



THE ANVIL



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Free

THE VOICE REFERENDUM



Invasion Day Rally

Credit: 3CR

The proposed Voice to Parliament sits as a piece of empty symbolism that will do nothing to advance the struggles of Aboriginal peoples for self determination. The Labor government pushes a glorified consultative committee to referendum whilst mining tears apart Aboriginal land, sacred sites are destroyed, Aboriginal people suffer mass incarceration and children are stolen from their families. The Blak Sovereign Movement is right to condemn the Labor government for advancing nothing but empty symbolism.

For the racist right, even this empty symbolism is too much. The "No" campaign has turned the referendum on the Voice into a referendum on white supremacy. The "No" campaign is built on racist conspiracy theories and the denial of Aboriginal people's right to self determination. The "No" campaign

advances assimilationist politics and cultural genocide.

The position of the "No" campaign must be rejected. The Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group believes that a "Yes" vote would be the least worst outcome in this referendum. But the struggle for Aboriginal self determination will not be won at the ballot box. Genuine Blak self determination (sovereignty) threatens the basis of Australian capitalism. Only a mass movement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with the support and participation of the non-Indigenous working class in determined solidarity, can force substantive concessions out of the ruling class. Only a revolution can win sovereignty.

**LAND BACK
BLAK SOVEREIGNTY**

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ONE STRUGGLE ONE FIGHT DEFEATING TRANSPHOBIA

Trans people are under attack in Australia and across the world. The Christian right has pivoted in its war against LGBTIQ+ people and is trying to import a US style trans panic into the Australian context.

The Christian right has been on the back foot in Australia since 2016's marriage equality plebiscite. When 61.6% of Australians voted to support marriage equality the conservative right were forced to retreat. The Liberal Party, a bastion of anti-queer and homophobic politics, quickly tried to reinvent itself as the party that delivered marriage equality. Anti-queer forces are now regrouping by pivoting to attacks on trans people.

This pivot was well underway at the May 2022 Federal Election when Scott Morrison selected the rabid transphobe Katherine Deves as the Liberal candidate for Warringah. Deves lost in the seat she was contesting and the Liberals failed to make progress in the outer suburban seats they were targeting. The Liberals managed to use the election as a platform to advance and promote transphobic politics, though, and anti-queer forces resolved to redouble their efforts.

In March 2023, anti-trans activist Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull – also known as 'Posie Parker' – organised a rally in front of Victoria's parliament. The absurdly titled Let Women Speak rally drew in a rogues' gallery of Liberal party politicians, the Christian right, so-called "Radical Feminists", and of course the neo-Nazis.

Across April and May, Victorian local governments, libraries, and schools, quickly bowed to a coordinated campaign of threats from the transphobic right. More than ten drag storytime and other

LGBTIQ+ family events were cancelled or moved online as Victoria Police pressured local governments to cave in to far-right threats. A coalition of right wing anti-LGBTIQ+ Christians, so-called Radical Feminists, and assorted fascists and neo-Nazis are now cohering into an anti-trans movement in Australia.

Origins of Transphobia

Transphobia, the oppression and marginalisation of trans people, is useful for capitalism. In capitalist society, the ruling class seeks to maximise profit by minimising the cost of workers and by maximising the amount of work each of us performs. Capitalism needs workers, both today, tomorrow, and into the future. This means that the working class has to be reproduced, homes need to exist, children need to be raised. Capitalists need this 'social reproduction' to occur at the minimum possible cost.

The solution for capitalism has been to reproduce a deeper and more rigid gendered division of labour, with clear roles for 'men' and 'women'. The gender ideology favoured by capitalism casts the work of social reproduction as 'women's work' (and unpaid of course).

The existence of non-conforming gender minorities and marginalised sexualities threatens this gender order. Capitalism has responded with all manner of queerphobia and transphobia. The fight for trans rights is a working class fight. In Australia and around the world, the state maintains the gender structure of capitalism with laws that target and marginalise trans people. The war against trans people increasingly takes the form of new laws to target trans identity and reinforce the gender binary. The resort to the state by anti-queer forces



Credit: Victorian Trades Hall Council

is, in large part, a response to their slipping hold on public opinion. Where family and social pressure falters, organised violence has to step in.

