

# Feminist Waves, Radical Ways:

**There is more than one era or one way to be a radical.**

50 years ago, the Women's Liberation Movement along with the Gay Rights and Black Power movements were exciting people to the possibility of fundamental social, economic, political, and interpersonal change. Since then, we find the legacy of these movements in keener awareness of our interdependence. We are more deeply internationalist. Our communication is better. We understand capitalism and patriarchy more clearly. We are fighting back with more purpose, We are more wary. We are more radical.

Two years ago when I first saw the La Pasionaria statue by the sculptor Arthur Dooley, and before I knew anything about La Pasionaria herself, or much about the Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939, I felt-- through the power and beauty of Dooley's work-- the courage, strength, and importance of women radicals.

Later I read a book and saw a documentary film about the Scottish revolutionary, Ethel MacDonal, who was a key figure in the Scottish anarchist movement and in the Spanish Civil War. In 1936 she was sent by the United Socialist Movement to Barcelona where she became world-renowned as the English-speaking reporter for an anarchist radio station. She also remained an activist, daringly organising hunger strikes among the political prisoners, smuggling in letters, and helping some escape. I think of her



whenever I back away from discomfort or danger.

When I moved to Scotland 10 years ago I had a lot to learn about Glasgow culture. Soon enough I found out about the rent strike of 1915 organised by the unstoppable women of Clydebank, Paisley, Partick, and Govan-- including Mary Barbour, Helen Crawford, Agnes Dollan, Mary Burns Laird, and Mary Jeff. They were determined to stand up to the landlords and the government. Together with the shipyard workers, whose labour was essential in this First World War period, they got the government to set the rents back to the pre-war level till the war was over. Quite a victory against big odds!

So thank you all, and others like you, for challenging us. You acted on your radical principles in different ways, but always for the good of our class, while remembering that solidarity and comradeship are powerful-- and another world is possible!

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY  
SUNDAY 8th MARCH 2PM  
La Pasionaria statue, River Clyde**

# GLASGOW KEELIE

March 2020

Priceless



Protest in Lebanon: part of a world wide revolt against authority

# WHO IS A TERRORIST?

On 14 February, Paul Newey appeared in court under the Terrorism Act for sending £150 to his son, Dan, who has joined the Kurdish YPG. The YPG defends democracy and women's rights and spearheaded the fight against ISIS. And last month we learned that Extinction Rebellion was listed alongside far right groups in Prevent's extremist watchlist. **SO, WHO IS A TERRORIST, EXACTLY?**

Well, it's about making folk terrified isn't it? Deliberately frightening people shitless. Like the whole 'shock and awe' thing?

What? Shock and awe wouldn't count 'cos it's a state doing the shocking? But I saw in Wikipedia. First use of the word was for the French government after the revolution. 'Government', right?

OK. So words change, but it's still about terror – killing randoms and stuff, really scary shit?

So, not randomly killing randoms, then, That's just pure bad criminal. You have to believe in something, too! But you're still killing and frightening random folk, yeh?

What? Not necessarily? Some terrorists only attack soldiers or police. But hang on a minute. That's not terrorism, that's war. I mean, s'pose a government's making life hell – keeping you poor, not letting you speak your language, that kind of thing. And then, when you protest they attack you and chuck you in prison, maybe even kill folk. Then what you meant to do? Just let them destroy you, but be too effing 'pure' to defend yourselves and fight back? Might as well just give up!

And what if you don't actually hurt

anyone? What if you're a computer nerd and jam their systems 'cos they're literally destroying the earth - but there's no violence or frightening stuff – that can't be terrorism, can it?

Jeez! You'll be telling me next that you don't have to do anything for it to count: simply get some info about how you might do a wee bit of damage to property or to a website to help make the world a better place?

What?! I give up. Who makes this shit up? Don't tell me – it's governments isn't it? So, basically, they can label anyone who resists them a terrorist and fair game, and that makes it OK for them to attack you, and to call your friends terrorists too? Now THAT'S terrifying!

