

# WORKERS

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## Workers take charge at Lindsey Oil Refinery

IT HAS STARTED, and not before time. Workers across the country are on the move. Construction, oil and energy workers in Grangemouth, Milford Haven, Aberthaw, Warrington, Southampton, Teesside, Darlington and elsewhere are walking out of their workplaces in support of Lindsey Oil Refinery construction workers in Lincolnshire.

Reacting furiously against foreign employers refusing to employ British labour, with jobs being given to workers from Italy (part of a pattern that has been building up – Staythorpe, Isle of Grain and others), they have decided to take charge of the situation.

Placards saying “British jobs for British workers” and “New Labour means migrant labour” are 100% right. Those workers have been constantly told – by “left” and “right” alike – that migrant labour is good for Britain. Now, in an explosion of anger channelled through organisation, they are rebutting this lie.

The “free” movement of labour benefits only capitalism.

While capitalism appeared to be booming, it stole workers from poorer economies who were needed in those countries – a reverse colonialism – to provide a pool of cheap, unorganised labour here. Now that western economies are crashing, it is from those EU member countries that cheaper skilled workers will be imported to Britain to undercut British workers – if we allow it.

Let us be clear, “British workers” means all those, of

whatever origin, living permanently in Britain and living by selling their labour power.

The first tranche of Italian workers have arrived and are living in barges moored at Grimsby docks. Some of them have been filmed shouting abuse at the striking Lindsey workers. They should know better – why aren't they fighting for jobs in their own countries?

Brown's famous phrase when he became prime minister, now being quoted by the construction workers, actually meant “British jobs for European workers”. Government posturing about a new “tough” stance on immigration is utterly bogus. EU rules forbid restraints on competition – this means that European workers cannot be “discriminated against” for jobs here. We must leave the EU if there is to be a future for Britain. Until we do, their rules can be ignored.

There will be much agonising over the strikers' slogans. But they are right. Workers' nationalism is misunderstood

as racist by those who either fail to understand capitalism's tactics in the war on workers, or who connive in this war. And the unity across the whole country, Scotland, England, Wales, demonstrates at a stroke the wrongness of attempts to split us into separate countries as if workers' interests are different.

Throughout the country, British workers have allowed themselves to be displaced by imported labour. The construction workers have begun to show what must be done. Now every worker must take up the fight.

Out of the EU! Let's plan our own future!

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FOR  
BRITISH  
WORKERS**

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