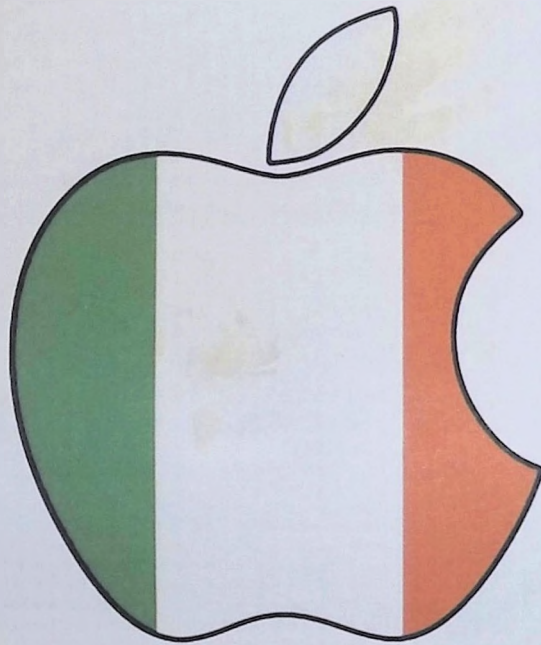


# Socialist Worker

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## 13,000,000,000 reasons to bring down this government



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- ✓ Build 20 new hospitals at €650m per hospital
- ✓ Create tens of thousands of jobs in the process

But our government refuses to do any of these things. Instead it is going to spend public money on a legal appeal to insist

that Apple keep the money they owe us: all to protect their strategy of making Ireland a tax haven for their billionaire cronies

**ABOLISH WATER CHARGES NOW**  
**REPEAL THE 8<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT**  
**SOLIDARITY WITH THE BUS WORKERS**

# Support the bus workers – they are fighting for us all!

Owen McCormack

**D**ublin Bus workers, drivers and other Dublin bus employees, held a very successful 2-day strike on Thursday and Friday 8/9 September.

They have more action planned for the weeks ahead.

The bus workers have a rock solid case for their 21% pay claim over three years.

They have had no pay rise since 2008.

They have been owed a 6% pay increase since 2008.

Many Dublin Bus drivers work a thirteen hour day plus they have had cuts to their overtime payments and a reduction in staff numbers.

Meanwhile Dublin Bus made €23 million surplus over the last two years.

The supposedly neutral,



Dublin Bus pickets with Richard Boyd Barrett TD

but actually pro-employer, Labour Court recommendation of 2.75% per year for three years is completely inad-

equate, especially when the government never stops talking about 'the recovery'.

People Before Profit

TDs – Brid Smith, Gino Kenny and Richard Boyd Barrett – have been in the forefront of mobilising support for the bus

workers.

They issued a public call to Transport Minister Shane Ross and Dublin Bus to 'Pay the Drivers'

and all joined the workers on the picket lines.

Brid Smith TD, herself a former Dublin Bus worker, stated "This claim is actually quite modest considering that these workers have had no rise since 2008 and have, like every other worker in the country, faced stealth taxes and cuts.

If there a recovery, workers must feel some of the benefits too.

Hopefully their stance will inspire other groups to organise and seek decent pay rises after the years of austerity cuts"

Gino Kenny TD said "it's a farcical situation that a company is doing so well that the state agency (NTA) can take back 2 million in subsidies last year.

A company that has posted 23 million in profits since 2014 has no excuse not to deliver a meagre 5% per year for their workers"

Richard Boyd Barrett TD, pointed out that in the same week that the government is spending millions trying to help Apple not pay its taxes, it seems happy to force bus workers to strike for a pay rise after 8 years of cuts and pay freezes.

Brid Smith also supported the bus workers' claim and their strong action in debate with a IBEC Director of Employee Relations on Drivetime.

Socialist Worker urges all its readers and all workers and trade unionists to back the Dublin Bus workers and support their picket lines.

The simple fact is the more support and solidarity they receive the more they are likely to win, and the more they win the better for all of us.

After eight years of austerity, charges and pay freeze all workers need a pay rise.

## Liberties locals demand park life in Ireland's hub of adversity

Fergal Butler

**T**he Liberties and its surrounding area is one of the most historical in Dublin. It is home to the most popular tourist attraction in the country and its streets teem with places and buildings of historical interest. It is also the most densely-populated area in the country and can best be described as "Ireland's hub of austerity".

There are approximately fourteen different social services located there, including the Mendicity Institute, Simon, Focus Ireland, and An Bru. But the needs of hard-pressed local residents are not being met, especially when it comes to green space for their children to play in and for adults to relax in.

Demand for a local park at Bridgefoot Street and Watling Street has become a focal point for residents' demands for green space. The derelict six-acre site is at the heart of an ongoing battle between residents and unelected Council officials. Despite promises and support from local councillors and TDs, Council officials intend to build modular housing on the site to the alarm of locals who are concerned that this type of housing is substandard and is jeopardising investment in an already at risk and disadvantaged community.

Last May, a motion was



put down by BPP Councillor Tina McVeigh to have the Bridgefoot site re-zoned for recreational use and it seemed to secure the future of the Park, after winning the votes of most of the councillors for the area. However, unelected Dublin City Council officials are ignoring the vote claiming they are under pressure to build modular housing on site.

Last November the Bridgefoot Park Committee was formed and they meet every Tuesday in the Mendicity Institute and have tirelessly campaigned on this issue. The BPC is acutely aware of the need for housing and services for vulnerable individuals in the area but are furious that unelected officials are

ghettoising adversity in an area which is already under great strain.

Councillor Tina McVeigh, who has been campaigning on this issue alongside local residents, has suggested that the whole process of local democracy is under threat if the park idea is not realised. The Council has said they would consult with the Bridgefoot Street Park Committee before any decisions were made. The Committee has repeatedly voiced its concern about the lack of consultation and requested that the Consultation Workshops - cancelled at short notice by the housing department - be immediately reinstated.

Local Resident Sylvia

Kennedy says she wants the Council to have some imagination and provide an amenity for her children and wants to see more affluent areas take their share of social services. There is 0.7 sq. metres green space per resident in the area. The World Health Organisation recommends that every citizen should have immediate access to 9 sq. metres. In very sharp contrast, Dublin 6 and Dublin 4 have 12 sq. metres per resident.

Residents are getting very organised in their fight. A series of community events for the site are planned and so far, 2000 signatures in support of the Bridgefoot Street Park have been collected. The local SWP branch has also been active in the campaign and will continue to support local residents. They also have the support of local businesses and recently, held a fundraising event attended by over 200 people which raised over €700.

A park at Bridgefoot Street will hugely help locals and coming generations cope with the adversity in their community. It will only strengthen and develop individuals, families and community groups in the process. Shouldn't our Council Officials have these aspirations for the community they supposedly serve?

## Corbyn set for Victory

John Molyneux

**J**eremy Corbyn is clearly heading for victory in the British Labour leadership election. All the signs suggest he has an unassailable lead over his challenger Owen Smith and will probably win by a landslide.

