in Cuba.

There was much discussion about the U.S.-enforced blockade of Cuba and how harmful it has been to the Cuban people. Recent actions by the current U.S. administration will make it harder for people to travel to Cuba and almost impossible for people to visit the U.S. from Cuba. With recent activation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, counterrevolutionary Cubans and U.S. businesses can now lay claim to property that they “owned” (or stole) prior to the revolution.

Allies of Cuba were urged by Murphy and other speakers to visit Cuba soon and show their support. The evening’s special Cuban guest was optimistic about her country’s continued support of other struggles and peoples around the world.



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Alicia Jrapko, U.S. coordinator of the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity; Jane Franklin, author of ‘The Cuban Revolution and the United States: a Chronological History’; and Catherine Murphy, filmmaker and activist.

“With what little we have, we have always shown others our solidarity,” she said.

From Haiti to Venezuela, from Angola to Palestine, the people of the world have reached out and embraced this revolutionary solidarity.

Editorial note: Recent threats against Cuba by the Trump regime made it necessary to withhold the name of the Cuban educator who spoke at this West Coast fundraiser.

Refinery explosion

Continued from page 4

2011 and again in 2014, unions representing plant workers confronted then-owner Sunoco over the risks posed to residents and workers from hydrofluoric acid used at the plant. The Sunoco complex was among 50 of 150 U.S. refineries that still use HF to make high-octane gasoline.

Calls by the United Steelworkers and other unions for the oil industry to invest in safer alternatives have been largely ignored. USW Local 10-1 now represents 600 unionized workers at PES, which is down from more than 1,000 when PES took over.

In 2010, the USW launched a campaign to end the industry’s use of HF. “In 2013, the USW found 26 million people in the United States were at risk of HF exposure from a refinery accident.” (Reuters.com, June 21)

Refinery accidents in Torrance, Calif., in 2015 and in Superior, Wis., in 2018, similar to the Philadelphia explosion,

came dangerously close to releasing HF and prompted the evacuation of tens of thousands.

The nonprofit Clean Air Council called on the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board “to immediately begin an independent investigation of the conditions” that led to the June 21 fire. The council said the board has agreed to send four investigators.

Clean Air Council senior attorney Alex Bomstein called the refinery a concern “for many, many years.” Bomstein was skeptical of claims that residents faced no health concerns and noted that initial air testing could miss problems. “When you see a plume of black smoke, you’re seeing pollution,” said Bomstein, who lives in South Philadelphia and saw the plume rise over the neighborhood. (Philly.com, June 22)

This writer lives 5 miles from the refinery and knows of no evacuation plan in the event of HF release. This narrowly averted catastrophe is a wake-up call for action. □

# Many histories converged at Stonewall Rebellion, 1969

Continued from page 1

industry and dense urban living, with same-sex living situations and relative anonymity.

They trace the devastating economic dislocation of the 1929 capitalist Depression that shook the working class and oppressed, creating a widespread exodus from rural areas and small towns to these cities in search of wage work.

World War II drew massive segments of the population into same-sex working and living situations, and left large same-sex-loving populations in cities where soldiers were discharged and dumped from the ranks of the military. And 1950s Cold War repression inevitably generated resistance.

These overall conditions under capitalism, heated to critical mass by oppression, led to the development of LGBTQ communities and to a fightback consciousness.

But national oppression was a key factor in the fightback at Stonewall as well. It is no accident that the rebellion, which drew its leadership from the most oppressed, ignited in an era of national liberation struggles in the United States, Asia and Africa.

The Vietnamese people inspired youth of all nationalities, in the U.S. and all over the world, by demonstrating that the determination of a people to fight for their sovereignty and right to self-determination was an unconquerable force, even in the face of Pentagon might.

The rising strength of national liberation struggles in the U.S. — Black Power, the American Indian Movement, the Young Lords, the Chicana/Mexicana movement, and organizations of militant Asian youth — stirred great pride in the oppressed here and around the planet. The waves of these movements created more room in their wake for women and LGBTQ people of all nationalities to struggle to fight oppression based on sex, sexuality and gender expression.

The youth of color in leadership in the sustained battles against the police in Greenwich Village on three hot summer nights in June 1969 — many of them homeless youth who struggled to survive on the streets — fought for their right to define and defend their own bodies, sexualities and gender expressions. Their struggle was rooted in a long history of battles against capitalist colonization and imperialism for the right of self-determination and national liberation.

In that sense, the Stonewall insurrection was not the culmination of one history, but of many.

### Roots of same-sex oppression

Historically, the development of class divisions is at the root of same-sex oppression. And specifically, as lesbian and gay historians have explained, the ascendancy of capitalism over agricultural production in the U.S. was the overall class trajectory that laid the basis for the formation of distinct modern identities of gay and lesbian, vocalized as “Gay Power!” at Stonewall.

But agricultural production in the United States, and its defeat by industrial capitalism, was a class war with many battlefields between oppressor and oppressed peoples.

Gay American Indians (GAI) made a dynamic contribution to this understanding in its groundbreaking 1988 book entitled “Living the Spirit.” In this compilation, Indigenous peoples narrate their own histories of the diverse forms of organization on this continent — many of them still pre-class, based on cooperative labor and matrilineal bloodlines — before the colonial military assault which seized the land later used for white settler farming, as well as railroads and other industry.

In an essay in the book titled “Sex/Gender Systems in Native North America,” Midnight Sun (Anishnabe) emphasized that the 400-year history of colonial ethnographic research on Indigenous peoples on this continent omitted and distorted reports about the sex and gender relations they observed, “especially where these deviated from the bipolar European norm of the heterosexual ‘man’ and ‘woman’ and contradicted the European patriarchal world view.”

GAI’s History Project lists 135 Indigenous peoples on this continent who made room for many more sex/gender roles than the European nations did.

Midnight Sun argued for a historical materialist view of sex/gender systems in these diverse Native societies, explaining: “Social, and specifically sexual, life is embedded in the economic organization of society — an organization that gives rise to a variety of cultural forms. The cultural construction of gender and sexuality must be seen in terms of the sexual division of labor, subsistence patterns, social relations, and male-female relations. Within this context, ideology is not an arbitrary, discrete force — rather, it serves to reproduce and perpetuate social forms, behaviors, and individuals suitable to a particular mode of production.”

Colonization, Midnight Sun concluded, attempted to systematically destroy the diverse economic, ideological — and sex/gender systems — of Indigenous societies on this continent.

### The cataclysmic impact of slavery

The history of African-American youth who fought hand-to-hand combat with police at Stonewall is rooted in the historic struggle in this hemisphere against enslavement and for national liberation. To overlook the earth-shattering impact of slavery on social relations in this country — then or now — would be tantamount to ignoring the cataclysmic impact of a meteor strike in shaping the history of the planet.

The tens of millions of African peoples who were taken prisoner, endured the horrors of the Middle Passage and were enslaved as laborers on this continent, came from diverse cultures with their own systems of economic organization, kinship, sex/gender and sexual and affectional expression.

The landed aristocracy of slave-owners was hell-bent on reforging these social relations, like shackles, to meet its own inhuman economic greed. Historian Angela Davis reveals the contradictions in relations between the sexes/genders in the family lives of those battling the horrific conditions of slavery in her germinal 1983 book, “Women, Race & Class.”

Davis pointed out that in the pre-Civil War era, “As the ideology of femininity — a

by-product of industrialization — was popularized and disseminated through the new ladies’ magazines and romantic novels, white women came to be seen as inhabitants of a sphere totally severed from the realm of productive work. The cleavage between the home and the public economy, brought on by industrial capitalism, established female inferiority more firmly than ever before.”

However, she explained: “The economic arrangement of slavery contradicted the hierarchical sexual roles incorporated in the new ideology. Male-female relations within the slave community could not, therefore, conform to the dominant ideological pattern.”

By mid-19th century, she noted, seven out of eight enslaved Black people — female and male — were field workers.

Davis stressed: “Because husbands and wives, fathers and daughters were equally subjected to the slave masters’ absolute authority, the promotion of male supremacy among the slaves might have prompted a dangerous rupture in the chain of command. Moreover, since Black women as workers could not be treated as the ‘weaker sex’ or the ‘housewife,’ Black men could not be candidates for the figure of ‘family head’ and certainly not for ‘family provider.’ After all, men, women and children alike were all ‘providers’ for the slaveholding class.”

