

**Workers Party of Ireland**  
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## 23rd International Meeting of Communist & Workers Parties

*The political and ideological battles to confront capitalists and imperialism. The tasks of communists to inform and mobilize the working class, youth, women, and intellectuals in the struggle against exploitation, oppression, imperialist lies and historical revisionism; for the social and democratic rights of workers and peoples; against militarism and war, for peace and socialism.*

Dear comrades,

The Workers Party of Ireland sends greetings to the participating parties in the Meeting and wishes to thank the TKP for hosting this event and providing the excellent facilities for this Meeting.

The key to understanding modern social relations lies in the scientific theory of classes and class struggle. Class struggle is the driving force of history. The success of the political and ideological struggle is directly connected with the existence of a militant workers' party – the highest form of proletarian class organisation.

Under present conditions, the elaboration, dissemination and application of our theoretical and ideological position to confront capitalism and imperialism is essential.

Anti-communism constitutes an ideological attack on the theory and practice of scientific socialism. It is characterised by a denial of the many and great achievements of the Soviet Union and the socialist states; by a crude falsification and distortion of the experience of

socialist construction; by crass attempts to devalue the significance of Marxism-Leninism and to maliciously peddle the view that socialism is obsolescent.

There are many contemporary problems facing our society. Despite the narrative presented in the mass media in Ireland, ours is a class-based society, with unrestrained attacks on the social and economic conditions of workers and their families; the impoverishment of working people; the increased power of the monopolies; the continuing attacks on living standards, labour rights, social protection, health, education, public employment and the provision of public services. Society across Ireland is still marked by the unequal treatment of women, whether that is in the double burden of employment and housework, the treatment of women in the media and its resultant pressures on women, especially young women, in unequal pay, lower wages, lack of provision to meet the specific needs of women in healthcare, including reproductive and other areas, or violence against women.

In recent months we have witnessed increased militancy (and successes) by trade unions; a determination to struggle for proper pay, conditions and pensions for workers; against low paid, precarious and casualised work; against the privatisation of public services.

There have been protests on housing, homelessness, health and social care, public transport, education, childcare, workers' rights, the cost-of-living crisis, racism, misogyny, homophobia, fascism, the environment and war, to mention but a few. Our Party has played an active part in those protests. But protest alone is not enough. It is the duty of the revolutionary party to demonstrate the common thread between these struggles. Poverty, inequality, exploitation and oppression are inherent in the nature of our social order - a system which must be abolished and cannot be reformed.

The capitalist system is in crisis. While it has exhibited adaptability to changing circumstances it is incapable of overcoming its cyclical crises and contradictions and cannot resolve the fundamental conflict between the social character of production and its private appropriation.

To open the road to socialism we need to transform the politics of protest into the politics of class - we need to reassert the centrality of class struggle. To achieve this requires active engagement in the struggles of working people and building working class militancy and class consciousness.

The mode of production determines the course and direction of historical development. The history of society is the history of class struggles. The class which prevails in this struggle determines the course of history. The replacement of capitalist production relations with relations based on public ownership of the means of production is an essential prerequisite for social progress.

Our understanding of society, of class power, of the economy, politics, and how social change has come, and can come, springs from the dialectical materialist method that lies at the heart of Marxism. One of the greatest achievements of Marx and Engels was their recognition that material conditions shaped human society, and that it was conflict between classes that provided the ultimate driving force for social change.

The simple and clear presentation of this analysis gave the *Communist Manifesto* its unique status and changed the world by establishing an ideology that spoke to millions of the oppressed across the globe. Many others, including James Connolly, developed these insights, applying them to their own times and places. The most significant of these was of course Lenin, whose theoretical achievements included a clear-sighted account of the nature of imperialism, of the need for a vanguard party, of the false promises of opportunism, and of the centrality of political and not merely economic struggle to advance the cause of socialism.

In 1917 capitalism was overthrown in Russia and the world witnessed the birth of the first state and society in which the working class came to power. This created a society that provided for fundamental needs such as health, education, transportation and housing for all, equal rights for women, including reproductive rights, great achievements in arts, culture, science, technology and sport.

During the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century socialism won support across the world and these developments led to the defeat of many colonial powers. Despite the counter revolution in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, the socialist vision has not faded. The problems in our society which derive from the crises and contradictions in the capitalist system provide the opportunity for a Workers Party to demonstrate that the solution of the economic, social and political problems confronting society can only be achieved under a planned socialist economy.

Building socialism means building a party of the working class capable of achieving power, and unleashing the immense power of working people to transform their lives.

Building the revolutionary party, actively engaging in the day-to-day struggles of the working class, working in the trade unions and local communities, fighting for workers' unity, raising class consciousness, participating in the international working-class movement, is the duty of a vanguard party as the conscious and organised power of the working class.

It is only the dialectical materialist method that can enable us to properly understand developments in the world around us, to properly analyse conditions at home and abroad, and to draw up the approaches, policies, strategies, and tactics necessary to ensure success in our historic mission. The dialectical materialist method reminds us that change is not merely possible but inevitable. We should therefore be confident that opportunities will present themselves, and focus on ensuring that we are in a position to take advantage of them to deliver the type of change necessary to complete human emancipation and rescue our planet from the catastrophic climate change which is underway.

Socialism remains the only alternative for the emancipation of labour and the working peoples of the world. It is the mission of the Workers Party to struggle for workers' power and the construction of socialism in Ireland. This will be achieved by politicising and raising the class consciousness of the working class, by transforming protest into the politics of class struggle and by coupling the struggles for social, economic and political rights and demands with the battle to create a socialist society.

