



Following the horrific and indefensible attacks in Paris, a debate is raging about how to respond.

The right don't intend to let this crisis go to waste. Before the blood was dry they were calling for more bombing; attacking Muslims, refugees and migrants; and demanding further draconian powers for the state and restrictions to our civil rights.

The problem isn't just the Front Nationale in France, gangs of racist thugs, the Daily Mail or Donald Trump. Mainstream politicians and media across Europe are contributing to the process.

It appears that the killers in Paris, as in London in 2005, were not migrants, but discontented young people. Several had connections with Molenbeek in Belgium, a run-down ghetto.

The motivations of violent jihadists in Europe have been primarily political rather than religious. They have generally not come from religious backgrounds.

If the west wants to boost IS recruitment they could do little better than further imperialist intervention in the Middle East; more Islamophobia and discrimination; and the continuing hypocrisy of talking about democracy while curtailing civil liberties, doing deals from Saudi Arabia to China and courting Sisi, who overthrew the elected Egyptian government and is murdering all opposition.

The right's answers make us less safe, treating life in the Middle East as cheap and disposable by the hundreds of thousands.

Drone strikes and bombing mainly kills innocents and help ISIS recruit. The French government is already using the emergency to ban the demonstration against climate change and put campaigners under house arrest. The UK government is using Paris to rush through its draconian "snoopers' charter" Investigatory Powers Bill.

Our government presses on while thousands die from cold in winter, from benefit sanctions and welfare cuts. Their interventions abroad are never for humanitarian reasons, but always in pursuit of power and profit – the gods they are fanatical about.

Faced with an atrocity, it is understandable that people feel "something must be done".

The best things we can do to undermine ISIS and reduce the risk of recurrence are to fight the things that are driving their recruitment. That means:

- 1. Opposing war and bombings**
- 2. Stopping Muslims being marginalised by opposing Islamophobia and showing solidarity with migrants**
- 3. Demanding our government stops courting and arming governments like Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel.**
- 4. Defending civil rights**
- 5. Demanding that Labour MPs back Corbyn's stance on these issues**

rs21 will be holding a meeting in the University of London on 2nd December to discuss and debate further the prospects of the anti-war movement today