

# FORWARD #19

A YOUNG VOICE FOR SOCIALISM

Obesity Is A Poor Person's Disease - Syriza in Capitulation - Craigmavon Two

## EXPLOITERS BEWARE WE ARE COMING FOR YOU



### YOUNG ACTIVISTS TAKING ACTION TO ELIMINATE UNPAID INTERNSHIPS

The success of #WorkMustPay is that it is about working people, whether they are employed, unemployed or currently studying, standing together in solidarity with those who are being exploited. We fundamentally want to see an end to Jobbridge and every other free labour scheme.

READ THE FULL PIECE ON PAGE 6

**CYM**

CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT  
OGRA UI CHONAILE

# Update: A Belfast Branch of the Connolly Youth Movement

Arrangements are underway to set up a new Belfast Branch of the Connolly Youth Movement. On Saturday 13th of June a group of young people from the North met in Belfast to discuss the creation of a Connolly Youth Movement branch for the city. Representatives from the CYM in Dublin had that morning travelled up to Belfast to introduce themselves and to facilitate a discussion about the CYM, its background, its aims and objectives.

A group of 10 young people met to learn more about what starting a CYM branch in Belfast would mean. There were several others who were unable to attend on the day but who have expressed an interest. It was a positive first meeting and those present were

interested to hear about campaigns in such as the Work Must Pay campaign. Those present agreed that this could be easily extended to the North where low wages, poor conditions for workers and job instability are also rampant.

The group agreed to arrange a public event to launch the branch later in the Summer. Those present also signalled an interest in the upcoming CYM Summer School to take place later in the year.

Given the current political climate of cuts and neoliberalism, the development of a group of young people ready to engage in practical class politics, alternative culture and to collectively study Marxism is an important devel-

opment. The Belfast Branch of the CYM will seek to work alongside other groups on the left to build unity of resistance to austerity and inequality.

After the meeting the young people then marched in the Civil Marriage Equality parade from Art College Gardens to Belfast City Hall. As the new Branch continues to grow it will provide updates for Forward.

If you or someone you know would be interested in joining the Connolly Youth Movement or joining the Belfast Branch please contact [connollyyouth@hotmail.com](mailto:connollyyouth@hotmail.com)



## Trade Union Campaign to Repeal the 8th Amendment

The Irish Trade Union movement has a long and storied history in the defence of and implementation of women's rights. Trade unionism has never just been about securing a decent wage or better conditions but about improving circumstance for all workers in all regards of life. This includes the fight for childcare, access to contracep-

tives, and the choice to use them, as well as campaigning for access to abortion care. Any barrier placed on workers that denies them full social, economic, and political access is one that Trade Unions are obliged to tear down.

The 'Trade Union Campaign to Repeal the 8th Amendment' is continuing this tradition in calling for the repeal of the 8th amendment, which equates the life of mother and fetus as equal in all circumstances. The campaign believes that Trade Unionism has a huge role to play in securing repeal following from the ICTU and DCTU's historic roles in the 1983 an-

ti-amendment fight.

Women make up more than 50% of all trade union memberships and almost 50% of all workers in this country. This is excluding the social reproductive work that many women do, such as care work, in addition to working outside the home. The majority of these women are in low paid, part time or precarious jobs. CSO figures show that 50% of working women earn €20,000 or less a year. A common misconception is that many of these women in lower paid jobs are students or new to the job market, this isn't the case, and increasingly so in recent years, they will often be the main

income source for a family.

If one of these women finds herself in the position of a crisis pregnancy the 8th amendment forces her to travel abroad for routine medical procedure denied to her in Ireland. This can cost anything from €850 - €2,000, and for a low paid worker this can equate to 10% or more of their annual income. She may also be forced to take unplanned or unpaid leave or arrange childcare which would be an added cost. Repeal is a workplace issue for these women and one that Trade Unions needs to be strong on

The situation is significantly worse for women with no income, those who are reliant on social welfare and migrant women. Migrant women in particular are unable to access abortion as a result of insurmountable travel and legal obstacles, they also face the hardship of accessing funding to travel. Which means that facing this dilemma falls hardest on the poorest. Repeal of the 8th amendment is a women's issue, a workers issue but ultimately an issue of class.

We have seen the hypocrisy of this amendment exemplified many times over the past 30 years, from the X case in 1992, the tragic death of Savita Halappanavar in 2012 and the shocking

## TRADE UNION CAMPAIGN TO REPEAL THE 8<sup>TH</sup>

obscenity of the treatment of the Y case as well as more recently the appalling incubation of a foetus in a medically dead woman. This is due to nothing other than this states refusal to deal with an archaic amendment that equates the life of a woman with that of a foetus. This is tantamount to reproductive slavery.

