

RED FLAG



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY * WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG



BUILD COMMUNIST SOCIAL RELATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' POWER

MEXICO—Thousands of city workers, farmworkers and students will take to the streets of the main cities of the world to commemorate the historic martyrs of Chicago. Mexico City will not be an exception. There is no more opportune time to realize that Communist revolution is more urgent than ever.

2019 will be the first year of the administration of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, (AMLO) who leads a process that has excited millions with the hope of a radical “transformation” in the country. An illusion that will fade with time.

AMLO puts forward that the plague of the world is corruption. One of his main objectives is to put an end to it, but he will not be able to. Corruption is inherent in the capitalist system. Officials who live lives far from the masses will put their personal gain first by taking advantage of their position. But even if the proper functioning of the state were achieved, it will remain a bourgeois state that will operate for the part of the ruling class which it represents.

The masses must not aim for the optimal functioning of the bourgeois state. They must aim to destroy it and build a Communist society where every woman and man works to meet everyone’s need. This is not possible without defeating the ruling class and without eliminating wage labor.

Wage labor and the bourgeois state give full power to the bosses to make the most important decisions in society. Production for profit will continue to rule our lives. This determines our health, housing, education, recreation, and sexuality. Whatever the market dictates, our lives will remain in the hands of the interests of a few.

AMLO cannot and has no interest in solving this. On the contrary, he proudly speaks of his alliance with the bourgeoisie. As an achievement, he announces that Carlos Slim (the richest capitalist in Mexico) has committed himself to withdraw from his companies, where he has exploited millions of workers around the world, until the Mexican economy achieves 4% growth. What an honor!

To limit ourselves to criticizing the opportunists would be an error. So, what do we do? What strength do we have? The communist movement is re-emerging after the defeats of the 20th century. Although our strength is still insufficient, each day more and more people are listening more intently to communist ideas. The students and men and women workers of the ICWP in South Africa, in El Salvador, in India, and in the United States are proof of this.

Although the objective conditions for building a world where we produce for our needs and not for the market are present, the forces of the communist movement are very few. We have to struggle not only with the ideology of the ruling class, but also with its “left-wing” expressions: revisionism and opportunism.

Our call on International Workers’ Day is to organize ourselves into
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GROWING ICWP IN INDIA FIGHTS FOR COMMUNIST TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY

April 23 –Nine hundred million voters in India will soon “decide” which capitalist faction will rule for the next five years. Even a fraction of that number, mobilized for communist revolution, could throw all the capitalists off our backs.

Modi’s openly fascist, xenophobic, sexist ruling party BJP has lost its grip on the masses. After an attack on Indian soldiers a month ago, the Indian air force hit targets in Pakistan in an attempt to build nationalism. This failed to translate into votes for BJP.

The BJP is fighting the liberal Congress party and over 400 other political parties. The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) is not one of them. Our strategy is to mobilize masses to organize for communist revolution.

We have over sixty ICWP members and friends in and near India, most of them young. They are actively struggling with the masses around this communist political line. Destroying capitalism and building communism is the only way forward.

We reject the bosses’ electoral politics. No matter who wins, the crisis of capitalism and its problems will only deepen. With or without Modi as India’s prime minister, the vast majority of the Indian working class faces a bleak future. Capitalism means mass unemployment, catastrophic environmental degradation, intense sexism and caste oppression, and religious violence.

Communist society will be organized to produce for need. It will provide useful work to everyone according to their ability and commitment and will help us all to deepen our commitment and to develop new abilities.

Production for need will eliminate money and the corruption that exists in capitalist society. The end of production for profit will also end the horrors of mass suicide by farmers as their products lose value and banks confiscate their land.

There will be no private property in communism. We will distribute what we produce according to the needs of every individual. Communist collectives (not banks, stock markets or courts) will carry this out.

We’ll coordinate through the communist party ICWP. These party collectives will be open to all who want to help make decisions in the interest of the international working class.

