

Some of

RAISED VOICES

London Political Choir
singing

AGAINST the POLICE, CRIME, SENTENCING & COURTS BILL

1st May 2021

1. THE RIGHT TO PROTEST (A, F#, D)

S.African, 'Amen Siakadumisa', attrib. S.C.Mdefe.

Words: Raised Voices, Strawberry Thieves

(Call) Protesting!

(Tune) We defend the right to protest (x2)

We will defend (x2)

We defend the right to protest

(Call) We'll fight on

(Tune) We will fight on against the Bill (x2)

We will fight on (x2)

We will fight on against the Bill.

(Call) Stop Trident!

(Tune) We support the Nuclear Ban (x2)

No mass destruction (x2)

We support the Nuclear Ban

(Call) No arms sales!

(Tune) Don't supply repressive regimes (x2)

Stop selling arms (x2)

Don't supply repressive regimes

(Call) The NHS

(Tune) We will defend the NHS (x2)

We will defend (x2)

We will defend the NHS.

(Call) Sing loudly!

(Tune) Protesting has to be heard (x2)

Sing loud and clear (x2)

Protesting has to be heard

2. BLOOD MONEY (round – starts E)

Camilla Cancantata

Blood money, blood money, End the trade in murder

No more profits from war crimes

No more profits from war.

End in unison on "End the trade in murder"

3. A LUTA CONTINUA (E) (The struggle carries on)

Chorus: Ay ay ay ay (x 4)

Ay ay ay oh, Ay ay ay ay,

A luta continua

A luta continua (x3)

Oh a luta continua (*rpt verse*)

We'll go on until we win (x3)

Oh a luta continua (*rpt verse*)

Chorus twice, with top harmony

4. BURY TRIDENT (starts A)

Leon Rosselson

Chorus:

Trident, Trident,

Money down the drain

It can kill all living creatures

And then kill them all again

It's time we got together and

It's time we made a fuss

So that we can bury Trident

Before it buries us.

Who are you trying to target?

Who are you going to kill?

Who are you deterring?

Tell us if you will.

Does it make you feel like Tarzan?

Do you get a manly thrill?

While we poor bloody suckers

Are picking up the bill. (*Chorus*)

Johnson is our leader,

A fellow you can trust

He's got his finger on the button

And he'll press it if he must

Then the enemy will do the same

And we'll have to adjust

To being tiny particles

Of patriotic dust. (*Chorus*)

You're against proliferation

But everything you do

Is an open invitation

To join the nuclear queue

There's Israel and India

And Pakistan, too,

Soon everyone will want to have

As big a bomb as you. (*Chorus*)

5. THE WAR MACHINE (starts D)

Sue Gilmurray

In eastern skies the great hawks fly
Over bloodied hills where children die
And the instruments of tyranny
Were bought from Britain plc
As the war machine rolls round

Chorus: And the war machine
Rolls round and round
And the poor and the weak
Get trampled on the ground
And from where we stand
Their cries are drowned
By the clink (and the) clank
(of the) dollar (and the) pound
As the war machine rolls round

And the prisoner sleeping where he fell
Will awake to one more day of hell
From a US baton's searing pain
His body bound by a Sheffield chain
As the war machine rolls round. (*Chorus*)

We've an industry that lives and thrives
Making tools to shatter human lives
And our honest workers ply their skill
Helping distant tyrants maim and kill
As the war machine rolls round. (*Chorus*)

It is time my friends for us to say
We will not sell death to earn our pay
It is time for arms exports to cease
For the world can never live in peace
While the war machine rolls round. (*Chorus*)

6. NO MORE WAR (round – starts C)

Camilla Cancantata

No more, no more, no more war no more (x 2)
No more, no more war, no war no more
We dissent, we dissent, we dissent
From the violence and hate of the military state

7. I'M GON' STAND (starts G)

*Bernice Johnson Reagon, Sweet Honey in the Rock,
based on words spoken by Rev. Benjamin Chavis*

We will not bow down to – uh-huh – racism
We will not bow down to – injustice
We will not bow down to – exploitation
I'm gon' stand, I'm gon' stand.

We will not obey – uh-huh – racism
We will not obey – injustice
We will not obey – exploitation
I'm gon' stand, I'm gon' stand.

I just can't tolerate – uh-huh – racism
I just can't tolerate – injustice
I just can't tolerate – exploitation
I'm gon' stand, I'm gon' stand.

8. BUILD A BETTER FUTURE (starts A)

(Tune: Bella Ciao. Words: Sea Green Singers)

We need to wake up, we need to rise up
We need to open up our eyes and do it
Now! Now! Now!
We need to build a better future
And we need to start right now.

We've got a problem on our planet
We've got to solve it, get involved and do it
Now! Now! Now! We need to build...

Make it greener, make it cleaner
Make it last, make it fast and do it
Now! Now! Now! We need to build...

No point in waiting or hesitating
We must get wise, take no more lies and do it
Now! Now! Now! We need to build...

Rpt final chorus

9. IN CONTEMPT (starts F)

*Words Aaron Kramer 1950, Tune Betty Sanders,
Arr. Shereen Benjamin (RV)*

Chorus:
Build high, build wide your prison walls
Let there be room enough for all
Who hold you in contempt, build wide
Let all the land be locked inside.

You have seized the valiant few
Whose glory casts a shade on you
How can you now go home with ease
Jangling your heavy dungeon keys.

Chorus

The birds that still insist on song
The sunlit streams, still running strong
The flowers still blazing red and blue
All are in contempt of you.

Chorus

When you have seized the moon and sun
And trapped the poems one by one
And jailed each trouble-making breeze
Then you can throw away your keys.

RAISED VOICES London Political Choir

**At present we are rehearsing on Zoom,
please see our website for further details.**

We welcome new members.

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