The 8th amendment is a barrier to progress and an extension of the church control that allowed the magdalene laundries to exist. It denies women their rights and dignity further fuelling the shame that this state has heaped on women over the decades who may have found themselves in the position of a crisis pregnancy. The 8th amendment is not a moral issue and it has never been about protecting life. It is there to target and punish, working

class, poor and migrant women for daring to think they deserve equality and control over their own lives and bodies.

All trade unions members must embrace the demands made by women for an equal society. All women in Ireland deserve to know that their choice, bodily autonomy, economic freedom, health and lives are theirs and theirs alone and repeal of the 8th amendment is a good step in the direction of achieving this.

The Trade Union Campaign to repeal the 8th Amendment are supported by Unite the Union, Unite Youth, Mandate Trade Union, Dublin Council of Trade unions, Waterford Council of Trade unions, CWU Youth Committee, Bray & District Council of Trade Unions & ICTU Youth Committee.  
LD



## Justice Denied

On the night of 9 March 2009, PSNI constable Stephen Carroll was shot dead in a sniper attack while responding to a 999 emergency call. The responsibility for the murder was later claimed by the republican paramilitary group the Continuity IRA. Within 48 hours, a number of persons were arrested among those were former Sinn Féin Councillor Brendan McConville and 17 year old John Paul Wootton. After fourteen days of questioning, both were charged with the murder of the PSNI constable.

The pair were later convicted by a non-jury Diplock court in May 2012; McConville receiving a minimum twenty-five year sentence and Wootton a sentence of a minimum of fourteen years. Throughout the trial both men maintained their innocence claiming they were the perfect scapegoats for a police service under mounting pressure to secure a conviction. The reason the police were under so much pressure was that constable Carroll was the first police officer to be killed since the Good Friday Agreement. Adding to the pressure was the fact that this shooting took place within days of an attack on Massereen Barracks where two British soldiers were killed.

The conviction of both men was secured with the use of eye witness testimony, forensic and DNA evidence which was claimed placed both men at the scene of the shooting. However serious questions have been raised about the reliability of this evidence. The main eye witness for the prosecution known as witness 'M', who's testimony placed McConville at the scene, only came forward eleven months after the incident. Witness 'M' claimed that his identification of McConville was based on his perfect vision, however under cross examination 'M' stated that he was only 50%



sure that the person he claims he saw in the time before the incident was one of the defendants. 'M' was accompanied on the night in question by his partner yet she is unable to corroborate his evidence.

DNA evidence used to convict McConville came from a coat found in Wootton's car, prosecution assertions that forensic tests prove 'more likely than not' that McConville was the habitual wearer of the coat are disputed by McConville's defence as DNA from three others was found to be present. Forensic tests also showed vital elements to link the coat to the firearm used in killing of the PSNI constable to be missing. Wootton's car, which the prosecution contend was parked close to the scene of the attack and drove off within minutes of the killing, was revealed to be the subject of a surveillance operation carried out by the shadowy British army unit the Special Reconnaissance Regiment. The information lifted from the bugging device fitted to Wootton's car provided data on the movement of the vehicle around the time of the shooting. The bugging device however while in possession of the SRR was found to have been tampered with, vital data had somehow been wiped while the device was been stored in the SRR's undisclosed base somewhere in the 6 counties.

Following the pair's conviction on such shaky evidence the Justice for the Craigavon 2 campaign was set up to raise awareness of the case. A leading figure in the Campaign was Gerry Conlon who was wrongfully convicted of the 1974 IRA Gilford pub bombing and subsequently spent fifteen years behind bars. The case went forward for appeal in early 2013, however before the appeal was heard an ap-

peal was heard an apparent attempt was made by the PSNI to sabotage the proceedings. Astonishingly a key witness for the defence was arrested and questioned for two days before being released in what can only be seen as an attempt to pressurise the witness into withdrawing his evidence. The witness in question, who did not testify at the original trial, is a relative of witness 'M' who in a sworn affidavit branded 'M' "a compulsive liar" and "a Walter Mitty with a fertile imagination". This practice of intimidation was also extended to the defendants legal team and members of the JFTC2 campaign who were subjected to a covert surveillance and recording operation. Members of the legal team for both men feared they would be arrested for representing their clients.