There will be many opportunities for masses to take leadership in big ways and small. Developing communist leadership will be a top priority. Nobody will be elected or appointed to



Workers fight police during a 48-hour India-wide general strike, January 2019.

positions where they can boss others around.

All of us, whatever our gender and wherever we were born, will work together in collectives. We will struggle ideologically to end the remnants of capitalist ideology. That includes individualism, sexism, racism, and xenophobia. Communist culture will invigorate and unleash the creative ability of the masses.

Scientific ideas and the revolutionary philosophy of change, when grasped by the masses, will free us from religion and other ideas inherited from centuries of class society, religion.

Working class needs revolution, not elections. Capitalist bosses are acutely aware that the simmering anger among the masses is potential fuel for a communist revolution. They are desperate to mislead the working class by offering futile elections.

The India general election offers up a parade of mass murderers, rapists, thieves and other criminals who are running for office. The ruling BJP leads the pack with its history of murdering Muslims and Dalits. It is trying to mobilize voters with nationalism and religious hatred. It claims that it alone can defend Hindus in India from Muslim Pakistan.

ICWP members in India, Pakistan and elsewhere are fighting this nationalism by organizing workers internationally to fight for a society with-

out borders. We are already a party without borders. Communist revolution will smash the borders that separate the working class.

We have to prepare for this revolution now by spreading *Red Flag* to every corner of the world. Millions of workers and soldiers must grasp communist ideas.

India is an important front in the sharpening rivalry among capitalist and imperialist bosses. The US imperialists are trying to leverage India’s historical opposition to China into a bulwark against Chinese expansion.

China has invested massively in an infrastructure corridor through Pakistan to transport commodities, bypassing the South China Sea. This was behind the recent military conflict between India and Pakistan. Sooner or later, larger wars will come.

On May Day 2019, members and friends of ICWP will bring the message of communist revolution to the masses and urge them to join us. From the tea plantations to auto and garment factories, in the docks and campuses, we will unite! In India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan and around the world we will march for the communist future of our mighty working class. Join us!

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communist collectives in workplaces, schools and living spaces. Building these collectives will ensure the building of the International Communist Workers’ Party. The immediate tasks of these collectives are to study communist theory, a correct balance of the experience of the twentieth century from the perspective of revolutionary dialectics, and fundamentally to build communist social relations among its members that is only possible through communist practice.

Our newspaper *Red Flag* is our most important and strongest tool so far to achieve our goals.

We want you to read, discuss, criticize and write for it with your friends in the factory, in the fields, at school or in the barracks.

In other articles you can read what Communism is. We want to emphasize that the building of the International Communist Workers’ Party is the most ambitious project ever of humanity. It tries to condense the experience of the past communist movement that teaches us that it is the masses of workers, and not a group of “cadres” or officials, who should lead society. It is working to meet needs and not for pay that can overcome

class society.

The masses have made clear their longing for a dignified life with health, education, housing, work, and recreation. Lives without sexism, racism or xenophobia.

Only the ideological and political rebuilding of Communism and the International Communist Workers’ Party will be able to achieve this when the working class becomes aware of the urgent and necessary tasks to do it. Step by step. There is no time to lose!



VOL. 10 #5, April 24 to May 15, 2019

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BUILDING FOR A COMMUNIST MAY DAY SEATTLE, USA: INSPIRED BY COMMUNIST STRUGGLE FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS

SEATTLE (USA), April 13— “Does the pamphlet have the stories you talked about?” asked a high school student at the end of our May Day potluck.

What stories? Stories about more immigrant and native-born Boeing workers and students passionately debating the answer to fascist attacks on refugees.

Stories about how appalled workers were when they learned the history of the racist U.S. eugenics movement and its relationship to Nazi genocide.

How, in each case, our comrades struggled for the communist alternative: a world without borders.