This is despite truly extraordinary attempts by the anti-Corbyn Labour NEC to suspend, expel and refuse to register huge numbers of existing and would be Labour members.

Normally political parties try to attract members, not so the Labour NEC. They would rather shrink the Party than allow in potential Corbyn supporters. The excuses used have been truly farcical: 'You once tweeted support for the Green Party', 'Your Facebook postings show you don't share Labour values' meaning show signs of left wing ideas and so on.

Those expelled include veteran trade unionists and people who have been members all their lives.

Despite this sickening witchhunt the Labour Party has grown massively since Corbyn became leader and now has 500,000 members making it probably the



Corbyn Rally in Ramsgate

largest political party in Europe.

And it is on the basis of left wing ideas and grass roots left wing enthusiasm. The main feature of Corbyn's campaign has been huge public rallies all over the country, including some in the most unlikely places: for example 3000 in Ramsgate in Kent, normally thought of as UKIP territory.

The Corbyn phenomenon fuelled by rage at the Tories' vicious austerity and excitement at the possibility of an alternative is infuriating and perplexing the establishment, the media and the Labour Blairites. Not for a moment have they stopped flinging mud at Corbyn.

But so far nothing has worked and Owen Smith has proved an inept and

unpleasant opponent.

Unfortunately this doesn't make it all plain sailing for Corbyn. Even if he secures a resounding victory on 24 September the Parliamentary Labour Party will not drop their opposition and they may either sit their sabotaging him in Westminster or alternatively organise an electorally damaging split.

And if Corbyn wins a general election the British ruling class and state will really set about undermining him.

So for British socialists the key task is to back Corbyn up with mass resistance – real people power – on the streets and in the workplaces – and to involve his supporters in ongoing grassroots campaigning.

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## WHAT THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STANDS FOR

Capitalism is wrecking the lives of millions and endangering the planet. A new society can only be constructed when the workers take control of the wealth and plan its production and distribution for human need and not profit.

**REVOLUTION**  
The present system cannot be patched up or reformed. The courts, the army and police exist to defend the interests of the wealthy.

To destroy capitalism, we need to remove the present state structures and create a workers' state based on much

greater political and economic democracy.

**AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND WAR**

War is a constant feature of capitalism today as the imperialist powers try to dominate the earth.

The "War on Terrorism" is a crude device to attack any country which threatens US military, strategic or economic dominance.

**END RACISM AND OPPRESSION**  
We oppose all forms of oppression and racism. This divides and weakens the

working class.

We are for full social, economic and political equality for women.

We oppose immigration controls which are always racist.

**FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH**

We stand for workers unity against the Assembly politicians and Cameron government.

Like great socialist James Connolly, we believe that partition has brought about a 'carnival of reaction'

We want to see an Irish workers republic where all

workers gain.

Our flag is neither green nor orange but red!

**FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**

To win socialism socialists need to organise in a revolutionary party.

This party needs to argue against right-wing ideas and for overthrowing the system.

We call for co-operation between left-wing parties and the formation of a strong socialist bloc.

We stand for fighting trade unions and for independent rank and file action.

## Join the Socialists

Fill in the form and send to  
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# Rotten Apple – Rotten Government



Brian O'Boyle

Last month's Apple judgement strikes at the heart of Irish capitalism. Since the late 1950s, Irish policy makers have used incredibly low corporation tax rates to encourage foreign companies to invest here.

Since the 1990s, this policy has increasingly meant offering the Irish Financial Services Centre (IFCS) as a global hub for tax evasion. Ireland is now little more than a glorified money launderer.

This is the judgement of the European Commission in relation to two sweetheart deals made with Apple in 1991 and 2007. These deals allowed Apple to incorporate two legal entities that had no other purpose than to receive profits from sales outside Ireland and the USA.

The profits were made around the world, before being declared in Ireland and moved off shore to be 'tax liable nowhere'. From 2003-2014 the amount of profit was €104 billion and the rate of tax paid was often as low as 0.005%.

This is the very definition of state aid no matter how loudly the establishment protest. Imagine the shoe was on the other foot. Every worker in Ireland set up a shell company to allow them to route their income through France and then off shore to pay no taxes.

How might the Irish Revenue Commissioners respond? Would the state allow the French to say that they were merely applying domestic taxation laws – obviously not?

This is a clear case of the Irish rich begging their European neighbours and getting caught. This will cause them major problems.

## Increasing Contradictions

In order to attract US multinationals the Irish rich have historically traded on two big advantages – the lowest corporate tax rate in the OECD and unfettered access to European markets. Over the last forty years they have managed to remain at the heart of the European Union even as they



captured investment at the expense of their neighbours. Business taxes are considerably lower here than in France or Germany and everyone knows it.

This explains why the Irish elites were so willing to accept €64 billion in illegitimate European banking debt. When the ECB governor, Jean Claude Trichet, stated that a financial bomb would go off in Dublin he was appealing directly to the naked

self-interest of the Irish capitalist classes. The basic calculation was very simple - force your workers to pay off our banking debts or lose your cherished place in the European Monetary Union.

The Irish establishment duly obliged, slashing billions from wages and welfare whilst reminding the population of the need to support our European partners. The resulting austerity pushed Ireland to

the bottom of the OECD leagues tables in terms of child poverty, deprivation and inequality. This was a small price to pay for the rich themselves, however, who were roundly applauded for their ability to make the population pay.

This time around it is the interests of the rich that are being threatened. By finding against Ireland in a case of state aid, the EU is sending out the message that their

'beggar your neighbour' tax haven policies are coming to an end. This puts the Irish rich into a bind. Either they remain in the EU and lose most of their tax advantages, or they leave and risk losing multinationals worried about access to European markets.

## Telling lies

This explains why a government so willing to support the EU during the bank bailout is now so willing to move against them. Michael O'Leary captured their mood when suggesting that Ireland should tell the EU to f\*ck off. Other less abrasive voices have backed this sentiment with calls to defend the integrity of the Revenue Commissioners – the very people who never lifted a finger to stop the rich avoiding their taxes during the Ansbacher scandal.

Since the size of the judgement became known the establishment have been engaged in wholesale lying. Between €13-€19 billion would go a very long way in a country ravaged by austerity, meaning that the case for refusing the money had to be constructed by any means necessary.

Michael Noonan immediately claimed that EU was picking on Ireland; that this was a one-off case and that the money could only be used to pay down the national debt. In reality, this is one of more than a thousand cases; the Commission is looking at others involving Ireland and the state can spend them money on whatever it likes.

Noonan also claims that this ruling constitutes a threat to our 12.5% corporate tax rate when the ruling actually asks the state to collect – you've guessed it – 12.5%. For now the state has kicked for touch, establishing an appeal that will last for years. But from here on out, they will have significant problems as every cut will rightly be seen as avoidable had they chosen to take this money.

When the EU come back looking for water changes in 12 months' time, it will be virtually impossible for Fine Gael to say there is 'nothing we can do'. Apple has created an ongoing problem for the Irish establishment that will only increase with the fullness of time.