Despite the evidence of the new witness the appeal was dismissed and the convictions of the two men upheld in what campaigners for the two firmly believe was a political judgement and not one based on the facts of the case

Notwithstanding the setback of the appeal decision the JFTC2 campaign continue to raise awareness of the case, in March the campaign launched a protest song by political singer songwriter Pól MacAdaim. The song, despite meeting with opposition from unionist politicians received widespread support attracting more people than ever to the campaign.

The latest obstacle to justice for the Craigavon Two has been the refusal of UK Supreme Court to look at the case despite the Appeal court having certified the case to go to Britain's highest court. To date no explanation has been offered as to how the Supreme Court has come to this decision.

More information about the case at [justiceforthecraigavontwo.com](http://justiceforthecraigavontwo.com) and JFTC2 Facebook page. CMAT

## Socialist Republicanism- A Way Forward

“The cause of labour is the cause of Ireland, the cause of Ireland is the cause of labour”- James Connolly

The 21st Century offers many challenges for the socialist and republican movement but also many exciting opportunities. For too long these political currents have been divorced. There were some socialists who hated the mention of anything nationalist and some republicans who shrugged at anything resembling socialist thought. Socialism and republicanism are one and the same. The objectives of both exist in parallel, not in opposition.

The United Irishmen, Young Irelanders and the Fenians all had a social and pro-working-class perspective to their republicanism. They were movements led by the working-class. The 1916 Easter Rising was in part fueled by the anger of the Dublin working-class of their defeat in the 1913 Lockout. Similarly, the counter-revolution of 1923 was led by those who capitulated on the national and class question. The Democratic Programme of the First Dáil had the capability to ignite a social revolution had the revolutionary movement behind it been led by the working-class rather than a broad church of ideologies and class interests.

Today, we are facing imperialism from more than just the British state. The EU, IMF and a host of trans-national companies seek to pillage this country

of its labour reserve for profit while keeping the indigenous comprador class in their pockets, awaiting the next diktat to be obeyed. Republicanism, as the historically appointed force of national liberation, is thus an enemy. The EU has more to fear from republicanism than the British do.

For republicanism to be successful it has to adopt fresh thinking. We do not need any more sectarian claptrap or cul-de-sac militarism. We do not need class collaborationist electoralism. Both have failed. We need the republican and socialist thinking of Mellows, Connolly, O'Donnell - “We can not conceive of a free Ireland with a subject working class or a free working class with a subject Ireland.”

These words remain relevant today. The re-conquest of Ireland must be fought against the very system that conquered us in the first place. Republicanism must combine 2 core aspects: Class and Culture.

Class struggle is being intensified across both states. Austerity is being imposed on everybody. Catholic workers and Protestant workers are suffering the same wage cuts and struggling to pay the same bills. The old definition of “A Protestant state for a Protestant people” has largely been foregone by the ruling class. While in the past it was easy to blame “the other side” for one’s woes, now it is down to a square issue: Capitalism. It is important to remember this. The facade of 2 communities with incongruous interests has long been revealed to be a ploy to separate people from the pertinent issues affecting both communities.

As for culture, the Irish language is on a steady decline. Irish dancing, music and traditions are constantly being

eroded. History is being re-written. We face a barrage of cultural imperialism in our everyday lives. Faux-American accents are now the trendy thing for the middle-classes and others who scorn any independence. It isn't ultra-nationalist to be proud of your birthplace or speak your language. On the contrary, it is standing up against colonialism and oppression. We must link this with the global anti-imperialist struggle and encourage all to stand against hegemonic imperialism. We must welcome immigrants into our country and integrate with them. Our people have as much to share with them as they have with us. Let's stand against imperialism together.

You can not build socialism in a partitioned country. That is a simple fact. Unification must happen but can not happen under a Capitalist Republic where the same landlords remain in power. It must be the working-class, Catholics, Protestants, Polish, Nigerians, the “incorruptible inheritors of Irish freedom”, who must fight for the worker's republic. The ruling class will not.

We must not forget the past but learn from it and let it mold our struggle. In the 21st century, republicanism must become the spear towards national liberation and class liberation. Equally, not separately or afterwards. Communities need to be inculcated with this thinking, from the Falls to the Shankill. Socialist republicanism needs to oppose both failed states and the economic system that created them. When republicanism becomes successful it will not be Green or Orange but Red.

GOH



Image from the James Connolly Festival



### #WorkMustPay

The Connolly Youth Movement have helped lead a campaign, that since its inception has been on the front-line in calling for the abolition of Jobbridge and every other type of free labour schemes. The Work Must Pay campaign has to date, succeeded in getting 10 businesses to remove their JobBridge advertisement and also to give a commitment not to re-advertise in the future. We target and picket businesses weekly.

