



2021 Newsletter

We're now Labour's strongest Black voice

GBL's achievements in 2020 resulted in lots of media coverage in publications like *Tribune*, *The Morning Star*, *Labour Briefing*, *LabourList*, *The Voice* and *Eastern Eye*. We were also active on Twitter and Facebook, where we now have more than 600 members. Our energetic communications officer Marc Wadsworth's new book *Comrade Sak, Shapurji Saklatavala MP, a political biography* mentions GBL. It fills in a big gap in hidden African Caribbean and Asian working class British history, is a thoroughly good read and we encourage you to buy a copy <https://www.peepaltreepress.com/books/comrade-sak>.

Our activists took part in events, including demonstrations, to highlight the continued injustice Black African Caribbean and Asian people face in Britain, particularly the Windrush and Grenfell scandals victims, Black Lives Matter, police brutality, including deaths in custody, Islamophobia, the mistreatment of migrants, about whom GBL has issued a position statement available in the News Releases section of this website, and the disproportionate affect the Covid-19 pandemic has had on our communities - especially for NHS and other Black frontline workers dealt with later.

GBL was the strongest Black voice on the socialist wing of the Labour Party in 2020, with representation in the leadership of the Campaign for Labour Democracy, the Labour Representation Committee and as a member of the left-slate-making Centre Left Grassroots Alliance. It is disappointing these bodies failed to put our candidates on their slate for Labour's ruling National Executive Committee, preferring the age old handpicking of Black people by white godfathers, and therefore did not live up to their declared support for Black self-organisation and self-determination. We will be reviewing our relationship with them in 2021.

We are so proud of those sisters and brothers on GBL's Health Workers Group that has produced excellent work, for instance two pamphlets, *Black People Racism and the Covid-19 Pandemic* and *Supporting Black Workers in Health and Social Care - A Blueprint for Action*, the printing of both publications made by generous donations from trade unions. They are priced £3 each and we hope you'll buy them <https://bit.ly/2X4i53K>.

GBL did Zoom meetings on Black Lives Matter and Black People Racism and the Covid-19 Pandemic, the latter with Claudia Webbe MP (here's a recording of it <https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=XZ8sw8XZNHOrBYyJVQ7upthNLUCzcFPh1yw7>) The GBL national Steering Committee held in December 2020 was well-attended by all the regional organisers and other representatives from throughout the country. It got a grim report from GBL member Yvette Williams, co-ordinator of the Justice for Grenfell campaign. GBL agreed to make a £100 donation to it.

We will soon be launching a youth and students and trade union groups and sending out the updated *Black Agenda policy* document.

It's time to join or renew your GBL membership - both are annual subscriptions due every January - and get other left wing Black people to come on board too. You can do that here: <https://grblackleft.com/join-us>

We sent a copy of our *Black People Racism and the Covid-19 Pandemic* position paper as GBL's submission to the Doreen Lawrence Labour inquiry into the impact of the virus on African Caribbean and Asian communities, the report of which has now been published.

GBL also made a submission, put together by our legal officer Dr Iqbal Sram, to the party's Martin Forde QC inquiry into the circumstances and content of the report entitled *The work of the Labour Party's Governance and Legal Unit in relation to antisemitism 2014-2019*. GBL is appalled the publication of this long-delayed report has been put off "indefinitely" by Labour leader Keir Starmer, whose clamping down on party free speech and democracy is deeply disturbing. GBL stands with Labour members fighting back against this tyranny and all the people unjustly suspended or expelled by the party leadership's witchhunting of the left.

May you have a safe, fulfilling and prosperous year ahead.

Best wishes

Hassan Ahmed and Deborah Hobson

GBL Co-chairs <https://grblackleft.com/join-us>