AVERAGE RENT NATIONWIDE NOW AT AN

ALL TIME HIGH

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## Rent Controls Now!

The housing and homelessness crisis gets worse by the day. The Simon Communities have stated that the national figures, released for July, show that there are 6,525 people in emergency accommodation; a year-on-year increase of 40%. This includes 2,348 children, a year-on-year increase of 70%.

Pat Doyle, chief executive of the Peter McVerry Trust has said 'the problem of homelessness is out of control'.

And as a result of the chronic shortages of supply landlords are driving the price of rented accommodation through the roof. Rents are now higher than at the high point of the Celtic Tiger bubble.

Already in June of this year average rents in Dublin stood at €1454 per month for an apartment and €1,306 for an apartment, with figures considerably higher than that in the more affluent parts of the city. By now they are higher still.

And yet the Fine Gael government which is happy to reject €13 billion taxes owed by Apple fails to take emergency action.

As Socialist Worker and People Before Profit have argued all along the Government should declare a National Housing Emergency and introduce rent controls immediately.

Rathmines People Before Profit have called an emergency protest demanding 'Rent controls now!' for Saturday 1 October 2pm.

The Simon Communities in Ireland have said that newly released emergency accommodation figures are the highest since records began.

The chief executive of one of Ireland's leading homelessness charities has said the "problem of homelessness is now out of control" commenting after figures released last night showed an increase of 40% in the number of people in emergency accommodation.

Speaking on RTE's Morning Ireland about the charity's latest annual report, Mr Doyle said it faced "enormous challenges" after a huge increase in demand for its services last year.

### RELATED AUDIO & VIDEO

■ Watch: Peter McVerry Trust reports 40% increase in number of people seeking emergency accommodation

## PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

### RENT CONTROLS NOW!

#### Protest March

Sat. 1st Oct. 2pm  
The Swan Centre,  
Rathmines

Tackle Housing Crisis:  
Rent Controls Now

Text JOIN to 087 283 9964.

■ Watch: Peter McVerry Trust says 2015 was busiest ever year

Last year was its busiest year on record.

Mr Doyle said spiraling rents are the primary reason for the surge in demand for services, and is calling on the Government to purchase vacant private housing stock in order to increase supply.

The overall number supported in the charity's housing services rose by 40% compared to 2014, and the Trust helped 171 young people move into their own homes, the largest number in a year to date.

New national figures for July have shown that more than 6,500 people are using emergency accommodation, a year on year increase of 40%.

The Simon Communities in Ireland has said the figures show that the Government must urgently implement the Rebuilding Ireland action plan.

"We worked with about 4,500 people last year and only housed 171 of those," said Mr Doyle. "So what we want to see is less emergency beds and more housing."

## Marxism Festival – Book Now!

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This year's Marxism Festival in Dublin on 4-6 November looks set to be a very exciting event. There is an excellent line up of outstanding meetings and speakers. These include:

- \* **When Governments Lie: the fight for truth and justice**  
With Gareth Pierce – famous human rights lawyer  
Sheila Coleman – of Hillsborough Justice Campaign  
Eamonn McCann MLA
- \* **Racism and Resistance in the 21st Century**  
With John Connors, actor and Traveller activist  
Keeanga – Yamatta Taylor, US author  
Memet Uludag of United Against Racism
- \* **Israel: Apartheid State**  
With Ilan Pappé, Ghada Karmi, and Richard Boyd Barrett TD

And much more. See the full time table at <https://www.facebook.com/MarxismFestival/>

Tickets: waged €12/£10 unwaged €6/£5

To book go to: Eventbrite: Marxism Dublin

or contact 0867400963 (South) Or 07572540489 (North).

# #socialism 1.01

John Moynaux

## Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!

The demand for jobs – for the right to work – has always been fundamental for trade unionists, for socialists and for the whole working class movement.

The simple fact is that having a job is vital for lifting working people out of dire poverty, giving them a sense of self esteem, linking them to other workers and developing their potential to fight back.

Yet at the same time it is clear that in Ireland today the slogan of 'Jobs!' is more and more being used by the political establishment for right wing, reactionary and anti-working class purposes.

The Apple scam is the latest example of this. "We can't expect Apple to pay any tax because this would threaten jobs."

But actually Enda Kenny and Fine Gael fought their election

service.

So the choice between Apple's 6000 jobs and the huge number of jobs and vast social benefits that could be created with €13 billion is a no-brainer.

However, there's more to it than this. The fact is that any corrupt, rotten, inhuman and unacceptable practice is likely to involve some people working in it and so can be, and will be, defended on the grounds of jobs.

A poison gas factory in the middle of Tallaght, a concentration camp in West Cork, an oil rig in the middle of Dublin Bay – they are all by definition 'local jobs for local people'.

Apart from the oil rig in Dublin Bay, an actual proposal, these are imaginary examples to show the logic of the argument.

But they are not that far fetched. In Britain the Tories and Blairites defended spending

crucially, profits for the boss. It is precisely through employing workers and exploiting them by invariably paying them less than the value of the work they perform that bosses make profits in the first place.

So when Enda Kenny or Richard Bruton talk about creating jobs and present themselves as social benefactors they expect working class people to hear "wages" and be grateful but they also know that their business cronies will hear "profits" and also be grateful.

This is why they are so keen on the jobs slogan. It masks the conflict between classes and seems to please both sides at once.

But next time you hear the 'jobs' slogan, and it won't be long, remember these basic things: a) it's not true multinational corporations 'create jobs', humans worked



campaign partly on the jobs slogan and government ministers never stop saying their priority is jobs.

So this is an argument we need to grasp and be ready for.

### Bogus

In the case of Apple it's fairly easy because it's so obviously bogus. Apple employs only 6000 people in this country – that's less than Paddy Power (7000) and less than half of either Tesco or Dunnes (14,000 each). Just €1 billion investment generates at least 10,000 decently paid sustainable jobs plus those jobs can be used to perform socially vital tasks like building social housing and improving the health

€135 billion on Trident – an instrument of unbelievable mass murder – with precisely the argument about jobs in the 'defence' industry.

So giving in to the jobs argument just leaves us open to blackmail that can be used to excuse every crime under the sun.

### Profits

But why is it always jobs the establishment politicians go on about and not other things working class people need. They don't say, 'Wages! Wages! Wages!' or 'Houses! Houses! Houses!'.

The answer is that any job involves an employee/ worker but also an employer/ boss. It means wages for the worker but also,

for thousands of years before such a thing as a corporation existed; b) what they have done is not create jobs but corner the market in them by controlling the wealth and the means of production; c) the only reason Apple or any of the rest of them employ people is to make a profit out of them and if it stops being profitable they lay them off without a backward glance. Remember Clerys and Vita Cortex!

But then it is precisely because Apple are making so much profit out of their operation in Ireland that they, along with Starbucks, Google, Facebook and the rest, are unlikely to quit even if they are

# Repeal the 8th to force referendum

Marnie Holborow, People Before Profit Pro-Choice Campaign

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service has said it will provide a free after-care helpline to women in the Republic and Northern Ireland who have bought abortion pills on line.