Our Cork branch of CYM launched the Cork WMP group. We have held solidarity pickets with the Dunnes Stores workers and have joined them in solidarity on their demonstration. Only recently the General Secretary of CYM and a WMP activists were part of a WMP delegation to the EU Commission in Brussels about Youth Unemployment. WMP activists have attended and spoken at numerous events and seminars which we were invited to.

The campaign has fought a number of battles, not all successful, on the streets, outside the place of business and have become a real thorn in the side for businesses looking to exploit young workers. The Connolly Youth Movement express the need to expand the agitation work that is already taking place each week and without a doubt the tactics of the campaign have proven successful. What the campaign needs is to expand its networks and its activist base.

A number of groups who originally signed up to the Work Must Pay campaign have unfortunately to date, not been willing to get themselves involved in the street agitation of Work-MustPay. Members of CYM, who have attended numerous seminars, meetings, think-ins, etc., on issues like JobBridge have found it frustrating that so many youth activists and unions simply will not do what needs to be done – go on the offensive against the exploiters.

Online campaigns and slogan/photo campaigns have proven over the last number of years to be ineffective. They may be headline grabbing and have scored some funding from unions to keep up a presence or an appearance of being active, but businesses will happily ignore a group of young activists when they gather in a conference room to talk about how bad JobBridge is. However, they have found it impossible to ignore a group of activists shouting slogans outside their place of business!

The CYM don't want to criticise groups for the sake of criticism and controversy. We need to stop the talking and the petty online debates about subjects irrelevant to the real material conditions of our youth. The reality for school leavers looking for work and those graduating is that the practice of exploitative internships and the culture of internships is slowly being ingrained into swathes of our population every year. We don't need to convince young activists of the exploitative nature of JobBridge, the facts speak for themselves. What is

is leadership and an effective means of organising and carrying out agitation activities against JobBridge. The success of WMP is that it is about working people, whether they are employed, unemployed or currently studying, standing together in solidarity with those who are being exploited. We fundamentally want to see an end to JobBridge and every other free labour scheme. Our shared campaign has often come under criticism from small and medium sized businesses arguing that we should be targeting large companies and not 'poor old me, just trying to grow a little in this hostile economic environment'.

Let it be clear – WorkMustPay does not campaign on behalf of businesses, big or small, but it campaigns on behalf of workers. WMP campaigns against businesses exploiting vulnerable sections of society – youth and unemployed. We campaign against a worker under 22 years of age expected to live on €3.75 an hour. How can we expect young people to live independently when their wages don't allow it?

We campaign against a clear undermining of the minimum wage. We campaign against the clear and widespread abuse of JobBridge where '11,393 organisations, businesses and charities have used JobBridge interns since 2011'. We campaign against this government policy that undermines a person's labour, which is spreading to all sections of the economy both public and private. We campaign in the belief that work must indeed pay



Any business that uses JobBridge is exploiting a worker. The business owner will say JobBridge is 'good for our business'. Well of course it is, as any exploitation of a worker means less costs go towards labour, which in turn means higher profits for the business. Clearly the scheme benefits some, and the strongest lobby group for it will be those whose interest it is to preserve an exploitative free-labour scheme.

Exploitation and by extension Job-Bridge is good for business – we in CYM are well aware of this. Exploitation however cannot be justified and exploitation is definitely not good for working people, their families and their communities. It is in the interest of young people to lobby against Job-Bridge, as it will be the younger generations who will suffer most from the scheme.

The CYM hold that free-labour schemes are part of the broader attack on working peoples' wages and conditions, which isn't just contained to Ireland but to most of the major capitalist economies of the world. Exploitation of labour is the very basis of the capitalist economic model! Why else would you have some of the largest companies in the world move their

manufacturing operations to places where workers are worth less than the products they produce, yet the owners, the capitalists, have never held so much wealth.

The Irish capitalist economy today, for many people young and old, does not provide the means of subsistence, as every gain from collective labour over the decades, from childcare to education, health to housing, work to pensions and everything in-between is being eroded. There is a real crisis of capitalism and it is this existing capitalism that we must daily agitate, educate and organise against.

That is why CYM has become active in #WorkMustPay, as we are no longer content with meetings and photo ops. The stakes are too high to remain philosophic about it all. We are putting our theory to the test that the best way to tackle injustice, in this case JobBridge is to challenge it head on, at the factory gates as it were. What the campaign has also demonstrated is that we are winning the small battles in this war on workers and their rights. We need to bring back our militancy and fight to young workers and show that action brings results.

