



The Starry Plough

Republican Socialist News Bureau

Oifig Faisnéise Poblachtach Sóisialach



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Karla Falcon

Europe On The Edge

EU & Crisis Capitalism edge us towards disaster

War drums are beating across the EU, as its unelected leadership in conjunction with Britain and the US continue their reckless escapade on the borders of the Russian Federation. Imperialism at its most cynical and dangerous is at work in the Western plans to integrate Ukraine into the NATO orbit. With this has come a level of media manipulation and censorship on a scale that has not been seen before.

In the Spring of this year, the world saw Russia's response in its launching of a Special Military Operation to halt NATO's extension and to put an end to the Maidan coup-plotters and Azov Nazi's assault on the people of Southern and Eastern Ukraine. All this is having tragic consequences for the people of Ukraine who for the past eight years have suffered under the jackboot of the post-Maidan Ukrainian state.

Western sanctions against Russia have backfired. The most dire economic consequences are being faced now in Europe itself and the worst is yet to come over what may prove to be a very long winter indeed.

The Western development model is in grave crises as capitalism itself faces system failure on multiple levels. Runaway inflation is the new normal in Ireland and across the EU. Homelessness and unaffordable rent has become government policy.

Foisting the bill upon the working class for the failures of Capitalism and Imperialism is happening to us live and direct in the form of the out-of-control cost of living crisis.

Workers of Ireland & Europe must unite and mobilise to end this madness.



The European Union's subservience to US Monetary Policies has led the block to a terminal crises - will the rebound from the ill-thought out sanctions against Russia deal the final blow ?



The Republican Socialist campaign for a border poll on Irish Unity - Mobilising the Left for an Irish Unity Referendum

Joe Mathews

Ireland's Future – Irish Unity

The only way forward for the people of Ireland

Irish Unity offers us a monumental opportunity to reset and rebuild an all-Ireland economy that offers socio-economic equality for all its citizens and not just increases in profits for the few.

The ongoing rise in support for Irish Unity across Ireland undoubtedly owes part of this increase to those who are opposed to Brexit and want the North to remain as part of the EU and hence see Irish Unity as a way of achieving that.

This group of campaigners, and indeed certain sections of Big House Nationalism are facilitating this objective by claiming that Irish Unity is a way for Irish citizens in the North to maintain their EU citizenship. This is a very dangerous direction for the Irish Unity campaign.

Over the past years, the EU was the main component in forcing through devastating privatisation & austerity across Ireland in order to pay back the loans the EU used to bail out the banks following the 2009 Financial Crisis.

Working class people across the country were forced into financial chaos, misery, joblessness and homelessness while 10,000s of young people were forced to migrate, all at will of EU economic policy.

If we are to convince the majority to support Irish Unity then we need to offer something radically different. We need to give them a vision of a nation that looks completely socio-economically different to the current setup, and if that conflicts against EU membership then so be it.

We must advocate to ensure an all-Ireland economy is solidified on strong workers rights and sustainability, while providing an all-Ireland state of the art health service, housing, education and welfare system that protects our most vulnerable and provides for everyone.

Irish Unity must deliver political accountability, economic fairness, social equality and environmental sustainability. If the EU cannot deliver, and in my view it cant deliver these promises, then it has no future in Ireland.

IRSP Belfast & NW

Housing head on!

Dan Twomey & Michael Kelly

Listening to, learning from and standing up for communities. On the back of the recent Assembly Ecectionn campaigns, the Party continues to grow and prosper

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IRSP Dublin & Dundalk

Construction & Crisis

Nathan Hastings & Mícheál De Fuite

The Party in the capital continue its confrontations with the landlord and gombeen class. Housing and Workers Rights campaigns led by working class activists.

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IRSP South-West

Opinion & Analysis

Lar O'Tuama & Adrian Walsh

Our activists are on the ground raising issues around workers rights and access to local services in Cork and Limerick. Read more inside to find out how you can help & get involved.

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Belfast News

Perfect Storm Housing Crisis in Belfast

The IRSP in Belfast are warning that we are currently in the midsts of a perfect storm scenario Housing Crisis that is having direct socio-economic consequences within our communities.

IRSP representative for Mid Falls Dan Murphy has said, "2 or 3 times a week I am being contacted by people facing eviction from private properties, all former housing executive homes bought under the Buy Back schemes."