In terms of the division of labor within the home life of enslaved families, she added: “Moreover, from all indications, the division of labor between the sexes was not always so rigorous, for men would sometimes work in the cabin and women might tend the garden and perhaps even join the hunt.”

Davis concluded, “This bears repeating: Black women were equal to their men in the oppression they suffered; they were their men’s social equals within the slave community; and they resisted slavery with a passion equal to their men’s.”

And centuries later, the descendants of those who resisted slavery were battling the police in the streets at Stonewall for the right to define their own sexuality, gender and sex.

### Many histories; many identities

While colonialism and imperialism have used bullets and bibles to reshape social relations — including organization of the sexes and genders and expression of sexuality — and destroy the economies of oppressed peoples, the struggles of the nationally oppressed have also had a deep overall cultural impact on the oppressor nation.

For example, the Harlem Renaissance — which included such a powerful and lyrical articulation of defiant same-sex and gender-nonconforming expressions — is also a defining period in the histories that converged in Greenwich Village decades later.

The Stonewall Uprising, therefore, was not an articulation — as though from one throat — of one sexual minority that has existed in all places, in all historical epochs, without previous voice. Nor did it represent the emergence of a central identity that represents sexual liberation in a form so universal that its visibility

can be used as a global marker for who is, or is not, “out of the closet” and proud.

The role of Latinx leadership in the Stonewall insurrection demonstrates that global roads of history led to the rebellion. Their parents and grandparents were forced by the super-exploitation of U.S. capital, and the dictatorships that enforced it, to leave their own countries — with their own systems of sex, gender and sexuality — to travel to this country to work and live.

Stonewall combatant Sylvia Rivera was a transgender teenager who had lived homeless on the streets of New York City since she was 10 years old. She was Venezuelan and Puerto Rican — and was one of many Latinx who fought in hand-to-hand battles with police at Stonewall.

For some of the Stonewall combatants, numerous oppressions overlapped in their own lives — racism, misogyny, transphobia — like multiple burdens that create great strength.

I asked Sylvia Rivera in an interview before her death, “What do you say when people ask you if you fought the police at Stonewall because you were gay or trans? Because of police brutality or racism? Because of being oppressed as a youth or because you were homeless?”

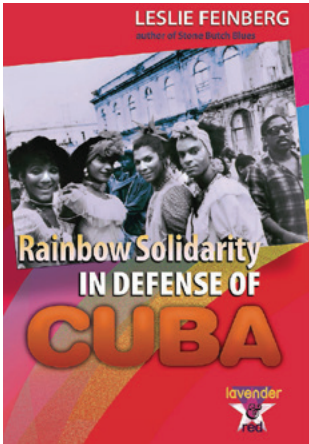
She answered with succinct eloquence: “We were fighting for our lives!”

The Stonewall Rebellion was living proof that when many histories converged in the streets of an imperialist metropolis — the capital of capital — people who did not share a common oppression wrote a new chapter of history, together, when they rose up to fight back against a common enemy.

Originally published Aug. 24, 2006, this column was part of Leslie Feinberg’s series of articles on the connections between LGBTQ2S+ and socialist history. The 120-part series “Lavender & Red,” which appeared in Workers World from 2004 to 2008, is available for free download at workers.org/book/lavender-red/.



## Part 71



## Rainbow Solidarity in DEFENSE of CUBA

By Leslie Feinberg, author of Stone Butch Blues

This book is an edited compilation of chapters 86 to 110 from the Lavender & Red series in Workers World newspaper that began June 3, 2004.

It is available online at:

workers.org/book/rainbow-solidarity-in-defense-of-cuba/

# Reclaiming Pride

## A desire to redirect a movement

By Colin P. Ashley  
New York

On May 24 activists gathered in Washington Square Park to mourn the loss of three Black trans women who had been killed within weeks of each other.

Tamika Washington, Muhlaysia Booker and Claire Legato are only three names of numerous trans women of color taken from us too soon. Their deaths point to a crisis of violence and hate impacting this community.

Sadly, many of the same activists were out only a few weeks later on June 11 to mourn the death of Layleen Cubilette-Polanco/Xtravaganza, an Afro-Latinx trans woman who died in her cell at Rikers Island. That the criminal-legal system refused to take Layleen’s life-threatening medical condition seriously and put Layleen’s bail at \$500, which was beyond her means, point to the ways in which state institutions specifically destroy Black and Brown trans women and remain institutions of terror for all Black, Brown and working-class communities.

### Black Trans Lives Matter!

These losses also point to a deeper issue in the wider LGBTQ2S+ community. It is because of the failure to protect the most marginalized in our community — our trans sisters of color — that many of us are seeking to “Reclaim Pride.”

With this the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, many of us have learned to speak of the roots of our movement in the language of opposing police violence. We have learned to uplift the

names of Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson. This is not enough. We must protect the living. We must redirect our movement.

As New York prepares for World Pride/ Stonewall 50, the entire city has become a candyland spectacle dedicated to rainbow capitalism. The spirit of fightback and the language of struggle are erased by the cooptation of capitalism. Police will be out in full force surrounding the Pride Parade, and they are still allowed to participate despite their continual threat to the oppressed. That parade will be saturated with politicians, corporations and police, all of whom continue to use and/ or abuse the LGBTQ2S+ community.

The Reclaim Pride Coalition has instead called the Queer Liberation March, a historic people’s march that will be political and celebratory. Its goal is to recenter the marginalized and to create a space in which the larger community can begin work to redirect our movement toward complete and total liberation for all of the oppressed.

This march was built through coalition in the spirit of the original uprising at Stonewall and in the spirit of intersectionality. We will be marching from Sheridan Square to Central Park, retracing the route of the first 1970 Christopher Street Liberation Day March.

In honor of our dead, in honor of our freedom fighters, in honor of the Black and Latinx trans women whom we’ve lost, we will be Reclaiming Pride!

*More information about the Queer Liberation March can be found at [reclaimpridenyc.org](http://reclaimpridenyc.org).*

## Come out for Pride at 50! Come out for Workers World!

June is Pride month. Rallies and marches worldwide are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the historic Stonewall Rebellion! From the beginning, Workers World Party has a proud history of reporting on and participating in the living struggle for LGBTQ2S justice and equality. Foremost these days is fighting transgender oppression, to stop right-wing legislative attacks on both trans and gender-nonconforming youth and adults and to stop brutal physical attacks and murders, which especially target trans women of color.

Do you know that Workers World has made major theoretical contributions to the LGBTQ2S struggle? One was publication of “The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View” (World View Forum, third ed., 1993), which drew on Frederick Engels and Dorothy Ballan for a dialectical materialist explanation of LGBTQ2S oppression. Another was the body of work of Leslie Feinberg, a proud WWP leader, who created the first Marxist analysis of transgender history and struggle in such books as “Transgender Warriors: Making History,” “Transgender Liberation: Beyond Pink and Blue” and “Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba.”

That analysis drives Workers World’s

view that the LGBTQ2S struggle is an integral component of the overall struggle to end patriarchy and capitalist oppression. So if you want to both fight for the liberation of LGBTQ2S people and struggle against capitalist exploitation, help build Workers World newspaper.

We invite you to join the WW Supporter Program, which was set up 43 years ago to help us publish anti-racist, anti-sexist, pro-LGBTQ2S, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to crush capitalism and usher in socialism. Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or click on Donate on [workers.org](http://workers.org). Know that we are grateful for your help in building the revolutionary press in the U.S. □



Workers World Party's Pride contingent in New York City, June 24, 2018.

# 25 years of Pride @ Work

By Martha Grevatt

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the heroic Stonewall Rebellion, an event being commemorated throughout the world. On June 20, the LGBTQ2S+ movement and the labor movement joined in celebrating another major milestone: the 25th anniversary of the founding of Pride at Work (P@W)—the LGBTQ2S+ Constituency Group of the AFL-CIO.

The celebration was held at the AFL-CIO national headquarters in Washington, D.C. Representatives from more than a dozen labor organizations and LGBTQ2S+ civil rights groups came, including Flight Attendants President Sara Nelson, Trans Equality Executive Director Mara Keisling, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and several board members of Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance.

