

# Conference Report 2021.

Our inaugural Conference was an extremely positive, comradely experience for all who attended in person. We received no negative feedback, whatsoever, from anybody who actually attended the event. Having said that, we must apologise to those members who couldn't log into the event remotely. This was entirely due to circumstances that were beyond our control. The venue owners decided, at the very last minute, to sell the venue to Oxford University, who then decided to start gutting the building on the eve of the event. This impacted our ability to provide adequate Wi-Fi coverage, although we had taken every step to ensure we had adequate coverage, prior to the intervention of the venue's new owner.

We will happily reimburse the fees for anyone affected by a loss of connectivity. Please email [Contact@resistmovement.org.uk](mailto:Contact@resistmovement.org.uk) if you were one of those affected.

## Workshops, campaigning, debate and discussion.

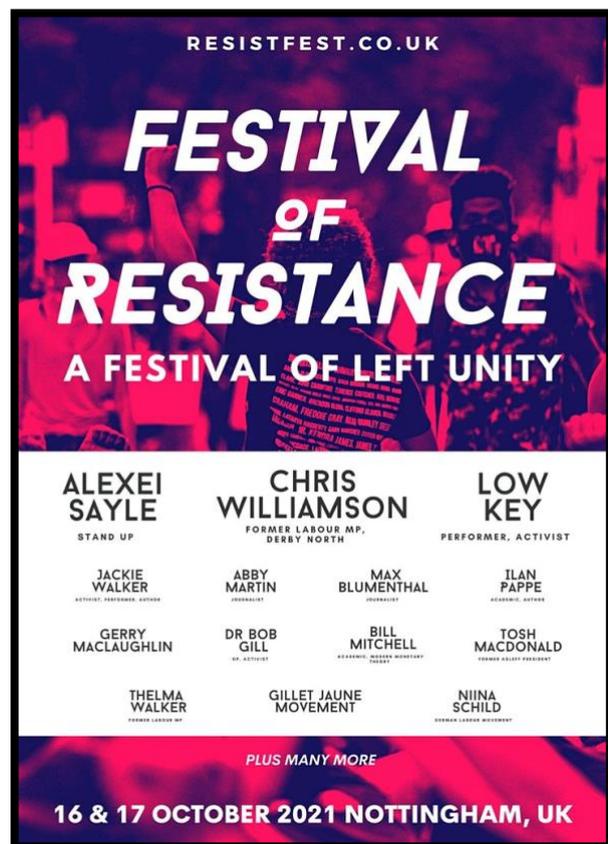
Many who attended the workshops, came away with, not only fresh ideas and perspectives on the wide variety of issues and campaigns covered, but that it was a unique opportunity, to sit down with some of the leading figures in their fields, in an intimate setting that many of us had never experienced before in conference settings.

Many of us signed up for the campaigns that we discussed, such as the fantastic Palestine Action,

Extinction Rebellion and Insulate Britain, to name just three.

Political education has to be a major part of our programme going forward. We are fortunate that we are already ahead of the curve, with Resistance TV (every Wednesday evening at 7pm on YouTube) where we can bring together some of the leading experts in

their fields, experts who will never be offered a platform by corporate media, to educate what is actually happening in the country/world, as opposed to the false narratives, propaganda and lies spouted by the billionaire owned media outlets.



## To be, or not to become, a political Party?

One of the main questions posed to the Conference, was to debate the question of whether or not, we register as a formal political Party?

Following a lively debate, where positions were put, by comrades including Dave Nellist, representing TUSC, (Trades Union and Socialist Coalition) Who we are already affiliated to; Joti Brar (Worker's Party - WPG) and Hannah Sell (Socialist Party). Contributions were also made by our good friend and Comrade Alexei Sayle. The debate was moderated by our founder, Chris Williamson.

The Steering Committee (SteerCo) had agreed, prior to the Conference, that any vote taken would be entirely indicative i.e., for guidance only.

This was due to the fact that not every member would be able to attend, either physically or remotely. The Steering Committee puts great importance on member participation, and the principle that our movement has to be run from the grassroots up, not top-down, like other movements/ Parties are.