IRSP representative Dan Murphy – a relentless fighter and campaigner on behalf of working class people on the Mid-Falls. Seen above on the campaign trail during his recent run for a seat in the Assembly 2022 Elections

This year we have seen a 117% increase from last year of people evicted from private properties, undoubtedly a direct result of the dramatic increase in house prices meaning landlords are cashing in on their investments at the expense of our communities.

IRSP representative for Lower Falls Michael Kelly has said, "last week I visited the home of a family facing eviction. The family have lived in the property for over 10 years. He has put thousands of pounds of his own money into the property, it is his home. The landlord has recently decided to sell the house leaving this family in limbo. They have 3 months to find a home, and right now it is impossible to find affordable rents in the Lower Falls area and that's not even taken into consideration the current capitalist cost of living crisis."

Over the past few months the IRSP have been dealing with dozens of similar cases and Dan Murphy has suggested the blame lies squarely with the Department For Communities.

"The Sinn Féin controlled DfC are currently engaged in an aggressive policy of privatisation, to the point the entire landlord arm of public housing here is set to be sold to the private sector over the next few years. Failure to control rampant landlordism and profiteering in these working class areas has created a perfect storm scenario housing crisis."

Since the mid 2000's, public housing in West Belfast has basically stalled, resulting in the over reliance on private landlords and private housing associations. With fewer houses being built and more demand, it has not only dramatically drove up rental prices, but it has meant residents need more and more points to even be considered for public housing. The points now required require you to be homeless for more than 3 years."

Michael Kelly went on, "In response, the IRSP have been forced to launch our Drop the Rents campaign 2 years ago while also forced to physically oppose evictions in our areas. Its not an ideal situation but the IRSP will always defend the working class and in this case we are bringing the fight directly to these vulture landlords."

Our Proposals are; * Private Landlords in areas that have public housing waiting lists should not be allowed to rent at prices above the local housing benefit levels. (LHA rates)

* End the privatisation of public housing stock, and ensure homes bought under government buy back schemes are forced to sell their homes back to the Housing Executive when no longer wanted for residential purposes.

* A complete review of the single let/emergency accommodation top up system that at present keeps 1000s of families in inadequate temporary accommodation as under this system the landlords receives significantly more rent in the form of top-ups.

* Legislation that allows vacant properties in areas of high housing waiting lists to be immediately signed over to public housing.

* An end to sectarian and political discrimination in housing by transferring zonal planning powers to independent local committee's compromising of community activists, trade union and tenant unions to ensure housing is needs based, on demand and not allow our communities to be subjected to political carve up's like we witnessed at the Mackies site.



Newry City Park Success

Brendan Liddy

IRSP Newry played a significant role in obtaining much needed funding for a City Centre park at the Albert Basin, Newry.

Speaking on the success, Brendan Liddy IRSP " Newry is the only Town/city on the island of Ireland without a city centre park, which is a national disgrace! " The lack of green space was most felt during the pandemic, most especially considering that one in three families in the Town don't own or have access to a car."

A campaign was launched in conjunction with the Trade Unions, a people led campaign, which took many hundreds of people onto the streets; fearing a public backlash at the Stormont Elections, Economy Minister Conor Murphy pulled £16 Million from nowhere, making the Albert Basin park a reality.

Brendan continues " our activists played a pivotal role in bringing the park to fruition, but I have to stress, the fight is not totally won, as there are those who are intent on diluting the park. The people of Newry want and deserve a world class facility, a park which they can be proud of, a park where future generations will love and cherish. The IRSP will continue the fight until that park is delivered!

Strabane News

Michael McLoughlin

Strabane IRSP joined with hundreds of concerned people to protest against the enacting of a Public Interest Immunity certificate by the British Secretary of State Shailesh Vara around the circumstances of 14 year old Noah Donohue's death.

On June 21st 2020 at the height of the Black Lives Matters protests around the world a 14 year old BME boy went missing in Belfast. Less than a week later, Noah's naked body was found in a cavernous storm drain located behind the Northwood Road, an area that suffers a seasonal upsurge of sectarian and racist tensions that had numerous sectarian attacks happen at the time of Noah's death.

With over 22 pieces of CCTV footage of young Noah, what led to his death remains a controversial mystery to the public and Noah Donohues family.

The IRSP are asking serious questions surrounding Noah's death:

Why would the PSNI rule out foul play before an autopsy was carried out? How could a healthy, happy, competent 14 year old child strip naked in the course of a half-hour and drown himself miles from home? How did a frequently inspected storm drain become unlocked? Why has the British Secretary of State issued a Public Interest Immunity certificate on the death of a child in Belfast?

