

THE ILRIG

ARCHIVE

published

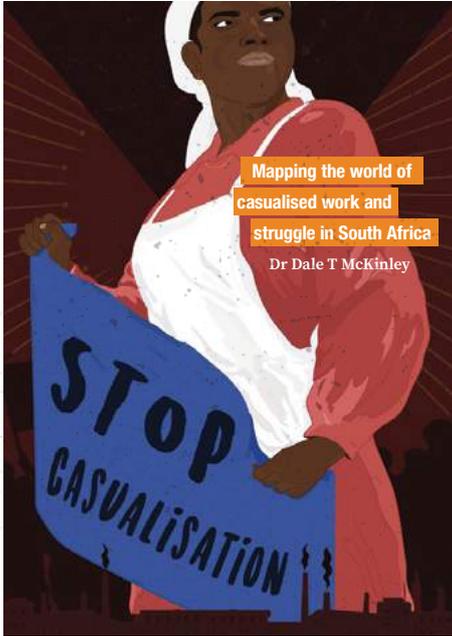


In this brochure you will find information about some recent publications and popular materials produced by the International Labour Research and Information Group (ILRIG). These materials have been created for activist organisations and movements to use in political education programmes, workshops, and reading groups.

If your organisation, movement or union would like to order hard copies of any ILRIG publications listed here, please send us an email to publications@ilrig.org.za. ILRIG educational materials can also be downloaded from our website at www.ilrigsa.org.za/resources

BOOKLETS

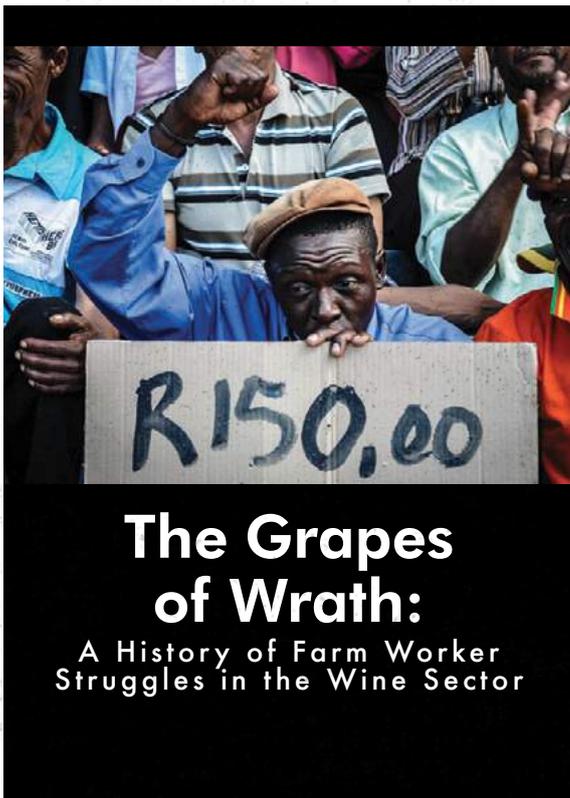
Mapping the World of Casualised Work and Struggle in South Africa



There has been a radical and ongoing recomposition of the broad working class, both globally and within South Africa, which has seen a major shift from a mainly permanent and largely industrial working-class base to one where a majority of workers are now casualised and where large-scale/heavy industry no longer dominates the working landscape. At the same time, there has been the gradual but systematic co-option, weakening and in many cases demise of, dominant industry/sector specific trade unions. Not only have the ranks of casualised workers been swelled with ex-union members, there are now a large majority of workers who have no political, organisational or workplace connection to such trade unions.

All of this has fundamentally shifted the life, work, struggle and organising/mobilising realities and experiences of these workers. Yet, this has not been paralleled by a shift in the main content and character of labour/worker research and analysis or, in the approach to organising, mobilisation and education. As such there is little research and analysis in South Africa, on what the contemporary 'world of casualised work' looks like in hard facts and numbers and also, what this 'map' means - in strategic and tactical terms - for worker specific organisation, mobilisation and education as well as broader linkages, support and solidarity amongst workers.

This research report (partially) addresses these realities and gaps by providing an empirically-grounded macro-'mapping' of the world of casualised work; surfacing the core issues and challenges experienced by/facing casualised workers; and, offering some perspectives on the key strategic questions going forward. Hopefully, it can act as a basis for more extensive and in-depth research and analysis of the world of casualised labour, and provide workers, their organisations and allies with useful information which can contribute to more informed and effective engagement, organising, mobilising, education and overall struggle.



