

EDITORIAL

We will get truth and justice

WELCOME to the second edition of *At the Coal Face* published on the 35th anniversary of the epic 1984-85 miners' strike

The Orgreave Truth & Justice Campaign (OTJC) was set up in November 2012 to campaign for a public inquiry into the policing of pickets at the Orgreave coking plant on 18 June 1984 during the miners' strike.

We have a big presence on-line through our social media and web page as well as a physical presence at our many and varied meetings, debates, conferences, rallies, demonstra-

tions and events.

We are constantly invited to speak at and be involved in trade union and labour movement meetings up and down the country, and beyond.

On the international front, we have been invited to speak in the North of Ireland, Eire, France, Scotland, Norway and Denmark.

We are a high-profile, vibrant, immediately recognisable campaign. We have made links and worked with other justice campaigns such as Hillsborough, Shrewsbury, Blacklisting, Spycops, Grenfell, and have active support from Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners and many other

organisations and comrades. We have also secured a Labour Party manifesto commitment to open an inquiry into what happened at Orgreave.

On 31 October 2018 we held our second Hallowe'en event to commemorate the then Tory Home Secretary Amber Rudd's refusal on 31 October 2016 not to hold an Orgreave Inquiry. This event was outside the Home Office in London, where we asked the Home Secretary Sajid Javid to hold a public inquiry. He has, predictably, turned down our request.

It is clear that this Tory government will never concede to admitting any misconduct, malpractice

and corruption during the miners' strike.

We will get truth and justice only through fighting for it. We hope this newspaper inspires you to carry on supporting us, or to join us, in campaigning for our goal of a public inquiry into the police riot at Orgreave on 18 June 1984.

A luta continua – the fight goes on.

Chris Hockney and Kate Flannery, Chair and Secretary, Orgreave Truth & Justice Campaign

Sajid Javid turns down Bishop's plan for Orgreave inquiry

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then they should welcome the chance offered by the Bishop to have a thorough and authoritative review of what's held on record, rather than keep trying to cover up the corruption of the past."

Rotherham MP Sarah Champion also recently contacted Sajid Javid to request a meeting with him and the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign.

This request was also rebuffed by the Home Secretary. Supporters are encouraged to use social media or write to Sajid Javid urging him to hold an Orgreave Inquiry – something Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott has promised should Labour be elected to power.

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OTJC wins prestigious award

THE Ron Todd Foundation was founded in memory of Ron Todd (1927-2005), General Secretary of one of the biggest trade unions in Britain, the Transport and General Workers Union.

The Ron Todd Foundation recognises that every issue is a trade union issue. It champions collectivism to provide relief of poverty and social injustice, bringing about change in the individual and wider community through the provision of social education, training and a specific set of projects which at their core are based around grassroots community engagement.

Each year the Ron Todd Foundation hosts a Ron Todd Lecture and at this event present a series of Ron Todd Awards. This year the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign was nominated for the award for Social Justice and the RTF board of trustees have informed us that our campaign is the winner of this category. We are deeply honoured to have been given this award and it is so uplifting for us to have our campaigning work recognised and acknowledged in this way.

For more details about the Ron Todd Foundation please visit www.rontoddfoundation.org

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