The IRSP view the PSNI as a corrupt paramilitary sectarian anti-community organisation tasked with enforcing British rule in Ireland. PSNI officers are involved in drug dealing, collaborating with loyalists, sexual assaults, fraud, fabricating / tampering with evidence and much more anti community activities. We call for the disarming, defunding and eventual disbanding of the PSNI.

Dublin Analysis

Construction downturn spells disaster



The news that construction activity had steeply declined in Ireland in July 2022 will sound alarms for the thousands of working-class families who rely on work in the construction industry to survive. A crash in construction and other industries will see the same old results: the workers will be forced into unemployment and poverty, while the bosses who made a profit from these same workers will rest on their fortunes.

The Leinster House government will tend to any 'crisis' by making the workers and poor people pay for it and saving the bosses. Tragically when the economy begins to function again to its usual meagre extent, the same rich tycoons will emerge and repeat the process.

Within the context of our political and economic system there is much the state could do to support workers and prevent crises such as this one. For one example: given the amount of money to be made from construction, it would of course make sense to have a state-owned construction company, with profits going to the public. However, this will not happen under the Leinster House government, as they will never undertake such a measure which would spell and end to the massive profits of their corrupt business allies.

This is among the root causes of the problem: the state is a capitalist one, which will always promote the interests of the few over those of the many. When the system is preventing even minor adjustments which could help workers, it is clear that 'the system', that is capitalism, must go.

So, what can workers do? It is no secret the Trade Unions in Ireland are corrupted and toothless. They are controlled by small cliques of individuals who seem to focus on every issue except those worst affecting workers. If evidence of this is needed, we need only look at the conditions faced by many workers before this economic turmoil set in.

Workers must stand together, and they must push and expose unions where they can. However, there is a broader political change needed also to prevent further turmoil for us and for future generations. The IRSP is working hard to provide this alternative. If we are to end the cycle of poverty and suffering then we must build the Republic envisaged by James Connolly.

Cork News

The Banks Collapse on my Own Lovely Lee

The impending financial crisis has not yet resulted in door closures on Cork's main commercial avenue, however a more tangible collapse has been escalating for some time on Leaside - the collapse of our buildings, streets and city infrastructure. On Saturday, a wall collapsed for the third time this year next to South Gate Bridge along Cork's historic quay. A number of local councillors and media outlets have called for a full survey of all the city's quays and embankments, but no one has asked why this is happening and who is responsible?

The IRSP has consistently highlighted how the continued dereliction and decay of our city is posing huge safety concerns for working people, as well as contributing to the ghettoization of working class communities. The number of buildings that have partially collapsed on main streets and thoroughfares has risen drastically in the last number of years, with pedestrians often at the mercy of falling rubble and masonry. The site of heavy industrial beams supporting building infrastructure has become commonplace.

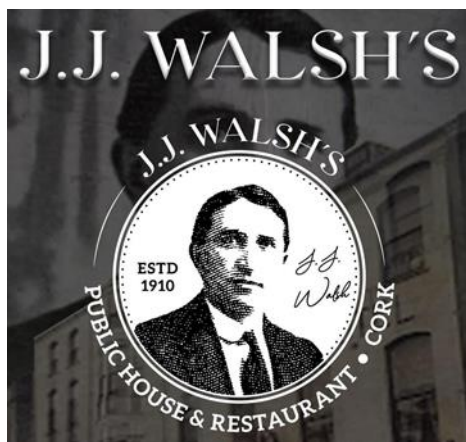
We point the finger directly at the city management, especially the chief executive. They refuse to categorise buildings correctly, with over 700 buildings found to be derelict but not on the derelict site's register. They refuse to collect dereliction fees and are refusing to address housing issues with over 3000 houses remaining empty for 12 months or more. Simultaneously, they squander public money on marketing campaigns and vanity projects such as faux-environmentalist E-Trees.

Counter-revolutionary & Nazi Sympathiser Honoured by Cork Republicans.. sorry, Publicans!

Cork's newest pub, which opened to the public in the last week or so, has chosen for its branding a very controversial figure in the form of James Joseph Walsh - an IRA man turned counter revolutionary who held sympathies for Nazi Germany and, furthermore, some outright antisemitic views.

Cork IRSP activists question the wisdom, and motivations, of naming city centre establishments after well known reactionaries and enemies of the Irish workers movement.