The Grapes of Wrath: A history of farmworker struggles in the wine sector

The working conditions for farm workers in the wine sector in South Africa are appalling. Pay is extremely low, housing conditions for workers are bad and racism is rife. Many farm workers are now also casual/seasonal or labour-broker workers. The conditions farm workers face are not an accident, but have rather to do with the history of the sector and more broadly, South Africa. Yet farm workers have also resisted the conditions, as can best be seen in the 2012/13 farm workers' strike.

To understand why the conditions of farm workers in the wine sector are so bad, this booklet looks at the history of farm workers from 1652 until today. It examines how some of the systems, like the dop system and divide and rule, come from the days of slavery. It also looks at the changes in the wine sector from colonialism to apartheid to today and what this has meant for farm workers.

It also, however, looks at the resistance that farm workers have undertaken throughout history in South Africa. This includes looking at the 1808 slave revolt in the Cape to the farm worker uprising in 2012/13. Indeed, this booklet outlines how it is only through organising and collective struggles that farm workers can win gains and improve their lives and those of their families – and history shows this.



Action Research Manual for Wine Farm Workers

Action Research Manual for Wine Farm Workers

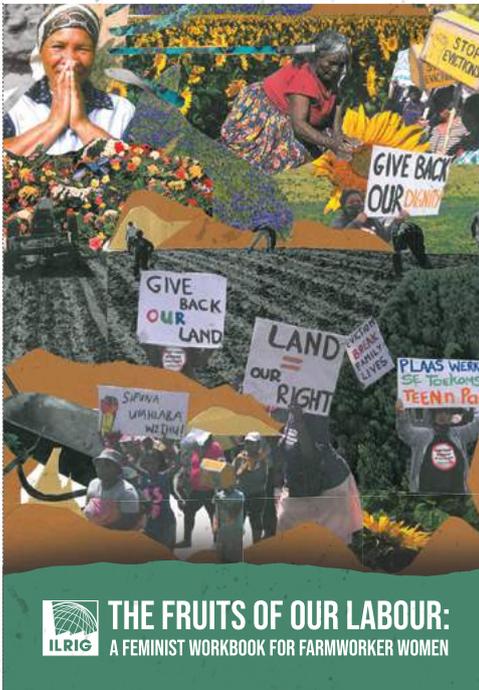
This booklet takes farm workers through how to undertake action research at their workplaces and where they live. The aim of action research is for workers themselves to research and document their working and living conditions, plan how to mobilise collectively to change the conditions, and then take action. Action Research is a cycle, workers do research, take actions, reflect on the actions and then start the cycle again. Action research is, therefore, a mobilising tool and can be used to win gains in the workplace.

So, this booklet aims to assist workers to conduct their own research on the farms on which they work and live and to document this. It gives suggestions on tools that can be used to document conditions and then it also outlines steps that can assist workers to self-organise, challenge the bosses and force improvements.

Fruits of Our Labour: A farmworker women's workbook for radical feminist organising:

This workbook has been produced by ILRIG as part of its Building Women's Power program. This workbook is aimed at farmworker women but can be used by anyone or any organisation that wants to understand and build feminist politics. The aim of this publication is to:

- Develop a perspective on the impact of the changing nature of work and worker organising on working women.
- Contribute to building the capacity of working women to organise themselves, build women's leadership, and build solidarity and consciousness in order to fight capitalism, racism and patriarchy.
- Help empower working women to raise their interests and demands, and participate in building worker organisations, worker forums, community and worker alliances and trade unions.
- Contribute to building strong women's leadership and politics within worker organisations, unions and movements.
- Contribute to the process of developing viable feminist alternatives to the effects and challenges of capitalism.

