



WINNING THE LONG GAME

Another Europe is Possible

Impact Report 2022

Welcome

Hi! I'm Seema, Comms and Campaigns Officer at Another Europe. I'm delighted to present this report to the 2022 National Conference. We've had a year packed with activity. From street mobilisations against the Nationality and Borders and Policing Bills, anti-war rallies in solidarity with Ukraine, to online petitions and events, Another Europe is Possible has campaigned tirelessly for democracy, human rights and internationalism post-Brexit. We couldn't have done it without your continued support.

Another Europe has never been defeatist in the face of the Tory parliamentary majority. Rather than giving up, we've redoubled our efforts to resist. We know that whatever the legislative outcome, building street mobilisations and showing the government that we won't give up without a fight is essential to the long term success of our movement.

Throughout all of our campaigns, we've reached out to new audiences using social media, running Twitter Spaces, Insta Lives and Zoom events to raise awareness about critical issues. This includes over 10,000 people joining our Twitter space in the early days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

In response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis, we held a joint protest with Ukrainian, Syrian and Afghan refugee groups. We have been consistently clear that we must fight the narrative of a hierarchy of refugees and 'good' and 'bad' migrants, instead making the case for the freedom to move across borders.

So, this has been another exciting and busy year for Another Europe is Possible. Here we give a breakdown and outline of what we've been up to – and how we're making a difference.



Seema Syeda



About this report

Our campaigns are broadly aligned into three key priority areas, which the report looks at in turn:

- Democracy and human rights
- Brexit and its consequences
- International solidarity

Democracy & human rights

Freedom of movement and migrants' rights

Another Europe has been at the forefront of activism defending migrants' rights against the Tory government's hostile attacks on refugees and asylum seekers. When the Afghan refugee crisis hit, we were one of the first to organise a letter writing campaign and national day of action urging the government to allow visa free entry to Afghan asylum seekers. We've campaigned for the rights of Ukrainian refugees and mobilised against legislation cracking down on migrants rights.

Nationality and Borders Bill and the Policing Bill

As the Nationality and Borders Bill made its way through parliament, Another Europe played

a leading role in a coalition of activist groups mobilising on the streets and in parliament through every stage of the bill's passage.

We connected with the broader movement against the Policing Bill, working closely with the Kill the Bill coalition to mobilise prominent street protests and make the links between the crackdown on protest, increased police powers and militarisation of borders.

Working with JCWI and Detention Action, we organised briefings in the House of Lords and Commons, coordinating letter writing campaigns and feeding into initial government defeats in the Lords. **This year, the government lost the most votes it has ever lost in the Lords since official UK parliament figures started being kept in 1975.**





Electoral Reform

AEIP is a member of the Labour for a New Democracy coalition and supported efforts to promote electoral reform within the Labour Party – including hosting a discussion with Alex Sobel MP at AEIP's National Conference.

We supported the dissemination of a Conference Motion at Labour Conference which led to an overwhelming vote of support for proportional representation by party members. AEIP continues to support this campaign which is now seeing a growing number of trade unionists backing PR with an increased possibility of Labour shifting its position in coming months.

Citizens Take Over Europe

We have also been tracking developments during the Conference on the Future of Europe, working

with our partners European Alternatives and within Citizens Take Over Europe to develop the EU in a progressive direction and to create new, democratic citizens' assemblies producing more radical demands and keeping up the pressure on existing institutions.

The Conference, a hybrid citizens assembly, produced a comprehensive manifesto for change based on the principles of social solidarity.

Grassroots for Europe

We meet regularly with other pro-European groups to coordinate and share information on campaigns for democracy and internationalism.

We've presented our work on the Borders Bill and migrants' rights, as well as feeding in our campaigning around Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Brexit & its consequences

Brexit Spotlight

Brexit is going badly and few politicians want to talk about it. But the fact is, from labour shortages and environmental disaster to the 'cost of living' crisis, withdrawal from the EU has had a damaging impact on real lives across Britain.

Another Europe has never been afraid to scrutinise the Brexit process. We've published articles on our 'Brexit Spotlight' website analysing the development of the Brexit crisis, developing it as an information hub with short posts evidencing the multiple damages it is inflicting.

Brexit Spotlight has grown into a key information source on the evolution of Brexit from a critical, progressive perspective. Over 100 articles have been published on the site to date broken down into 14 topic areas: 'ask an expert'; citizenship rights and migration; data and digital rights; democracy and the rule of law; farms, fish and food; foreign and security policy; 'how it started, how its going'; Ireland; opinion polling; science and education; the economy

and jobs; the environment; trade deals; and workers' rights.