What pamphlet? The ICWP’s pamphlet that declares, “In communism, there will be no foreigners, only one worldwide working class.” The student took extras along with *Red Flag*.

We related anti-immigrant attacks at the U.S.-Mexico border to anti-migrant attacks around the world. We didn’t limit the conversation to the reinstating of family separations and armed US fascist militias terrorizing migrant families traveling from Central America. For example, we talked about the refugee crisis in Bangladesh and the attacks on refugees in Durban, South Africa.

“There were 277 million migrants in 2017,” commented an old friend, repeating the figure presented in a comrade’s opening remarks. “That’s an awful lot,” she added as she started to appreciate the extent of the upheaval.

A veteran Boeing worker wanted to know what role racism and xenophobia (hatred of foreigners) played in the Brexit fiasco. He began to see these issues in the context of the ultimate struggle between fascism and communism.

We connected the fight against xenophobia to the fights against racism and sexism. We weren’t the only ones.

When 200,000 marched in Milan against Italy’s new anti-immigrant laws, a marcher told the press, “We are tired of this atmosphere of racism.”

Another new friend at Boeing called the atmosphere a “perfect storm [of] racism, sexism and xenophobia” as she argued with her friends about creeping fascism.

Links in A Chain

“Racism, sexism and xenophobia are not separate issues that affect only a particular group of people,” added a comrade.

They are links in a chain of capitalism in crisis. We must tightly grasp our communist answer to xenophobia, then pull hard to connect it to the communist fight against racism and sexism.

All this pointed to our goal of mobilizing the masses for communism, not socialism. Democratic Socialist and U.S. presidential candidate Bernie Sanders told an Iowa town hall he was against open borders.

“There’s a lot of poverty in this world. You’re going to have [poor] people from all over the world. Can’t do it,” he asserted.

A Vietnamese couple had struggled with their Vietnamese friends about how they should welcome new immigrants. But their friends, like Sanders, saw the new immigrants as “financial burdens.”

Socialism cannot answer the migrant crisis because it maintains the wage and commodity system. People would still compete for jobs, not work collectively to provide for our class. That’s why his system “can’t do it.”

Our labor power is bought and sold under capitalism and socialism. Communist social relations will end all that.

In communism, refugees and immigrants will immediately join work collectives. Their experiences will be invaluable both in providing for workers who follow and in giving leadership to the working class in the communist struggle. They will play a vital role in building an international mass party and mobilizing even more masses for communism everywhere.

After having discussions like this with party members, the Vietnamese couple went back to their friends, armed with communist ideas.

Finally, we linked all this to our aims this May Day. Many at the march think a world without borders is a good idea. Our party has a plan to make it a reality with communist revolution. That plan is spelled out in our new pamphlet. We invited our friends to distribute it along with *Red Flag*—immediately, at the march, and beyond.

Debates like these create enthusiasm. This enthusiasm helped us raise \$600 towards the cost of printing the migration pamphlet in South Africa. We are building an international communist party today to mobilize for a communist world without borders tomorrow. Join us this May Day!



EL SALVADOR: COMMUNIST WORKERS’ POWER WILL SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS

EL SALVADOR: “Does the Party have connections (influence) in the highest levels of government?” asked a worker who was attending a meeting of the International Communist Workers’ Party for the first time.

One worker leader replied emphatically, “We don’t need to be connected with deputies, the president, or any member of the government. Those who we are interested in, who will give us power in the society, are the working class. It’s with them that we must be united in our struggle for communism. We are organizing in several countries. Our struggle is international.”

Another worker said “We cannot be with those in power, because our Communist struggle is against them.”

In El Salvador in the last ten years a Party has governed under the “leftist” flag that generated great illusions in many workers. And the situation is getting worse every day. Thousands have migrated to other countries fleeing violence, unemployment and poverty. But this is an illusion because those who manage to arrive need to have up to three jobs to be able to send remittances home to their family.