Solidarity Awards were given to Lee Saunders, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Shane Larson, former co-president of P@W; and Lambda Legal Staff Union-Communication Workers. Lambda Legal Staff organized in 2017.

### Part of the Stonewall tradition

P@W was founded in 1994 in New York City; its first convention took place during the Stonewall 25 commemoration.

By that time there were groups in a number of cities advocating inside the labor movement for LGBT rights, as well as LGBT caucuses in several major unions. Lesbian and Gay Labor Alliance (Bay Area), Lesbian and Gay Labor Network (New York), Gay And Lesbian Labor Activists Network (New England) and others laid the foundation for Pride at Work.

There was a great deal of misunderstanding in the labor movement around LGBT rights, from the top levels of leadership down to the rank and file. A historic step forward was the 1987 reception held at AFL-CIO headquarters during the weekend of the Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The late United Farm Workers President César Chávez addressed the march.

Unions also marched and held receptions during the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. In 1994 the time was ripe to form a national organization to build mutual solidarity between the LGBT community and the labor movement.

The convention established the organization, with a basic structure and a national executive board with regional representation. As the convention was nearing adjournment, a resolution was introduced to modify the name, Lesbian and Gay Labor Organization, to make it

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Labor Organization. Passing unanimously, this resolution was tremendously important at a time when the mainstream gay and lesbian civil rights movement was slow to embrace trans liberation.

The name Pride at Work was adopted at the first national board meeting.

### 25 years of solidarity

One of P@W’s first campaigns as a fledgling organization was to pressure Chrysler to end anti-LGBT discrimination and add “sexual orientation” to the non-discrimination clause in its contract with the United Auto Workers. The language was added in 1999 at Ford and General Motors as well as Chrysler, with domestic partner benefits granted a year later. Current contracts also cover “gender identity” and “gender expression.”

In 1997 the AFL-CIO voted for P@W to become an official Constituency Group, joining the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Labor Committee for Latin American Advancement and APALA.

Over the years P@W has supported many LGBTQ2S+ workers in and out of unions. Examples include supporting a worker at a Speedway gas station in Indiana who was fired for being gay, and challenging the state of Michigan over domestic partner benefits.

The group has educated the labor movement on LGBTQ2S+ issues and educated the LGBTQ2S+ community on the need for unions. Since P@W’s founding, many out LGBTQ2S+ workers have been elected to union office, including Josette Jaramillo, president of the Colorado AFL-CIO; and Cal Noyce, former president of the Central Utah Federation of Labor.

P@W has taken many progressive stands, from demanding freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal to endorsing the 2018 International Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes in Puerto Rico.

Most unions have advanced to a progressive position supporting LGBTQ2S+ rights and equality. On May 22 the United Federation of Teachers passed a resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, pledging to “recommit ourselves to the timeless values of universal equality which uphold our movement toward LGBTQ2S liberation.”

When P@W Chapters march in Labor Day and Pride parades, their banners are emblazoned with the timeless union slogan: “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

*Martha Grevatt is a founding member of Pride at Work and served on its national board from 1994 to 2001.*

## Kick cops and corporations out of Pride!

*Continued from page 1*

the U.S. state itself, founded on capitalist white supremacy and patriarchy.

LGBTQ2S+ people are marching against U.S. imperialism and persecution of im/migrant peoples. Their banners say: “No Pride in Genocide.” LGBTQ2S+ people are marching for Pride, but only if it includes everyone: “No Pride for some of us without liberation for all of us.”

For some decades, Pride celebrations have been flooded with corporate money. Huge contingents of LGBTQ2S+ workers and allies march at Pride under their bosses’ banners — Honda, T-Mobile, U-Haul and more.

But “Stonewall Means Fight Back!” was

proclaimed on the banner of Workers World Party’s Gay Caucus of Youth Against War & Fascism in the 1970s.

That’s a call to all those marching Pride workers to take up their banners and turn out into the streets for “Pride in Worker Solidarity!” That means fighting consciously for queer LGBTQ2S+ working-class and oppressed lives, not advertising profit-hungry bosses.

LGBTQ2S+ members of WWP and other socialist organizations were hand-in-hand with the Stonewall Rebellion that opened a new front in the struggle against oppression.

Now, reclaiming Pride means we must intensify that struggle until there are “No cops and no corporations in Pride!” □

# New York state Three historic wins for farmworkers

By Minnie Bruce Pratt  
Syracuse, N.Y.

Farmworkers in New York state have won three historic victories in the last month through valiant worker-centered leadership and steady support from allies. In Syracuse, the driving force came from the Workers Center of Central New York (WCCNY), a membership-based organization of low-wage workers advocating for and organizing workers to improve working and living conditions in Central and Upstate New York.

On May 23, a New York appellate court finally invalidated a 1930s, Jim-Crow-based state law that denied farmworkers the right to organize, even though that right was included in the state constitution. The American Civil Liberties Union argued the suit against the state. (For more on the racist origins of the bill, see [tinyurl.com/yynp866k/](http://tinyurl.com/yynp866k/).)

The WCCNY and member Crispin Hernandez filed the suit, together with the Workers Justice Center of New York. Hernandez was fired from his job at Marks Dairy in Lowville, N.Y., in 2015, when he began organizing with other workers after work hours.

At 16 he began a job at the dairy, working 12-hour days, seven days a week, with no medical assistance — even when a cow stepped on his hand, mangling it. Worker housing was bug-infested with broken windows. Inferior management-provided boots and gloves exposed workers to dangerous chemicals.

Agricultural work in New York state is big business. Many workers are undocumented immigrants, particularly vulnerable to exploitation, making organizing even more difficult. When Hernandez and other workers began to meet with WCCNY,

management called local and state police on them. But with the encouragement of WCCNY organizers, Hernandez persisted and filed suit in 2016.

Of the victory, Hernandez said: “All workers deserve to have a voice and be heard at their place of work, and farmworkers deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.” ([tinyurl.com/y2y4e4lb](http://tinyurl.com/y2y4e4lb))

### Greenlighting the second win

Thousands of farmworkers live in Central and Upstate New York in isolation, with limited access to transportation. They have no way to get to a doctor, no way to get groceries, unless by paying exorbitant fees to informal local “taxi” drivers.

If they drive without a license, workers are vulnerable to racist profiling stops by local police, followed by arrest and subsequent deportation for this “crime.”

For years WCCNY and other immigrant rights groups have leafleted, demonstrated and even committed civil disobedience to get access for undocumented workers to drivers’ licenses. The campaign was called “Green Light NY Driving Together: Luz Verde NY Manejando Juntos.”

On June 17, a second historic farmworker win was passage of the Driver’s License Access and Privacy Act — the “Green Light Act” — by the state Senate; it was signed into law the next day by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The act restores the right to obtain a license, regardless of immigration status, that existed in the state prior to 2001.

Senator Luis Sepúlveda, who sponsored the bill, said to New York’s



PHOTO: UNLOCAL

Fifteen members of the “Green Light NY Driving Together” campaign celebrate their successful civil disobedience action in Albany on May 21.

undocumented community: “We see you. We welcome you with open arms. You are here, and today we give you the right to move freely around this state without fear.” ([dream.info](http://dream.info))

Despite these welcoming words, anti-immigrant hostility and persecution are still alive in New York state government, as they are at the federal level. County clerks in Erie and Oswego counties have declared they will refuse to process the new licenses. (See related story from Buffalo, N.Y., in this issue.)

The struggle continues!

### Fair labor victory

The May 23 court victory in Crispin Hernandez’s suit provided impetus for a third farmworker win. On June 19, the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act was passed by the state Senate. Passage of FFLPA was historic; the bill had been tied up in the Senate for 15 years!

WCCNY played a crucial role in passage of the bill, organizing on the ground, holding rallies and protests, and helping

workers make complaints about health and safety issues at their jobs.

The WCCNY goal for the bill was codification of farmworkers’ rights on an equal basis with other state hourly workers, especially regarding issues like overtime pay and a day of rest.

However, the powerful New York Farm Bureau, which mounted a furious campaign against the worker-initiated court suit, continued to fight a bitter rear-guard action to limit protections given to farmworkers in the FFLPA.

