

Another Europe is Possible

IMPACT REPORT 2023



Dear friends,

It has been a difficult year for all of us.

As we witness the impacts of fractured global politics, the brutal violence against civilians from Palestine to Ukraine and too many other regions, and feel profound climate anxiety, some days it is difficult to find optimism and resilience. And yet, amidst ongoing crises, we remain together. We find our friends and allies in meeting rooms and virtual spaces, in podcast recordings and protesting in the streets. Another Europe is Possible remains our home.

Another Europe is Possible was founded as the left's anti-Brexit campaign. It was created to respond to an emergency – but it continued as a long-term project of gathering people around a shared political vision. I joined Another Europe as a campaigns organiser back in 2018. That same year we decided that we will not let it fizzle out, leaving the politics driving Brexit unchallenged. Instead, 5 years ago we gave Another Europe to its members. And today there remain over 1,000 of you!

So in this report to you, our members, you will find a brief account of our activity in 2023. True to our origins, we have sought to respond to the political challenges of the day, always making the link to the political context that gave birth to Brexit. I am proud we continue to stand in solidarity with Ukraine and with all people under attack who deserve a just peace, we continue to fight for migrants' rights, and we continue to make the case for rejoining the EU from a radical perspective.



Alena

The year in brief

January

We started 2023 by campaigning on the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill



March

Building a new Internationalism – Solidarity with Ukraine conference and Stop the Bill mobilisations



June

Cologne anti-Islamophobia delegation

**POWER TO
THE PEOPLE**

February

Power to the People launches – a series of assemblies to foster cross-border dialogue in Europe



May

Decolonial Europe Day

July

Illegal Immigration Bill passes, we launch a lobby tool for Starmer's Labour to pledge to repeal it + 'We Will Not Forget: The Mediterranean is a Crime Scene' event



September

Another Europe supported and mobilised for this year's National Rejoin March



November

'Ceasefire Now: Voices for Peace and Justice' event on Gaza and *Uniting Europe Against Islamophobia* report launched



August

New podcast series, 'Ukraine and the world', with Foreign Policy in Focus – Institute for Policy Studies and European Alternatives



October

Another Europe at SNP conference and we launched our report *Brexit: a failed project in a failing state* by Danny Dorling



Greetings from Another Europe's National Committee

"I truly value Another Europe is Possible as an open pluralist space to exchange ideas and cooperate across party lines with the principled democratic left in England and Wales. While Scots already overwhelmingly support rejoining the EU, the campaign is boosted by AEIP's presence.

The prospect of a rightward-moving UK Labour government makes Scotland's fight for independence a democratic revolution coming alongside democratic demands for further devolution to English regions and councils, an end to Westminster/Whitehall austerity and the abolition of the House of Lords.

Active campaigning to rejoin the EU – and reversing the damage done by Brexiteer Tory governments – needs to be shaped from the democratic left. Wales needs more self-governing powers, Northern Ireland is impacted by the Common Travel Area, the Windsor Protocols needs to keep its

EU single market access. Those EU arrangements are as key for Scotland in its own independence debate as they are for England and Wales.

AEIP helps us to renew the European project altogether as a left social transformation tackling climate change, but also to stand up for democracy and human rights against the increasing threat of racism and fascist authoritarianism. AEIP's continued solidarity with Ukraine against Russian imperialism has been a crucial act of internationalism.

I look forward to AEIP further developing a Four Nations approach to campaigning for Rejoining the EU in 2024."

**Cllr Graham Campbell, SNP Socialists
Co-Convener and Another Europe NC member**



"It is so important to all of the team at Another Europe Is Possible that supporters have a chance to see the difference that we – along with partners and allies across the UK, Europe and beyond – are making. As we go into what could be a decisive general election year, I'm proud to be part of such a pluralist organisation and hope that members will engage in debates about the changes that we need to see in the UK, including the re-building of the relationship with the EU. From



defending migrant rights and continuing the fight against Islamophobia, to bringing together activists from Ukraine and Russia, and Israel and Palestine, Another Europe will continue in 2024 to champion equality, peace and human rights.

Alongside fellow NC member Graham, I am pleased to welcome this year's impact report. We've done a lot, but another world is waiting to be built, so let's double our efforts in 2024!"