On June 1st of this year, a young liberal will take control of the government. Like the previous ones, he has generated enormous illusions. We Communists are certain that elections do not solve the problems of our working class.

The meeting was with women and men worker comrades from the factories to talk about the history of May Day. “The bosses want us to believe that this is ‘Labor Day’, but no, comrades, it is the International Day of the Working Class,” said a worker. For decades the capitalist system has tried to diminish our commemoration of the martyrs of Chicago.

One worker comrade emphasized, “In 1886 a group of workers even gave their lives for our class. We have to continue the struggle against the bosses. Our comrades have been beaten, tortured and even killed by the police on the orders of the capitalist bosses. We must go to the May Day march and continue the struggle of these workers. They fought to reform capitalism, but today we fight to destroy it and build a new communist society.

We discussed the plans for the May Day March. “We hope that this group that has come today will also be present at the march and that we invite more factory workers as well as our families,” emphasized a worker leader.

We reviewed the pamphlet about migration and the literature that will be distributed, like the *Red Flag* newspaper. The T-shirts that we are going to wear in the May Day march were distributed.

The banners that we take to the march distinguishing the ICWP and the one placed in the main street are ready. They will be seen and read by thousands of workers who go out to march on this day.

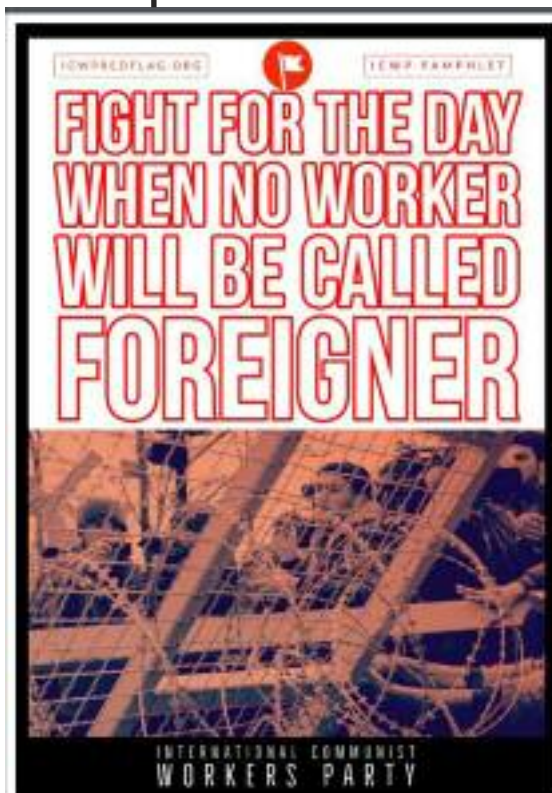
Red Flag readers who attended a meeting for the first time said enthusiastically that they would join the march with the Party. “I really liked what they talk about, because it is good for us workers”; “We’ll see you there in the May Day march.”

This meeting before the march, which is held every year to plan for May Day, encouraged us very much, because many workers attended, more than in past years.

The work of our comrades in the factories is key to the organization of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

Long live the International Communist Workers Party!

Long live the working class!



Get it at icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf or contact ICWP to get a bunch to distribute

Crisis, Conflict and Religion in the Middle East:

MARCH ON MAY DAY FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION!

April 21 – US president Trump declared the elite Iranian National Guard a “terrorist organization.” A week later, Iran’s parliament called all US troops in the Middle East “terrorists.” Iran now threatens to close the Straits of Hormuz.

The ISIS “caliphate” has collapsed. US and Iranian forces and their proxies are competing for influence in Syria and Iraq. In this context, the war of words increases the risk of real war.

So does the re-election of Netanyahu in Israel. What’s new is not his racism but his alliance with three ultra-right parties. Palestinians, including Christians, and Arab Israelis face a new wave of racist attacks. Israel will likely annex the occupied territories.