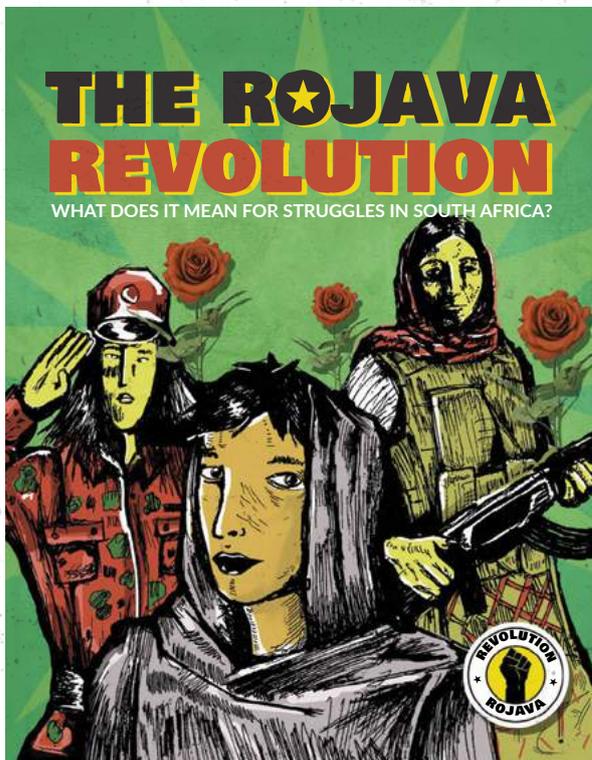


NEWSLETTER

WORKERS WORLD NEWS

Workers' World News is ILRIG's quarterly newsletter, which highlights topical working class struggles in South Africa and across the world. This publication is also a platform for activists to write about their organisations and call for solidarity, and for artists to share their cultural work.





Rojava Revolution

In Rojava – but also in parts of Turkey, Iran and Iraq – people involved in the revolution are creating an alternative system to hierarchical states, capitalism and patriarchy that they call democratic confederalism. As ILRIG we believe this struggle to create a radical democracy without a state and based on an economy grounded in grassroots socialism can inspire struggles across the world and in South Africa.

What the Rojava revolution shows is that we don't need to live in a world where politicians have power, where bosses exploit workers, where women are oppressed, and where there is ever increasing poverty and unemployment. It shows that another world is really possible and that we can organise to win it ourselves through building inclusive organisations and through our own democratically controlled actions – political messiahs and vanguards that claim to represent the people and who promise to bring freedom are not needed.

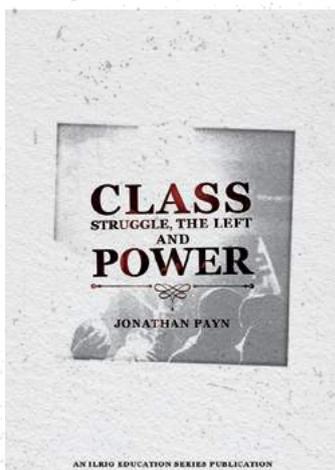
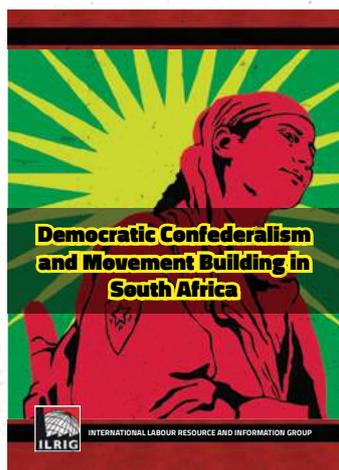
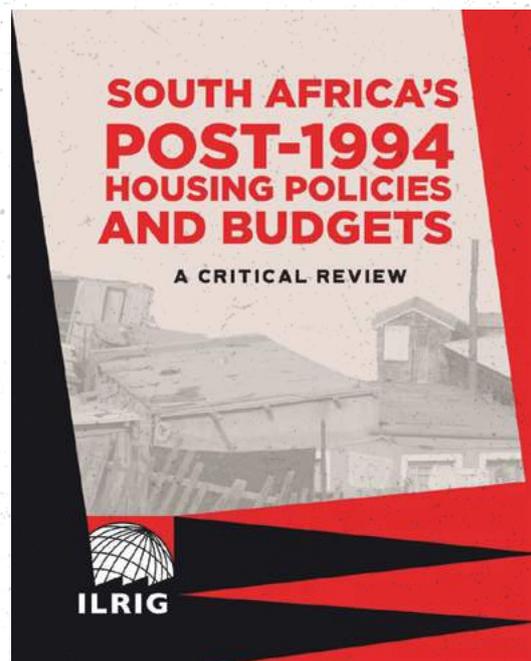
In this booklet, we look at this revolution and the self-organising that has taken place under democratic confederalism as it has relevance for struggles in South Africa, the region and indeed the world.