So exploiters beware – We are coming for you!



#### WORK MUST PAY

##### VERSE 1

I'VE DONE MY TIME, SITTING IN SCHOOL

I'VE LISTENED, WROTE DOWN AND FOLLOWED THEIR RULES  
NOW I'M OUT ON MY OWN  
AND ALL THE JOBS ARE GONE

##### VERSE 2

I'VE HEARD THAT TO GET A JOB,  
YOU GIVE UP YOUR TIME  
FOR NO WAGE WILL BE PAID, JUST  
YOUR WELFARE AND A DIME  
WE THOUGHT WE HAD IT MADE  
BUT NOW THE GAME HAS  
CHANGED

##### BRIDGE

.NO WORK HERE TODAY  
THE BOSSES DON'T WANNA PAY  
SAY NO TO EXPLOITATION  
WITH ONE VOICE LET US SAY

##### CHORUS

WORK MUST PAY, WORK MUST  
PAY  
DEMAND FROM THE BOSSES TO  
PAY A LIVING WAGE  
WORK MUST PAY, WORK MUST  
PAY  
SHOUT FROM THE ROOFTOPS -  
DEMAND A LIVING WAGE

FULL SONG OUT SOON



## Social Issues



### Obesity Is A Poor Person's Disease

A plumpness in size was once reserved for only the most beautiful, affluent and greedy of society's rulers. What was once considered a sign of wealth and comfort of life is now a curse inflicted upon the poor. As the working class is slowly extracted of their wealth, they're forced to buy cheaper and cheaper food, which the international conglomerates are happy to make. Brimming with sugars, salts and dangerous chemicals like High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS) and Yellow #5 food colouring derived from coal tar, all in the attempt at reducing natural ingredients used and turning a higher and higher profit at the expense of public health. Obesity is not an education or an exercise issue, this is just another battlefield of class warfare.

Outspoken fashion designer, Vivian Westwood, received a lot of criticism recently when she said poor people should 'eat less' to reduce obesity. Although she went on to explain her soundbite, her insinuation rang true. For most, there is very rarely a choice between healthy and unhealthy. In the west, all there is is eating or not eating. It is the capitalist illusion of choice.

Often people will claim that it's a willpower issue; that the difference between you eating McDonalds, and someone not, is purely willpower. That it has nothing to do with the fact that the price of a small bag of almonds will get you a full meal in McDonalds, or that in comparison to any processed food, the natural alternative is significantly more expensive. Nor would there generally be any sort of sale or marketing pushing natural food because there's a lot less profit to be made. EAT CHEAP is the slogan and the only people really following it are the ones that have no other option.

While governments were once a supposed bastion of defense against the tampering of foods by corporations, it seems in our society, everything has a price. The European Union, which is often held in high regard when it comes to food and agriculture standards, destroyed a large chunk of it's reputation recently during an attempt at rolling out a red carpet for TTIP. After a visit from a high-level delegation on 26 June 2013 from the American Chambers of Commerce, the EU dropped it's intended banning of 31 pesticides – including Endocrine disruptor chemicals. These disruptions can cause cancerous tumors, birth defects, and other developmental disorders. Any system in the body controlled by hormones can be derailed by hormone disruptors.

No amount of time on a treadmill can make your government grow a spine. Political action and awareness is the

only way of making sure your elected representatives stand against profit at the expense of public health. Companies are banking on your ignorance and your government's complacency. Even looking past the mistreatment of food by corporations, food addiction is also rampant but receives very little sympathy. If we can see that drug addiction is almost exclusive to the poor, how do so many of us refuse to see food addiction as something in the same. Be it sugar or heroine, addiction is often the chosen method to escape your circumstance. The government and the EU seems to be doing absolutely nothing in the wake of a bloated situation that's already claiming 1 in 5 deaths in the United States of America. A country that we all seem to be racing to join in their neoliberal gutter of public health.

A recent World Health Organisation study found the Republic of Ireland is on a fast course to becoming the fattest country in Europe. Even WHO superficially suggests teaching people about diets and 'tackling' obesity in children, simply fueling the 'it's your own fault' narrative. I can't help but wonder if Ireland's crushing austerity and growing inequality has anything to do with the significant increase of overweight people. Hard to imagine an illness so associated with greed to be the result of poverty, but is austerity making us fat?

