

SOCIALIST★APPEAL

KILLED BY A SYSTEM WE'RE TOLD 'PROTECTS' US

Killed by the system we're told 'protects' us." These were the striking words on one placard at Saturday's vigil for Sarah Everard in London – a protest against the daily violence, oppression, and unsafe conditions that women face under capitalism.

In the case of Sarah Everard – and her harrowing murder, allegedly at the hands of a serving police officer – women everywhere see themselves, and the traumatising experiences they live through day-in, day-out as a result of this oppressive system.

Politicians from all parties – including Tory MPs and Labour leader Keir Starmer – have come out in criticism of how the Met brutally responded to Saturday's demonstration on Clapham Common, where police officers physically manhandled female activists and pushed them to the ground.

But this is pure hypocrisy coming from these establishment politicians. Their concerns for the welfare of



women are paper thin.

After all, these are the same Conservative politicians who have slashed domestic shelters and other services upon which vulnerable women rely; who recently voted through the infamous 'Spy Cops' Bill, which gives police spies immunity from crimes made against political activists – including rape and harrassment.

And lest we forget, Keir Starmer – who now says he is "deeply disturbed" by scenes from last night – had no qualms about ordering Labour MPs to abstain on this same bill.

The Met have cited 'health and safety concerns' for their repressive actions against female protestors last night. But this is a scandalous excuse to give, especially in light of

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the fact that it is a police officer who is alleged to have carried out this horrific murder.

As ever, we can see that the institutions of the capitalist state are only interested in protecting their own – and ultimately, in protecting the privileges, property, and profits of the rich and powerful.

Tragically, the murder of Sarah Everard is only the tip of a very large iceberg.

Domestic violence is on the rise, with financially insecure women forced to continue cohabiting with abusive partners. Pay inequality and precarious employment are increasing, most dramatically in the sectors where women are more likely to work. Access to vital healthcare services have been restricted by cuts and austerity. And working-class women have borne the brunt of the



Thousands of mourners massed in Clapham Common on Saturday

coronavirus crisis, juggling work and childcare as the bosses refuse to provide furlough.

Decades of progress have been undone in the space of months. This shows how fragile our freedoms, rights, and gains are under capitalism – a system in terminal decline.

Across the world, however, women are rising up against these injustices. From Mexico to Argentina; from Ireland to Poland: women are coming out onto the streets against

gender-based violence; against workplace harassment; and against repressive abortion laws – in short, against this oppressive status quo, and against the politicians and police who uphold it.

As the slogan on Saturday's demo stated: the system isn't protecting us – it is killing us. We need to unite and fight to overthrow this whole rotten, violent, oppressive system.

Socialist Appeal presents

**END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN!
END THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM!**



March 16 - 7pm on Zoom

Public meeting - free entry