

CLASS WAR

Irregular
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IRELAND IS NOTHING SOLIDARITY WITH REFUGEES



Ireland is not full. Ireland is not 'more deserving'. Ireland is not 'betrayed', nor is 'she' shamed, or appalled, or disgraced, or 'confused' by racism. Ireland has not 'forgotten'. Ireland is not 'better' than this. Ireland is nothing.

The sooner we get rid of ideas that Ireland is one thing or the other the sooner we root out the notions that scum like the Irish National Party (and far too many of their opponents) use to mobilise and build support around. Ireland is an island plain and simple. Managed by politicians on behalf of capitalists. There are many who would prefer to blame the housing crisis, soaring inflation, deprivation and poverty on anyone who isn't quite like 'us'. Any notion of 'us' based on nationality, of Irishness (whatever meaning you care to twist out of it), from far right racism to smug 'left' nationalist superiority can fuck off. There is only one 'us' worth a fuck on this rock (island or planet) and that is made up of those fucked over, exploited and oppressed by capitalism, governments and states, by patriarchy all over the world. Those this system displaces are 'us'. Those it works on behalf of, those who would set us against one another, are the enemy of the working class and the enemy of humanity.

INSIDE: Smash Racism, Smash Fascism - Smash Capitalism, Organise! Affiliate to the IWA, Solidarity with CNT-AIT, & more...

WELCOME TO CLASS WAR!

Welcome to the third edition of Class War, the new anarcho-syndicalist bulletin from members of Organise! in the Republic of Ireland. Our comrades in the north have been putting out Black Star regularly now for almost two years now and we are hoping to increase the regularity of Class War in the near future.

The name of our bulleting is inspired by Camillo Berneri's newspaper *Guerre de Classe* which was edited by him in Italy and then, in exile, in Spain until his assassination on May 5th 1937. Berneri along with Francesco Barbieri were taken out of their

apartment by a dozen plainclothes men with red armbands and police. The corpses of the two Italian anarchists were found riddled with bullets - assassinated by Stalinist counter-revolutionaries during the Spanish Civil War.

Our focus is unashamedly working class. We would refute however that there is anything 'reductionist' about asserting this. We see class as the fundamental cleavage in society and the working class, as a whole, as the group which has a real interest in the destruction of capitalist exploitation and oppression and the replacement of states, nations and corporations with a new world based on equality, freedom and libertarian communism.

We do not hold with stereotypical notions of a male white industrial working class. We see capitalism as a racialised, and (while patriarchy is older than capitalism) patriarchal system. Nor do we idealise the working class, we are kept in ignorance and fed a diet of misinformation in order to keep us ignorant, brutalised and divided. We are deliberately distracted from our common interests and conned into the mistaken belief that we have interests in common with our 'native' bosses and politicians.

For us the working class consists in the vast majority of humanity and in this majority lies the hope for a social revolution that can save us all from the barbarism and destruction of capitalist greed and war.

SMASH RACISM SMASH FASCISM - SMASH CAPITALISM

solidarity) is what our resistance to those responsible for the latest onslaught on poor and working class people across needs to be based on.

Anti-racism without anti-capitalism gets us nowhere and leaves unchallenged the divisions sown by bosses and politicians across the board. These are divisions the Irish National Party are reaping benefit from just as the stoke them.

Problems created by slum landlords, homes left empty while rents push us into homelessness, the abandonment of working class communities, gentrification, increased bill and decreasing wages and benefits leave migrant workers more vulnerable to scapegoating. Let us remember that working class communities have been stigmatised and blamed for their deprivation by media and politicians as well.

The far right are undoubtedly benefiting from the housing crisis and seek to promote their anti-working class agenda by scapegoating 'easy' targets. Of course the conditions we all face together as a class are the very same conditions that give rise to resistance that is aimed straight at the cause of the social problems we are currently experiencing as a result of capitalism and the state. This issue of Black Star is full of inspiring examples of workers fighting back! Working class self organisation and solidarity are what are called for in the struggle against racism and fascism and in the struggle against capital and state.



Anti-immigrant rallies continue to sweep across the unFree State. The far right, particularly the Irish National Party, are capitalising on the ongoing housing and cost of living crises and (in common with other politicians and the media) diverting attention anyway from the real cause of the increased hardship faced by working class communities from Ballymun to Fermoy, East Wall to Clondalkin, Tallaght to Killarney - and everywhere in between.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with all those who are clear that opposing these racist goons must be done on a class basis. Ongoing struggles for better social housing, to fight the parasitic landlord class, for better pay and benefits in the face of recession must link up with those fleeing even worse situations. What we all have in common is that we are poor and working class and this working class solidarity (rather than fucked up notions of national

SOLIDARITY WITH THE CNT-AIT



Unfortunately we have to report that among the many positive and encouraging discussions at the IWA Congress in Alcoi it was also necessary to discuss the continuing attacks that sections of the international face from the International Confederation of Labour. Across the Spanish State the CNT-AIT continue to face attacks on their union from former comrades who are now organised as the CNT-CIT (in English ICL: International Confederation of Labour).

