

## We need more anger: change depends upon it

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I shared [this thread on Twitter](#) this morning:

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I wrote a [blog post yesterday](#) that was surprisingly popular. Based on observation of behaviour witnessed during a walk on 2 January, I asked a simple question, which is why have baby boomers, most especially, been bought into political compliance by the Tories? A thread...

Taking the risk of projecting generalisations onto a crowd, I wondered why so many people baby boomers have been lulled into complacency by their apparent material well-being when the truth is that they should be very angry about all that is happening around them.

These, after all, are the people who are already at greatest risk from the Tory negligence in the NHS. It is their grandchildren who face a catastrophic future because of climate change. And their children are facing crises because of Tory imposed Brexit and austerity.

Older people have every reason to be angry. If, as many of them seem to think, family is the most important thing in their lives (after cruises, 4x4s, and cash in the bank, maybe) then even if the old are comfortable their families are suffering, badly. And yet most aren't angry.

Is it that because material well-being has bought their anger off? Or is it that they, deep down, think they are where they are today entirely due to their own hard work, and younger people are just whinging if they can't do the same?

Could it also be that they were just brought up with a sense of entitlement? Most of them probably think 'they won the war', even if they very obviously did not. As a result they think they are owed their comfort.

*Or might it be something else altogether, which is an idea that they have embraced, which is that it is rude to complain, whilst anger is always unacceptable?*

*Complaining is actually commonplace. But anger is quite different. We're now taught to manage anger. As a result a natural human emotion, necessary to our survival, is now treated as unacceptable, why-ever it arises. Polite people don't do get angry, is the idea.*

*Don't get me wrong. A lot of anger is unacceptable. When anger is inappropriately directed at individuals, or when violence is threatened, or when intimidation is the aim, of course anger needs to be managed.*

*But, for the record, some appropriate anger will have to be aimed at people, because it is people who facilitate anger inducing injustice: it doesn't happen by chance. But, and I stress it, the anger must be constructive, and it must target the injustice and not the facilitator.*

*It's my belief that we need more of this type of constructive, focused anger. In the face of the so many varied injustices that we now face, why ever not? 2023 is going to be a year of deliberately imposed misery for many.*

*The recession we're having, the job losses, the business failures, the households in distress, the children made homeless, the hungry, the cold and the unnecessarily dying, are all the result of choices made by those facilitating oppression to supposedly beat inflation.*

*Ignore the fact that none of these policies will beat inflation. Instead ask, what is better? Is this misery better than a little more inflation, as those proposing these outcomes suggest? Or is their approach, intended as it is to preserve the wealth of a few, just callous?*

*And in the face of such callousness why should people be told to manage their anger, as 'society' requires of them? Is that reasonable, or is it that in reality 'society' has rigged the world against most people and is now even denying them the right to be angry about that fact?*

*I think people are being exploited and abused by the economic policies of the Tories and the Bank of England, to both of which Labour appears to offer tacit support. There is a conspiracy of oppression in politics as a result. And people should be very angry about it.*

*Some have had enough. Medics, nurses, rail workers and many others are making it clear they have had enough of being exploited. They seem to have public support for their strikes. I am not surprised. These groups are expressing public anger at broader injustice.*

*But is that enough? Can we get away with others doing anger for us? Or should we very much more angry ourselves? Not (need I say it?) with the GP receptionist, but with the government who made their job impossible. Why not?*

*Right now we are facing gross injustice that others have chosen for us. We have the absolute right to be angry about that. Just don't take it out on those not to blame, including all those on strike at this moment.*

*Instead, blame those in Westminster, and ask what would a better politics for people look like? And then use your anger to demand it. A better world is possible if there are enough groups of angry people demanding it. It's time to be angry, Change depends on it.*