Laura Parker, Another Europe is Possible NC member

Brexit and democracy



Rejoin

This year Another Europe is Possible continued to flesh out possible paths for a progressive Rejoin movement, working with partners such as Grassroots for Europe. We held discussions for members and supporters with former MEP Richard Corbett where hundreds of you attended and put forward ideas. We also mobilised our networks to join the 2023 National Rejoin March in London in September. We brought our own messages to the march and joined tens of thousands of people concerned about our collective democratic rights, growing inequality and the rise of far-right rhetoric post-Brexit.

Our organiser Seema Syeda spoke from the platform and delivered a barn-storming speech in defence of migrants' rights. She pointed out that the European project is far from perfect, but we owe it to our principles to continue to engage in it in order to transform it in pursuit of social justice, climate justice and migrant justice for all.

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 real and damaging impact on lives across Britain.

We've published articles on our 'Brexit Spotlight' website, brexitspotlight.org, analysing the development of the Brexit crisis, developing it as an information hub with short posts giving evidence for the multiple damages Brexit is inflicting and going deeper when Brexit is in the news.

As part of this project we have also organised the "Brexit Spotlight – 60 Minute Briefing" series with recorded Zoom events on Brexit and environmental regulation and responses to the Northern Protocol.

We continued to bring expert insights from academics and politicians like David Baldock, Alex Sobel MP, Lisa Whitten and Sorcha Eastwood to put forward progressive and knowledgeable voices.

Brexit – a failed project in a failing state

We published a major new report by Oxford professor Danny Dorling as part of the Brexit Spotlight project, a collaborative partnership between another Europe is Possible and the German political education foundation, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

In *Brexit: a failed project in a failing state*, Dorling surveys the data to identify the challenges that the four nations of the United Kingdom face, the sources of these problems and the impact on them that Brexit has had. The report is a vital read for our movement as campaigners for social and political justice and democratic decision-making. We launched the report at a packed meeting at the LSE in October.



SNP leadership elections: open letter to candidates

The Scottish political scene was shaken by Nicola Sturgeon's resignation and a subsequent leadership election. Another Europe mobilised for an open letter to all candidates standing in the contest to encourage them to commit to a continued progressive journey for Scotland. From LGBTQ+ rights to an open migration policy and a campaign to rejoin the EU – we are pleased to say current Scottish First Minister Humza Yousaf agreed enthusiastically with our vision.

Another Europe is Possible



Sign the open letter to SNP leadership candidates

Sign now

Migrants' rights

Stop the Bill

Alongside migration experts, human rights lawyers, opposition politicians, hundreds of civil society organisations and hundreds of thousands of ordinary people who see through the xenophobic hatred of the Tory project, we fought hard to stop the Illegal Immigration Bill.

In March, we helped pull off an inspiring showing of solidarity and resistance against this cruel piece of legislation when thousands took to Parliament Square in protest. We organised a letter-writing campaign to MPs urging them to vote against the plans, and we also released an open letter from thousands of you to the Labour party leadership demanding that

they should commit to repealing the law once in government.

The passing of the bill, now law, is a dark point in a long and shameful political tradition of scapegoating migrants. We spent the year, like all years before it, reaffirming the right to move, settle and live freely in dignity and in communities of our own choosing. It's what humans have always done. Yet it's never been more difficult – from the Rwanda plan, to holding asylum seekers prisoners in a floating health hazard

to essentially cutting access to the EU settled status programme for European nationals, this government has made 2023 a hellish year for migrants and we are all worse off for it.



Our struggles are shared

Another Europe is Possible exists to join with others. Collaboration is our default mode of organising. We recognise that on the broader left we need to build stronger unions, more pluralist coalitions and better articulate shared goals. Whether as affiliates, well-established partners or new friends, we are proud of our ongoing work with European Alternatives, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, SNP Socialists, Labour Campaign for Free Movement, Young Greens, Global Justice Now, Open Labour, Ukraine Solidarity Campaign, the Refuser Solidarity Network and more.

If you are part of an organisation you think we should be working with, please get in touch!



Greek coast refugees atrocity

Another Europe has never shied away from the reality that the harm and brutality the UK government inflicts on migrants and asylum seekers at home, the EU does too. Except it also seeks to outsource its borders and its cruelty. This summer, hundreds of refugees died in the Greek Mediterranean when their ship sank off the coast of Pylos. Serious allegations have been made about the role of the Greek coast guard in the deaths. But regardless of the exact circumstances, the atrocity is a direct result of the European border regime – and its drive to keep people out of the EU, whatever the cost.