Eighteen unions of the CNT-AIT in Spain are facing lawsuits in the National Court taken by the Spanish section of the ICL, claiming €50,000 in compensation from each. This is on top of attempts to seize union buildings and their resources, and the possible imprisonment of CNT-AIT members as a

result of lawsuits. This is an out and out attempt to destroy the CNT-AIT from an organisation which has forgotten anarchist and anarcho-syndicalist principles. Principles including federalism and direct control from the grassroots of the union have been jettisoned as it follows a path towards service unionism, 'professionalised', centralised and vertical organisation. Still decked out in red and black the CNT-CIT have registered the flag, acronym and logo with the Spanish courts. The CNT-AIT are facing an attack that some have sneeringly dismissed as a battle over initials. That is an attitude that suits those who 'have trampled on and destroyed the enormous efforts of many workers to build the anarcho-syndicalist organization and culture'.

Organise!, together with our comrades across the IWA, will act to defend the CNT-AIT from these ongoing attacks and support them in their refusal to give up their union premises their heritage, their militancy and their history. Despite these attacks, and in some instances because of them, the CNT-AIT continues to regain strength. On the attempt to destroy them our comrades are clear: 'Monarchies, dictatorships, infiltrators or police setups have not been able not do it and neither can this unrecognisable organisation'.



FRIENDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION - AMIGOS DE LA ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LAS Y LOS TRABAJADORES

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ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM - GLOBAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL

The global nature of anarcho-syndicalism and concern with the capitalist destruction of the environment informed intense and wide-ranging discussion at the IWA Congress. One of the IWA international working groups began a discussion on the global impacts of climate change and how we as anarcho-syndicalists have and can effectively respond to the crisis. Comrades from Priama Akcia presented a report and began the discussion, which focused on the practical activity we can pursue as anarcho-syndicalists in and beyond the workplace and in critical engagement with existing environmentalist movements. The uneven impacts of climate change and different responses and tactics possible in different regions and countries were the main topics dealt with. There is not a one size fits all response appropriate to the very real struggles and problems

being faced in different parts of our planet. While we are all feeling the impact of climate change places like Pakistan, where the Workers Solidarity Federation has been engaged in essential and inspiring mutual aid work following recent and devastating floods, are bearing the brunt. Comrades from South America talked about the serious environmental struggles going on across the continent and the difficulties facing activists there - including the use of intimidation and often fatal violence against environmentalists in Colombia. Comrades from the CNT-AIT talked about the sweeping forest fires and the 'firefighting' response of the state to a problem that needs to be addressed in a manner that confronts the wanton capitalist pillaging of resources.

Discussion of the experiences of different sections in developing workplace organisation and resistance also took place. The task of this working group will continue to develop strategies for small IWA sections to organise and win disputes in the workplace. This strategy offers practical guidelines based on our real experiences. Sections of the IWA - such as the Polish Union of Syndicalists, Vienna Workers' Syndicate, Priama Akcia, and the Solidarity Federation - have successfully fought workplace struggles despite their relatively small size, through self-organisation and direct action, demonstrating a revolutionary alternative to the bureaucratic and reformist trade unions is possible even for smaller organisations.

Build A Working Class Alternative!

Before it's too late...



ORGANISE! AFFILIATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION

At the 28th Congress of the International Workers' Association (IWA) on the 9th-11th December 2022 Organise! was unanimously accepted as a 'Friends of the IWA' section.

The IWA unites anarcho-syndicalist organisations from around the world, improving communication and building solidarity across borders, against capitalism and all states.

We were overwhelmed by the love, support and solidarity of our comrades from across the globe. Delegates attended from Pakistan, Indonesia, Colombia, Chile, Spain, Slovakia, Sweden, Australia, Britain, France, Serbia, Poland, (and online) Russia and Norway.

The Congress also celebrated the centenary of the IWA's foundation in December 1922, at a congress in Berlin.

This year's congress was hosted by the CNT-AIT of Spain in the city of Alcoy. A wide range of events celebrating the centenary of the international were organised alongside the Congress.

Members of Organise! particularly enjoyed the walking tour which explored the history of the city as the seat of the Spanish section of the First International, as well as the workers' revolt of 1873 known as the Petroleum Revolution. The puppet performance by Puppets from Below was spectacular. Meeting old comrades and new, eating, talking, discussing, a little drinking, singing, re-affirming international solidarity and developing practical plans made for a momentous event for all.



Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland affiliated to the International Worker's Association as a 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, particularly those organised on anarcho-syndicalist lines.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked over by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, and sick of a greedy bosses and landlords getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy, racism and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier...

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in the North and members and contacts in Cork, Dublin and other parts of the Republic where we are actively building our membership. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bugging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at <https://organiseanarchistsireland.com> and send an email to:

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