As well as scrutiny, Brexit Spotlight offers alternative solutions that bring us closer to our partners within the European Union, building international solidarity, trade links, and improving workers rights.

As part of this project we have also organised the "Brexit Spotlight – 60 Minute Briefing" series with events on Britain's rule of law crisis and the risks posed to the Human Rights Act.

These provide a rapid introduction to a complex topic suitable for a public audience without specialist knowledge.

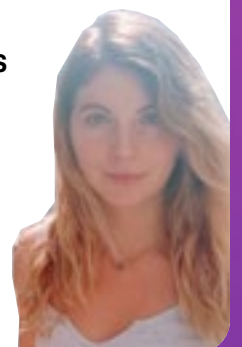
All of our Brexit Spotlight research has fed into lobbying, policy and campaigns across Another Europe's work. Brexit Spotlight articles have underpinned actions against the borders bill and the hostile environment in general, supported improving workers' conditions and efforts to end the Russian war on Ukraine.

“At Another Europe our members are involved in so much of the most vital campaigning work taking place across the country, from trade union organising, to campaigning on access to medicines, to democratic reform, to refugee and migrants' rights.

Being part of AEIP gives us a space to pursue these goals and make our voices heard in the ongoing debates about the UK's future, which, despite Brexit, remains tied

economically, in terms of refugee policy, and in many other ways, to the future of the whole region. Everyone who counts themselves on the side of progressive, internationalist politics and wants to campaign on a cross-party platform for justice should join us to push this perspective forwards.”

**Zoe Gardner,
Another Europe
National Committee**



Brexit and the environment

We've partnered with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung to produce a report on the impacts of Brexit on the environment. We organised an initial discussion of this at Labour Party Conference 2022. The report is written and will be published very shortly.

We've also mobilised for climate justice around COP 2021 and 2022. We organised a direct action outside fossil fuel funder JP Morgan, demanding justice for climate refugees.

Stop the government's deregulation drive

We've been campaigning against the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill – an extreme piece of legislation that is motivated by the bigoted idea that the EU laws which were incorporated into UK law after Brexit must be bad because they are from the EU. The legislation would give government ministers tremendous power to sweep away the regulations that keep us safe at work, ensuring we have basic employment rights and protect our environment, our health and wellbeing. Our letter-writing campaign saw 1,408 messages sent to the business secretary, asking him to drop this dangerous and reactionary legislation.

Letter-writing campaigns

We have been continuing to make use of our digital campaigning infrastructure. This year with the help of our members and supporters, we have sent thousands of letters of protest.

Some of our digital campaigning highlights:

- **Stop the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill** *1,408 letters sent*
- **Support Ukraine: drop the debt** *2,997 letters sent*
- **Save the Human Rights Act** *1,886 letters sent*



JP MORGAN
IS KILLING
THE PLANET



CLIMATE
NOT
TRIDEN

& refugees
welcome
here

#PEOPLES
VACCINE

#PEOPLES
VACCINE

International solidarity



Ukraine

Even before Putin's military invasion in February, Another Europe took action to create space for voices from a pluralist, internationalist anti-war movement. We foregrounded representatives from across Ukraine and Eastern Europe, as well as Russian democracy activists, in an online anti-war rally that took place before the invasion was launched.

We have continued to hold online rallies, discussions, and in-person protests against the war, bringing a radical internationalist perspective. We've reached wide audiences platforming journalists and activists and using new technologies, with over 10,000 listeners tuning into our first Twitter Space on Ukraine.

In collaboration with our partners European Alternatives, we've held regular online 'No More War' Citizens' Assemblies intended to forge and strengthen links between activists across borders. The war has brought mutual aid and

solidarity to the fore as a way of organising economies and social support in Ukraine, opening up radical visions as to how Ukraine can be reconstructed with a social model that departs from the brutal neoliberalism enforced on it by the IMF and other institutional lenders. We've provided spaces for people on the ground, including the Ukrainian labour movement, to articulate that vision to listeners across the world.