## Sounding Board Silence

Like the Winter Vomiting Bug, the annual proposal to 're-provision' or close public facilities such as the Gallery of Modern Art, Provand's Lordship, Maryhill, Whiteinch and the Coupar Institute Libraries, a clutch of golf courses and some community centres, has come round again with sickening regularity. Meanwhile, there is no news on the Winter Gardens of the People's Palace, closed on 31 December 2018 as "dangerous" although there's not a single broken pane. The Sounding Board, set up to discuss the future of the People's Palace in December 2019 consists of 10 Councillors, four people from organisations funded by Glasgow City Council, 2 Housing Assoc. reps, 2 Glasgow Life employees, a professor employed by GCC and a Friend of the PPWGGG, has been strangely silent. Maybe they liked the sounds of their own voices.

## Keelie

'A disreputable inhabitant of a town or city, especially from Glasgow'  
*Oxford Dictionary*

We aim to be a voice for the dissident, the downtrodden, the troublemaker, the enraged, the anarchist, and we welcome the participation of all true lovers of liberty

**Got a story? Get in touch!**

Email: [glasgowkeelie@riseup.net](mailto:glasgowkeelie@riseup.net)

Web: [glasgowkeelie.org](http://glasgowkeelie.org)

**FACEBOOK:  
GLASGOW KEELIE**



*"Yes, the planet got destroyed. But for a beautiful moment in time we created a lot of value for shareholders."*

## GET INVOLVED!

**City Strolls** - investigate all possibilities at [citystrolls.com](http://citystrolls.com)  
**Clydeside Industrial Workers of the World** - Join the Union for ALL exploited workers in today's gig economy [clydeside@iww.org.uk](mailto:clydeside@iww.org.uk)  
**Couriers Network Scotland** - Uber & Deliveroo workers agitate. Contact via twitter, facebook & [couriers.scotland@iww.org.uk](mailto:couriers.scotland@iww.org.uk)  
**Friends of the Peoples Palace, Winter Gardens and Glasgow Green**

See Facebook or [friendsofppwggg.org.uk](http://friendsofppwggg.org.uk)

**Glasgow Autonomous Space** - social centre in the southside. [glasgowautonomous.weebly.com](http://glasgowautonomous.weebly.com)  
**Glasgow Class War** - contact via Facebook.

**Green Anti Capitalist Front Glasgow** - contact via Facebook  
**Living Rent** - organises resistance to Landlords and promotes tenants associations. Join for £3 a month, [glasgow@livingrent.org](mailto:glasgow@livingrent.org)  
**Radicalglasgowblog.blogspot.com**  
Home of the Anarchist Critic  
**Red and Black Song Club**  
See Facebook

**Scottish Peace Network** - holds vigils & stalls. Visit [scottishpeacenetWORK.org.uk](http://scottishpeacenetWORK.org.uk)  
**Spirit of Revolt** - Archives of dissent, collecting, cataloguing and digitising insights . 3 Show & Tell public forums a year. <https://spiritofrevolt.info>  
**Unity Centre Glasgow** - agitates against deportations and welcomes refugees. <https://unitycentreglasgow.org>

## Violence of Patriarchy

Mexico city, **Fri Feb 14** president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, in the National Palace, giving his morning press conference, assumed it would be quiet. What he didn't expect was a group of very angry women attacking the palace doors. The attack was in response to the brutal killing of 25 year old Ingrid Escamilla, who was murdered in north Mexico. Suffering a brutal death didn't seem to be enough for the media, Mexican newspaper La Prensa published photos of Ingrid's mutilated body.

In Mexico **around ten women** are killed every day, over the last four decades, femicide has increased exponentially, patriarchy is very much alive in Mexico. However patriarchy's tentacles slither through the fissures in every country in the world, its distorted value structure, accepting the dominance of one section of our species over another. The ingrained protocols continuing the dominance of male over female, and all the injustices that follow from this irrational man made value structure.

Attacks by these women on the national palace were part of the much larger day of protests, showing their solidarity with Ingrid and all other women who have suffered brutality and death of a male dominated society.

In Mexico city, women from all over took to the streets, filled metro stations to display their rage at a society that looks the other way when it comes to brutal treatment and death of women.

• [radicalglasgowblog.blogspot.com](http://radicalglasgowblog.blogspot.com)

## Good Old Days No.5 A Whiter Shade of Pale



The Shawfield Chemical Works in Rutherglen produced Chrome between 1808 and 1965. The third in the White dynasty, James, became Lord Overturn with his funding of Christian causes and the Liberals under Gladstone. However, the workers and the local population are still living with this legacy.