The result is a flawed bill that Rebecca Fuentes, a lead organizer with WCCNY, recognizes as “a great step forward in having the ability to organize and advocate for the rights and well-being of farmworkers,” with “new legal protections that have been so long in coming.” (WCCNY press release, June 20)

But, in a June 20 Facebook post, Fuentes noted there are inequities in the bill: “Several issues in that bill are not good for workers, starting with making a strike, stoppage or a slow down an ‘unfair labor practice.’ Also, overtime is set at [over] 60 [hours], not at 40. Unemployment insurance was taken away from guest workers with this bill.”

In a June 20 press release Fuentes expressed hope that a wage board created by the law would act quickly in lowering the threshold from 60 hours for farmworkers to get overtime. “This is a matter of equity and fairness,” said Fuentes. “Those who labor in the fields, orchards and dairy barns work hard and deserve the same rights as others. It’s time New York State does the right thing.” □

# Domestic gag rule: Time to fight the patriarchal state

By Sue Davis

On June 18, Donald Trump announced his candidacy in 2020 for a new term. Only four days later, on June 21, anti-health care rules issued by his administration took effect — one of the most far-reaching attacks yet on poor women and LGBTQ2S+ people.

Its openly class-based, viciously racist-sexist intent is to deny access to abortion and other reproductive health care, as well as information and referrals about abortion, to 4 million gender-oppressed poor people who receive their primary health care via Medicaid under Title X.

The timing of the two events is no coincidence. People are predicting that Trump will rely heavily on appeals to his faith-based, anti-women and anti-gender-oppressed constituency to help reelect him. (For more about Trump’s reliance on anti-abortion forces and prior gag rule attempts, see WW, March 15.)

That means anyone who cares about the basic human rights of all gender-oppressed people and their families needs to march and rally against the so-called “domestic gag rule,” which ruthlessly stomps on the positive, gender-equality aspects of Title X of the Public Health Services Act. Passed in 1970 during the Nixon administration, it provided free reproductive health care for low-income women on Medicaid as part of the “federal war on poverty.”

After the Supreme Court made abortion legal in 1973 with Roe v. Wade, Congress passed the Hyde Amendment in 1976. It allowed only women who had suffered from incest or rape or whose lives were

endangered by pregnancy to get abortions paid with federal Medicaid funds.

A later decision allowed states to pay for abortions with their Medicaid funds; 17 do so now. While dollar amounts for federally paid abortions are not available, they must be exceedingly small — considering that filling out the bureaucratic forms required to prove incest and rape can be a daunting burden.

“Hyde’s effects are real and significant,” confirms a study published June 19 by researchers at Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health, based at the University of California, San Francisco. About 29 percent of poor pregnant women interviewed in Louisiana in 2015-17 said they would have considered an abortion, but didn’t because of the lack of Medicaid coverage.

A June 20 Vox article about the study stated: “Near-total abortion bans at the state level have brought the possibility of a challenge to Roe v. Wade to the forefront.” It concluded that “for many Americans, especially those in poverty, the end of Roe is already here.”

### Progressive organizations fight back

Immediately after the Trump administration released the final rule in March, it was challenged by Planned Parenthood, which could lose its status as the primary source of reproductive health care in the U.S. Also opposed were the American Medical Association and 19 major medical associations, like the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, as well as 110 public health organizations.

In addition to opposition by 20 states

and civil rights organizations, led by the American Civil Liberties Union, the rule has been denounced by mayors, state lawmakers, governors and more than 200 members of Congress, including the Pro-Choice Caucus and caucuses representing Black, Latinx and Asian Pacific American congresspeople.

California, Oregon and Washington won temporary injunctions to stop the rule. But the Trump administration appealed, and judges in the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit allowed the rule to take effect. Maryland is the only state where the rule did not take effect.

Planned Parenthood is the rule’s primary target. The national organization provides birth control, cancer screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, as well as medical and surgical abortions and other reproductive care. The campaign to defund the country’s major nonprofit source of health care for gender-oppressed people was started by Vice President Mike Pence, a fervent evangelist and Trump worshipper, when he was in Congress in 2007.

Dr. Leana Wen, the first president of Planned Parenthood in 50 years who is a physician, specialized in emergency room medicine and was Baltimore’s health commissioner before assuming leadership last fall. Calling abortion bans “misogyny and oppression,” Dr. Wen noted in a June 20 statement that the House of Representatives passed a spending bill the previous day “that would block the gag rule from being implemented because it’s dangerous, it’s unethical, and it’s illegal.”

Noting the rule prohibits providers from

referring patients for or counseling them about abortion, she denounced that the rule blocks access to abortion care with “cost-prohibitive and unnecessary physical separation requirements” designed to isolate abortion care from other services.

The effects of the rule will be a human rights violation for millions of people of color, youth, im/migrants, rural residents, survivors of domestic violence and women with disabilities. In addition, as Dr. Wen noted, “Providers of care of nearly 50 percent of Title X patients [say] the rule would force them out of the program. The administration is putting health care at risk for patients across the country.”

### Gag rule is ‘hateful, criminal, reactionary, misogynist, inhuman and fascistic’

There are so many ways to condemn the gag rule — hateful, criminal, reactionary, misogynist, inhuman and fascistic. But the most obvious aspect is that it insinuates the capitalist state directly into the most intimate and ultimately personal aspect of human life.

This rule personifies the definition of the patriarchal state — men in power who exercise control over those deemed inferior as their private property. Shouldn’t that make every person angry who values human and civil rights?

Articles recently have addressed men’s role in abortion. The most important role now is for men to join gender-oppressed people in the streets to struggle against this vicious assault on our personhood.

We demand our right to life! We will never go back! □

# Seattle protest hits ‘Homeland Security’

By Jim McMahan  
Seattle

An angry demonstration denounced former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson's appearance in Seattle June 18 and voiced outrage at President Donald Trump's all-around human rights abuse and plans for mass deportations of immigrants.

Organizers of the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) and Red de Solidaridad de Inmigrantes also outlined plans for self-defense against Homeland Security's invasion of their homes and communities.

The protesters exposed Johnson, who was speaking at the Seattle City Club's annual luncheon at the state convention center, as the person who reinstated harsh border policies and family detention. They circled the convention center complex chanting: "Hey hey, ho ho, deportation has got to go!" The demonstrators slipped a banner

inside and held it up in front of the stage when Johnson was speaking. It denounced immigrant detention and "kids in cages."

The rally was chaired by WAISN Coordinator Monserrat Padilla, and representatives from a number of organizations spoke. "Homeland Security" was exposed as a fraud whose real purpose is war against immigrant workers.

WAISN is a statewide coalition of 150 (and growing) immigrant rights and solidarity organizations. As explained at the rally and in their literature, they "have organized teams of rapid response volunteers across the state to support our neighbors and friends in the event of an ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) raid or related community emergency." In addition WAISN has a statewide hotline (1-844-RAID-REP, 1-844-724-3737) for immigrant and refugee families to report ICE/Border Patrol activity in the community. □



WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE

## Im/migrant rights now!

### Buffalo activists demand Green Light implementation

Members of the Buffalo branch of Workers World Party and local activists demonstrated outside the Erie County Hall June 21 to protest County Clerk Michael "Mickey" Kearns' announcement that he would not comply with the recently passed New York State "Green Light" law. Green Light, effective Dec. 14, grants undocumented immigrants the right to obtain a New York state identification card, shielding them from Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainment. Josh Bunting, a

local activist who has been campaigning to get the Green Light law passed, pointed out that Kearns is backing up his noncompliance with bogus claims of unconstitutionality.

The demonstration's overarching message was that the treatment of undocumented people in the U.S. amounts to genocide and that Kearns' position makes him an agent of genocide. Calls were made for his dismissal or resignation.

— Nigel Bouvart

## WW Commentary

# Time to terrorize back Trump is terrorizing migrant workers

By Teresa Gutierrez

Two weeks.

Two weeks that undocumented workers and all im/migrants in this country will be living under increased tension and terror.

On June 17, Donald Trump, one of the most reviled U.S. presidents ever, announced that he would begin massive roundups and deportations of im/migrants.