South Africa's Post 1994 Housing Policies and Budgets: A critical review

This booklet provides a snapshot view of the ANC government's housing policies, accompanying budgets and record of 'delivery' since 1994. It does so by presenting both analyses and factual information/data that covers: the privatisation of housing policy and delivery; relevant legislation; the number of houses built since 1994; housing budget and expenditure trends since 1994; the housing backlog and (so-called) waiting lists; and present housing policy.

The review shows how even though lots of money has been spent, the quality of housing has deteriorated and there has been little/no accountability. It reveals the bad living conditions of the poor and marginalised in townships and informal settlements and briefly considers the associated struggles by affected communities.

It is hoped that this publication will assist activists taking part in worker and community struggles involving land/housing and equip them with useful information and tools of analysis.



Democratic Confederalism and Movement Building in South Africa

This booklet is a case study on Rojava and democratic confederalism as an alternative to capitalism and patriarchy as embodied in the nation-state.

Class and Power

This booklet is an attempt to critique political parties and elections undertaken by the Left as a tactic for change. It looks at the post-1994 period in South Africa and posits a position about building counter-power through self-organising.

BOOKLETS

Capitalism, Anti-Capitalism and Popular Organisation (Part 1 & 2)

In South Africa over the last few years we have seen many struggles within workplaces and communities. A feature of these struggles, however, has been the difficulty in maintaining and building organisations that are long-lasting and that are also inclusive and participatory. In these struggles, new layers of activists have emerged.

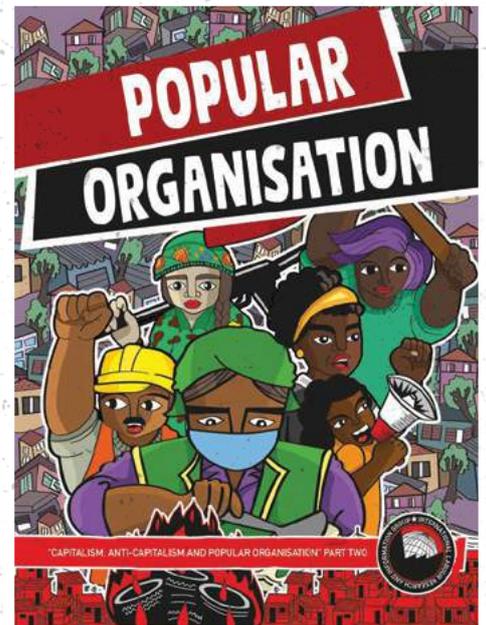
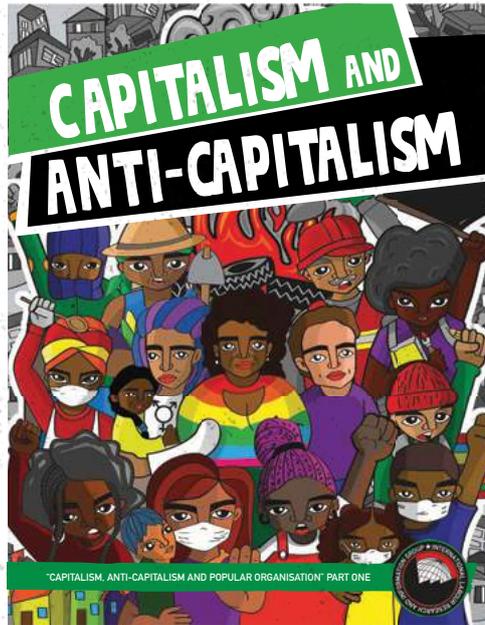
These booklets are a tool to introduce these new activists to what capitalism is, how it functions and in whose interests, how society is divided into

different classes with differences in power and interests, what role the state plays, and how the state functions in the interests of capitalism and the ruling class.

Part 1 of this booklet aims to help activists deepen their understanding of the system we live under, how a majority of people are exploited, and how and why a majority of people face forms of oppression. It can also be used as a basis for activists to analyse why they face the problems they do, and the deeper reasons for these problems. Part 2 of this booklet looks specifically at building a movement. Both new and seasoned activists can use this booklet to think more deeply about the elements, values, principles and practices of movement building

We hope these booklets will contribute to the long process of building participatory and directly democratic organisations that can one day become a counter-power to replace capitalism and the state, and thereby end class exploitation, patriarchy and racism in South Africa and internationally.

