

Public meetings in Australia and New Zealand

# Meeting defending Julian Assange and Chelsea Manning in Melbourne this Sunday

28 October 2019

The Trump administration is seeking to extradite Julian Assange, an award-winning Australian journalist and citizen, and put him on trial on multiple charges of espionage. His only alleged crime? In 2010, WikiLeaks published documents leaked by Chelsea Manning that exposed US imperialist war crimes and diplomatic intrigues.

Since being arrested in London in April, Assange has been confined to the maximum-security Belmarsh prison in London ahead of the first extradition hearing on February 25, 2020. He is enduring solitary confinement and harsh conditions. His family and friends fear for his physical and mental health, and even his life.

The American ruling class and its allies are determined to condemn Assange to life imprisonment or worse, in order to terrorise all honest journalists and would-be whistleblowers. For nine years, the US, British and Australian governments, with the shameless support of the media and the establishment political parties and trade unions, have presided over a relentless campaign of persecution. This has involved fabricated allegations of sexual assault and personal slander, conspiracy and spying, and attempts to silence and isolate all those who defend him.

The Socialist Equality Party (SEP), the International Youth and Students for Social Equality (IYSSE) and the *World Socialist Web Site* (WSWS) have sponsored a series of rallies and public meetings to demand that the Australian government uphold its responsibility to one of its citizens. It must use its undeniable diplomatic and legal power to secure Assange's unconditional freedom and right to return to Australia, with guaranteed protection against any extradition to the US.

The campaign in defence of Assange and Manning

has revealed a growing opposition among ordinary people to the treatment of these class war prisoners.

The SEP and IYSSE public meetings will review the political lessons that must be drawn from the campaign in defence of Assange over the past nine years. The aim of the meetings is to prepare for the political action that must be organised in Australia and internationally against the legal travesty that is underway in the British courts.

Time is running out! If Assange is extradited to the United States he will face a kangaroo court and incarceration for 175 years. There is no possibility that he will receive a fair trial.

We call on all those who defend democratic rights to take a stand and join the struggle to stop the US extradition of Julian Assange.

## Details:

### Melbourne

Sunday, December 15, 2:30pm,  
Arts House, Meat Market,  
5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne  
Tickets: \$5/\$3 (concession)

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*Recently concluded meetings:*

### Newcastle

Saturday, November 16, 2:30pm,  
Toronto Community Centenary HUB,  
97 The Boulevard, Toronto  
Tickets: \$5/\$3 (concession)

### **Brisbane**

Saturday, November 23, 2pm,  
Kurilpa Hall,  
174 Boundary St, West End  
Tickets: \$5/\$3 (concession)

### **Alice Springs**

Sunday, November 24, 2:30pm,  
Andy McNeill Room,  
93 Todd St, Alice Springs

### **Sydney**

Sunday, November 24, 2.30pm,  
Lansdowne Room, Bankstown Library,  
80 Rickard Rd, Bankstown,  
Tickets: \$7/\$5 (concession)

### **Wellington, New Zealand**

Sunday, November 24, 3:30pm,  
Victoria University of Wellington,  
Pipitea Campus, Bunny Street,  
Rutherford House, level 1, room RH102,  
(above the Mezzanine)



To contact the WSWWS and the  
Socialist Equality Party visit:

**[wsws.org/contact](https://wsws.org/contact)**