On the eve of a June 18 campaign stop in Orlando, Fla., Trump tweeted: "Next week [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] will begin the process of removing the millions of illegal aliens who have illicitly found their way into the United States. They will be removed as fast as they come in." (Politico, June 18)

His get-them-all-out attitude instilled a cold chill in im/migrant workers. His campaign stop in Florida was a massive rally that harkened back to KKK events of not long ago. Pandering to his reactionary, nativist, white-supremacist base, he continued to whip up his racist anti-immigrant rhetoric in preparation for the 2020 presidential campaign.

It's important to point out that Orlando has become home to thousands of climate refugees from Puerto Rico, forced out of their homeland in record numbers after Hurricane Maria (also known as Hurricane Colonialism).

### Where have the Democrats been?

The Democratic Party establishment responded on June 22 to Trump's tweet, opposing his announcement. Party leader Nancy Pelosi stated that Trump's "planned raids were heartless" and would "inject terror into our communities." (CNN, June 22)

Where has Pelosi been? Under a rock? Yes, the raids are heartless, but terror has been injected into immigrant communities for some time now.

Next Trump tweeted that he was delaying the deportations for two weeks "at the request of Democrats." Trump threatened that, if Washington lawmakers

didn't approve immigration asylum law in that time, he would direct ICE agents to resume the raids.

But what happens after those two weeks? Does anyone actually expect anything different on immigration policy? Absolutely not.

Under the Trump administration, deportations, detainments and harassment of immigrant workers in the U.S. have been relentless. Advocates report that for the countless migrants who go to court for their deportation hearing, or any kind of appointment, their appearance can mean deportation — right then and there.

Soft raids have been taking place, Pelosi. Where was Democratic outrage then?

Migrants, documented or not, are living under a cloud of intense terror as they never know whether on their job, in court or at a stop light, they will be picked up. Teachers report that the stress level for children of migrants has skyrocketed as children worry if they will come home after school to an empty house.

And the crisis at the Southern border goes on, where forced migration means record numbers of migrants traveling in unprecedented caravans. They have been met with cruelty, even though migrants are eligible for asylum.

After two weeks, all these conditions will only continue.

### Who is to blame?

Since 2006, both capitalist parties have attempted to solve the economic crisis on the backs of migrants, using a campaign to criminalize and deport workers. Pelosi's party under Barack Obama became the party whose president deported more workers than any other U.S. president — ever. Who's heartless now, Pelosi?

This terror, of course, has been greatly aggravated — in fact, is on steroids — under Donald Trump. But both parties have criminalized migrant workers and militarized the Southern border. Both parties have been complicit with the capitalist class in providing a controlled

source of labor power that can be super-exploited at their whim.

Anti-immigrant rhetoric and policy are being used to divide and conquer the working class. It is also used to derail attention on other critical issues.

Pelosi refers to "our communities." Yet the Democrats have done nothing to defend Dreamers brought to the U.S. as children, win asylum for those who desperately need it or stop the deportations. The Democrats have continued to support imperialist policies that destabilize nations, such as when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton backed the right-wing coup in Honduras in 2009.

Migrants are nothing more than pawns for Washington players, both the Democrats and the Republicans.

Nonetheless, it is the Trumpites who have veered into fascist, white-supremacist territory. But it won't be the Democrats who can stop that.

### Terror 2019 style

Where is Pelosi's compassion for the children in inhumane conditions held in detention? Child detentions, child deaths have skyrocketed. Migrants — many of them trans people — have died in detention due to callous neglect. U.S. Rep. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez received flak for calling them concentration camps.

But the left has been correct in calling them such for some time now. How else can one explain the conditions? Or re-opening the same military base that held Japanese citizens interned during World War II — to hold im/migrants now?

Just like prisons in the U.S., these detention centers have become concentration camps for the poor.

On June 21, CNN, based on an Associated Press exposé, ran a news story, "Lack of soap, filthy onesies and too few beds have created a 'health crisis' at border detention facilities, monitors warn."

After visiting the Ursula Processing Center in McAllen, Texas, attorney Toby Gialluca said, "There was just a pervasive health crisis. Virtually everyone we saw was ill."

A Human Rights Watch researcher said: "The kids had colds and were sick and said they didn't have access to soap to wash their hands. Some kids who were detained for 2-3 weeks had only one or two opportunities to shower. One said they hadn't showered in three weeks. Hygiene and living conditions like this creates a risk of spreading infectious disease. It makes me very concerned about the public health emergency."

It can be assumed that all detention centers have similar conditions.

### Stop the war of terror against migrants

Both Pelosi and Trump must hear from the workers in this country that all this policy is terror.

Some Democratic mayor or state officials have announced that they would not cooperate with ICE agents. This is nice optics, and an important gain.

But it is only the U.S. working class — those who have some legal protections because they are documented — who can truly and genuinely stop this terror against migrant workers.

The war of terror on migrants is a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions. A six-year-old child from India died in the desert near Arizona recently. Remarkably more and more migrants at the Mexican U.S. border are not just from Central America. They are from Cameroon, India, Bangladesh, Syria and so on.

In unprecedented numbers, more and more workers are leaving their homelands and going further than ever to find some relief from the global attacks of capitalism.

The migrant crisis is global. Let's make our response global.

In September, young people from around the world have called for a general strike to demand an end to climate change. This movement must be inextricably, genuinely connected to the migrant crisis.

A global strike is desperately needed to push back the terrorist war on our class. That is the way to stop this global war. □

# WORKERS WORLD

## editorial

# Iran crisis: Which side are you on?

The war crisis that the gang in Trump's White House has unleashed in the Strait of Hormuz has many facets and complications worth analyzing.

It is a conflict within the U.S. ruling class, even within the administration. It involves disagreements among the usual imperialist U.S. allies who fear the consequences if war breaks out. There are disagreements within the Pentagon about where the U.S. drone was located when Iranian anti-aircraft fire shot it down. An internal conflict between the U.S. president who wants to rule the world and the president who wants to win the 2020 election.

Besides examining these points, however, the most important thing to decide is which side you are on.

For revolutionaries who aim toward

establishing socialism, for anti-imperialists, this decision is clear.

Iran was in effect a colony of the U.S. and its oil companies from 1953 until 1979, when it won its real independence through a revolution. It is attempting to defend that independence.

The United States is the most powerful imperialist state and oppressor of the world's peoples.

Revolutionaries must be on the side of an independent Iran against the United States.

If workers strike against the boss, we are on the side of the workers. If the strikers have to fight with scabs, we don't ask who started the fight. We side with the workers.

If an African-American oppressed community is in conflict with the occupation

police force, we don't ask who struck the first blow — it's almost always the cops — we side with the community.

If a former colony is defending its independence against an imperialist power, we side with the country fighting for independence. Defeat the oppressor. Defend the oppressed.

In the modern imperialist era, Iran was a semicolony first of the British Empire and then of the United States. U.S. agents overthrew an elected Iranian government in 1953 and installed an emperor, the Shah, who ruled through jailings and torture for 26 years.

The 1979 revolution put in place a nationalist government with theocratic content. Since then, this regime has been independent of imperialist domination

and has tried to act in Iran's interest. This independence has brought it continually into conflict with imperialism, especially with Washington.

Last year the Trump gang broke its nuclear agreement with Iran and is now trying to squeeze the Iranian people with sanctions to make their government submit. The U.S. has sent its warships to the waters off Iran and flown spy planes and drones around and over it. So far Washington's attempt at intimidation has failed — and that's good for the workers and people worldwide.

The task for anti-imperialists, indeed for anyone in the U.S. who wants peace, is clear: Mobilize to stop U.S. aggression and end the sanctions against Iran.

**Down with U.S. imperialism!** □

## Boston activists protest U.S. threats to Iran

By Workers World Boston Bureau

Approximately 75 peace activists gathered in downtown Boston, outside the Park Street Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority station, on June 22 to denounce U.S. war threats against Iran. The action came just two days after the news that U.S. President Donald Trump had called off a military strike against Iran just minutes before it would have hit.

Speakers included Mojgan Haji of the National Iranian American Council, representatives from Massachusetts Peace Action and the Coalition to Stop the Genocide in Yemen, New Democracy

Coalition Director Kevin Peterson, Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein and several progressive journalists.