Walsh was elected as a Sinn Féin TD for Cork City in 1918 and served in an Céad Dáil Éireann during the Tan War. However, it is at the crucial period of truce and the subsequent Treaty debates that Walsh would prove himself to be not so revolutionary at all



Walsh was ardently in favour of the Treaty and the Free State which was built on the ashes of revolutionary movement. A revolutionary movement subdued with the full strength of a reactionary state emboldened by a national army manned and armed by the British army - the very army the IRA fought against. Walsh proudly played his role in this period of counter-revolution, and ruthlessly crushed the postal workers strike of 1922 which he saw as a threat to the fledgling state. Not content with defeating the workers, he done so with the help of the Free state army which broke up strikes and forced the reopening of the post offices. Following this defeat of the workers, many would be blacklisted and face dismissal and demotion. Something which Walsh was proud of in his own writings.

It is from these writings, and, his memoirs where Walsh' fascist leanings are more than apparent. But Walsh also proved these leanings in his actions by lending support to the outrightly fascist party Ailtiri na hAiseirí, and, by his involvement in the Irish National Party. The latter, in effect, being the premise of a "collaborationist government" should a German invasion of Ireland occur.

JJ Walshs is the latest addition to the long list of premises operated by the Montgomery group in the city, and has been launched as an homage to a man they describe as "an Irish revolutionary, a Senior Official in the GAA, and the soul of the famous Tailteann Games". It is quite clear from this colourful description of the man that those behind the venture have a good knowledge of Walsh and his contributions to the political, social and cultural life of Cork and Ireland - so it does beg the question, why completely ignore the well documented fact of his fascist tendencies?

Now, it is not our intention to imply that those behind this new pub are themselves sympathetic towards Walsh's worldview, however, we cannot accept that they went into this without full knowledge of that inconvenient truth. Any cursory search online about Walsh will bring you to several articles which all state clearly the truth of Walsh' political leanings. It is our belief that these publicans, knowing these facts, just simply didn't care. And presumed the public wouldn't care either.

While it is true that Walsh played a far from insignificant role in the many aspects of the revolutionary movement which was fervent in Ireland at the time, our duty as scientific socialists is to look at the sum of the whole part of a persons life and contributions. Walsh was an organiser in Cork with the Irish Volunteres and was known to and persecuted by the British authorities for his radical nationalistic views. Views which were central and key to the anti-colonial resistance growing throughout the country. Walsh, indeed, was a revolutionary at this juncture of his life.

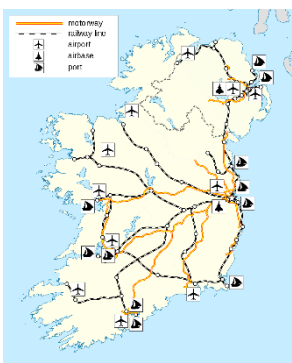
All attempts at rewriting and revising history should be fully opposed, even if it sullies the collective group think behind the ongoing centenary celebrations of the formation of the Free State. It is ludicrous to argue that the state which was built after the Civil War was anything remotely close to that envisioned by the 1916 signatories and their forebearers in the struggle for an Irish Republic. Theobald Wolfe Tone declared that it would be the "men of no property" who would bring about the Irish Republic whereas those who brought about the establishment of the Free State and a partitioned Ireland were reactionary, counter-revolutionary, socially conservative and in many cases - like that of JJ Walsh - outright fascists.

After being relocated to Dublin at the insistence of the authorities Walsh began organising with the Hibernian Rifles and would serve under James Connolly in the GPO garrison during easter week of 1916. After the Rising and between his continued activism he would spend a few eventful stints in various gaols, which included a reprieve of a death sentence and joining Thomas Ashe on hunger strike.



#AchtAnois – tá an todhchaí geal, tá an todhchaí i nGaeilge!

Téann gach aon bóthar go dtí Baile Átha Cliath



An Madra Rua

Téann gach aon bóthar go dtí Baile Átha Cliath - Léiríonn an córas iompair na heacnamaíochta ollsmachtach atá ag Baile Átha Cliath agus na cheantair tuaithe is na Gaeltachtaí á mbánú go leanúnach.

Tá cneacha le feiscint trasna ár tír ach ní ag caint mar gheall ar an príomh cneá, an teorainn atá mé. Ba mhaith liom polasaí nimhneach a phlé, an pholasaí lárú atá ag na rialtaisí Fianna Fáil agus Fine Gael sna 26 contae ó gur bhunaíodar an stáit trí frith réabhlóid 100 bhliain ó shin.

