

Dear Delegates,

Indian Workers' Association (GB)

Established 1938

National Conference

Southall 4th July 2004

1. During our last meeting, we had discussed and agreed a programme of work to progress the aims and objectives of the Indian Workers' Association (IWA). The key aspects of the conference decision and deliberations were organisational improvement and publicity activities (see agenda).
2. We concluded that the current structure of the IWA is not fit for purpose and the organisation of the IWA should be a historical document.
3. The decisions, goals and objectives of the Conference were immediately categorised with the re-organisation of Biological Structures. The full national leadership that formed the National Conference, supported in spirit and underpins the very values of a democratic and democratic organisation.
4. Through a series of unopposed decisions backed by a detailed programme, unless these national structures, such as the organisation, be not paralysed at the time.
5. The increasing differences between the IWA from effective functioning in role and responsibility and give rise to reflect to highlight of national concerns and organisational issues.
6. It is to your credit, the assistance of largely unopposed and the voluntary members of the Association, that you remain loyal and devoted to your historic duty to the working class, the IWA continues to survive and we must today.
7. On behalf of the National Executive Committee, through your delegates, we thank you for your commitment and while you are not here.
8. This period has not been without loss, we have experienced a temporary setback in Birmingham branch, Birmingham, over the threshold of the IWA (GB), today remains outside the organisational network.
9. The Indian Workers' Association (IWA) has faced many challenges in its diverse history and the confidence in our united ability to combat the globalisation but always being our strength. We must today to discuss and review our work, not just of the past decade, but to position the IWA (GB) strategically, based on its historical goal and prepared for the future.
10. Since our last conference there has been many changes in the international situation, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the fall of world power and stability has been replaced by international affairs. The international has not set out to establish a new world order with US pre-eminence in the world.

Dear Delegates,

1. This National Conference of the Indian Workers' Association (G.B.) is taking place after a break of over a decade; we last met in Woolwich in 1993. — (Wing yup)
2. During our last meeting, we had discussed and agreed a programme of work to progress the aims and objectives of the Indian Workers' Association (G.B.). The key aspects of the conference decisions and deliberations were: organisational improvements and solidarity actions (see appendix a).
3. We concluded the Conference with high hopes of strengthening the work and organisation of the IWA (GB). We would be pleased to report that the agreed aims of the conference have all been met; this would be a historical untruth.
4. The decisions, goals and objectives of the Conference were immediately endangered with the re-emergence of ideological differences. The left sectarian tendency that became visible at the Conference, continued to attack and undermine the core values of a disciplined and democratic organisation.) factionalism rife
5. Through a series of manipulated decisions backed by technical bureaucracy, rather than fraternal comradely spirit the organisation became paralysed at the centre.
6. The increasing differences distracted the CEC from effectively discharging its role and responsibility and gave rise to collective negligence of conference decisions and organisational norms.
7. It is to your credit, the executives of branch committees and the ordinary members of the Association, that you remain loyal and faithful to your historic duty to the working class, the IWA continues to survive and we meet today.) commitment to class struggle endures
8. On behalf of the National Organising Committee, through you the delegates, we thank you for your commitment and salute your resolute dedication.
9. This period has not been without loss, we have registered a temporary setback in Birmingham Branch. Birmingham, once the stronghold of the IWA (GB), today remains outside our organisational network.) Big gap in organisation
10. The Indian Workers' Association (G.B.) has faced many challenges in its glorious history and the confidence in our united ability to confront the practical reality has always been our strength. We meet today to discuss and review our work, not just of the past decade, but to position the IWA (GB) strategically, based on its historical past and prepared for the future.
11. Since our last conference there has been many changes in the international situation, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the pillar of world peace and stability has left its imprint on international affairs. US imperialism has set out to establish a new world order with US pro imperialists on one side versus

the rest of the world. The salivating ugly face of Imperialism has shown no regard for international law or its institutions like the United Nations.

12. To check the onslaught and attacks by Imperialism, a realignment of the populace nations of India, China and Russia has become a necessity.

13. We are meeting at a time when the world is witnessing imperialist aggression, with the illegal war and occupation of Iraq led by George Bush (President of the United States of America) and obediently supported by Tony Blair (the Prime Minister of Great Britain). They share the responsibility for the new global politics of imperialism, through war, privatisation and trans-national capitalist plunder. However, there is renewed optimism in the struggle of mankind to overcome such crude and cruel machinations with unprecedented opposition to war and capitalist globalisation. For the IWA (GB) there has never been a more challenging environment than today.