Haji and others highlighted the long history of U.S. interference in Iran, focusing particularly on the 1953 coup that installed the repressive pro-U.S. Shah. They emphasized the solidarity between the Iranian people and the U.S. people, despite policies pursued by the U.S. government.

Speakers also repeatedly denounced the U.S. use of economic sanctions, citing the shortages of medicine and other essential products that such policies cause, as well as the hundreds of thousands dead as a result of earlier sanctions on Iraq. □



June 22.

WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

## Hondurans rebel at 10th anniversary of coup

By Sam Ordóñez

June 24—Since last week, the Honduran people have been in rebellion against the dictatorship of President Juan Orlando Hernandez (JOH). The general strike and accompanying demonstrations that began last month, organized by the Platform for the Defense of Health and Education in Honduras, have evolved into a demand for the resignation of the president in response to the intensity of state repression.

Doctors and teachers were joined by delivery drivers, who refused to make deliveries and used their trucks to block key highways throughout the country. This quickly caused a fuel shortage in various areas, particularly the big cities.

At one point, a section of the National Police also went on strike and rebelled against their officers, causing the people to once again take the streets and occupy buildings and public spaces throughout the cities. The police have since returned to their work of suppressing protests, since what they truly wanted was more money, but not before JOH mobilized the army to “restore order.”

Despite state repression, the Platform and opposition party Freedom and Refoundation (Libre) continue to call for popular mobilization and have stated their intent to continue struggling until the dictator resigns.

### 2009 U.S.-backed coup

Images of people facing off against tear gas and military police, of human rights defenders assassinated by security forces and of streets blockaded by burning tires show the intensity of the struggle against the neoliberal policies imposed by imperialism

over the last decade. The uprising is developing just days before the 10th anniversary of the coup against Manuel Zelaya in 2009.

Zelaya was president from 2006 to 2009, when he was kidnapped by the military and sent to Costa Rica. The military high command claimed that Zelaya was seeking a second presidential term, which would have violated the constitution.

In truth, the coup was the result of Zelaya's attempt to join the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), a regional organization promoted by the governments of Cuba and Venezuela to resist imperialist coercion.

This was unacceptable to U.S. imperialism and the Honduran oligarchy, which had already been attacking the progressive government through its control of the media. When presented with the opportunity, they fabricated a constitutional crisis and carried out a military coup.

Publicly, the U.S. government under President Barack Obama condemned the coup, but did nothing to help restore the democratically elected president. In fact, then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's leaked emails reveal that the U.S. was negotiating with the coup leaders, many of whom were connected to the Pentagon.

The U.S. did not hesitate to recognize the poll results in November of that year, despite the fact that the elections were run by the military junta. The new conservative president, Porfirio Lobo Sosa, was celebrated for his “reconciliation” efforts. Meanwhile, journalists who supported Zelaya or simply opposed the coup began to disappear.

The current president came to power in 2014 and has been criticized for corruption and increasing state repression against opponents. The right wing

accused Zelaya of seeking a second term in order to justify removing him, but JOH was able to amend the Constitution and run for reelection without issue.

The 2017 election was characterized by blatant fraud of JOH's National Party. The vote count was suspended several times, in one instance for three days, and when it resumed, the almost 5 percent advantage held by the opposition had disappeared.

### Ten years of repression, neoliberalism

The anniversary of the coup is an opportunity to reflect on the objectives and consequences of the neoliberal agenda for Latin America. It must be noted that this is a set of policies imposed by U.S. imperialism; therefore the policies are completely subjugated to its interests.

The history of Honduras, like all of Latin America, has been defined by colonialism and its successor, imperialism. The dispossession of Indigenous peoples and the destruction of their lands through extractivist projects and monoculture is the basis by which the oligarchy enriched itself and built the current Honduran state.

Under the neoliberal governments of JOH's National Party, this process has only intensified. The case of Indigenous (Lenca) land-defender Berta Cáceres, who fought against transnational capital's attempt to build a dam in Lenca territory, is known throughout the world.

Cáceres was murdered in 2016 by a group of men linked not only to the company building the project and to the Honduran state, but also to the infamous School of the Americas, the U.S. military college that for decades trained soldiers and security forces for the worst dictatorships the continent has known. And Cáceres is only one

of hundreds of cases of social leaders murdered while fighting against mining projects and hydroelectric dams since 2009.

In the urban areas, the government has tried to destroy all social services on instructions from the International Monetary Fund. The current struggle to defend health care and education is the culmination of many years of funding cuts aimed at eventually forcing privatization.

While JOH's dictatorship slashes funds for public services, the police have gotten more and more militarized, with technology and training from the U.S. While the country burns and the people demand justice, last week 300 U.S. Marines arrived in Honduras to add to the U.S. troops already there.

Honduras has the largest U.S. military base in the region, and the country has historically been used to crush social movements in neighboring countries. In 1954, it was the staging ground for soldiers financed by the U.S. to overthrow the Guatemalan government, and the country was also used as a base of support for the Contras in Nicaragua in the 1980s.

Ten years after the coup d'état, the Honduran people will no longer stand for neoliberal austerity and the state repression that comes with it. The two options they have left are to join the caravans heading north or fight in the streets against the government.

For those living in the imperialist center, solidarity with the people of Honduras has to be twofold. First, it means struggling against the fascist border policies of the U.S. government. Second, it means denouncing the JOH dictatorship and demanding that the U.S. cease all training and military aid to its imperial puppet in Honduras. □

WW Commentary

# Iran and the big lie behind U.S. power

By Deirdre Griswold

Within minutes on June 20, President Donald Trump first authorized and then canceled a U.S. military strike on Iran. The reasons he gave for stopping the planned attack were “humanitarian.”

However, consideration for human lives has not stopped this U.S. president before, whether it was his approval of so many other deadly Pentagon strikes all over the Middle East, or his brutal policy that has caused so many people, including children, to die in the scorching deserts of the U.S. Southwest and in the concentration camps called migrant detention centers.

The reasons for Trump’s reversal are the subject of great capitalist media speculation. Much of it, including from that part of the media that presents itself as liberal, is actually critical of his decision not to attack, claiming it shows weakness and undermines confidence in the U.S.

For example, an article in the New York Times about Trump’s reversal complained that it “intensified global doubts

about the president’s judgment and the power wielded by the United States.”

**‘Freedom’ to exploit the world**

It is true that, especially since the dropping of two atomic bombs on Japan at the end of World War II—which in a flash killed hundreds of thousands of people—the U.S. ruling class has relied on its preponderance of terror weapons to be able to proclaim itself “leader of the free world.”

Yes, it has enjoyed the freedom to exploit and super-exploit working people and natural resources on every continent.

It is the ability to threaten — and destroy — so many countries that has made the U.S. ruling class the richest in human history. But just because the super-rich have grown ever richer doesn’t mean workers in the U.S. benefit from that. On the contrary.

This was made stunningly clear by data provided in a recent Federal Reserve report. An analysis of the data found that “over the last three decades, the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans saw their net worth grow by \$21 trillion, while the

wealth of the bottom 50 percent fell by \$900 billion.” (New York Times, June 24)

The figure \$21 trillion is so mind-boggling it is almost incomprehensible. Let’s break it down. First, the U.S. population over the last three decades averages out to 300 million people. Of that, 1 percent equals 3 million people. Divide \$21 trillion by these richest 3 million and the net worth of each one of them grew by \$7 million.

However, most of that increase in wealth went to the top one-tenth or even one-hundredth of a percent, some of whom have become trillionaires — a term that didn’t even used to exist.

**Rich get richer, workers get poorer**

At the same time, the rest of us have been getting poorer. Some 80 percent of the U.S. population now lives on credit. All this has happened even as the U.S. was bringing havoc to Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen and Yugoslavia — and now is threatening Iran with the same fate.

Meanwhile, the oil companies and the

banks behind them were raking in the dough.

So the idea that “the power wielded by the United States” benefits the working class here, the vast majority of the population, is totally false. Instead, the workers who don’t get killed or maimed in these wars are stuck with huge tax bills for ever more deady and costly high-tech warfare.