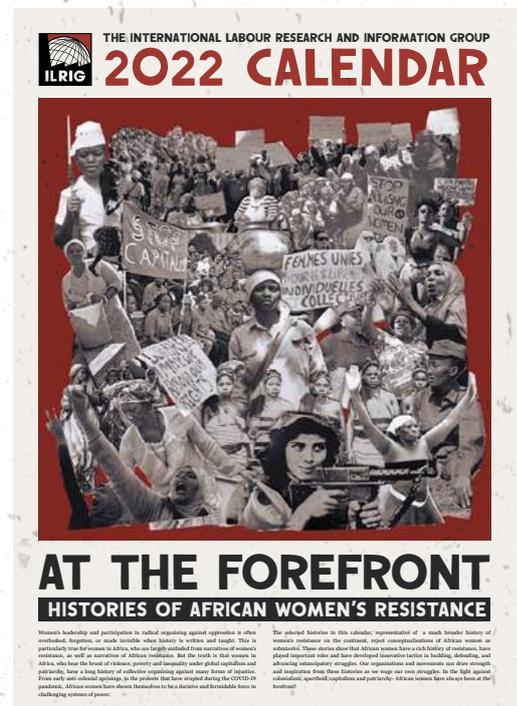
This booklet was originally written by Comrade Felipe Corrêa for anti-capitalist activists in Brazil. Some of the information regarding South Africa has been added by ILRIG to provide examples of the concepts covered that are South African based.



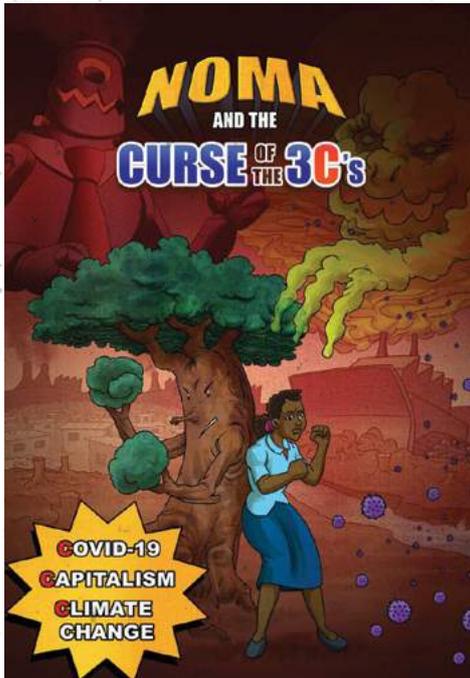
CALENDAR

At the Forefront: Histories of African Women's Resistance

The ILRIG 2022 calendar contains selected histories of women's resistance on the African continent, along with artworks by women printmakers from Artist Proof Studio. The histories in this calendar are representative of a much broader history of women's resistance on the continent, and reject conceptualisations of African women as submissive. They show that African women have a rich history of resistance, have played important roles and have developed innovative tactics in building, defending, and advancing emancipatory struggles. Our organisations and movements can draw strength and inspiration from these histories as we wage our own struggles. In the fight against colonialism, apartheid, capitalism and patriarchy- African women have always been at the forefront!

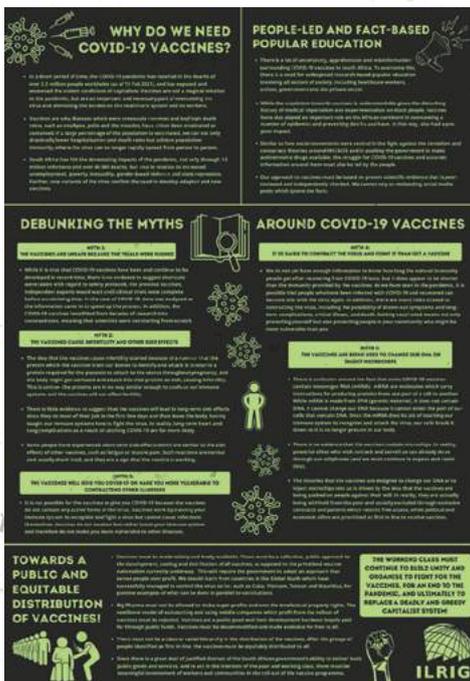


COMICS & INFOGRAPHICS



NOMA AND THE CURSE OF THE 3 C'S (CAPITALISM, COVID-19, CLIMATE CHANGE)