The agency said that while adverse effects of the abortion pill were unlikely, they were concerned that women might not always seek help when they needed it because taking the pills in Ireland was an illegal act.

This must be a relief for lots of Irish women now using abortion pills. But it highlights the disgraceful situation of these services not being offered in Ireland.

Pregnancy agencies in Britain recognise that the illegal situation of abortion here puts women at risk, yet authorities in Ireland simply do not care.

The offence of procuring abortion, under the 2013 the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill 2013 carries a potential 14-year jail term.

In Northern Ireland administering a drug to induce miscarriage is a crime. Earlier this year, a 21 year old woman was given a suspended sentence in Belfast after she bought drugs online to induce a miscarriage.

Medical abortion involves taking two sets of pills: mifepristone which detaches the pregnancy from the lining of the womb and then misoprostol which causes the women to contract and expel the foetus.

This option has increased because the cost of travel to the UK, including treatment and accommodation means that many women cannot raise the money to go. Yet surgical abortion takes a short amount of time, is more effective than medical abortion and has less after effects.

Irish women face all these barriers because of the 8th Amendment to the Constitution. Article 40.3.3 which equates the right to life of the so-called 'unborn' to the right to life of the so called 'mother' –



Outside Parnell's GAA Coolock, People before Profit hold the meeting they should have held

both loaded terms - means that abortion in all circumstances is outlawed.

The wording reflects the teaching of one religion – the Catholic Church. The amendment was added at a time when the Church still ruled Irish society and politicians pandered to their every wish – and, as we know now, turned a blind eye to what was going on behind the scenes.

The government is still hypocritical today. Irish women are as likely as any other women in Europe to seek abortions, even though they are illegal here. Yet the government pretends it is not happening.

At the end of August, two Irish women who went to Manchester for an abortion live-tweeted the trip to highlight the ban on the procedure at home and called for change. Minister Simon Harris had the

nerve to tweet that he had sympathy with the women. Yet his government is purposely delaying repealing the 8th Amendment so as not to upset the Fine Gael backwoodsmen.

But things have changed a lot since the 1980s. Today 73% believe that the new government should hold a referendum on repeal of the Eighth Amendment. In March of this year, A Red C poll commissioned by Amnesty International found that 87% of respondents want abortion access expanded and 71% believe abortion should be decriminalised. The fact that the Sydney Rose of Tralee declared her support for Repeal is a sign of how much things have moved on.

It is important that pressure is kept up on the government to repeal the

## Anger at Burkini ban on French beaches

The ban on burkinis in some French towns, introduced in August, continues to cause controversy.

Photos of armed police forcing a Muslim woman to remove her burkini on a beach caused justified anger around the world.

Despite widespread support for the ban from many prominent politicians – including the prime minister Manuel Valls and former president Sarkozy – the ban was quickly overturned by Frances highest court in late August with most towns revoking the ban.

Some however are still continuing, a court in Corsica has upheld the ban for reasons of "public safety" after a confrontation involving a Muslim family ended with a racist mob attempting to march through a predominantly North African area.

Proponents of the ban have justified it variously as a hygiene matter, a security measure or a measure to "liberate" Muslim women – it is hard to pick which excuse is more ridiculous.

The reality is that the ban is



Armed police force Muslim woman to undress on French beach

yet another islamophobic attack in the same vein as other French bans on the full face veil and bans on wearing religious symbols in

schools.

While other minorities have been affected by these bans, for example a Sikh student who was banned

# People power Referendum now!



decision was met with a street meeting of angry women and men.

PBP Councillor John Lyons said that the GAA cancelling the meeting was a disgraceful denial of free speech. "Yet again conservative forces in Ireland prefer to bury these issues and a new generation of young people are denied the right to discuss them"

This weak government want to delay things as long as they can. We need to mobilise as many forces as we can to ensure that Repeal carries the day. We want to see people power on the streets, outside TD's clinics, on campuses and putting the pressure on the government to commit to a referendum as soon as possible.

■ **Join us in supporting the Annual March For Choice** organised by the **Abortion Rights Campaign** on **September 24th**. The march will be leaving from the Garden of Remembrance at 1.30 pm. We will be meeting outside the Teachers Club **The Annual March For Choice has been growing massively over the years and this is likely to be the biggest one yet!**

■ **Add your voice to the Repeal The 8th Movement and march alongside People Before Profit before we put our bill before Dáil Eireann to demand a referendum**

■ **Join the event page on the Abortion Rights Campaign - <https://www.facebook.com/events/1733115056947687/?ti=cl>**

We need a referendum to Repeal the 8th Amendment to remove the main obstacle to Irish women controlling their fertility and having equal access to healthcare.

A new generation of young women need to be freed from the chains of conservatism and given the right to choose.

Last year showed that the same sex marriage referendum galvanised a massive yes vote. It blew apart the idea that the Irish are inherently conservative and working class areas – Jobstown, Coolock and Ballyfermot – returned 'yes' votes of over 80%.

Conservative forces will do all they can to drive pro-choicers back. In Coolock, on 24th August, the local GAA club banned a meeting organised by People Before Profit calling for Repeal. But their

from liberating for Muslim women, those who choose to wear the veil find themselves barred from the public sphere while for the minuscule number who have been coerced or forced to wear the veil it is hard to imagine that a ban will result in the person forcing them to simply turn around and say wear what you want so.

In fact the burkini, a name coined as a combination of burka and bikini, has much more in common with the bikini than the burka.

It originated in Australia in the early 2000's when a Libyan born fashion designer created one for her niece as a more comfortable option when participating in school sports.

Far from the oppressive caricature painted by the racist right the whole purpose of the garment is to allow Muslim women to participate more easily in western society while still preserving their faith.

Of course these bans didn't arise in a vacuum nor are they a consequence of some innate racist tendency in French people.

The bans are particularly nasty

legacy of French imperialism – particularly in predominantly Muslim countries in North Africa such as Tunisia and Algeria.

To justify French rule, and the violence employed to maintain it, it was necessary to deamonise Muslims.

This deamonisation and "othering" of Muslims in France continues at a state level and is evident in everything from housing through to education and health care.

As socialists we must oppose any attempts to control women, there is no fundamental difference between the Saudi state forcing women to wear veils and the French state forcing women to remove burkinis.

We also know that to truly defeat racism we need to challenge the ruling class who use it to keep us divided, weather that is through the state and its laws or through the media.

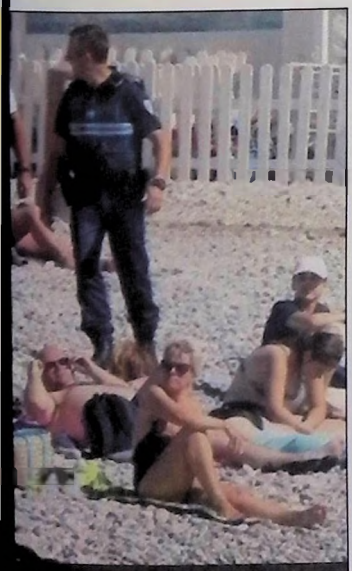
It is only by uniting the struggles of all oppressed groups that we can win a world where people are free live – and dress – as they themselves wish.