AC

# Antidepressant Generation: The Business of Making Us All Crazy

There are few people in Ireland who do not know someone affected either directly or indirectly by mental-distress. Antidepressant prescriptions in Ireland are at an all-time high; there are approximately 500,000 people taking antidepressants or anti-anxiety drugs in Ireland and over thirty different types for GPs to prescribe. This has led the Irish media to dub today's youth 'The Antidepressant Generation'. Responding to this, this article explores the rise in mass consumption of psychiatric medications by critically examining the process by which mental-illness is defined and who this benefits.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), first published in 1952, provides standardised criteria which individuals must meet in order for their symptoms to be labelled the result of a mental disorder. Its contents provide an international authority on mental-illness employed by clinicians, researchers, pharmaceutical companies and the World Health Organisation for the purpose of diagnosing mental-illness. In other words, the DSM is the bible of mental-illnesses for those involved in its treatment. The development of the DSM was driven by a desire to enhance the scientific status and legitimise the authority of psychiatry by those working within it. Despite this, the process in which the manual is constructed is far from empirical; based on panel member's opinions and observations rather than any kind of objective measure. How-



ever, by emphasising mental-illness as an abnormality within the individual the profession was able to advocate for its own specialist individual interventions and increase profitability. Over the course of time, the pharmaceutical industry notably became intertwined in the development of the DSM. The financial ties between the industry and those defining DSM content are reflected in the substantial funding provided by the industry for conventions, journals, and research related to what is contained within the manual. For pharmaceutical companies, legally bound to producing drugs solely for the treatment of recognised medical conditions, expanding what is defined as a mental disorder is a strategic priority. Its success is indicated by the dramatic increase in the number of mental disorders contained within the DSM; from a second edition published in 1968, which was only 119 pages long, the DSM increased to 886 pages in less than thirty years. It continues to grow.

The most recent edition, the DSM-5, has received significant criticism for lowering the standards for pre-existing types of mental disorder so that most ordinary people can be fitted into at least one category outlined within the manual. To demonstrate, within the DSM-5 'bereavement' has been in-

troduced as another possible sign of 'Major Depressive Disorder'. The result is the medicalisation of the very normal process of grief following the death of a love one. In addition, the DSM-5 has generated new categories of mental disorder to encapsulate the everyday parameters of human emotion and behaviour not yet transformed into profitable symptoms of mental-illness. By controlling this highly influential document the pharmaceutical industry has been able to promote the misleading idea that everyday life problems are actually undiagnosed psychiatric illness caused by a chemical imbalance and requiring a solution in pill form.

The pharma-orientated mindset put forward by the DSM and its proponents does not question the class system that generates mental-distress amongst those it exploits. Instead, it seeks to profit from the misery of capitalism induces on others. Mental-illness becomes the problem to be treated, rather than the structural economic conditions that create distress. By categorising certain behaviours as 'disorders' the pharmaceutical industry and allied professions have been able to depoliticise behaviours arising from the effects of social inequality and acquire political support and funding for tackling such disorders. As a

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result the pharmaceutical industry has become a major force in shaping approaches to health care, with prescription drugs a now dominant feature in addressing mental-health concerns.

The Institute of Public Health in Ireland estimates that, across Ireland those belonging to low income groups experience rates of mental diagnosis 360% above those with the highest incomes. The social and economic struggles experienced by the working-class are well documented in research. Stud-

ies identify an overwhelming sense of no control over one's own life and feelings of imprisonment in an on-going struggle between achieving a decent standard of living and having the means to do so. Under these conditions is it not understandable that an individual may feel pessimistic thoughts, ideas of unworthiness and thoughts of self-harm (diagnostic criteria for a "depressive episode")? Equally, can it be rationally argued that masking the psychological manifesta-

tions of capitalism on those it exploits through drugs is the same as removing the causes of mental-distress? No. The truth is capitalism is a sick social arrangement that is damaging to both physical and mental-health. Under its dehumanising and degrading structures mental-distress is an inevitability. The only way to eradicate the sources of mass mental-distress is to eliminate the structures that nurture it.

JMA

## Europe

# Syriza in Capitulation

When Syriza were elected back in February and the bandwagon's capacity was full, we released a statement where 'the CYM would caution those who are being swept by the euphoria of the initial election success'.

With regret, it must be stated that the continued attack on the Greek working class will not be stopped. Syriza have not been able to live up to the expectations. So where now do the people of Greece look to for their hope? And where do the people of Europe look to now?

The CYM fully realise that the conditions on the ground in Greece make it difficult to negotiate with the Troika and that without a strategy to withdraw, not just from the euro but the EU and NATO, concessions would have to be made. So from its very inception, which has clearly been revealed, the idea of an 'alternative' economic policy to austerity, simply was not possible and at the very worst has misled the people of Greece and its international supporters such as the Greek

Solidarity Movement.