The indicative vote, taken on the day, decided overwhelmingly to opt for the formation of a political Party. However, in order to avoid the failures of the past (Change UK, SDP, for example) we will need to structure our movement, and increase our membership dramatically from where we are at the moment. If we fail to do this, then we risk missing a golden opportunity to fill the void that will inevitably be left by the implosion of the Labour Party. I'm sure that we will all agree that so much is at stake, that failure cannot be an option.

To that end, we plan to immediately:

- Ensure that every region of our Country has a dedicated regional organiser, who will manage the growth of our movement within their communities.
- Once the organisers are in place, organise an 'away day' at Chris Williamson office in Derby, to plan our campaigns, expansion, regional organisation; and to consult on the varying needs and ambitions of our diverse regions and communities.
- We will then begin to organise rallies across the UK, in order to communicate our message, policy programme and to inspire Socialists and others, dissatisfied with the status quo, to unite with us and other left groups, to Challenge the establishment Parties and provide genuine change.



## A Proactive membership

The Resist Movement is here to stay, and we want the movement to be of our communities, active in local causes and services.

A movement run by the grassroots members, with an organisational structure that is regularly elected by the members based on specific Skills with regional representation and based on the total membership of each region.

Initially, we will Canvass our membership, via a simple questionnaire, to ensure that every member has the opportunity to contribute to our movement in whatever way they can, want to, and are comfortable doing. Everyone can make a contribution. Some may be able to Contribute more time than others, some may be able to contribute financially but have little free time available, but everybody's contributions will be valued and will contribute towards the ultimate aim of securing a fairer, more compassionate, peaceful society and world.



## In conclusion

The Festival of Resistance was not only inspirational, it was entertaining and sustaining!

Your Steering committee took the decision that our conference should serve Vegan food only. After all, how can we tackle climate change, whilst serving up the food that accounts for such a large part of our carbon footprint? Nobody, and I mean nobody complained about the food.

In fact, the opposite was true. The food was absolutely delicious and will have given many of us the drive to eat far less meat and dairy than we currently do, perhaps even become Vegan?

We were also hugely entertained by top rated, professional artists such as Lowkey (pictured) , Joe Solo and the amazing Tayo Aluko

We're now looking forward to our next Conference in 2022. We have learned much from this experience, and are confident that the next event will be bigger, bolder and that our membership will have grown exponentially.

# Building our Movement – future ambitions



We have bold ambitions to bring Socialists together in such a way that we simply cannot be ignored by corporate politicians, the corporate media or the greedy 1% who have bled our country dry, whilst adding nothing positive to it.

We want to see our movement replace the Labour Party, as the largest progressive movement in the UK, if not Europe. To do that, we need every member to have conversations with friends, family members, neighbours, work colleagues or strangers met in the street, pub or at bus stops!

We also plan to get involved with direct action campaigns, as well as our planned rallies across the nation, to inform and inspire, not only our members and supporters, but the wider public. This is in addition to Resistance TV, where we will continue to educate, inform and entertain.

**Please tune in, every Wednesday from 7pm.**

We want to embed ourselves in every community, providing the help and support that our people need, under the cloud of Tory cuts and oppression.

However, running an organisation such as ours does not come cheap. We would greatly appreciate financial donations, from those in a position to do so, no matter how small, towards our running costs and future ambitions.

If you are a Trade Union member, perhaps you could ask your branch to make financial donations, or even put motions to your Union conferences, highlighting the fact that Labour no longer represents the ambitions and interests of the working class, and will likely, if they ever were to gain power, ignore the injustice of the anti-trades union legislation and keep workers powerless, whilst handing more control to greedy bosses, as they did last time they were in power!

Together, we can inspire people to believe that a better world is possible and, together, we can inspire them to join with us, to provide genuine, tangible change.



**Yours in Solidarity!**  
**John Maher**  
**Campaigns Coordinator**

**Donations can be made using either of the following methods:**

**Bank: The Co-operative Bank**

**Name of Account: Festival of Resistance Ltd**

**Account No: 69871652**

**Sort Code: 08-92-99**

**PayPal.me/festivalofresistance**