People born a particular sex (or, in the case of intersex people, simply assigned as male or female) are forced to continue on a predetermined path of identity, expression, and behaviour, with any deviation from this path heavily discouraged. Trans people face marginalisation and exclusion in employment. A recent study (“The Health and Well-Being of Transgender Australians: A National Community Survey”) shows that the current unemployment rate for transgender people in Australia is 19%, compared to the average unemployment rate of 3.7% across all of Australia.

Australia’s public health system routinely fails to serve the needs of trans people. Trans people who wish to physically transition are forced to endure an increasingly expensive bureaucratic hellscape. Throughout this process, trans people are often subject to ignorant doctors, and moreover an apathetic healthcare system that harms trans people by pathologising them.

Physical transition is, of course, not a necessary part of transitioning, and gender dysphoria is not a prerequisite to identifying as transgender. Each person’s

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decision on this matter is entirely their own. We must realise that the true work of a revolutionary is doing away with the enforcement of a false gender binary and deconstructing gender roles.

Transphobia on the ‘Left’

The Left is not immune from transphobia. Elements of the left have bought into the argument that the fight for trans rights is simply ‘identity politics’. Some view trans activism as a self-absorbed political “ideology” of an entitled cultural elite, despite the majority of trans people suffering from severe economic disadvantage. These transphobes act as if we can separate the struggle for the rights of trans people from the working class struggle.

Even worse are the ‘TERFs’. These Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminists appropriate the language of feminism whilst attempting to enforce debunked pseudo-science about ‘inherent’ sex-characteristics. These so-called radical feminists now readily line up with their fellow reactionaries, conservative Christians and neo-Nazis.

Anti-trans politics within the left harm our efforts to build solidarity, and create convenient scapegoats for the ruling class.

One Struggle One Fight

The institutional, social, and physical violence that trans people face is not simply a matter for trans people only. The fight against transphobia is not something separate to the class struggle. Trans rights are vital to the working class.

We say this for the following reasons. Firstly, transphobia supports the capitalist system and is an obstacle in the way of overthrowing it. Capitalism generates

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transphobia just as it generates gendered oppression. Transphobia enables capitalism to pit one group of workers against another.

Secondly, the overwhelming majority of trans people are working class. In fact, working class trans people suffer more from the effects of transphobia. Those few members of the ruling class who come out as trans do not experience oppression and marginalisation in the same way as members of the working class. Wealth will always shield ruling class trans people from the worst effects of marginalisation and discrimination.

Thirdly, a united struggle by the working class can only take place if people are mobilised on the basis of fighting all oppression and exploitation. A working class movement that casts aside trans workers can only be a weaker and more divided movement.

We stand in complete solidarity with trans people against the attacks against them by the State and the far-right. However, we maintain that trans liberation must be part of a broader revolutionary struggle. Neither trans people – nor any other person – should aspire to be equals in a world where people are dominated and exploited by bosses and governments. The capitalist-state system, and the racism and sexism that it engenders, degrades the vast majority of those who participate in it, and threatens the very survival of the planet. It must be overthrown so that we can all be free.

Complete autonomy over our bodies, free universal healthcare, housing for all, sexual freedom, and power concentrated in the hands of workers rather than the ruling class. These all form part of our struggle for the construction of a stateless, classless society, where we co-operate to meet human needs, rather than enrich a tiny minority.

Transphobia is antithetical to the fundamental



What is Anarchism?

Anarchism is a social philosophy based upon the principles of liberty, equality and solidarity. It is the political dimension of a free society.

What is Communism?

Communism is the principle of “from each according to their ability, to each according to their need”. It is the economic dimension of a free society.

What is the Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group?

The MACG is an organisation of class struggle revolutionary anarchists who share political positions, articulated in theory, strategy and tactics.

We aim to encourage struggle by the working class for its own interests and, within that struggle, we aim to advance Anarchist ideas as its necessary philosophical basis.

principles of anarchism - liberty, equality, and solidarity. The fight for trans liberation must be part of social revolution. All workers must back the struggle for trans rights on the basis of:

**TOUCH ONE
TOUCH ALL**

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