8th Amendment immediately. The citizens' assembly, which will consist of 99 citizens picked randomly from the population under the direction of a retired judge, is a stalling tactic and a farce.

The government is delighted, apparently, that this phoney forum will be live-streamed. Why don't they let the issue be decided in full light of day in the Dáil?

Anti Austerity Alliance- People Before Profit TDs are putting forward a bill to call for a referendum in October 2016. We should put other TDs – Independents and Fianna Fáil – under pressure to vote with the bill.

The government needs to wake up to the real world. It needs to realise that people want to have a say on this issue.



from wearing a turban in school, the simple reality is that these laws specifically target Muslims.

The net effect of these laws is far



## Gerry Carroll MLA says

### BDS-WE HAVE TO KEEP UP PRESSURE

UEFA's recent attempt to ban Celtic fans from flying Palestine flags at their home leg of the club's Champions League tie with Hapoel Tel-Aviv and the recent meeting of Sinn Féin with representatives of the Likud party have once again brought the question of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel to the fore.

At a recent panel debate at the West Belfast Feile – a political and cultural festival in the community- Sinn Féin TD Eoin O' Broin, when asked whether his party should meet representatives of the Israeli state, argued that "dialogue was key" and that he would meet with "any one of his enemies".

The call for BDS came directly out

of the Israeli parties who support the continued occupation of Palestine is completely indefensible and should not take place. It undermines the BDS campaign. But furthermore, it is a slap in the face for activists who campaign and call for boycott and it sets back the movements aims. Israel is seeking legitimacy in a world of growing hostility to its actions. Sitting down and hob-knobbing with representatives of Israel gives the state the legitimacy it craves.

Apartheid

The birth of the BDS movement was inspired by the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Imagine a Sinn Féin politician arguing in the 1980's for "dialogue" or "diplomacy" for a state that refused rights for its citizens, whilst millions across the world called for



Celtic fans fly Palestinian flags at match against Hapoel Beer.

of Palestine, when 170 organisations in Palestine launched the campaign back in 2005. Since then there has been widespread support from trade unions in Ireland and Britain and prominent figures such as Desmond Tutu, Naomi Klein, Roger Waters, Lauryn Hill and others.

#### Strategic threat

The truth is that the BDS campaign has the Israeli state terrified with Prime Minister Netanyahu outlining it as a strategic threat to Israel on a par with the threat from Iran's nuclear weapon programme.

Israel is a colonial settler state and relies on financial and political support chiefly from the US but also Britain, France and the EU amongst others. The BDS campaign exposes the lie that Israel is a normal and democratic state, as it continues to deny basic rights to the Palestinians who were expelled from the land.

It also gives concrete political expression and a focus to the sentiment that exists across the world to stand by the Palestinian people. Companies, governments and artists are put under pressure by activists not to work with, travel to or do business with the state because of its actions.

Shaking hands with Israeli ambassadors, diplomats or organising meetings with political representatives

boycott and sanctions. Why do it now?

Palestinians are denied voting rights, the right to return, and face daily harassment and murder from the IDF. Whilst the situation isn't exactly the same, there are strong parallels between Apartheid in Israel and South Africa. It was both international pressure with a boycott campaign and the rising of the workers in South Africa that broke apartheid up.

The vast majority of Sinn Féin voters and members support the people of Palestine in their struggle against apartheid and imperialist occupation. They attend demonstrations and events that express this position.

However this can't be used to hide behind the fact that party leaders and representatives have continually broken the call for boycott. Israel needs international isolation not handshakes and backslaps.

No amount of platitudes about diplomacy or exporting the "lessons of the peace-process" can be used to justify meeting with representatives of the Likud party- a party whose member Uzi Cohen openly called for "ethnic cleansing of non-Jews in Israel" and a "final solution" for Palestinians, and whose leader Netanyahu continues with a policy of collective punishment and the blocking of humanitarian supplies to Gaza.

■ **Dundalk FC are due to play Maccabi Tel Aviv at Tallaght on 29 Sept. Irish Palestine Solidarity Campaign are holding a protest: Love Football Hate Apartheid. Thursday 29 7pm Outside Tallaght Stadium, Whitestown Way, Tallaght, Dublin 24.**

Socialist Worker urges its readers to support this protest.

■ **The Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC) will hold a peaceful protest at the Dundalk FC vs Maccabi Tel Aviv match in Tallaght Stadium on Thursday 29th September. The protest starts at 7pm and will take place outside the stadium, with the aim of highlighting the BDS call for the expulsion of the Israeli FA from FIFA and UEFA due to Israel's ongoing human rights abuses against the Palestinian people, including Palestinian sportspeople.**



# The Fall of the House of Hickey

Eamonn McCann, MLA

**T**he initial reaction of many in Ireland to the arrest in Brazil of Irish Olympic Committee president Pat Hickey was to smile – or even to remark in satisfied tones that it had been a long time coming.

Hickey and his sidekicks have been swanning around the world “representing” Irish sport for many years, attending conferences and events in exotic locations, staying at the most opulent hotels – a six-star billet in Rio before the dawn raid woke him up – being treated everywhere like royalty and looking down on the lower orders in return.

Just a couple of days before having his collar felt by the RIO police, Hickey had been pictured at the opening ceremony in the VIP box alongside the other big-wigs of global sport, raking a bow and waving to the cameras as the Irish athletes entered the stadium, as if ushering in his performing troupe for inspection by the elite.

When Kevin Mallon became the first Irish official to be arrested for ticket-touting, Hickey dismissed the development as a trivial matter which would soon be sorted out and carried on regardless.

When hapless sports minister Shane Ross jetted down to Rio promising to get to the bottom of whatever was afoot, Hickey told him to bugger off: this was for “the Olympic family” to deal with.

The Corleone Family never attained this level of arrogance.

## Chiefs

But then, globe-trotting sports chiefs have been getting away with this sort of thing for decades.

As recently as 2014 in the same city, it emerged that the 28 members of the Fifa executive had each found a bejewelled watch worth £16,000 when they checked into their sumptuous rooms for the month-long World Cup finals.

The gifts had come from one of the sponsors of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), which had been chosen by the Executive to host the multibillion-dollar extravaganza.

Jim Boyce was handed one of these fabulous timepieces. He’s the former chairman of the north Belfast Irish League side Cliftonville.

He rose to become Fifa vice-president under Sepp Blatter on the strength of



Hickey and his wife with Vladimir Putin in 2014

a little-known twist in football governance – the “right” of the “Home Nations”, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland always to be represented at vice-presidential level... football being a British invention, apparently.

Half a dozen of the 28 executive members handed the watches back. Two complained to Fifa’s Ethics Committee. But Jim held on to the bauble until last year, when the sordid shenanigans which had become standard practice under Blatter burst into public view.