Sásta ina gcompond mar ceannairí fostáit coilíneach, mar aicme comprador, tá an lucht ceannais in Éirinn sásta an nasc le Sasana a neartú agus leanúint leis an pholasaí ceannann céanna a bhí ag na Briotanaigh le 800 céad bliain, ag lárú gach uile acmhainní daonna nó táirge ón oileán i dtreo an príomhchathair i gcomhair easpórtáil nó infheistíocht sa chathair.

Le teacht na Normannaigh thosaigh Baile Átha Cliath amach mar trácheann i gcomhair impiriúlachas na Breataine inár dtír agus faraor anois tá an cathair seo fós mar fheidhm don rud céanna: tarraingíonn sé isteach an lucht oibre ó trasna na tíre mar a dhéanadh máistir striapach dos na comhlachtaí ilnáisiúnta agus caitheann sé amach ár bunábhair agus táirgí thar sáile.

Cruthaíonn sé seo fadhbanna mór do lucht oibre Baile Átha Cliath, cuireann sé i gcoimhlint iad le oibrítheoirí na tuaithe agus ní bhíonn éinne ag gáire fé dheireadh seachas na húinéirí is na tiarnaí talún.

Má chaitheann tú súil ar léarscáil na hÉireann chífidh tú go théim gach aon príomhbóthar (seachas an mbóthar idir Gaillimh agus Luimneach) go dtí Baile Átha Cliath, beagnach gach aon iarnróid agus tá ceannsmacht ag aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath in uachtar ar gach aon aerphort eile san stáit gan a bheith ag caint fiú amháin mar gheall ar calafort Baile Átha Cliath

Go stairiúil níor raibh sé mar seo i gcónaí.

Ag na nGael bhí gréasáin tráchta idir na cúige, nascanna trádála oscailte agus láidir idir Loch Garman agus an Fhrainc, Gaillimh agus an Spáinn, Aontroim agus Albain srl

Le teacht Brexit táimid á thabhairt é seo go léir fé ndeara arís, tá caint fiú amháin ag an rialtas go mb'fhéidir gur fiú dul thimpeall an Bhreatain lenár trádáil leis an Eoraip cé go raibh ár sinsir lán ábalta é seo a dhéanamh na mílte bliain ó shin gan an teicneolaíocht atha againn san lá atá inniu ann.

« Ag na nGael bhí gréasáin tráchta idir na cúige, nascanna trádála oscailte agus láidir idir Loch Garman agus an Fhrainc, Gaillimh agus an Spáinn, Aontroim agus Albain srl »

Beidh lárú de short éigin ag teastáil chun plean eacnamaíochta a oibríonn ar son lucht oibre na tíre seo a chur i bhfeidhm ach beidh orainn, mar shóisialaigh, súil géar a coimeád ar taobh eile den dialachtaic lárú, an dílárú réabhlóideach.

Chun Éire a athghabháil ón gcaipiteal agus an mheon coilíneach go hiomlán beidh orainn an polasaí lárú coilíneach a bhriseadh, cumhacht polaitíochta a thabhairt thar n-ais i dtreo oibrítheoirí na gcúige agus infheistíocht a chur i dtreo na bailte tuaithe is na phobail fé'n tuaithe, go h-áirithe na Gaeltachtaí ionas nach bhfuil gá gach éinne dul go dtí an príomhchathair chun slí bheatha a bhaint amach.

Tá dílárú réabhlóideach ag teastáil sna 32 contae ar fad chun na Gaeltachtaí agus Éire tuaithe a shábháil ón lárú ailseach seo!

Clodagh Ó Cionnfhaoilaidh

Truth & Justice for Noah Donohoe :

Lies, damned lies and the PSNI

The recent disgraceful decision by the PSNI and the courts to issue 'Public Interest Immunity' certificates (P.I.I's) to suppress evidence in the tragic case of young Noah Donohoe, has added only more trauma and frustration to his long-suffering mother and family. It has also provoked rightful widespread anger and protests in working-class communities across Belfast and beyond.

The suppression of inquests and denial of facts to grieving families has been a key feature of the so called 'Northern Ireland' state, dating back to the time of partition and the 'Restoration of Order in Ireland Act 1920'. The same legislation which brought us Internment, firing squads and the Black & Tans.

And P.I.I's (alongside other oppressive tools such as Closed Material Proceedings) are part of a large arsenal of underhanded tools used by the British state here to uphold the rotten system which was brought into existence with the help of that Act .