Seeking
new
call to
arms
still on
internationalist
agenda.

14. The political, economic, social, cultural and technological changes that are being wrought by the combination of what is referred to as 'globalisation' and the 'new economy' are severely affecting all countries including Britain. Although, sometimes, it may be difficult to pin-point the nature of novel cause-effect relationships or to understand the political tensions that are being created by the maelstrom of change. There are many examples of this conflict of change and the contradiction facing Indian workers' as members of Trade Unions in Britain agitating to safeguard their employment in finance and service sector's as well as information technology (call centres) and their historical solidarity with the working people of India.

Global
economic
analysis
of
exploitation

15. Last year alone some 15,000 jobs in human resources, accounting and information technology were off-shored mainly to India. These service sector jobs have replaced the loss of manufacturing jobs in some of Britain's industrial black spots; unfortunately, with globalisation and the pursuit of greater profits these jobs could go the same way as steel, shipbuilding and other manufacturing industries.

still
economic
concern
for
British
workers

16. Another example is the reduction in wages or loss of employment through direct competition for jobs in Britain due to exploitation of the unorganised labour force and refugee migrants. The jobless growth in the economy in Britain has resulted in the loss of real jobs. The new deals and legalised low minimum wage have brought about a reduction in living standards with increase in the number of families in debt.

17. That a new world economic order is being shaped by imperialism and the trans-national companies at this moment and that we need to have clearer insights into what this means is undeniable.

18. The three fundamental pillars of global capitalism appear to be: -

- a. The globalisation of goods and services.
- b. The ease and speed of round-the-world transfers of capital and technology.

c. The prominence of the global corporations or trans-national corporations.

19. The profit hungry trans-nationals served by globalisation and the new economic world order are leading to increasing polarisation, actual or potential, between:- Industrialised (eg. Britain) and industrialising countries (eg. India) and the non-industrial countries (eg. Afghanistan) on the basis of a disparity between their relative economic wealth and growth prospects;

a. Transnationals and the governments whose countries they operate in (host governments) on the basis of possible conflicts of interest.

b. Transnationals are welcomed by all governments as bringer of jobs and short-term prosperity, but disliked by the people for the deleterious changes in national culture, the loss of national autonomy and in economic stability (neo-colonialism). The fact is that today some governments are now more dependent on major companies than major companies are on governments.

20. The UN Human Development Report 1999 stated that:

a. "Economic globalisation has polarised the world, with the richest fifth of humanity enjoying more than 85% of total gross domestic product and the poorest fifth only 1% Global inequalities in income and living standards have reached 'grotesque proportions, and the gap is widening. Thirty years ago, the income ratio of the richest to the poorest countries was 30:1. By 1990, the ratio had reached 60:1, and now it stands at 74:1'.

b. Today, more than 50% of the world trade is controlled by, United States of America, Japan and the European Union, members of G10. The World Trade Order and Globalisation have increased the inequality in the world economy. With the poor countries becoming poorer with impossible debts.

21. The Indian Workers Association will undertake activities to expose globalisation the latest phase of imperialism and trans-national corporations. We will intensify our struggle against the policies of oppression and exploitation. The IWA (GB) will continue to play its due role in the movement for world peace in a much more organised fashion than has been the case during the last decade.

22. India - A Decisive Victory.

23. Since our last Conference India has seen governments of the United Front led by Deve Gowda, followed by I.K. Gujral and then the dark clouds of communalism and neo-fascism of the Bhartiya Janata Party behind the mask of Atal Behari Vajpayee took over the reigns.

24. All developments in India; political, cultural, social, religious, educational, environmental, technological and even sports continue to effect the lives of the Indian Community in Britain.

Speak
of
Economic
Imperialism

Globalisation
as
next
stage
of
Imperialism
(Marxist
analysis)

Continued
concern
with
Indian
Politics.

25. The rise of religious fundamentalism, in its current form of Hindutva threatens the national unity of India and its secular polity. The very foundation of the state based on unity in diversity have been under a barrage of attacks by the BJP in pursuit of power.