This comic book was produced in partnership with the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG). The comic follows Noma as she confronts a triple curse that is now facing not only South Africa but all of humanity. The destructive and exploitative system of Capitalism has allowed governments and corporations to exploit humans, the earth and destroy nature in the process. In turn, this has fuelled Climate Change which is threatening the sustainability and very existence of our natural earth and those who live on it. The devastating combination of these two C's has now given rise to many diseases that are killing hundreds of thousands and laying waste to economies and people's lives, the latest being COVID-19. Take the journey with Noma as she explains and confronts the curse, and points the way to what needs to be done.



CAPITALIST CRISIS AND THE CORONAVIRUS

An infographic on what the COVID-19 pandemic means for the capitalist crisis.

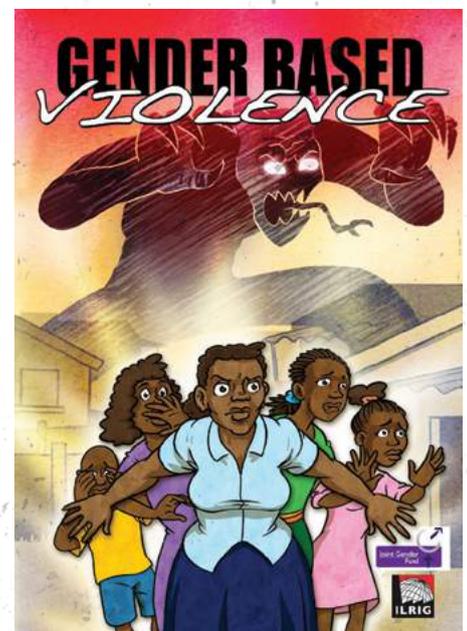
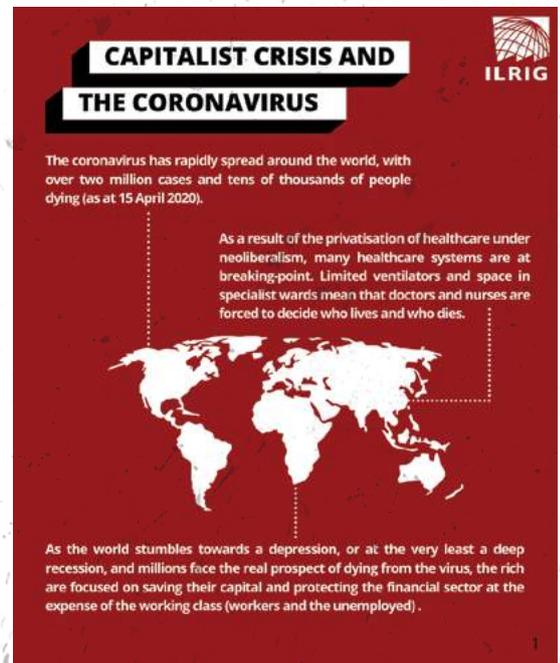
COVID-19 VACCINES

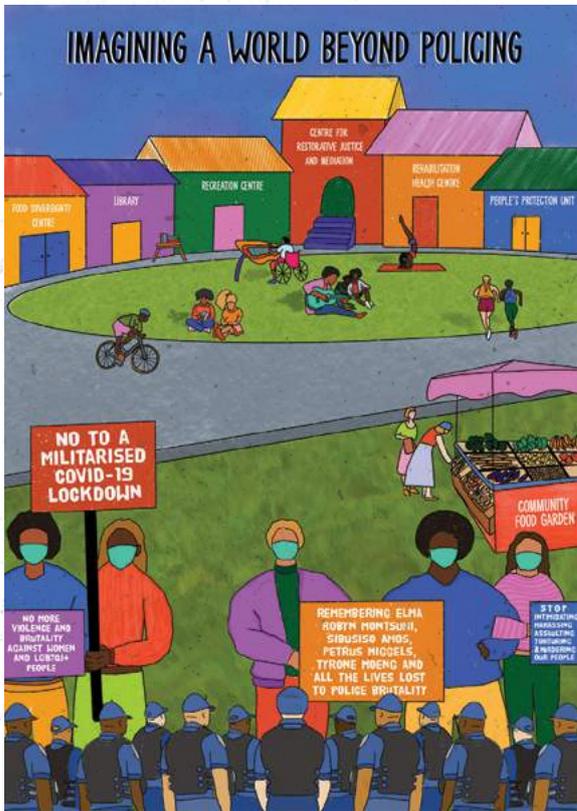
This infographic highlights the need for a public, free and equitable approach to COVID-19 vaccines, and debunks some common myths around them.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE COMIC