Trump aided Netanyahu by moving the US embassy to Jerusalem. He supported Israel’s annexation of the Golan Heights (formerly part of Syria). And he turned up the heat on the Iranian rulers’ most reliable military unit.

Israel and Saudi Arabia have long been US imperialist client states. The US relied on them to control the oil-rich Middle East. Both countries see Iran as their major regional rival.

Trump just endorsed Libyan military strongman Hifter, who is trying to overthrow Libya’s internationally-recognized government. Hifter’s main backers are Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Some see Trump’s policies as part of his 2020 presidential run or an effort to expand his business empire. But that’s not the whole story.

They continue a long-standing US foreign policy, minus any pretense of concern for the Palestinians.

But the environment is changing rapidly:

* Russia and China are selling arms to Persian Gulf states that once depended on the US and Europe. Saudi Arabia recently bought \$3.5 billion of Russian weaponry.

* China’s annual trade with the Gulf Cooperation Council states increased from \$10 billion to \$150 billion between 2000 and 2017. Its investments in infrastructure and industrial parks are growing.

* The global decline of US imperialism has emboldened regional powers. Every US ally in the region, including Israel, is looking for side deals. Iraq just hosted a high-level meeting with leaders from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Kuwait, Syria and Jordan.

Trump’s Mideast policies leave the impression that the US is no longer leading but chasing its former puppets. Some US imperialist strategists see these policies as a diversion from their main task of preparing to confront China in Asia-Pacific. Either way, the world is rapidly becoming more dangerous.

The rulers’ wars are deadly to workers and our children. But they can also be deadly to the rulers themselves if soldiers and sailors take advantage of the increased opportunities to turn the guns around and ally with workers to mobilize for communist revolution.

Fascism, Religion and a World in Crisis

Intensifying Mideast rivalries stem from capitalism’s general crisis. With fewer opportunities for profitable investment, competition sharpens. Capitalism can only resolve these contradictions by mass destruction.

Communism resolves them by abolishing money, markets, nations, borders and every other aspect of life under capitalism.

But the working class hasn’t yet fought for and won communism. We remain mired in putrid decaying capitalism. Fascism is its political form.

Fascism means rule by open terror, bolstered with the most extreme racism, nationalism and sexism. Fascism is fully consistent with electoral democracy as we see in Brazil, the US, Israel, India, Hungary and elsewhere.

Twentieth-century fascism scorned religion. But 21st-century fascism embraces it. When rulers justify themselves with religion it’s called “theocracy.”

Saudi Arabia, Iran and other states are Muslim theocracies. Under Netanyahu, Israel is an open Jewish theocracy. Bolsonaro wants to make Brazil a Christian theocracy.

Too many workers follow religious leaders who urge them to vote and even kill for the fascists who oppress them. Some of the poorest Jewish communities in Israel, for example, supported Netanyahu the most strongly.

We don’t agree with some liberals who blame



Marchers in Algeria demand that the government and the president be fired—and that the system be abolished

“voters” for the rise of fascism. But we must not let racism, nationalism or religion blind us to who we are: members of an international working class.

Of course, many religious people support “lesser-evil” politicians rather than open fascists. Many find inspiration in their religion to fight injustice and inequality.

Some are even been moved by their religious views to fight for some form of communism. We welcome them as members of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

But communism will end the material basis of religion: class society.

No more rulers who benefit from promising the masses a better life after death in exchange for obedience and suffering in the here and now! No more cynical warmakers to pit us against each other in the name of god(s)!

Beyond that, we think that communism develops confidence in our collective power to determine our lives and our destiny.

It absorbs our human failings, mistakes and losses into caring collectives that help us to become our best selves.

It shows that we are all interconnected through concrete social ties and the material reality of the universe.

Growing international communist consciousness will reduce and eventually end the appeal of religion and other forms of tribalism.

Let’s raise the Red Flag of communist revolution on May Day and in the year ahead!