26. The people of India have reaffirmed their commitment to uphold India's freedom and unity gained through countless sacrifices. The confidence in the ability of the left and democratic and secular forces has been restored. The confidence registered by the people of India in the ability of the left parties and their mass organisations, to influence events on a national level are unprecedented.

27. The elections of the 14th Lok Sabha have resulted in a decisive rejection of the BJP and its National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The BJP after six years has been ousted from the central government. This was the primary aim of the Left democratic and secular forces and the people of India have responded to the call to defeat the BJP and its allies. The right wing BJP led NDA coalition has not just been voted out of power it has been humiliated. The mandate by *Asli Bharat* is a decisive vote against communalism and neo-liberalism's economic reforms. The mandate is clearly for progressive reforms to eradicate poverty and disparity in India for secularism and strength in diversity.

28. The Left had set out three goals in these elections, they are: defeat of the BJP alliance, formation of a secular government at the centre and increasing the strength of the Left. We are pleased to note that all the three tactical aims of the election have been realised.

29. The BJP and its allies only won 189 seats compared to 296 in the 1999 elections. Its vote share based on 'India shining' campaign has gone down by nearly 5% in these elections. In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP won just 10 seats out of 80. Even in Gujarat, the BJP could only win 14 seats out of 26, compared to 21 in 1999. Some of the major allies of the BJP have suffered crushing defeats, such as the TDP in Andhra Pradesh and the AIADMK in Tamilnadhu.

30. The CPI (M) has won 44 seats (including one supported independent) and the Left as a whole that includes CPI, Forward Bloc and the RSP have won 61 seats. This is the best performance of the Left in parliamentary elections. The increased strength of the Left bloc will heighten the Left's intervention in national politics and aid the advance of the left and democratic forces.

31. The non-NDA parties have won the overwhelming number of seats in the Lok Sabha. The Congress won 145 seats and along with its allies of the newly formed United Progressive Alliance secured 219 seats. The external support by the Left with its 61 seats has ensured the formation of a secular government

Center
remains
about
religious
nationalism

encouraged
by
left
advance
in
India

at the centre. The 71 year old economist Dr. Manmohan Singh has become the Prime Minister of India.

32. A new Common Minimum Programme has now been put forward for the governance of India. The CMP has been welcomed and broadly endorsed by the Left. The people of India await the genuine spirited implementation of the Common Minimum Programme. We look forward to a real change in focus and direction in economic, social and foreign policy. There is a real opportunity now, to advance the movement for democratic, secular and social advance with an end to the inequalities. The need to rekindle the spirit of the Non Aligned Movement and strengthen the United Nations will be key steps in curtailing the aggression of US imperialism. The IWA (GB) congratulates the people of India and salutes the decisive victory.

33. Britain

34. During the last decade, we have witnessed the change in political administration, the eighteen years of Conservative rule finally coming to an end. The era of New Labour ushering in a false-dawn of hopes and dreams for the working class.

downing
about
New
Labour
abandoning
working
class.

35. The New Labour government came to power after dropping all pretence of pursuing a socialist agenda, with the removal of clause 4. The government implemented some of the manifesto pledge it made to the electorate, e.g. establishing a minimum wage, minor modification of the universally despised anti-trade union laws, to make the legislation workable, amended the Immigration Act, to remove the primary purpose rule, passed on economic fiscal control to the Bank of England. However, the basic tenets of Thatcher's/Tories rule of capitalism remain unchanged.

36. The language of privatisation is now disguised and cloaked in political spin and presentation. There are changes proposed to the Health and Social Services provision. The pensions of workers have been eroded reducing people to exist at near poverty levels. An increasing number of wards in inner cities have become areas of deprivation. More non-government quangos have been set up with no accountability or control.

downing
of
Thatcherite
Capitalism
continuing
&
its
effect
on
Services

37. Housing whether 'affordable' or for private sale are now beyond the reach of the average worker leading to homelessness. Billions of pounds have been given to line the pockets of private companies and individuals like Richard Branson running previously nationalised companies.

38. The future generations from working class families have been placed under increasing debt with the introduction of variable education fees and a return to class/ economic based education. Despite government statements to the contrary, health, education and quality of life remains a lottery, dependent upon economic circumstance and locality.

death
of
meritocracy
w/c
attached
student
fees.

39. The actual figures for unemployment continue to be manipulated and disguised. The real levels of unemployment remain unacceptably high, cloaked by short-term new deals and training programmes. The unemployment among young people and those over 50 is on the increase, with people of black and minority ethnic communities particularly affected.