This comic book tells us the stories of four different people. Each story helps us to better understand the three levels of gender-based violence, namely:

- Individual Oppression: Each of the people in our story have been subjected to gender-based violence as individuals on a personal level
- Collective/Social Oppression: Together in a society our attitudes and behaviour towards different groups of people causes everyone to suffer from gender-based violence in our communities.
- Structural/Institutional Oppression: The society we live in and the structures that support this society form the roots of gender-based violence at a broad socio-economic level.





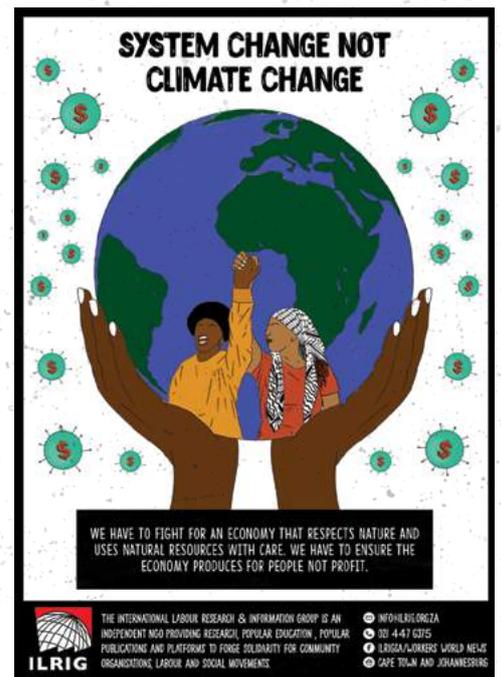
IMAGINING A WORLD BEYOND POLICING POSTER

Poster and words below by Mikayla Boorany (Instagram @mikaylaboorany):

"In 2003, Arundhati Roy wrote: "Another world is not only possible, she is on her way...on a quiet day, if I listen very carefully, I can hear her breathing." At the beginning of this year, in 2020, Roy wrote: "Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different." It is these words – by the great Arundhati Roy, and many other giants like Angela Davis and Beth E. Richie, who have for years encouraged us to not only imagine a world that cares, but to imagine that a world that cares is possible – that inspired my piece: 'Imagining a world beyond policing'.

First, I provide a context of some of the critical issues that are currently plaguing our communities today. This is done through the depiction of mask-wearing, socially-distanced picketers. These community members on the frontline are critiquing issues of gender-based violence and police brutality – which are both menacing issues that have been exponentially exacerbated during the Covid-19 lockdown. Then in the background, I provide a blueprint for our future. 'Imagining a world beyond policing' is a look into what our communities could look like without prisons and policing.

The abolition movement calls for alternatives to these violent institutions by providing sustainable solutions to the socio-economic problems in our society. This is envisioned in my piece through the provision of services like a community food garden and a food sovereignty centre which could help alleviate issues of hunger and nutrition, through an environmentally conscious approach. The increased provision of funding to libraries and recreation centres can help solve issues of illiteracy, ennui and provide a safe space for active living and community engagement. Building safe and well-resourced rehabilitation health centres, centres focused on restorative justice and community protection units provide our communities with safer and realistic alternatives to incarceration and policing. In a world that is currently filled with so much pain, violence and brutality, the seemingly simple act of people being able to exercise, make music and experience joy, seems to be a radical act in itself. The usage of bright colours is intentional and symbolises that joy and safety is possible, and that a better life is 'on her way'."