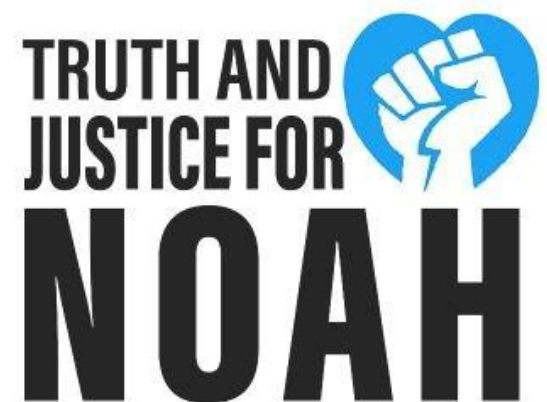
Simply put, P.I.I's allow the 'Justice System' here to hide information contained within Police logs, eye witness statements and forensic reports, which (if seen by the Public) will expose unjust and illegal practices that are used by Police on a daily basis. Including cover ups, the deliberate framing of suspects and the use and abuse of Informers. They are just one reason why the IRSP have refused to endorse or support the PSNI since their inception.

P.I.I's make a mockery of the very concept of 'Justice'. Yet they are used on a daily basis by the PSNI, supported by middle-class Judges who can be relied on to ask few questions as to why they are needed, never mind why they are in the 'Public Interest'.

Recent Irish history is littered with cases where innocent Republicans have been, held and imprisoned with the help of P.I.I's. But the case of Noah Donohoe is much more important than that.

The life of a child is sacred. And a child's death must be investigated with no stone unturned.

The IRSP share the feelings of those thousands who gathered recently for Noah at Belfast City Hall. And our message is simple, this is 2022 not 1922....Open the files, Justice for Noah.



The Coming War on China - Is conflict inevitable as America crumbles in the face of a rising China?

Asia – China Provoked

US reckless in its attempts to destabilize the East

Tomás Ó hÍceadh

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan on August 2nd, the first from a high level US diplomat to the region since the nineties, can only be seen as a desperate and reckless provocation on behalf of a crumbling empire.

The US political elite are trying to prevent China's rise as a superpower by stoking separatism in Taiwan - the island to which Chinese forces of capital under Chiang Kai-Shek fled to in 1949. The US still officially recognise the island as Beijing's territory under their "One China" policy while they fund and arm a separatist regime in Taipei.

The visit invoked strong measures from Beijing such as military drills in Taiwan's regional waters and embargoes on Taiwanese products. Most promisingly, Beijing has suspended dialogue with the US.

In response to Pelosi's visit, which was followed by another of 5 US representatives, President Xi Jinping has vowed China "will continue to look at the word with wide eyes so as not to miss a single provocation by the US reactionaries." The only visible result of the provocation appears to be that China will now take a more proactive role in the global anti-imperialist struggle.

Karla Falcon

Africa – France get the boot!

European Imperialism humiliated in Mali

Government spokespeople from the nation of Mali have recently announced that the African country was tearing up defence agreements with France. Although the French government are claiming the decision is 'unjustified', France is nevertheless continuing to withdraw its military from Mali

Relations between the two countries soured and strained after French foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said that they considered Mali's new authorities illegitimate, and criticised Mali for strengthening ties with Russia.

In response, Mali retorted by saying that it was not for France to decide for the Malian people who is legitimate and who is illegitimate, and with whom the Malian authorities should cooperate.

France dialled up the tension by waging an intense media campaign against the Malian government and Russian presence in the country, based on a gross falsification of events there, and designed to cover up the evident crimes committed by the French military.

On the back of France's withdrawal, Mali has now accused them of gross violations of Malian sovereignty, as well as accusing France at the U.N. of providing material assistance to Islamist jihadi groups opposed to the Malian government. This fits perfectly with modus operandi & recent imperial practice of the NATO countries in the Middle East and Africa.

It is incumbent on all anti-imperialists to support the Malian people - their right to make sovereign decisions and to choose its own development path.

Limerick IRSP Challenge city centre employers

Adrian Walsh



The working class have always been exploited by employers for self interested capital gain. This degradation of an entire class of people is nothing new. The Republican Socialist Movement, has and always will stand with those who are being oppressed in the workplace. Our activists in Limerick recently found themselves once again standing up for workers rights.

In this particular instance an employer at a well known, highly profitable, city centre, business informed staff, that they would not receive a break if they worked 7 hours or less. Following this message being relayed to staff, some employees received no break after 6 hours work and a pitiful 15min break after a 9 hour shift.