LETTERS

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

South African Masses Welcome Red Flag

In a few weeks South Africa will hold its general elections. The African National Congress campaign is in full swing. Its top leaders are crisscrossing the country, selling lies and empty promises to the masses. President Ramaphosa himself came to Port Elizabeth and we followed him to New Brighton, an old township with deep struggle credentials.

As soon as we arrived we distributed the **Red Flag**. What I noticed first was the number of people who were not part of the event but were there simply for the spectacle. Almost half of the people in attendance were outside and we took advantage of that. In less than an hour we distributed 300 **Red Flags** and we managed to get contacts. Had we had more we would have distributed more. Now the challenge is for us to struggle with these contacts and invite them for our May Day mobilization.

After we finished distributing my comrade made a remark that if we can be consistent, we

can really recruit more workers to the organization. Based on the response we got that day I must agree with him.

—Comrade in South Africa

Building an International Party Requires Money

The letter “South African Masses Welcome **Red Flag**” shares the experience of the organizing of our young lions in South Africa. When the President of South Africa, who was responsible for the massacre of the miners in Marikana, was begging the workers for their vote, we offered the communist alternative. We could have done lot more but we lacked the resources to print more **Red Flags**. We could have transported more comrades but we didn’t have the funds.

Similarly, in India, dozens of young comrades and friends are discussing how to fight and organize for communist revolution. They are showing the masses that neither fascist Modi nor liberal fascist Congress can emancipate the

working class from capitalist exploitation that brings racism, sexism and nationalism. These young comrades are pondering how to build our movement with a clear vision of communist society without money and the bosses.

Our modest efforts are showing that we can build a society without borders. We can win workers to our party. We can and we must do more now.

However, we are facing an immediate crisis. We need more financial contributions. Building a society without borders requires spreading our literature. These activities require money.

We appeal all our members, friends and readers to dig deeper into our pockets and contribute generously to offer the true communist alternative the working class is striving for. One of the best ways to build a communist society without borders is to support our efforts now with more serious urgency. Long live communism.

—Red Organizer

A COMMUNIST MOVEMENT NEEDED TO FIGHT FASCIST POLICE MURDERS!

USA—The US Government is waging a brutal class war. It has many fronts and, like all wars, the racist and nationalist propaganda it produces is as dangerous as the bullets it discharges. On one front, according to the *Washington Post*, the cops killed some 987 people (mainly men) in 2017.

It is a brutal class war but its full scope has been hidden from us. The task of *Red Flag* is not only to project a communist future, but also to confront the lies that divide and weaken us today. We must bring a materialist understanding of the world: capitalist society is based on the exploitation of the masses. The minority (the capitalists) need oppression to continually exploit the masses. Racism, sexism, nationalism are key tools of that oppression.

Whether it is the government, the universities or the mainstream media, the liberal voices of capitalist America sing the same song: “Identity Politics.” Society to them is a mixture of sometimes competing, sometimes co-operating, racial or ethnic groups. In this way they hide its exploitation and marginalize the need for class consciousness.

The arguments that dangerously mislead come from liberals like George Soros. They look at the numbers (like the *Washington Post* article) and point out that while blacks make up about 12% of the US, they account for 23% of the victims of police shootings. Hispanics are 18% of the population but make up 21% of the victims. Whites, they point out, make up about 61% of the population but account for only 48% of the killings.

This gap between Black and white victims shows the racist character of the police force. Since police shootings overwhelmingly target Black men, the fight against them has been carried out primarily by the Black community. However, if Black workers (12% of the population) think they are alone, they will think it unrealistic

to join with other workers to fight for revolutionary solutions. Instead, they will look for allies in a fight for body cameras, sensitivity trainings, more minority recruiting and so on.

Racism is not principally a cultural expression as identity politics argues. It is the necessary product of capitalism. A society where a minority (the capitalists) exploits the majority (the workers) has to divide that majority in order to rule. Historically in the US, racism plays that divisive role. Capitalist relations of production (a minority exploiting a majority) are the material basis of racism.