Jim explained that, while others might have seen the gift as improperly over-generous, this just hadn’t occurred to him. The pricey item had slipped his mind until the Geneva police carried out a

dawn raid on a six-star hotel and collared a number of alleged Fifa miscreants. At this point, Jim found the watch! In a gift bag! Which he’d somehow inadvertently left in his garage.

“Dammit!” he probably remarked, hitting himself on the side of the head with the heel of his hand. “So that’s where that wee watch was all along!”

## Dawn raids

Nothing much has been heard since of the Fifa adventures of Jim the Jewel. Nor has there been any raucous mirth at Jim’s assurances that in more than a decade at Blatter’s side he never witnessed or even suspected dodgy behaviour by the football supremo.

Dawn raids on suspected corruption seem to come as standard practice in some countries. Not here, though. North or South.

Of course, there is wider and deeper corruption in both Brazil and Switzerland. What’s different about major sports is that they present themselves as a clean alternative rather than an adjunct to the greasy world of rapacious capitalism.

Hence all the blather about “the Olympic family” and football bringing nations together in celebration of a common humanity.

It isn’t fanciful to see a connection between the sense of immunity IOC and Fifa officials and the casual disregard for the law and for any system of right and

wrong on the part of the fixers and fraudsters behind the Nama affair.

Capitalism pursues profit into every area and aspect of human life. As it draws sport into its mesh, it automatically infects the IOC, Fifa etc. with the sordid cynicism of which it is a carrier.

Even if the Rio and Geneva jails become ram-packed with rogues from international sports federations, nothing fundamental will change until grass-roots sportsmen and women assert themselves and get rid of the money-grubbers and glory-hunters intent on turning the natural enthusiasm of millions of sports-lovers into a funding stream for an indolent minority for whom the bottom line is the only score-sheet that matters.

# Neither Clinton nor Trump, but Jill Stein!

Becca Bor, an US socialist living in Derry analyses the US Presidential election

**W**ith the presidential election in the United States two months away, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are tied in the polls.

This is because progressives are not excited about Clinton and the right is enthusiastic about Trump. Clinton is the second most unpopular presidential candidate on record, second only to Trump.

This election reflects the absolute disgust that the electorate has with the worsening economy and the distrust of the “inside Washington” politician.

For this reason, the outsiders – Trump and Bernie Sanders – each captured the imagination of their bases.

Trump trounced the mainstream Republican primary candidates because he claimed he couldn’t be bought by Washington since he was too wealthy.

The Republican leadership did not want Trump as their candidate, but couldn’t unite to defeat him.

Trump used the populist sentiment of anger towards the status quo and whipped up racist scapegoating and, at times, physical violence towards immigrants, Muslims, African Americans, and women.

His supporters are the same older,



Jill Stein arrested after bank occupation in Pennsylvania

whiter, and wealthier voters that flocked to the Tea Party.

## Blighted

Additionally, his support comes from areas that have been blighted by the loss of industry and mining, that have seen no reinvestment, and are in the midst of one of the largest heroin epidemics the US has seen.

These voters think Washington has forgotten them, and, in generally white areas, often buy into racist interactions.

Bernie Sanders captured the hopes

and dreams of many calling for a “political revolution.”

He took aim at the big corporations and Wall St.

He filled stadiums with mainly young, multi-racial voters who have been radicalised by the politics of the Occupy Movement, Fight for 15, and Black Lives Matter. From the beginning, the Democratic machine was hell-bent against him and used everything in their power – to undermine his campaign. Unfortunately though Bernie excited

a generation of voters, he also pledged that if Clinton were to get the nomination, he would endorse her.

This left millions of excited voters demoralised. Hillary Clinton, represents everything that Sanders set out to campaign against. So when Sanders pledged to support her at the end of the day, he pledged to support the exact policies he was against.

Clinton is the embodiment of the establishment.

She defends Wall St. and large corporations. She supports expanding the US military; as Secretary of State she escalated military operations in Libya and Syria and orchestrated a coup in Honduras.

She referred to African Americans as super-predators and helped her husband push through some of the most damaging legislation for Black America – including ending Welfare and supporting the Violent Crime and Enforcement Act which funded prisons and created mandatory minimum sentencing, which ballooned incarceration rates, particularly amongst Black men.

Clinton is the candidate of those CEOs and bankers wedded to corporate America; the Democratic Party apparatus which wants to forge ahead with a pro-austerity neoliberal economic plan; the pro-military wing that trusts her with the American Empire over the irrationality of Trump;

and a number of feminists who support Clinton because of her gender rather than her record of women’s rights which is poor.

## Alternative

Fortunately there is a real left alternative. Jill Stein, the Green Party candidate – who bears no similarity to Eamon Ryan and the Irish Greens – has made an impressive appeal for Sanders supporters to back her presidential campaign.

She represents a genuine left-wing alternative to the two parties of the US ruling class. She consistently campaigns for the rights of workers, women, African Americans, immigrants, Native Americans, LGBTQ folks and for eco-socialism, redistribution of wealth and an end to US militarism.

Stein’s problem is the pull of the ‘lesser evil’ argument that ‘We must vote Clinton to keep out Trump’

The problem for the left is this argument is, and always has been used, to whip socialists and radicals into line behind the Democratic Party thus perpetually preventing the emergence of a substantial left alternative.

It is tragic that Sanders chose to endorse Clinton rather than continuing to campaign as an independent socialist but given this happened the left should fight for the future through grassroots campaigning and supporting Jill Stein on November 8.

# You Jung Han: victim of state racism

Joe Moore

On Monday August 22nd You Jung Han, a Korean resident of the Kinsale Road direct provision centre in Cork, tragically ended her life. She leaves behind a six year old son. Her friends and neighbours in the centre are deeply shocked and traumatised by the young woman's death.

At the time of writing this article, nine days later, no psychologist has visited the centre to offer counselling to the residents. This is in sharp contrast to the manner in which non asylum seekers are treated by the state, in the aftermath of such tragedies. In the eyes of the state asylum seekers are not regarded as being legally resident in

the country.

On the Wednesday evening residents of the centre and their supporters gathered to pay their respects to You Jung Han. Flowers were laid at the main entrance and the entourage then moved silently, with lighted candles, to Block 2, where You and her son lived. The candles were placed in a circle on the ground outside her room. Christian and Muslim prayers were said.

Anuli then addressed the mourners. Anuli was given residency last year after spending 10 years in the direct provision system. Both her children were born and spent their formative years in the system.

She spoke of life in direct provision and the mental strain it puts on people. Anuli stated that "depression affects a

higher percentage of asylum seekers than is experienced in the wider community. You Jung Han's death could have been avoided if she had been allowed to live in the community and had full access to medical services."

## Organise

Lucky Khambule of MASI (Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland) also spoke. He said that the immediate task was to mourn for You Jung Han and for the residents to get closure.

He urged the residents to organise themselves and demand better conditions and services. He stated that direct provision and deportation must end in order for people to be able to live a normal life.

He compared receiving a deportation order as like a noose being put around your neck but not knowing when the stool would be kicked from under you.