40. The rise in poverty and deprivation in inner cities, has given way to an increase in social tension and exclusion. Young people today feel more alienated and disconnected from their own communities. The uneven development and investment in neighbourhoods if any, has created areas of conflict, as exemplified by the events in Oldham and Bradford.

41. These general conditions of life in Britain have been made worse for the Indian (BME) communities with the introduction of the Immigration and Nationality Act. The citizenship charter, with its language tests has added a nationalist fervour, provided appeasement and endorsement of the race agenda. Our communities have become target for racist and fascists like the British National Party.

42. The Home Secretary David Blunkett, the former darling of the left in Sheffield has proven to be the most right wing Labour Home Secretary in history - with the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act and identity cards on the way.

43. The terrorist attacks of 11th September 2001 in New York have been used as a pretext to stigmatise, abuse, exploit and dehumanise people from Asia and the Middle East. The policies of stop and search, arrest without warrant and to hold in custody without charge, have become a routine occurrence. The majority of peace loving people are paying the price for the actions by a few.

collapse
of
civil
liberties
using
terrorism
legislation

44. The increase in racist attacks with the killing of innocent people young and old is a matter of grave concern. The right-wing media fed by Tory opposition and new Labour's misplaced pronouncements on immigration/asylum numbers and controls continue to fan the fires of racial-hatred. The failure to convict those guilty of murdering Stephen Lawrence and those responsible of institutional racism and paying mere lip service to the implementation of the McPherson report are further contributing factors.

45. Even the custodians of race relations the Commission for Racial Equality is talking in terms of integration – assimilation and attacking the very concept of multiculturalism.

46. There have been some minor victories for the Indian Workers Association (G.B). Our initiative to launch a campaign against the proposed visa bonds in 2000 and more recently against the unjustifiable charges imposed for endorsing documentation of foreign nationals have met with success. The visa bonds were scrapped and the charges reduced and dropped altogether for some categories.

still
some
political
impact.

47. The IWA (GB) has played its role, though way below our potential capability in mobilising support against the war in Iraq. Stop The War movement in Britain has become the flag bearer in the movement for Peace and disarmament. Millions have marched in the streets of London and Britain – their voices continue to fall on the deaf ears of Tony Blair's government – with large number of Labour M.P's dissenting. Of one thing we can be certain, ultimately, the will of the people will prevail, and Spain bears testimony to this fact.

continue
anti-
war
stance

48. During the course of the last ten years, a number of memorandums have been submitted to the Indian High Commission (UK) and the Government of India. The issues have ranged from raising concerns about testing of nuclear devices to basic passport and visa requirements.

49. The IWA (GB) has continued to champion the case for Dual Nationality with each and every Indian Government and consecutive High Commissioners. We are pleased to report that real progress now appears to be taking place. The details of cost and conditions, we are assured, will be released in the coming days. The IWA (GB), on behalf of people of Indian origin living in Britain, expresses it's sincere thanks to Comrade Harkishan Singh Surjeet, General Secretary, of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), for his efforts in this regard.

Dual
nationality

50. The IWA (GB) along with many other organisations and institutions has collected funds to aid the victims of floods, earthquakes and man-made catastrophes in India. We have also registered our input into the Cuba Solidarity Campaign through practical, financial and fraternal solidarity campaigns.

continued
fund
raising

51. Organisation

52. On the organisational front, the IWA (GB) has emerged from almost a decade of stagnation and paralysis. After a lengthy debate, which will no doubt go on-

admission
of
decline

for the history and the people – to be the judge of us all, we have re-organised to face the challenges together, united and confident.

53. The constitution of the original Indian Workers Association (GB) has been circulated for discussion, amendment and approval. Both the original constitution as drafted and amended over the years as well as the constitution adapted at our short lived 'unity conference' have been circulated for the final approval by conference.

54. Programme for change and sustainability

55. A work programme for future activities and organisational developments, based on our practical and financial strength and on concrete realities is placed before you, for your deliberation, approval and implementation by the incoming Central Executive Committee and Branch Committees.

