



November 2020

## **Model Motion: Undercover 'Political Policing'**

### **This Branch**

1. Notes with concern that police chiefs have admitted that undercover infiltration of political, activist and justice campaign groups in the UK has been consistent since 1968, in the form of the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS) and the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU).
2. Firmly opposes this type of political undercover policing and believes that infiltrations of this kind have no place in a democratic society.
3. Understands that a tactic of these infiltrations was for officers to form long-term intimate relationships with women activists, to bolster officer's cover identities in activist circles.
4. Further understands that police were forced to admit that they infringed upon a woman's right not to be 'subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment'.
5. Notes that the Metropolitan Police Service has admitted these practices and apologised for behaviour of their undercover officers which in their own words were 'abusive, deceitful, manipulative and wrong', and were a 'gross violation'.
6. Notes that Assistant Commissioner Martin Hewitt furthermore publicly stated that these abuses were a 'violation of their human rights, and caused significant trauma'.<sup>1</sup>
7. Notes that while the existing Undercover Policing Inquiry covers England and Wales, as of this time the victims of related undercover operations in Scotland and Northern Ireland currently are excluded from seeking justice under this Inquiry.

### **This Branch believes**

1. That this reveals that institutional sexism has been endemic within these police units and other state bodies that sanctioned this behaviour.
2. Institutional racism and class bias is also at the root of these police and governmental surveillance methods.
3. This was a violation of the women's guaranteed legal rights to privacy, freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly.
4. This was a violation of the women's rights to a home and family life, and to privacy of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lcu5IGbShxE>

communications.

5. This was an infringement of the women's right to participate in the struggle for legal, social and environmental justice.
6. That the use of sexual relationships has no place in any form of undercover policing and the Regulation Of Investigatory Powers Act (2000) should be amended to reflect this.

**This Branch resolves to**

1. Oppose the CHIS (Criminal Conduct) Bill without extensive amendment to protect the rights to protest, campaign, organise and report.
2. Call for the Undercover Policing Inquiry (UCPI) to be extended to Scotland and Northern Ireland.
3. Call for the UCPI to undertake a fully transparent and truly public inquiry, providing disclosure to those whose rights have been violated by undercover operations and recommending legal changes to ensure this type of spying never happens again.
4. Support the appointment of a panel of experts with understanding of the issues of institutional sexism and institutional racism to assist the Chair during the inquiry evidential stages.
5. Profile the work of Police Spies Out Of Lives in members bulletins and newsletters.
6. Publicise this motion to regional and national union structures and wherever possible within the labour movement.