One of the most complex and existential problems facing society today is the issue of climate change, pollution of the soil, sea and air and the destruction of the environment. Human activity has upset the equilibrium created in nature over millions of years. The main culprit of this vast ecological crisis is capitalism. Only socialism, with its social ownership of the means of production and its planned economy, can achieve the necessary changes to preserve the environment. Neither "green" capitalism, "digital" capitalism nor any form of capitalist production can provide solutions to the problems confronting humanity. It is only through a rupture with, and liberation from, capitalism that opportunities can be provided to harness technological advances for the benefit of all, the protection of the planet and a secure future.

Socialism means a planned economy. Only a socialist approach can provide for the careful husbanding of resources necessary to ensure sustainability, and only a socialist approach can operate on the scale necessary to prevent further climate change and introduce restorative measures to repair much of the damage done.

It is the task of the Marxist-Leninist party to demonstrate:

- that capitalism is an exploitative and oppressive economic system which sees the minority appropriating for themselves the wealth produced by the majority of the population
- that class is the fundamental factor determining our experience of society, and that class reflects ultimately who owns the means of production
- that political and social power in a capitalist system serve the interests of the bourgeoisie
- that the interests of the majority, even of life on the planet itself, are sacrificed to those of the monopolies
- that capitalist society is the product of a particular set of economic and social circumstances, circumstances which can be changed through the collective action of the majority, led by the vanguard party of the working class
- that it is only through the overthrow of this social order by the working-class and its allies and by assuming ownership of the means of production and workers' power that a new era of human history can be inaugurated, the era of genuine freedom.

The revolutionary change we seek does not stop at Ireland's coastline. Internationalism lies at the heart of our ideology. We oppose imperialism, which means war. We reject a simplistic attitude to imperialism that focuses only on the United States and its allies while ignoring

other imperialist centres and powers, and the competition between them. Such mistaken analysis stems from a failure to properly understand the Marxist-Leninist analysis of imperialism, and an over-emphasis on the military and territorial aspects of imperialism to the exclusion of the economic.

The dangerous situation in Ukraine requires communists to make an assessment and a response. Our Party recognises that the developments in Ukraine occur within the context of a particular social and political framework. We recognise the character of the 2014 coup and subsequent Ukrainian regimes; we deplore its xenophobia, its attacks on political parties, including the Communist Party of Ukraine, on trade unions and workers' rights, on cultural and language rights, its encouragement and support for neo-Nazi militias and its provocative espousal of NATO and nuclear weapons; its murderous campaigns against the Donbass. The world's communists condemned this barbarity, just as they condemned the reckless, provocative stance by the US and EU of encircling Russia and relentlessly expanding NATO to the East.

From 1922 until the counter-revolution, the peoples of Ukraine and Russia lived in peace in the Soviet Union. They were partners in a socialist planned economy and together they defeated the fascist, Nazi invasion of 1941 at the cost of 27 million Soviet lives. The counter-revolution that dissolved the Soviet Union and the capitalist restoration separated the peoples and republics.

As communists, we are compelled to analyse the situation in the context of our ideological position based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and accordingly on our understanding of the nature of imperialism as defined by Lenin. Russia and Ukraine are today capitalist countries, whose governments serve the interests of capital and both of which serve the interests of the capitalist class and act against communist parties, workers' movements and trade unions. The current situation in Ukraine is the outcome of escalating inter-imperialist rivalries in the region. During the era of imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism, imperialist powers intervene to create and support governments which are controlled by them in order to facilitate the redistribution and control of markets, trade routes and resources for the benefit of their respective monopolies.

We cannot take sides in an imperialist war where the tragic consequences of the current war, particularly for the working people of Russia and Ukraine and their families, are a result of the fierce competition of the capitalist powers, including capitalist Russia, for the control of the markets, raw materials, and transport networks of the country. Imperialism poses an ongoing threat to the peoples of the world through subversion, coercion, intervention, occupation and war. Our Party condemns the ongoing attacks on Ireland's neutrality, the expansion of the NATO war machine, the increasing militarisation of the EU and attempts to drag Ireland into NATO.

We stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people; for an end to the occupation; for a free and independent Palestine. The recent occurrences must be understood within, and cannot be divorced from, the history of the region and the denial of Palestinian rights. The attempt by the media and Western governments to rehearse the Israeli narrative and turn a blind eye to the crimes and massacres against the Palestinian people and present Israel as an innocent victim is false and hypocritical. History demands the truth.

The Workers Party of Ireland stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for their legitimate rights, including the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland, the immediate release of Palestinian political prisoners from Israeli jails, the right to self-determination and the establishment of a free, independent, united and sovereign state of Palestine.

We stand in solidarity with the Cuban people, and Cuban Communist Party, in defence of the Cuban Revolution and its achievements and for an immediate end to the criminal blockade.

We stand in solidarity with the struggle of the Saharawi people for the exercise of their legitimate rights; for an end to the repression of the people and youth of Iran.

We stand in solidarity with the struggles of the Communist Party of Venezuela and the Venezuelan class-conscious labour and trade union movement.

We oppose racism and fascism, bourgeois nationalism, religious sectarianism, communalism, reaction and obscurantism.

We denounce anti-communism and the attacks on communist and workers' parties, their buildings, media, symbols and monuments. We defend the achievements of the USSR and the socialist countries.

We oppose the imperialist war in Ukraine and say Hands off the Ukrainian communists. We say No to war, No to NATO.

Capitalism cannot deliver for the people. Imperialism means death, destruction and war. The solution does not lie in social democracy or bourgeois management. Socialism is the alternative.

For Workers' Power and Socialism!

**Gerry Grainger, International Secretary and member of the Central Executive Committee,  
Workers Party of Ireland**