IRSP Limerick contacted the business in question and not only condemned their abuse of workers break entitlements, but also informed the management of employees legal entitlement to what breaks are due after certain shifts

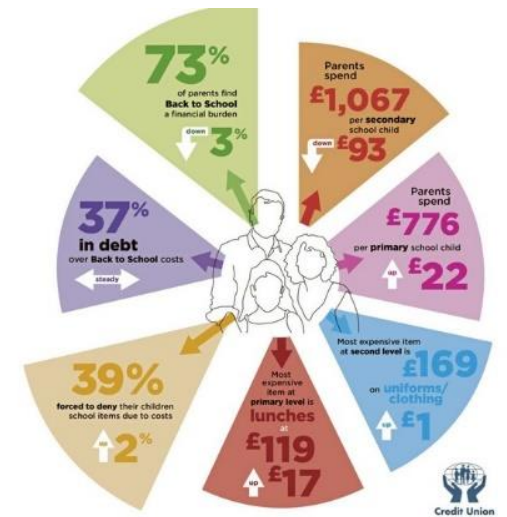
Following this business being confronted about their complete disregard for workers rights as well as their health and safety, the management agreed to inform all workers of what breaks were due to them.

In this scenario we were successful in preventing the ongoing mistreatment that was being dealt to these workers, but unfortunately the resolution of such a matter is not always as simple. We urge any worker that feels an erosion of their rights in the workplace to contact any of our members and we will do our utmost to deal with any issues accordingly. We will continue to challenge any business that deliberately sets out to capitalise on their completely unnecessary infliction of hardship upon ordinary workers.

IRSP members are of the working class, for the working class, and openly oppose profiteers inexcusable selfishness at the expense of the working class.

IRSP raise concerns over Back to School Costs

As schools across the country begin to reopen, once again working class families are beginning to feel the financial stress and strain caused by their selfless task of simply providing their children with an education. IRSP Limerick spokesperson Adrian Walsh affirmed; "These families do not have the advantage of the high earnings that others receive from employment. Some parents in our areas in such situations have admittedly announced that they have avoided meals for themselves, out of financial necessity, in order to feed their children, purchase schoolbooks and school uniforms as well as pay school fees." The physical and mental damage caused by such pressure on parents is unspeakable. In order to alleviate such torment on families, the Republican Socialist Movement calls for the abolition of school fees, affordable uniforms and free book schemes for all working class families.



IRSP Dundalk with perspectives on a Government of Landlords

Everyone has heard of the most recent scandal within the Free State Government that involves Robert Troy, a junior government minister who attempted to conceal his property interests. Mr. Troy has used his time in government to call on the housing minister to support landlords seeking to evict tenants during the pandemic and pushed for more funding to be directed towards schemes like RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme), in order to line his own pockets. Robert Troy and his abhorrent practices are not an isolated case, but rather endemic within the Free State parliament where almost 80 TD's and Senators are landlords, landowners, or both.

Robert Troy isn't the only or even the largest landlord in the Dail. It is estimated that 1/6 TD's are landlords and the figure is likely to be a lot higher. If Troy had simply followed the rules and declared all his properties, this would never have been a story. He would've been allowed to continue advocating for policy that enriched himself and other crony capitalists who continue to profit off a crisis that has left over 10,000 people homeless. Children make up close to 1/3 of homeless figures and the numbers are increasing year after year with no end in sight. It is truly telling when Leo Varadkar makes statements like "one mans rent is another mans income", in whose interest the Free State government work for and it isn't the interests of the working class.

The issue of housing itself, isn't simply a supply and demand issue, it is an issue with capitalism: a system that treats housing as a commodity, something to be bought and sold, rather than a basic human need. The Governments housing policy has been focused on giving tax breaks to landlords, and footing the bill to the taxpayer. Policies like HAP act as a form of social welfare to landlords, who are suffocating working class families who can barely afford a roof over their own heads.

The Housing Crisis is not a crisis for people like Robert Troy, or Leo Varadkar, instead it has enriched landlords and developers who profit, while working class families continue to suffer. This raises the question, if so called "parliamentary democracy" is meant to work for the interests of the people they represent, why do these elected officials constantly work against the best interests of the people?

The IRSP has been fighting for tenants rights, and taking direct action against landlords, both in the Free State & the 6 Counties. Direct action like the Drop The Rents Campaign has been successful in preventing evictions and forcing landlords to lower rents in West Belfast. Members of the IRSP has handed out literature educating tenants on their rights as tenants, as well as offering advice and help to members of the public who are suffering at the hands of slum landlords. The Housing Question cannot be resolved by capitalist means, and certainly not by the capitalist cronies in power who instead push the interests of the capitalist class.