At least 62 asylum seekers have died in direct provision since 2000.

The reason for the unavailability of accurate statistics is that the Dept. of Justice does not hold data on these deaths. There are no records of these people's names, nationalities or causes of their deaths. As far as the Irish state is concerned, these people never existed.

That is why it is vital that we remember You Jung Han and how she died. We must ensure that hers will be the last death in the direct provision system. We can do that by building a mass campaign of asylum seekers and their supporters against direct



provision and deportation.

■ United Against Racism is organizing a public rally on Saturday, 12 November, 13:30 in Central Dublin, venue to be confirmed, as part of its campaign to end

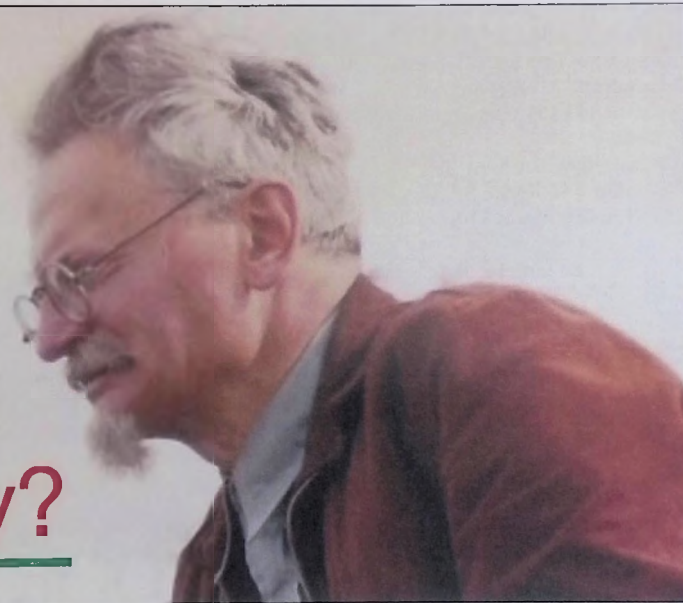
the End Direct Provision System

This rally will be an important event in the ongoing campaign and UAR welcomes all groups, individuals and organisations supporting this call.

**PUBLIC RALLY:  
END DIRECT PROVISION  
SYSTEM  
#ENDDP | SAT, 12 NOV | 13:30**



## Who was Leon Trotsky?



The Russian revolutionary leader has been in the news recently as British Labour Party Blairites have been denouncing Corbyn supporters as 'Trotskyite entrists'. Against this background James Granell reviews Trotsky's autobiography 'My Life'.

Leon Trotsky's *My Life* is a remarkable work. First published in 1930 while Trotsky was living in exile in Constantinople; the book demonstrates how his life was inseparably bound up with some

of the most important events of the early twentieth century.

Crucially, Trotsky was the only Bolshevik leader to write his memoirs and thus provides the reader with a fascinating perspective of one of the

greatest events of world history.

Trotsky was born Lev Davidovich Bronstein on 7 November 1879, in what is now Ukraine. His family were well-to-do farmers of Jewish origin.

Educated in Odessa, he first became involved in revolutionary activities after moving to Nikolayev in 1896.

He authored the theory of permanent revolution and anticipated the 1917

Russian Revolution. He was elected to the Petrograd Soviet in 1905 and organised the October 1917 insurrection that brought the Bolsheviks to power.

During the Civil War, 1918-1921, he led the Red Army in defence of the revolution against both internal and external counterrevolutionary forces.

The memoir begins with an account of his childhood, upbringing and education. In the final chapters of the work Trotsky deals with his attempts to defend the internationalist programme of Marxism from the Stalinist bureaucracy of the Soviet Union.

He situated the emergence of Stalinism within the context of Russia's economic isolation and backwardness, and in the series of setbacks which had been suffered by the international working class.

Interestingly, Trotsky also argued that when revolutionaries lose power it signifies either a decline in the influence of certain ideas and moods in the governing revolutionary circles, or the decline of the revolutionary mood in the masses themselves.

Or it may be both at the same time. This is the process by which Trotsky explained his fall. He located its genesis in a rejection of revolutionary principles within the party.

He argued that, 'The revolt against the exacting theoretical demands of Marxism and the exacting political demands of the revolution gradually assumed ... the form of a struggle against "Trotskyism".'

Along with his first-hand accounts of

the early Communist government, the former People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs delivered a chilling and prophetic warning of the horrors of the Stalinist regime.

This same regime had Trotsky murdered in Mexico in 1940, thus ending the life of this great advocate of permanent world revolution.

*My Life* is much more than the simple apologia of an exiled revolutionary.

By situating the various events of his life within the context of the revolutionary process, Trotsky's memoir serves as an inspiration to those of us who still struggle for international revolution.

Trotsky was a human, a man shaped by the historical process – a process he describes as 'a refraction of the historical law through the accidental'.

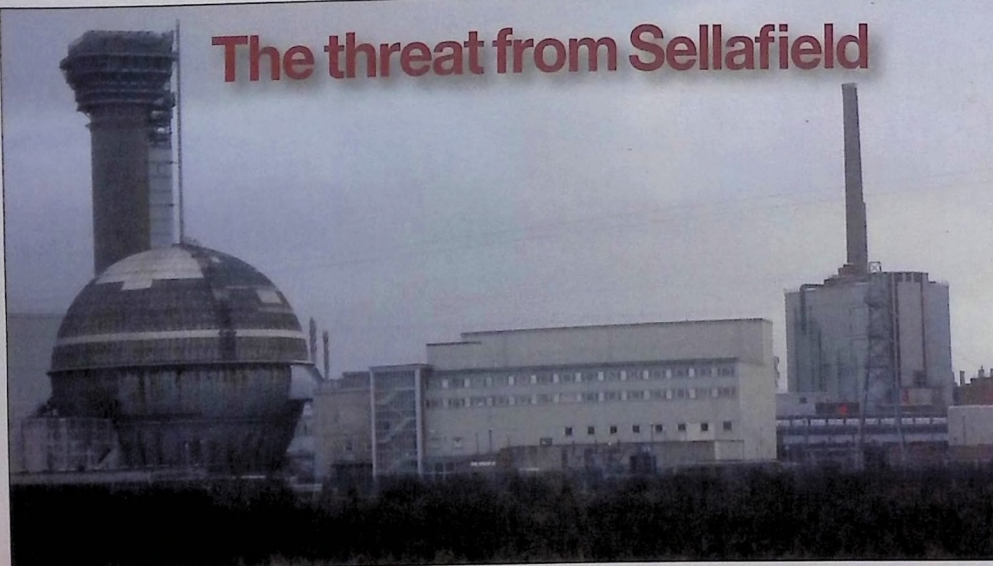
His potential to achieve remarkable victories in the face of adversity and his dedication to a set of ideals aimed at alleviating the burdens of the mass of the people are as alive in the heart in every revolutionary reader of this text as they were in the author's.

In Trotsky's own words: 'To understand the casual sequence of events and to find somewhere in the sequence one's own place – that is the first duty of the revolutionary.'

