

An appeal for International solidarity - Convoy to Calais, 18 June 2016

The largest trade unions in the UK, including Unite the Union and the Communication Workers Union, and three of the largest mass movements in the country - Stand up to Racism, the People's Assembly, and the Stop the War Coalition- have agreed to co-operate to launch a new initiative.

We are appealing to you for international support.

We are intending to bring a mass convoy of aid to the Calais refugee camp on Saturday 18 June 2016. It will be headed up by three or four articulated lorries but will also include coaches, double decker buses and many private cars. This would not only deliver aid but form a public demonstration on the roads and motorways as it heads to France.

The refugee crisis last summer, with the death of Aylan Kurdi as its tipping point, produced a wave of sympathy across Europe. This culminated in the 100,000 strong national demonstration in London last September and similar acts of solidarity across Europe.

But recently governments across Europe have since clawed back some of this ground.

A new, large scale political initiative is needed to reinforce the mood of solidarity with refugees. There is plenty of local work on this issue, but this initiative aims to provide a national and international framework for such solidarity and so make it more politically effective.

We are appealing to trade unions and campaigns across Europe to join us with delegations or convoys of their own in Calais on 18 June. This is our chance to create a real show of internationalism.