Ukraine is one of the poorest countries in Europe and we launched a campaign lobbying the UK government to use its influence on the IMF to cancel Ukraine's debt. Caroline Lucas MP put our campaign demand in parliamentary questions to the UK government, and in response, **we won a commitment in principle that the UK government would support Ukraine financially and look into dropping the debt.** We lobbied MPs to support an early day motion on debt cancellation for Ukraine and working with Debt Justice, the campaign has partially succeeded as **lenders have agreed to pause Ukraine's debt payments.**

Islamophobia

Anti-Muslim hatred had a clear influence on the anti-immigration discourse that underpinned the Leave campaign. From scaremongering about Turkey joining the European Union to the posters depicting refugees from Muslim-majority countries (many of which were and continue to be targets of direct or indirect Western military aggression) as threats on the UK border, Muslims have been used as a political football to further the aims of the Tories' far-right, neoliberal agenda.

Working closely with our national committee member Shaista Aziz (UK Labour councillor and founder of the viral Three Hijabis campaign against racism in football), we've launched an ongoing campaign aiming to confront Islamophobia across Europe.

We've run Zoom events, Twitter spaces and workshops on the topic, and are collaborating with Freidrich-Ebert-Stiftung to produce two reports on Islamophobia, focusing each on France and Germany, making links across Europe and recommending policy changes that can be campaigned for at an international level.



European Summer University of Social Movements

After two long years of coronavirus restrictions, AEIP supported efforts to bring activists together again at the European Summer University of Social Movements, held in Mönchengladbach, Germany this year. Several hundred activists attended the event where we were invited to speak on and deliver workshops on building peace and security in the context of Russia's war on Ukraine, Islamophobia and anti-racism.

Porto & Palermo Citizens' Assembly on Climate

Last October, our National Committee member Laura Parker and our campaigns officer Seema Syeda attended Citizens Take Over Europe's international citizens' assembly which came together to produce a set of democratic demands on climate. The event aimed to create an alternative model of democratic decision-making to contrast with the top-down nature of existing EU institutions.

The Palermo Transnational Assembly was formed of citizens coming together following 20 local assemblies in all corners of Europe – acknowledging the mounting impacts climate change has had on lives and the biodiversity

of the planet. The preamble to the published declaration stated:

“Living on a safe and healthy planet is a fundamental right for everyone and for future generations. Based on the failures to include and protect marginalized groups and youth from climate consequences, there is a need to rebuild democracy in order to put citizen power of all humans, workers and frontline communities at the core.”

National Committee member Shaista Aziz also attended the Transeuropa Festival 2022 in Porto to deliver workshops on decolonising climate activism. She highlighted the importance of acknowledging the legacy of empire and colonialism, visible in the tangible buildings around Porto, but also existing to this day in social structures that institutionalise racism and discrimination. She also delivered a message of hope as festivals like Transeuropa demonstrated how people can come together across borders with shared values and goals to build movements of solidarity. Her key message was that by dreaming a new world, we can create it; and this emphasises the essence of Another Europe’s aims going forwards.

Party Conferences & The World Transformed

This year we organised fringe events on Brexit and the environment, Islamophobia, and Ukraine Solidarity at Labour Party conference and The World Transformed festival. We’re continuing to push our message across the political spectrum, working with internationalists across Labour, the SNP, the Green Party and other progressive organisations.



Syndicat! Transnational Workers Organising Summit

With European Alternatives, we participated this November in a five-day residential programme for movement organisers in Bremen. The school brought together migrant workers, climate activists and trade unionists in the cultural space of the Theatre Bremen to build organic, intersectional links between our movements.





Cost of Living Crisis

Our statement on the cost of living crisis is available on our website. Linked to the crisis of democracy, we are demanding a general election in the face of a series of failed Conservative premierships and a new prime minister handpicked by a tiny part of the electorate – Conservative MPs. We mobilised this year along with the People’s Assembly Against Austerity to demand a general election and end to Brexit chaos.

Conclusion

Another Europe is a member-led organisation. Without your continued support, we couldn’t have produced these campaign outputs. With the cost of living crisis, the devastating impacts of Brexit on standards of living and basic rights have become clear. The Tory government is now hesitantly being pushed by the economic situation into debating moves towards a closer relationship with the European Union. The year ahead will bring fresh challenges, all of which require a concerted, internationalist response.

Our time is now; we can win our demands and build for a more progressive Britain inside a reformed European Union. We hope that you will continue to participate and drive our activity going forwards; we can’t do this without you.

“I’m a proud member of Another Europe is Possible and it’s a space where we platform and build campaigns and political spaces where there is progression, solidarity, and representation.

It’s essential that left spaces bring the critical analysis that AEIP brings and that it continues to campaign and stand up to the forces of xenophobia, racism, scapegoating of refugees and migrants, Islamophobia and more – as Europe descends into a deeper cost of living crisis.”

Shaista Aziz
Another Europe National Committee



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