SYSTEM CHANGE NOT CLIMATE CHANGE POSTER

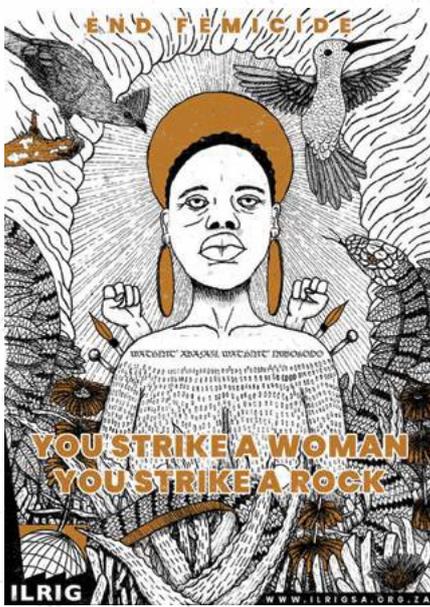
Poster by Mikayla Boorany. This poster seeks to encourage reflection and discussion on the three core issues that currently confront humanity – Capitalism, Climate Change and COVID-19. We hope this allows people to make linkages between the 3Cs and debate a different kind of society that prioritises the needs of the people and the planet, not the elites and profit.

ROJAVA POSTER

This poster was designed for ILRIG's Rojava Speaking Tour. The slogan "everywhere is Rojava, everywhere is resistance" is a popular slogan in the Kurdish liberation struggle. Linocut by Leila Khan.

POSTERS





END FEMICIDE POSTER

Poster and words below by Gather Design (Instagram @gatherdesigndevelop).

"Everything in the poster is a symbolic representation of feminist strength, resilience and resistance. I used local birds; the Grey Loerie and Hummingbird, both of which have varying spiritual and symbolic meanings. The sun/halo and 'cloud opening' represent strength and hope, a 'clearing away' of darkness, if you will. The womxn represents the feminine, specifically the Black feminine; the main victim of patriarchy, gender based violence and femicide, but her face is also defiant and she emanates strength and resistance, emphasized by the fist, spear and knobkerrie. "Wathint' Abafazi, Wathint' Imbokodo" is Zulu for "You strike a woman, you strike a rock". I placed it on her chest, representative of a tattoo. She is covered in traditional scarification, each scar representing a woman who has been a victim of femicide.

She could also be seen as symbolic of the natural world (or Mother Nature), always referred to in the feminine, also constantly conquered and dominated by patriarchy (/capitalism, same thing). The snake can be interpreted however the viewer wishes. I don't mean to demonise snakes in any sense, as I think that their bad name is largely due to patriarchal religious myth. To some, snakes are seen as potential threat and bad omens, to others they represent fertility, a creative life force, or other positive symbolisms. I chose three plants found in South Africa to frame the bottom of the illustration; Aloe Vera, Leonotis leonurus (or lion's tail or wild dagga), and Carpobrotus Edulis (sour figs), all of which have medicinal value, to represent healing, as well as growth. I also love seeing nature "reclaim", and I tried to convey that sense. The gold colour is representative of value, and depth, and is often used in traditional African colour palettes".

About ILRIG INTERNATIONAL LABOUR RESEARCH AND INFORMATION GROUP

The **International Labour Research and Information Group** (ILRIG) is an NGO dedicated to research, education, training and the production of popular materials for the labour and community movements in South and Southern Africa. The main focus of our work is to assist movements to find new and different ways of organising based on a radical democracy, feminism and egalitarianism that can become a counter-power to capitalism, class rule, nation states, populism, authoritarianism, patriarchy and racism. There is an alternative!

ILRIG was founded in 1983 and has since been advancing working class movements and power both in the workplace and in communities. Over the years we have built a reputation for high-quality publications and education programmes which are accessible and useful to community-based movements, activists, and worker formations. The main focus of our work is in assisting working class formations to find different and directly democratic ways of self-organising. Linked to this, we provide tools of analysis to aid activists to deepen their understanding of the context we are in and promote progressive ideas, values, principles and practices amongst working class organisations. All our work stresses democratic participation and interaction, and is geared towards supporting strong, principled working class organisations that can build an alternative to reactionary ideas and practices that have emerged within a fraying neoliberal capitalism.

Through research, educational programmes, and the production of popular materials, ILRIG aims to bring the experiences of working class struggles in other parts of the world to activists in Southern Africa, in order to inform the search for alternative forms of organisation, and assist in the development of strong bonds of international solidarity.

Unity & Solidarity poster at the back of this brochure by Lella Khan.

