

No 1: WHAT IS THE CSC?

1. Brief history: Chile Solidarity Campaign was founded by Liberation in September 1973, immediately after the violent military coup which overthrew the democratic Popular Unity Government of President Salvador Allende in Chile. The Campaign has grown by encouraging the affiliation of labour movement organisations, and by forming local committees throughout Great Britain. It is a united campaign which brings together the efforts of all people in Britain who are concerned about the situation in Chile. It works in close conjunction with the trade union movement as a whole, the TUC and the Labour Party, to publicise events in Chile, persuade our government to give no form of aid or assistance to the military junta, to press for the release of trade union and political prisoners in Chile, to help resettle Chilean refugees in Britain and provide opportunities for them to work for the cause of their people, to discourage all forms of trade or contact with Chile, so as to isolate the military junta, and to work closely with the movement in other countries for effective international solidarity with the people of Chile.

2. Present strength:

a. affiliations

i. National unions

ACTT ASLEF ASTMS AUEW AUEW-TASS GMWU NATSOPA NUM NUPE NUR NUSeamen
NUStudents NUSheet Metal Workers NUGSAT SLADE SOGAT Tobacco Workers Union
T&GWU

ii. Political organisations

The Labour Party nationally and more than 60 Constituency and Ward Parties
The Communist Party, IS, IMG and local branches
London Cooperative Society Political Committee -which gives substantial
financial support, as well as help, advice and co-sponsorship of projects.

iii Other organisations

More than 30 trades councils
Many AUEW District Committees.
3 ASTMS Divisional Councils and more than 30 branches
Trade union branches and shop-stewards committees throughout Britain
More than 20 student unions.

b. local committees

There are now more than 60, arranged in regions. The Scottish regional organisation, Scottish Chile Defence Committee, has its own affiliates, which include STUC, NUM Scotland and T&GWU Region 7. Many local committees have their own local affiliates, the Merseyside one, for example, having more than 50 trade union branches and 7 CLPs affiliated.

There are committees in:

Aberdeen, Bath, Birmingham, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol,
Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge, Cardiff, Chelmsford, Colchester, Coleg
Harlech, Coventry, Crawley, Darlington, Dundee, Durham, East Anglia,
East London, Edinburgh, Exeter, Falkirk, Fife, Glasgow, Gloucester,
Greenwich, Harlow, Hemel Hempstead, Humberside, Kent, Lancaster,

///continued.

Leeds, Leigh (lancs), London School of Economics, Luton, Manchester, Mansfield, Merseyside, Newport, Northants, North-East (Newcastle), North Gloucestershire, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Portsmouth, Preston, Redditch, Rochdale, St. Albans, Scottish Chile Defence Committee, Sheffield, Skelmersdale, Southampton, South London, Stockport, Strathkelvin, Surrey, Swindon, West Middlesex, York.

c. parliamentary Labour Party

3 Labour MPs sit on the CSC Executive Committee: Martin Flannery, Judith Hart and Eddy Loyden. Many other MPs have helped the Campaign, among whom Neil Kinnock, Jo Richardson, Ian Mikardo, Greville Janner and Stanley Clinton Davis are prominent. Throughout the country Labour MPs are working closely in many places with local CSC groups.

3. Associated organisations:

Two other organisations work closely with the Chile Solidarity Campaign, with specific tasks:

Chile Committee for Human Rights is a non-political organisation which works for the protection and restoration of human rights in Chile. It assists political and trade union prisoners and their families, through the Chile Relief Fund, which is a registered charity. It administers the Adoption of Prisoners Scheme, through which many trade union and other organisations in Britain have 'adopted' a political prisoner in Chile, campaigning for his/her release, and in a number of cases securing this. CCHR also assists Chilean refugees in Britain to help their relatives in Chile who are suffering at the hands of the repression. CCHR has support from prominent churchmen, writers, actors, artists, MPs, etc.

The Joint Working Group for Chilean Refugees in Britain (JWG) is a committee of a number of organisations, including CSC, CCHR, UNHCR, Christian Aid, the British Council for Aid to Refugees, which administers the programme for Chilean refugees in Britain. JWG runs a reception hostel in London, from which refugees are sent to reception committees, usually based on local Chile Solidarity groups, throughout Britain. They arrange in turn for accommodation, English classes, and eventually jobs or places for study.

CSC, CCHR and JWG all work well in cooperation with one another, respecting each other's autonomy in their respective fields.

4. Achievements:

- * resettling over 1000 Chilean refugees in Britain
- * securing the freedom of a number of political prisoners, for instance Carmen Castillo and Pedro Cornejo who are now safe and sound in Britain
- * persuading the British Government to admit refugees, cut economic aid to Chile and place an embargo on future arms sales
- * Britain's refusal in 1975 to renegotiate Chile's debts, thus denying vital funds to the junta
- * boycott actions by many trade unionists throughout Britain, as a result of the strong feelings that exist throughout the Labour Movement, and indirectly through the work of the Campaign. Notably the recent Seamen's boycott, the AUEW and T&GWU boycotts on Rolls Royce Aero Engines for the Chilean Air Force, the Merseyside and Hull dockers' boycotts, etc.