It is likely that Trotsky would be delighted that his name is still used as a label for 'radical' and 'revolutionary' and a 'disturber of the political peace'.

■ The full text of Trotsky's *My Life* is available online at <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1930/mylife/>

## The threat from Sellafield



The BBC Panorama programme (5 September) has raised serious issues about the safety of the Sellafield nuclear power station in Cumbria, just 170km from the Irish Coast.

The *Panorama* investigation was prompted by a former senior manager turned whistleblower who expressed fears about conditions there.

The programme alleged that radioactive plutonium and uranium were stored in plastic bottles at Sellafield, and the facility often did not have enough people on duty to meet minimum safety levels.

The whistleblower said his biggest fear was a fire in a nuclear waste silo or processing plant. "If there is a fire there it could generate a plume of radiological waste that will go across western Europe."

The Chernobyl disaster in the Ukraine in 1986 claimed 31 lives directly, led to the deaths of many thousands more through cancers and contaminated huge swathes of eastern Europe.

In the case of Sellafield, Ireland would be directly in the firing line and the consequences would be devastating.

Two things follow from this: the Irish Government should immediately add its voice to the many calls for Sellafield to be shut down and there should be no more talk of nuclear power as a solution to the climate crisis caused by fossil fuels – nuclear power is inherently unsafe.

Also when are we going to get some serious investigative journalism from RTÉ instead of leaving it all to the BBC?

# Socialist Worker

## The Eagle has landed

**T**he Northern Ireland Assembly is no stranger to crises and scandal. They tend to erupt regularly but, like a recurring cycle, go unresolved only to be replaced by another. Cynicism has people believe this stubborn arrangement is the price of maintaining the North's power-sharing government.

However, the scandal surrounding Project Eagle, the sale of NAMA's massive northern loan portfolio, simply keeps on giving.

The fall-out continues to engulf the political and business establishment in the North and South and is speeding up the erosion of their credibility.

A second BBC Spotlight NI documentary revealed how businessman Frank Cushnahan accepted tens of thousands in illegal payments from a northern property developer, John Miskelly. Cushnahan was appointed as an advisor to NAMA in 2010 by the DUP. Miskelly paid Cushnahan to use his position to get his assets out of NAMA.

NAMA's northern portfolio, made up of some 850 properties, was estimated to be worth £4.5 billion but was sold for less than £1.3 billion to the US based global investment firm, Cerberus Capital Management. As a result, Irish taxpayers lost out on nearly £200 million.

An earlier deal for the portfolio with PIMCO, another US based invest-



Frank Cushnahan, one of Belfast's richest businessmen

ment company, fell through after it was revealed Cushnahan and a few others were to receive £15 million in 'fees' for working on the sale.

Cerberus representatives, including former US Vice President Dan Quayle, met with Peter Robinson, DUP leader and Northern Ireland First Minister at the time, in Stormont to discuss the sale.

During a subsequent Stormont investigation Robinson denied he was set to receive millions in payments for helping push through the fire sale deal.

However, £7 million had been diverted by a Belfast based law firm involved in the portfolio to an Isle of Man account.



Martin McGuinness, Dan Quayle and Peter Robinson pose after their September 2014 meeting

In secret recordings aired on Spotlight, Cushnahan makes clear he is working with top DUP leaders Robinson and MLA Sammy Wilson to get the NAMA officials to agree to the sale.

During the Stormont investigations, Sinn Féin leader and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, claims he knew nothing about the PIMCO and Cerberus deals. This is difficult to fathom given the size of the portfolio and the amount of money involved.

### Resign

Daithi McKay was forced to resign as Sinn Féin MLA for North Antrim and chair of the Stormont Finance

committee, after it was revealed he coached Loyalist Jamie Bryson on how to expose Peter Robinson's involvement in the Project Eagle investigations.

The whole affair stinks.

Since political institutions on either side of the border are so deeply entrenched in the crisis, it can only be solved through an all-Ireland investigation.

Peter Robinson and the others involved in the Project Eagle fiasco must be held to account.

Establishment parties and institutions will set limits to any investigations in order to protect their credibility.

Only relentless pressure on the

Stormont and the Dail can deliver a full investigation that sees Peter Robinson, Frank Cushnahan and others held properly accountable.

The individual profiteering and cover-ups orchestrated by powerful political and business interests reveals the rottenness of the Irish establishment but the scandal also reveals how Ireland is integrated into an intensely exploitative global system.

Irish governments, North and South, consistently put the interests of plundering firms like Cerberus before those of millions people facing poverty and cuts.

Our campaigns against austerity and injustice need to develop into a socialist challenge to the entire system.

## Belfast Hosts Anti-Sectarian Football Cup

Seamus O'Kane

**B**elfast People Before Profit held an Anti-Sectarian Cup in the form of a 5-a-side soccer tournament on Wednesday 24th August.

Gerry Carroll MLA organised the event in response to a sectarian attack where a young man was left with a broken jaw in the Stewartstown Road area of West Belfast. The tournament took place at the local Colin Park 3G pitches and it was a very successful event with fourteen teams participating from all over Belfast.

Before the tournament commenced, the players lined up and held signs to spell out the key message: Smash Sectarianism.

Gerry Carroll MLA briefly spoke to the assembled players, telling them that "we want people coming together, we want people to stand together". He called for "an end to the divisive tactics of sectarianism" which have been a poison for too long in our society.

There was a terrific display from many teams from across the divide, including our very own People Before Profit team, PBP All Stars.

An evening with dozens of goals scored came to an end with the climactic match of Drumbo FC versus Lenadoon.

Both teams have to be congratulated on their persistent



standard of playing and endurance over several matches. Lenadoon ultimately triumphed 3-2 in what turned out to be a very close match. Lenadoon were presented with the engraved PBP Anti-Sectarian Cup

trophy and medals by Gerry Carroll who congratulated the winning team on their well-deserved victory.

Although the tournament was a lot of fun, it was also a demonstration with the serious message that

sectarianism has no place in our society.

By raising awareness of sectarian attacks occurring, we are able to challenge them in our community. This tournament was a great display

of community solidarity which showed people united against such attacks happening.

The mainstream parties perpetuate sectarianism in their narrative of Orange and Green division, intent on reaping the electoral benefits.

Their politics is one which emphasises difference rather than unity. Stormont austerity can only serve to exacerbate the sectarian nature of the Northern state and will not put an end to these attacks.

Investment and community projects are the way forward, not a decimation of public services where dwindling funding is allocated on a sectarian basis, forcing two sides of the community to compete with one another.

Indeed, with recent figures showing that only 6% of Invest NI's Belfast funding has been allocated to businesses in the West of the city, it is clear that West Belfast remains a neglected area which is being hit hardest by the growing austerity.

What is needed most is a left alternative of inclusive rather than divisive politics to heal this rift in our society.

People Before Profit are delighted by the enthusiasm shown by all participants of the tournament and the great feedback received.

After such a successful event, it is likely we will be seeing many more in the future.