

Fight for the rights of migrant workers

Model motion from No One Is Illegal

“Who is legal? What does this mean? If a cleaner is raped by her manager and is unable to speak out because she is illegal then what does it mean to be legal? We have to talk about why people are here, about British imperialism, about exploitation of people, of land and resources.”

Clara Osagiede, RMT Cleaners Grade Secretary

This branch notes:

- **Anti-migrant myths are gaining currency at this time of cuts.** It is claimed that migrants are taking jobs when there aren't enough to go round and that they are responsible for low wages paid for by bosses. In fact the lack of jobs and low wages are the responsibility of the government and bosses.
- **The government encourages this scapegoating in order to divide the working class.** Immigration controls exploit and cement these divides by splitting workers into “legal” and “illegal” and “British” and “foreign”. They create fertile ground for racism and fascism.
- **We need to challenge and overcome these divisions** in order to organise effectively in our workplaces and against the dismantling of the public sector.
- **Migrant workers have led important struggles.** On the London Underground cleaners organised and won the living wage. However, their bosses attempted to break the organisation through workplace immigration checks and raids. Key trade unionists were arrested, deported or had to disappear.
- **Trade Unions need to build strategies and dedicate resources** to defeat these attacks.
- **The pernicious effect of immigration controls is felt in all of our workplaces:** employers now have an obligation to check papers; public sector workers are asked to gate-keep services based on immigration status; jobs which are more likely to be done by migrants receive lower wages and worse conditions.
- **There are concrete steps trade unionists should take** to undermine the divisive reach of immigration controls.

This branch resolves to:

- **Call a meeting** to discuss how immigration controls affect our workplaces and what we can do to challenge them, e.g.
 - campaign for a Living Wage for all workers
 - organise non-compliance when workers are asked to do the job of an immigration officer
 - instant and full union response to checks or raids in the workplace
- **Consider inviting a speaker** from No One Is Illegal, Latin American Workers Association, or the Cleaners Defence Committee to this meeting.
- **Commit branch time and resources** to support the plans that emerge from the meeting.
- **Raise these issues with the wider union** and work for the union to put the necessary resources and strategies in place to support migrant worker organisation.
- **Delegate a member(s) to attend the No One Is Illegal event** in London on 16 April.
- **Donate** £x to No One Is Illegal.