The Housing Crisis can not be solved through a capitalist framework. Rather, Housing needs to be de commodified and public housing built on public land. Rent levels should be set in relation to tenants income, instead of by the market. We need to create an alternative to the "parliamentary democracy" that is present in the Free State, which relies on corruption and capital to reinforce the interests of corporations and landlords. As James Connolly said: "The democracy of Parliament is in short the democracy of Capitalism. Capitalism gives to the worker the right to choose his master, but insists that the fact of mastership shall remain unquestioned; Parliamentary Democracy gives to the worker the right to a voice in the selection of his rulers but insists that he shall bend as a subject to be ruled. The fundamental feature of both in their relation to the worker is that they imply his continued subjection to a ruling class once his choice of the personnel of the rulers is made."



Stylised image of a recent IRSM Easter Comlmemoration Parade on the Falls Road, Belfast

History of the Movement

Foundations – Theory & Action: The Ta Power Document



IRSP Ard Comhairle member, ex-political prisoner and lifelong Republican Socialist Gerard Murray presents a monthly column on the History of the Republican Socialist Movement.

This month we look at an excerpt from 'The Ta Power Document'. Thomas 'Ta' Power was a true revolutionary committed to the Republican Socialist cause, for which he gave his life in 1987, when assassinated by counter-revolutionary thugs in a cowardly ambush.

...We must make no secret of the fact that we are a revolutionary socialist party, prepared to give leadership on the streets as well as in the elected chambers, and that we are out for a socialist republic (or a revolutionary socialist state). Part of that struggle for a socialist republic entails resolving the national liberation struggle and ending British imperialist intervention.

Ultimate Goal: To end imperialist rule in Ireland and establish a 32 County Democratic Socialist Republic with the working class in control of the means of production, distribution and exchange. We propose the following political demands as the basis on which an Irish anti-imperialist front should organise:

« Costello (Seamus) was in the process of forming a new party when he was formally dismissed. Events now proceeded at a quickened pace over the remaining months of 1974. With revolutionaries, republicans, socialists and trade unionists coming together, the IRSP was formed...

The same process took place at the Officials cage in Long Kesh as well, when it was announced in December 1974 that this new political party had been formed under the slogan, "FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION AND A SOCIALIST REPUBLIC". Its announcement resulted in widespread defections from the Officials all over the country, i.e. those who had been the most active and politically conscious members.

The Leadership, in order to halt this and wipe out the IRSP, loosed armed attacks on IRSP members in Belfast in early 1975. After several months of feuding three members of the IRSP were dead and many others wounded.

The arms the Officials had starved and denied their own membership to confront imperialism had been delivered in plenty, in a counter revolutionary manner, to be used against those who had formed a new movement in order to confront imperialism...

At this time they (the Provisionals) still had a one-sided concentration on the national question, they were still controlled by the old traditional leadership which advocated a "federal solution" - which Adams was later to refer to as "a sop to Loyalists". They concentrated on the military effort to the exclusion of revolutionary politics throughout Ireland. They maintained their abstention position. Costello criticised the Provisionals for their "elitist and conspiratorial approach" which was no substitute for the development of a peoples struggle...

“ We make no mistake of the fact that we are a revolutionary socialist party ” - Thomas Power

- 1/ That Britain must renounce all claims to sovereignty over any part of Ireland or its coastal waters.
- 2/ That Britain must immediately disband and disarm the UDR, RUC and RUC Reserve and withdraw all troops from Ireland.
- 3/ That the British and 26 County Governments must immediately release all political prisoners and grant a general amnesty for all offences arising from the current conflict.
- 4/ That Britain must agree to compensate all that have suffered as a result of imperialist violence and exploitation in Ireland.
- 5/ Recognising that no country can be free and independent while it permits imperialist domination of its economic life, the anti-imperialist front, will oppose all forms of imperialist control over wealth and resources.
- 6/ The front rejects a federal solution and the continued existence of two separate [states] in the 6 and 26 counties as a denial of the right of the Irish people to sovereignty and recognises that the only alternative as being the creation of a 32 democratic republic with a secular constitution.
- 7/ That the front demands the convening of an all Ireland constitutional conference representative of all shades of political opinion in Ireland for the purpose of discussing a democratic and secular constitution [that] would become effective immediately following a total British military and political withdrawal from Ireland. »