56. All functioning of the CEC to be governed and operated under the Constitution.

57. Membership: All Branch Committees to set annual targets to increase membership, through continuous campaigns.

admission
of
new
membership

58. Branch Committees to meet on a regular basis (minimum) as per Constitution.

59. Increase in membership and participation by women at all levels, through activity targeted at their engagement and involvement. Dependent upon local conditions this could range from social, cultural, neighbourhood events. Educational and training schemes to be developed and delivered to bring about common understanding and share of experience.

Still looking
for
increased
participation
of women.

60. The emerging issue of all our elderly people and their care to be examined and a report prepared for appropriate action. Specific social, cultural activities including day trips to be organised to bridge the gap between our generations. The IWA (GB) will join with other organisations to safeguard pensions and health care by GP's.

61. Youth, the very essence, without whom all our activities become time limited, not only need to be enrolled as members, but their issues, concerns and aspirations need to be recognised. The IWA (GB) will provide the platform for young people to air their views and draw up action plans. We will support initiatives in line with our aims to build a mass organisation of Indian people

Many
that
youth
are not
reached
need outreach

in Britain. Through art, sport and music we must increase our communication with young people and break down the barriers. We will support the campaign for the abolition of tuition fees and an increase in apprenticeships, to educate, train and provide skills for our young people.

want to use modern pop culture to positive youth.

62. The IWA (GB) will continue to develop an anti racist perspective drawing upon its historical experience. We will look at ways and means to build a broad anti racist platform along the lines of Campaign Against Racist Laws. A concrete programme to enable this to materialise will be put in place after careful analysis of organisations working in this field. The need to build opposition to the ID cards, stop and search, hallmarks of a police state will be resisted through a systematically organised campaign, at local and national level.

still focus on anti-racism laws.

63. Trade Unions, despite the setbacks, with diminishing membership reflective of the manufacturing industrial base of Britain, still remain the key organisations with whom we must forge working alliances at local and national levels. The IWA (GB) expects and encourages all its members to be active members of their respective trade unions. We will strive to establish a nucleus from our members of key trade unionists, to enlist their support in rebuilding our working class links.

still call for members

to be Trade Unionists.

64. The CEC will establish a communication improvement programme, to harness the energies of our network of branches in England and Scotland.

65. The IWA (GB) will continue to undertake solidarity campaign's, we will resist the attacks on the working class through the impact of globalisation and liberalisation.

66. The CEC will take formal steps to organise participation in nationally supported campaigns, on issues such as peace, solidarity with Cuba, Palestine, Latin America, Middle East and the Indian sub continent.

67. IWA (GB) will encourage the formation of progressive writers and art groups to promote a secular and democratic culture. This section has also lost its focus and organisation. We will work with our friends in this field to promote art and culture to advance the working class movement. This will provide the mechanism to defeat the nefarious designs of communalism and religious fundamentalism.

68. On the social front, the IWA (GB) will undertake an educational awareness programmes to stem the rise in lavish wedding ceremonies, with families spending their entire life savings on a single day's pomp and ceremony. A

day's joy giving way to a lifetime of misery and debt. The number of guests, over the top spending on ridiculous celebrations and the practice of dowry system need to be challenged. No longer can we afford to leave the drive for social change to religious fundamentalists, we as communities need to voluntarily change and not to be coerced through terror tactics.

Speak
against
Wedding
Excesses
&
Fashion
Consumerism

69. The IWA (GB) will work with other agencies to develop a support mechanism for the increasing number of females and sometimes males brought as spouses to this country and then abandoned. We will campaign for the right of indefinite leave to remain for all arriving spouses, without the 12 month qualifying period and the humiliating demonstration of domestic violence.

70. In line with our constitution we will actively work for the end to cast discrimination.

71. May 1st 2004 saw the increase in the size of the European Union from the present 15 countries to 25, with a European population rise of 19.6%. This will allow workers from the former socialist countries to compete for scarce job opportunities in Britain, driving wages down further. We will work with the Trade union movement to safeguard jobs and wages. The IWA (GB) will campaign for a general amnesty for all those living in this country on May 1st 2004, to end their exploitation and to encourage their organisation in to Trade Unions

72. The Indian Workers' Association (GB) reaffirms it's commitment to build a broad based- mass organisation as outlined in the constitution and conference reports up to and including the last conference report of 1993.

73. Finally dear delegates, we together, pledge ourselves to jointly act as the democratic custodians of the democratic tradition of Indian Workers' Association (GB). We will uphold the constitution and safeguard the organisation for future generations.