The rich, meanwhile, have a zillion ways to minimize their taxes — a scandal that goes far beyond Trump’s refusal to release his tax returns.

The global capitalist economy, over which the U.S. claims leadership, is in a precarious position. This immense polarization of wealth cannot go on forever without reaching a tipping point.

In the crises yet to come, what will be decisive is the ability of the working class — multinational, multigender, young and old — to build the solidarity needed for the struggle to take over the productive forces it has created and run them, not for profit, but for the good of humanity and the planet on which we live. □

# U.S role in Hong Kong protests

*The corporate media have used recent protests in Hong Kong to attack and vilify the People’s Republic of China and the ruling role of the Chinese Communist Party, under the pretext of defending human rights. Without knowing the history, as well as all the ways the U.S. super-rich and their government in Washington carry out U.S. foreign policy, it is impossible to understand the forces behind these protests in Hong Kong, a city that the British Empire seized in 1842 and only returned in 1997. This statement from the International Action Center takes on these issues.*

U.S. imperialism is the greatest enemy of the world’s peoples, who are struggling for a future with dignity, sovereignty and full human rights. Wall Street and finance capital maintain their dominance through the threat of over 800 foreign military bases, aircraft carriers, constant coups, targeted assassinations, drone attacks and starvation sanctions imposed on over 30 countries around the world.

Wall Street also uses the soft power National Endowment for Democracy (NED) to fund many thousands of non-governmental organizations, reactionary political parties and alliances with corrupt dictators all over the world.

U.S. aid and interventions have never protected human rights or democracy.

Recent mass protests against a proposed modification of extradition laws have rattled Hong Kong. It is the natural response of all progressive forces to rally to the side of mass demonstrations. But it is the duty of revolutionaries to look deeper, to ask what forces are behind a movement and who stands to benefit.

Background

Britain stole Hong Kong from China at the conclusion of the first Opium War in 1842. Through the Opium Wars, Britain and the U.S. military imposed the opium trade, unequal treaties and occupation. One hundred years of imperialist looting completely impoverished and underdeveloped China.

The victory of the Chinese Revolution in 1949 radically changed China and began the efforts to build socialism. But

for 30 years, from 1949 to 1979 China was completely walled off, blockaded and sanctioned by the U.S. and Western imperialist countries.

In 1979, from the “reform and opening up” initiated under Deng Xiaoping, China made the concession to capitalist market reforms. This finally gave China access to some technology and capital from the industrialized world, but it was a deal with the devil, strengthening the capitalist class in China.

The British colony of Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 under the “one country, two systems” principle that preserved much of the British colonial legal/judicial system in the former colony.

Hong Kong is a center of world finance capital. It is deeply hostile to the social measures that have lifted hundreds of millions of people in mainland China out of extreme poverty and provided high standards of health care, education and modern infrastructure.

Finance capital has made strong inroads into China. Hong Kong is the West’s base of operations, encouraging the growth of a capitalist class in China that threatens the foundations of socialism. Today China is a deeply contradictory society, characterized by the struggle between a reborn capitalist class and the aspirations of Chinese workers and peasants to maintain and expand the planned economy.

It is in the context of this struggle, as well as the escalating U.S. military encirclement and trade war against China, that the current protests in Hong Kong must be understood. The forces of finance capital in Hong Kong and their allies in the U.S. and Europe want to pull Hong Kong away from China so it can function as an economic and political outpost in the region.

This means limiting legal and political integration with China as much as possible. To this end the U.S. has provided extensive political, financial and media support for the protests.

The vocabulary of protest is available to both the left and right. Through the NED the U.S. has financed coup attempts, often involving a component of mass protest, in Honduras, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Haiti, Ukraine and Syria. Any movement has the potential to sweep into it many

well-meaning progressive people, often with legitimate grievances whose interests are not those of the movement’s leadership.

**Facts about the Hong Kong protests**

Multiple member organizations of the Civil Human Rights Front, the coalition behind the recent protests, receive or have received funding from the NED, a U.S.-funded soft power organization that doles out money in the interests of U.S. imperialism. These include the Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management, Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions, Hong Kong Journalists Association, Civic Party, Labor Party and Democratic Party.

Over 37,000 NGOs, with staff in the tens of thousands, are registered in Hong Kong, many of which receive funding from the U.S. and Europe.

Martin Lee, founder of the Democratic Party in the Civil Human Rights Front, met with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during the protests. Pompeo expressed support for the protests at the meeting. If the protests are in fact serving a progressive end, they would not be supported by the reactionary leadership of U.S. imperialism — the very force attempting to carry out a coup in Venezuela, threatening People’s Korea and trying to start a war with Iran.

Hong Kong’s independent judicial/legal system is a relic of British colonialism. Nowhere else in the world does a city have independent extradition laws, with authority above that of a sovereign country.

Despite decades of multimillion-dollar Western funding, Hong Kong has a poverty rate of 20 percent (23.1 percent for

children) compared to less than 1 percent in mainland China. In the past 20 years poverty in Hong Kong has remained high while mainland China has lifted countless millions of people out of poverty. Recent protests, much like the “Occupy Central” protests in Hong Kong in 2014, have not raised this issue. The protests have been directed at leadership connected to mainland China, while ignoring the U.S.-connected banks and ultra-wealthy capitalists based in Hong Kong who clearly show no interest in addressing poverty or other desperate needs.

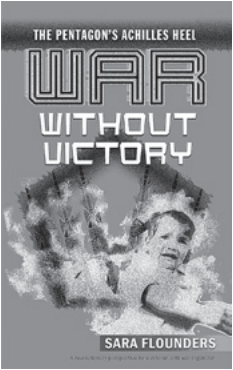
The U.S. claims to be concerned with free speech and politically motivated extraditions, while it aggressively pursues the extradition of Julian Assange for exposing the crimes of U.S. imperialism.

The corporate media in the U.S. and Europe have enthusiastically reported on the Hong Kong protests, in stark contrast to the meager, often critical coverage of mass protests in Gaza, Honduras, Sudan, Yemen, France or the recent general strike in Brazil. The difference in coverage exposes a difference in the forces behind the protests, a difference in who stands to benefit from them.

U.S. imperialism has a long history of “color revolutions” in which protests with a progressive, even revolutionary patina are used as cover for a reactionary, pro-U.S. agenda.

World finance capital forces in Hong Kong are allied with U.S. imperialism and opposed to socialist ownership and the leadership of China by the Chinese Communist Party.

U.S. Hands Off China!  
Hong Kong is part of China! □



## WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

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‘Huelga de Mujeres’ el 14 de junio en Zurich, Suiza.

## Honduras

# El pueblo se subleva contra la dictadura

Por Sam Ordóñez

24 junio - El pueblo hondureño se encuentra desde la semana pasada en sublevamiento contra la dictadura de Juan Orlando Hernández (JOH). El paro nacional y las manifestaciones iniciadas el mes pasado por la Plataforma por la Defensa de la Salud y la Educación en Honduras han evolucionado a exigir la renuncia del presidente en respuesta a la fuerte represión que han sufrido.

A los médicos y los docentes se sumaron los transportistas, que se negaron a conducir y usaron sus camiones para bloquear ciertas carreteras. Esto provocó rápidamente una escasez de combustible en varias zonas del país incluyendo las grandes ciudades.

En un momento un sector de la Policía Nacional se puso también de huelga y en rebeldía contra sus oficiales, cosa que provocó que el pueblo tomara las calles y empezara a ocupar las ciudades. Estos policías ya volvieron a su trabajo de represión, ya que solo buscaban más dinero para hacerlo, pero no antes de que JOH movilizara el ejército para “restaurar el orden”.

Pese a la represión, la Plataforma y el partido opositor Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE) siguen llamando a la movilización popular, y han dicho que seguirán en la lucha hasta que salga el dictador.

### El golpe de estado de 2009

Este sublevamiento se está desarrollando a días del décimo aniversario del golpe de Estado contra Manuel Zelaya en 2009. Los imágenes del pueblo enfrentándose a gases lacrimógenos y policías militares enfrentándose, de defensores del pueblo asesinados por las fuerzas de seguridad, de bloqueos formados neumáticos ardientes afirman la intensidad de la lucha contra las políticas neoliberales impuestas por el imperialismo en estos

diez años.