Those who continue to support Syriza have some valid points which will need to be answered. First, there is the very real humanitarian crisis which could explode if the economy was to collapse, so Tsipras must make concessions to the EU. Secondly, there is a very real danger of Golden Dawn and other Nationalist and far-right parties growing and coming to power, which would be just as devastating for the people, so a capitulating Syriza is far more desirable. Third, a Grexit may be worse than a new memorandum, so again what little choice there is, negotiating an austerity package with the Troika, arguably, is the best deal on the table.

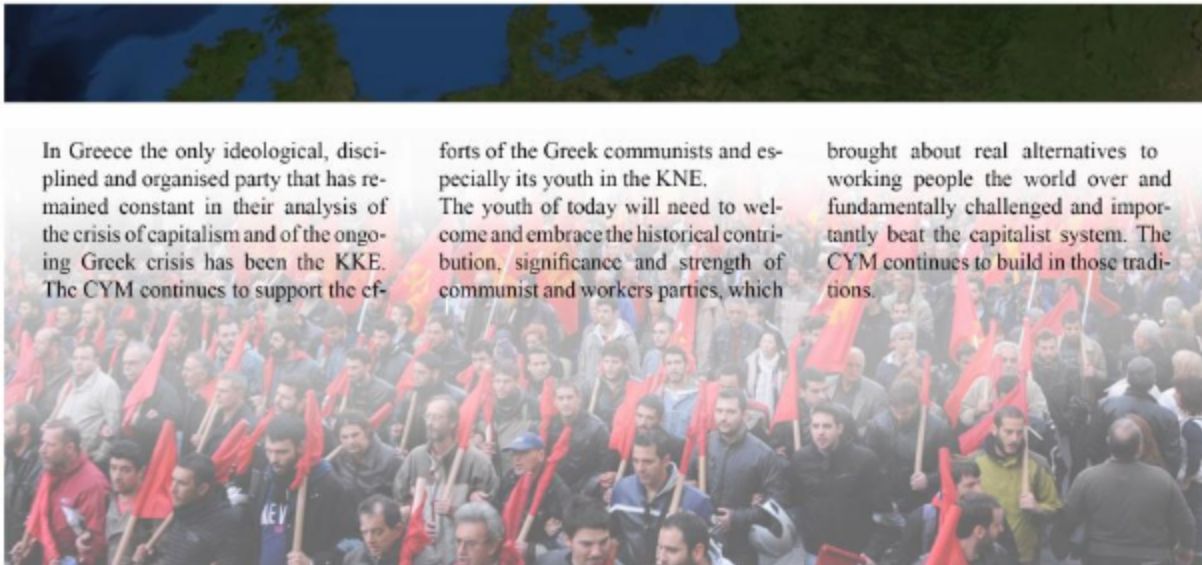
The problem and weakness with all these points and Syriza's response, is that they are all in the context and are all limited to an economic struggle and not an ideological struggle. There is no doubt, for all its Marxists and revolutionary left-wing rhetoric, Syriza is the new face of Social Democracy and have limited itself to try and manage the crisis of the Greek economy within the confines of capitalism. This is the fundamental issue that those who feel disillusioned about Syriza's capitulation need to grasp.

There may be well-meaning and good politicians and strong left elements in



Syriza, but one tree does not make a forest and Syriza has proven to be bare when it comes down to hard negotiations with the EU. The sad fact is that it is a tragedy for Greece, that the hope of the people was not realised in this 'New Left' alternative.

Let this be a warning to those in Ireland that see the next general election as its chance at building the Irish Syriza or that even see Sinn Féin as the soothsayers of hope. There can be no alternative to Austerity without first of all an understanding and analysis of Capitalism/Imperialism, secondly to an analysis of the EU as an Imperialist construct, and thirdly, having an opposition to Imperialism and all its structures. Simply there can be no alternative without an alternative ideology. As was proven in Greece, no hypothetical grouping of Left TD's, social democrats and Sinn Féin will provide us with a viable alternative.



In Greece the only ideological, disciplined and organised party that has remained constant in their analysis of the crisis of capitalism and of the ongoing Greek crisis has been the KKE. The CYM continues to support the ef-

forts of the Greek communists and especially its youth in the KNE. The youth of today will need to welcome and embrace the historical contribution, significance and strength of communist and workers parties, which

brought about real alternatives to working people the world over and fundamentally challenged and importantly beat the capitalist system. The CYM continues to build in those traditions.