Another Europe organised a discussion with activists, investigative journalists and academics to join the dots and discuss activist approaches to fighting against these criminal and immoral anti-refugee policies, wherever they are pursued.





Building unions, not borders

Ukraine solidarity

Since the beginning of Russia's invasion and brutal war against Ukraine in February 2022, Another Europe is Possible has been working in active solidarity with Ukrainian people. We are proud to support and participate in Ukraine Solidarity Campaign but also to organise broader initiatives of knowledge and support across our networks.

Ukraine's tremendous resistance to the Russian invasion is first and foremost about the protection of the country's democracy, territorial integrity, political freedom and human rights. But in the context of a 'century of cascading crises', it raises issues and challenges that go far beyond Ukraine – indeed, that are truly global.

In March we collaborated with the Conflict and Civiness Research Group at



LSE, who hosted an impressive one-day conference that aimed to blur the lines between academic research and activism in solidarity with Ukraine's resistance to war. By bringing Ukrainian activists and academics into dialogue with other global civil society movements and creating a space for discussion and action, the Solidarity with Ukraine conference sought to expand our perspectives and approach to the war and its significance for our international organising.

Refuser Solidarity Network

We end the year witnessing Israel's escalation of violence against innocent Palestinians in Gaza and in the West Bank. Another Europe Is Possible's response aims to assemble the crucial voices for peace and justice that must be magnified to bring an immediate end to the war.

Justice demands criminal accountability for all those who commit war crimes and

crimes against humanity – and the bravery to call for an end to the cycle of violence. Only peace and justice based on the principle of universal human rights offers a genuine path to security.

We partnered with Refuser Solidarity Network, an organisation that supports all who publicly refused to become part of the Israeli occupation, to deliver their open letter: demand a ceasefire now and stop arming Israel.

Anti-Islamophobia delegation

2023 saw us take our long-running anti-Islamophobia campaign to Germany. We were able to bring a delegation of women activists and politicians from the UK to Cologne to discuss with local academics, campaigners and elected representatives how we go about empowering the Muslim community and tackling Islamophobia and xenophobia across all our societies.

The delegation was part of an ongoing



collaborative partnership between Another Europe and the German political education foundation Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

In an environment of escalating Islamophobia, antisemitism and racial and religious hatred, it's important to tackle all forms of racism equally and to challenge different governments' attempts to create hierarchies of racism pitting communities

against each other. This is a continuous and permanent effort. In November, we released the report detailing learnings from the delegation and recommendations that we are keen to push forward here in the UK and with allies in Europe.

Citizens Take Over Europe

Another Europe participates in the pan-European organisation Citizens Takeover Europe (CTOE), which campaigns to promote a forward-looking and citizens-centred European democracy.

This year, CTOE has been tracking and participating in the 'Conference on the Future of Europe' proposals adopted by the European Commission, specifically the Citizens' Assemblies. It has also called for:

1. A Democracy ECI (European Citizens' Initiative), which has been designed as a means of implementing a common 21st-century means of accessing the vote and EU citizens' participation and improving the ECI process.

2. The autonomous and self-organising working group has been defining an action blueprint for organising local citizens' assemblies. The working group has also addressed the need to react to the

Commission's poor response to the recently successful ECI on animal welfare and cages.

CTOE, alongside others, plans a pilot people's assembly for Europe in September 2024 in Athens to influence the newly appointed European Commission.

CTOE is also considering how to engage and impact the European Parliament elections due in 2024.

The European Parliament has been working to repeat its call for a treaty convention and passed its resolution in October plenary. They have covered off the main demands of the Conference on the Future of Europe although their response on citizen's assemblies is weak.

Another Europe has been represented on the Citizens Take Over Europe plenary committee and work groups by Dave Levy, assisted by Julie Ward and Seema Syeda. Niccolò Milanese represents European Alternatives on both the AEIP National Committee and within CTOE.

Another Europe is Possible

**Resisting the Tories' Brexit project,
fighting for an alternative**

If you haven't yet, join us as a member to support our work and shape our vision.

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