Manuel Zelaya fue presidente de 2006 a 2009, cuando el ejército lo secuestró y lo mandó a Costa Rica, argumentando que Zelaya buscaba un segundo término presidencial, que en ese momento violaba la constitución.

En realidad el golpe fue motivado porque Zelaya había intentado unirse a la Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América (ALBA), una organización regional promovida por los gobiernos de Venezuela y Cuba para combatir la influencia del imperialismo norteamericano.

Esto representaba un paso inaceptable para el imperialismo norteamericano y la oligarquía hondureña, que ya había estado usando su control sobre los medios de comunicación para atacar al gobierno progresista. Cuando encontraron la oportunidad, fabricaron una crisis constitucional y llevaron a cabo el golpe.

Públicamente, el gobierno estadounidense de Barack Obama condenó el golpe, pero no hizo nada para restaurar al presidente democráticamente elegido. De hecho, los correos electrónicos de Hillary Clinton, que en aquel momento era Secretaria de Estado, revelan que el gobierno norteamericano negociaba con los líderes del golpe, muchos de los cuales tenían relaciones con el alto mando militar estadounidense.

No tardaron en reconocer los resultados de las elecciones presidenciales en Noviembre de ese año, aunque se celebraron bajo una junta militar. El nuevo presidente conservador, Porfirio Lobo Sosa, recibió grandes alabanzas del gobierno de Obama por sus esfuerzos hacia la “reconciliación” pese a que durante su mandato empezaron a desaparecer periodistas que apoyaban a Zelaya o se oponían al golpe.

El actual presidente llegó al poder en 2014 y ha sido criticado por su corrupción y el aumento de la represión estatal

contra sus rivales. La derecha había acusado a Zelaya de querer extender su mandato como pretexto para el golpe de 2009, pero JOH se presentó a la reelección sin problemas judiciales.

La elección de 2017 fue caracterizado por un fraude descarado por parte del partido de JOH. La cuenta de los votos se suspendió varias veces, en una instancia durante tres días, y al reanudar había desaparecido misteriosamente la ventaja de casi 5 por ciento de los votos que tenía el candidato opositor.

### Diez años de neoliberalismo y represión

El aniversario del golpe de estado es un momento oportuno para reflexionar sobre los objetivos y las consecuencias de la política neoliberal. Más que nada hay que recordar que es una política impuesta por el imperialismo norteamericano, y por lo tanto es una política completamente servil a sus intereses.

La historia de Honduras ha sido, como la de toda la América Latina, definida por el colonialismo y el imperialismo que lo siguió. El despojo de los pueblos originarios y la destrucción de sus tierras con proyectos extractivistas y el monocultivo es la base sobre la cual la oligarquía se ha enriquecido y ha construido su estado.

Bajo los gobiernos neoliberales del Partido Nacional de JOH, este proceso se ha intensificado. El mundo entero conoce el caso de Berta Cáceres, defensora de la tierra del pueblo Lenca que luchaba contra el capital transnacional que quería construir una hidroeléctrica en el territorio Lenca.

Berta Cáceres fue asesinado en 2014 por un grupo de hombres vinculados no solamente con la empresa que construía el proyecto y el estado hondureño, sino también con la famosa Escuela de las Américas, el colegio militar estadounidense que ha entrenado a las fuerzas de seguridad de las peores dictaduras

del continente. Este es solo un caso de cientos de asesinatos de líderes sociales que luchaban contra las minerías y las hidroeléctricas que se han visto en Honduras desde 2009.

En las zonas urbanas, el gobierno busca la destrucción de los servicios sociales, a instrucciones del Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI). La lucha actual para defender la salud y la educación pública es la culminación de muchos años de pérdida de fondos, con el fin de poder privatizar los pocos servicios que quedan.

Mientras la dictadura de JOH reduce los presupuestos de los servicios públicos, la policía se encuentra cada día más militarizado, con más tecnología y entrenamiento estadounidense. Mientras el país arde y el pueblo exige justicia, la semana pasada llegaron 300 marines estadounidenses para complementar las tropas norteamericanas que ya están en el país.

Honduras tiene la base militar estadounidense más grande de toda la región, y se ha usado históricamente para aplastar los movimientos sociales de los países vecinos. En 1954, parte de las tropas financiadas por Estados Unidos para derrocar al gobierno guatemalteco se movilizaron desde Honduras, y también apoyo a la Contra nicaragüense en los años 80.

A diez años del golpe, el pueblo hondureño ya no aguanta la austeridad neoliberal y la represión estatal que conlleva. Las dos opciones que le queda son unirse a las caravanas que viajan hasta el norte, o luchar para derrocar al gobierno.

La solidaridad con el pueblo hondureño por parte de las personas que viven en el metrópolis imperial tiene dos partes. Primero, luchar contra las políticas fronterizas fascistas del gobierno estadounidense. Segundo, denunciar la dictadura y luchar para terminar el apoyo y entrenamiento militar que ofrece el imperialismo a su títere en Honduras. □

# Mujeres en huelga en Suiza por igual salario y más

Por Kathy Durkin

Salario. Tiempo. Respeto. Ese fue el lema de la "Huelga de las Mujeres" de 24 horas por la igualdad salarial de género, la igualdad de derechos, el respeto y el fin de la violencia de género, que barrió Suiza el 14 de junio.

Cientos de miles de mujeres y personas de todos los géneros desde sindicatos a grupos pro derechos de las mujeres y los grupos aliados, las instituciones educativas y religiosas, e incluso las granjas marcharon, se unieron y atacaron.

Coloridas pancartas volaban desde puentes y edificios en las principales ciudades. El color púrpura era visible en todas partes, incluso en la ropa, debido a su simbolismo con los movimientos del sufragio de las mujeres europeas. Las mujeres en Suiza no pudieron votar hasta 1971.

En Berna, la capital, se manifestaron 100.000 personas, mientras que los trabajadores atacaron en fábricas. Allí, Rachel Luthy enfatizó: “Debemos luchar por la igualdad salarial ... derechos de aborto, tolerancia cero para la violencia doméstica y más. ¡Lo más importante es que debemos aplastar el patriarcado!” (New York Times, 14 de junio)

En la manifestación más grande del país, 160.000 personas marcharon en Zurich, un centro global de capital financiero. Los organizadores allí recibieron a mujeres, personas trans, intersex y queers, inmigrantes y personas de diferentes edades, comunidades, capacidades e ingresos. En Basilea, 40.000 personas participaron en 50 actividades, mientras que las acciones se llevaron a cabo en las principales ciudades y pueblos.

Muchas mujeres hicieron huelga durante todo el día, pero los organizadores

pidieron a las personas que no podían hacer eso que abandonaran sus lugares de trabajo a las 3:24 p.m., porque las mujeres trabajan gratis después de ese tiempo debido a la desigualdad salarial. Las mujeres ganan 20 por ciento menos que los trabajadores masculinos, una indignación en uno de los países más ricos del mundo. Es aún peor para los inmigrantes.

El Foro Económico Mundial clasifica a Suiza en el puesto 44 en equidad salarial por trabajo similar, en comparación con todos los demás países. (npr.org, 14 de junio) ¡Qué enormes ganancias obtienen los capitalistas al engañar a las mujeres de sus salarios completos!

Hace exactamente 28 años, 500.000 mujeres suizas realizaron una huelga histórica por la igualdad de derechos. Eso dio lugar a la aprobación de la Ley de igualdad de género en 1996, que prohibía la discriminación de género en el lugar de

trabajo.

En 2018, el Parlamento suizo promulgó una ley que pedía a las empresas que "estudiaran" las disparidades de pago por género, pero eso solo se aplicaba a las empresas con más de 100 empleados. No incluía sanciones para las empresas que violaban la ley.

Las mujeres líderes sindicales calificaron la ley de "sin sentido". Las mujeres se enfurecieron tanto que comenzaron a planear una protesta nacional. Los sindicatos se involucraron, y USS, un grupo de 16 sindicatos suizos, contribuyó a organizar la huelga del 14 de junio.

A medida que aumenta el costo de la vida en la peor economía "amigable para la familia" de Europa, y la desigualdad salarial de género crece, esta lucha continuará. □