The burn today registers 825 times the permitted levels of Chromium, which is highly poisonous. Untreated pollution via Moll's Myre burn went into the Clyde. An estimated 275 million litres a year of toxic phenols and cyanides polluted the water table. The air in the factory was almost unbreathable, with nose & throat cancer common in the workforce.

The workers were so pale that they were known as "White's Dead Men". In 1899 workers struck for union recognition and better conditions. They were helped by Keir Hardie of the paper Labour Leader but only won minor concessions. The White family also campaigned against the People's Palace being created from their mansion in Bowling.

(source *Walking Through Glasgow's Industrial Past* Ian R Mitchell, Luath Press).



## International Women's Day

Has been held on 8 March to celebrate the lives and heritage of working women since 1910. Is there much to celebrate in Glasgow? St. Thenew, mother of the city's patron saint, Mungo, is on record as Scotland's first recorded victim of rape, domestic violence and was a single mother. 15 centuries later, Glasgow Women's Aid today notes that 30% of domestic abuse cases start or escalate during pregnancy. Thenew was sentenced to death through stoning and being thrown down a mountain side. When this failed, she was put in a boat and cast adrift. Landing at Culross, she gave

birth to Mungo.

Thenew's story, like that of so many Glasgow women, is one of triumph in the face of adversity. She was venerated after her death, and 'St Thenew's Gate' (now Argyle Street) was once the western entrance to the town. Think of her as Glasgow's first Janey Godley.

There are thousands of stories of Glasgow women who have fought their good fights. "Scotch Washing", an illustration from the lid of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Glasgow Green Washing House snuff box sums up the spirit and style of Glasgow working women. In "Scotch Washing" images elsewhere there are leering men. On Glasgow Green, a woman is chasing off a predator with her washing paddle for such behaviour is not to be tolerated!

# 'CULTURE' GASLIGHTING

## Coorie-in and be Baffled

**SCUNNERED, skint, suffering?**

There's a lot around us to despair about. It's upsetting witnessing the intentional collapse of the free health service, shocking increase to 41% in Glasgow child poverty, with relentless threatened closures of public buildings and spaces.

That's OUR STUFF that our people paid for in blood sweat and tears. While we get distracted by 'making ends meet', is the perfect time for these public assets to get spirited away and carved up. Raging yet?

### What's all this?

Glasgow's Culture (draft) Plan for the next 25 years, drawn up by Glasgow Life for the Council. It would make you doubt reality!

With a nod to the challenging fiscal environment, The Plan says "Culture has a role to play in delivering the City's economic priorities"...Glasgow is the 6th most visited city in the UK rebranding itself to become



"known for its pride, passion and people". The jist of The Plan here:-

*• 'culture is a feature of human beings and should be a product of the experiences, lives and views of everyone in Scotland's most diverse city...'*

Yet, it's impossible to distribute posters, leaflets or books into public spaces, museums, or community centres if you are 'everyday' culture. It's only in-house and paid ads displayed not

ordinary edgy voices like ours - **silenced.**

*• 'we need to make a special effort to include the views of those with less confidence or power, and those who are trying to establish themselves...'*

Really? Arts funds withdrawn! Threatened closures of public – libraries, museums, galleries! Average £19 ticket for Celtic Connections festival?

Feeling confused yet? Who wrote this stuff? It's making me doubt my experience, perception and judgement! While shutting accessible public space, affordable participation and freedom of speech The Plan declares that the "cultural and creative voices of people who have been historically marginalised are centred, resourced and celebrated" ..."everyone is able to access cultural activity in the city". This Plan has re-imagined Glasgow life!

Who profits here? Is this baffling daft Culture Plan actually pointless? Or is it a twisted power trip, lip-service 'consultation' doomed to be kicked into the long council grass? Or on target? - **gaslighting** us all – while we are asset-stripped the Culture Plan reinforces the new norm - makes us think we are upset over nothing, over-reacting, confused and all dramatic!?! Nuthin is rosie from the scheme I live in.

**Consultation now closed.**