## Culture

### Music - A Weapon of The People

Music is an interesting thing, it is something that we humans create, listen to, understand, worship and escape with. Music isn't just some background noise that goes into our heads, but it has a deeper connection and music can say a lot about the people who listen to it and the society / system we live in.

In writing this article, I interviewed a number of people from different sections of society and a lot of the responses I got from the people I asked, is that music is quite a cultural thing, in that it is associated with an idea, an identity. In modern capitalist society these separate identities are connected with the alienation people feel towards the society in which they live. This is why in Western capitalist culture there are so many sub-cultures and sub-divisions within certain genres of music, because the alienating effects of living in a society where people have to compete to survive, work in jobs that they despise and that everything is geared towards the idea of being an individu-

alist consumer, totally contradicts the nature of people of wanting to be part of the collective, to have a feeling of comradeship and a need to look out for each-other.

This is the way most of Humanity has been able to survive, solely by being dedicated to the collective, as it was in some ways a part of being dedicated to yourself - Raising the common good, raises the individual. Oddly enough this can take on many different aspects. Pop music can be quite tribal in some ways, but it is a part of a capitalist culture of "consume, consume, consume" and in spirit very collective, but it has a large part of people believing or subscribing to being part of something - not feeling alienated. This can also take on a different, more positive

aspect as well. Alternative genres such as rock, rap, blues, folk etc., are in some ways a culture of being against the "mainstream" culture and society and in many cases are anti-capitalist, anti-consumerist and despise mainstream culture. Indeed many of those interviewed said that their music "is more of a way of life than a music genre." Music in a sense can be an extension to the politics of people.

Other examples of this can be seen in our own Culture, in Irish History with the Celtic revival, with Irish Culture (Language, folklore, sports, etc) being revived in a way of trying to undo British/ imperialist Culture i.e. a Culture/idea that was foreign or imposed. This can be seen in the music's style and what is being said lyrically.



Indeed Connolly himself said that "every revolution has its Cultural outlet" and in many instances it can and has been used as a propaganda tool, to be used to promote an idea, by both capitalists and anti-capitalists. Old communist songs like The International, were spread to bring people from many Culture's into a sort of international culture of solidarity. Another response I got from my research was that: "Music is a weapon that most people should fear because it connects people, informs them in a

more entertaining way. For that, music does help you grow a mind of your own and even to see things more clearly."

In places like Belfast, music can be used to bridge the divide among people across sectarian lines. For example a loyalist of Belfast said "Stiff Little Fingers really opens my eyes to the catholic views on things", granted it's a somewhat narrow-minded view that being Catholic is a Culture, but it shows a beginning of understanding of different cultures because of the music.

Finally, music is also a reaction to the society at large that you live in, even a release from it, like being angry, happy, sad, high, low and in many instances and for many people music is escapism. But music most importantly is a creation of the human mind and a collection of ideas that is unbound by place or time. It is an art that brings people together and literally brings people in harmony with each-other. That is the power of music and why it is so important in our alienated society.

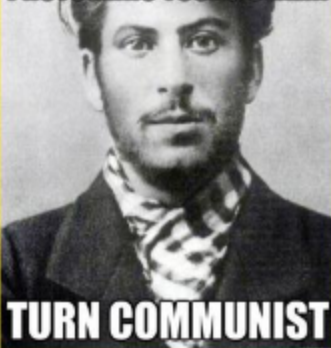
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TEACHES COMMUNIST RUSSIA REWROTE HISTORY TO FIT IDEOLOGY OF PARTY IN POWER.



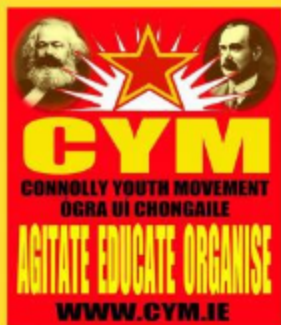
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## WWW.CYM.IE



The Connolly Youth Movement is a youth organisation committed to fighting for democracy, freedom and unity in this country. The CYM takes part in the struggle to build socialism in Ireland and everywhere around the globe.

Since 2008 the crisis in Ireland has deepened which has seen many talented and gifted young people leave this island in search of a better life abroad. We as a youth organisation are fundamentally opposed to any government using its youth as a safety valve in trying to ease economic and political tensions. So we are determined to stay and fight the injustice brought on this and future generations.

Working with progressive movements to develop young workers' and students' consciousness in their own proud history and culture. As a member of the World Federation of Democratic Youth we struggle in opposition to imperialism and for liberation around the globe of all oppressed peoples, including ourselves.

The CYM has branches in Dublin, Belfast and Cork.

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