

**Workers Party of Ireland**  
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Extraordinary Teleconference of the IMCWP

10 to 12 December 2021

***"The international economic, political, and military developments. The experience from the struggle of the Communist and Workers' Parties and the peoples. Solidarity with Cuba, the Palestinian people, and all the peoples struggling against sanctions, machinations, and imperialist aggression."***

#### **Contribution of the Workers Party of Ireland**

**"The need of a constantly expanding market for its products chases the bourgeoisie over the entire surface of the globe. It must nestle everywhere, settle everywhere, establish connection everywhere." (The Communist Manifesto)**

The Workers Party of Ireland (WPI) wishes to thank the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) and the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) for making it possible for this teleconference of the IMCWP to take place under the continuing adverse conditions occasioned by the pandemic. As we meet, many countries are imposing further travel restrictions, particularly in light of the emergence of the new Omicron strain of Covid-19.

The problems which continue to confront the working class are deeply rooted in the continuing encroachment of monopoly capital into all sectors of the economy and social life further exposing the contradiction between the social character of production and the private capitalist form of appropriation. The basic economic law of capitalism which determines the course of development of capitalism in its imperialist phase, highlights the growth and sharpening of the insoluble contradictions inherent within the capitalist system.

## **International Developments**

International developments are characterised by the increasing aggression of imperialism demonstrating the intense imperialist rivalries between the monopoly groups. Under conditions of a limited capacity of the internal market, the monopolies wage a ferocious struggle for markets, energy supplies, natural resources and securing travel routes.

The expansion of NATO; the growing militarisation of the European Union; an emboldened imperialism increasingly ready to use military force, either directly or through its proxies; imperialist threats, intervention, aggression, sanctions and war, all represent a serious threat to peace and the peoples of the world. Imperialist manoeuvres and sanctions against Cuba, Venezuela, DPR Korea, Syria, Iran and others are designed to destabilise those regions and create tensions to benefit imperialism.

The irreformable European Union serves the interests of big capital and the monopolies, actively participating in open imperialist aggression. The increased militarisation of the EU, already reflected in EU-NATO agreements and in the creation of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the Co-ordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) and the European Defence Fund (EDF), is reflected in the open clamour for an EU Army and the increasing political and financial resources allocated to expanding military capacity.

In 2021, despite the limitations occasioned by the pandemic, the Workers Party of Ireland continued its activities. In addition to supporting workers struggles in Ireland, and addressing issues including, health, education, poverty, housing, social protection, rising energy costs and environmental concerns, the WPI has attacked the political, economic and military line of the imperialist camps, particularly the aggressive manoeuvres of the EU and the US. Our Party has expressed solidarity directly with those forces resisting imperialism across the globe and participated in protests and actions in support of their struggles.

## **The experience from the struggle of the Communist and Workers' Parties and the peoples**

Throughout the pandemic, millions of workers have been exposed to risk in the pursuit of profit. The effects of the pandemic, heightened by decades of capitalist austerity, struck a heavy toll against the working class with a serious negative impact on household income. Millions of people have been unable to pay essential living costs.

Globally, the approach adopted by the capitalist countries to vaccine rollout ignores the suffering of those in countries without proper access to a vaccine and exacerbates the conditions for further transmission of the disease. The shameful refusal to make vaccines available free of patents and the failure to mass produce and distribute generic vaccines

together with the profiteering of the pharmaceutical companies demonstrates the callous nature of a system which puts profit before people.

Ireland, a net contributor since 2013, now makes the second-highest per capita payments to the EU budget. Google Ireland made a 345.2-million-euro settlement with the Irish tax authorities but paid a 3-billion-euro dividend to its parent company in 2021. Ireland's biggest company, CRH, has stated that it expects to deliver full-year earnings in excess of 4.6 billion euro in 2021. At the same time capital is engaged in a ruthless attack on the jobs and living conditions of the working-class, attacking labour rights; social protection; health; education; housing; public employment and the provision of public services.

Ireland has higher rates of child poverty than the EU average. The country is experiencing critical housing crisis and the number of homeless people is rising. Young people are one of the groups most impacted by the housing crisis. The percentage of households renting privately owned homes has doubled in demand and caused rent prices to climb dramatically. Municipal authorities, under the influence of the bourgeois parties, the social democrats and the "greens", favour the privatisation of publicly-owned land when an immediate and extensive programme of construction of public housing to meet the needs of the people is required.

In Ireland, as elsewhere, in circumstances of a climate crisis, the capitalist government and media shift the responsibility to the people deliberately omitting to concede that climate change and its consequences are the products of capitalism and its crises. Neither "green" capitalism, "digital" capitalism nor any form of capitalist production can provide solutions to the problems confronting humanity. These devices, with a capacity to generate massive profits, rely on the exploitation of labour and create new mechanisms of accumulation and social control.

### **Solidarity with Cuba, the Palestinian people, and all the peoples struggling against sanctions, machinations, and imperialist aggression**

In 2021, the WPI has participated in a number of actions, including mass rallies, in support of the Palestinian people. In the West Bank and Gaza, the Israeli state continues to maintain control over the lives of Palestinians through occupation, annexation and blockade. Palestinians experience systematic discrimination and profound healthcare inequalities which have been exacerbated by military offensives and the Covid 19 pandemic. Healthcare services have been deprived of essential resources. Palestinian refugees continue to languish in overcrowded and unsanitary refugee camps and Palestinians who live as citizens of the state of Israel are subject to a range of laws that deny them equal rights.

There is no path towards a just and sustainable peace without an end to Israel's systematic and grave violation of Palestinian rights, including an end to the cruel siege and blockade of Gaza, the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli occupation army and settlers from Palestinian territory, the right of all Palestinian refugees to return to their homes, the release of Palestinian political prisoners and the recognition of a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with Al Quds (East Jerusalem) as its capital.

The Workers Party of Ireland expresses its internationalist, socialist solidarity with the Communist Party of Cuba, the Cuban people and government in the face of increasing provocation and imperialist aggression. As we approach the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, the Workers Party of Ireland applauds the many gains and achievements of the Cuban Revolution including in health, education, gender equality, global humanitarian assistance, employment and labour rights, culture, art and sport.

The US government has escalated its involvement with, and funding for, opposition groups both on and outside the island, and is openly supporting anti-government protests in Cuba, spending millions funding anti-Cuban projects and opposition groups every year. The European Union has encouraged this interference.

The WPI condemns the current provocations and deliberately orchestrated anti-communist "protests" and the attempts to manipulate international public opinion by spreading mendacious misinformation as a pretext for further imperialist intervention. The cruel blockade must be ended and the Cuban people permitted to pursue their own development path under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba.

### **Conclusion**

Capitalism can never serve the interests of humanity and peace. The capitalist market cannot provide a solution to the problems of the world. The answer can only be achieved under a planned economy in a socialist system. It is only through class struggle and a rupture with, and liberation from, capitalism that we can secure workers' emancipation, social progress, the protection of the planet and a secure future. Our task remains – to replace the capitalist order with a new and superior social system: socialism-communism.

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