And racism is central to the US. It doesn't matter whether it's spouted crudely by Donald Trump or by a refined liberal like Soros, racism is central to the survival of US capitalism.

All of which brings us back to the 987 people the US cops killed in 2017. All the killings took place in working-class neighborhoods.

\$52,218 per year is the cut off figure. No matter whether you are white, Black or Hispanic, \$52,218 is the all-important statistic. If you are male and live in a neighborhood where the median household income (mhi) is \$52,218 or less, then you live in an area where the cops shoot and kill you. If the mhi is above \$52,218 in your neighborhood then you live where there are no killings by cops.

About 92 million people, over ¼ of the US population, live in sub-\$52,218 neighborhoods. About 41 million, (44%) are white, 17 million (19%) are Black and 24 million (27%) are Hispanic. Racism results in Black and Hispanic families being over-represented in these more oppressed neighborhoods. That same racism also tends to separate these neighborhoods geograph-



ically. Blacks are concentrated in inner-cities while poorer whites are concentrated in small rural towns and Hispanics in both rural and city neighborhoods.

All 987 victims of the *Washington Post* report lived in the “other” America. Using this class analysis, we see whites are shot at a rate of 1.2 per 100,000; Blacks at a rate of 1.4 and Hispanics at a rate of 0.9. Blacks are still murdered at a higher rate than whites but the disparity is much less stark compared to the class divide: 0 to 987!

It makes as little sense for white workers not to join or lead protests against the cop killings of their Black or Hispanic brothers and sisters, as Black or Hispanic workers not to join or lead protests against cop killings of white workers. In fact, building such class consciousness is a necessary step for building the communist revolutionary world we are need.



April 18. Students at San Diego State University protest recent racist incidents, including vandalism of the Black Resource Center. They demand that the University improve security and hire more black and Latinx faculty and staff. Reforms like “security” can easily turn into intensified policing. That will increase attacks on students and workers, especially those of color. Instead, students should ally with workers, soldiers and sailors to fight for the communist society that can defeat racism.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND SOLDIERS ARE KEY TO MAKING A COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

LOS ANGELES, USA *Excerpt from a speech at the MayDay Dinner*

For our revolution all the sections of our class are important: teachers, street vendors, students, professionals, homemakers, unemployed and others. But there are two sectors of the working class to which the Party has to pay special attention: the industrial workers and the soldiers.

The industrial workers because they are in the factories where hundreds and even thousands are concentrated, because they are a disciplined sector, because they produce most of the goods and weapons that sustain capitalism. Millions of them know how to handle arms because they have been part of the bourgeois army. Maybe they are most especially important because with communist ideological struggle they then learn to become bourgeois society's gravediggers.

And the soldiers: because they already have the weapons, know military tactics and strategy and are part of our class, and also because with communist ideology they will be willing to fight for their class and turn their weapons against the bosses.

Can this goal be achieved? Of course it can. Our class brothers and sisters achieved it in other countries and were capable of taking power from the bourgeoisie. And they fought against all odds to maintain it. But their political line was doomed to failure: socialism is reformed capitalism and will never reach communism.

We have great respect for those communist comrades because without them we would not have the political line that we have today. They were mistaken, true, but who doesn't make mistakes when undertaking a major project? Their previous ex-

periences provide a textbook based on experience.

That's why the political work in the factories, in the shops, where the workers are, is very important.

The party must also have a plan for the barracks, to find out who has relatives in the army, in the navy. Where there are soldiers, visit them, make friends, share and gain their confidence to fight for communism.

I am now a mechanic, but before that I was a soldier, and I also worked in factories. I led groups of soldiers to pro-worker positions. Most of them are not patriots by conviction. And in the factories where I have worked I have always found workers who are winnable to our ideas.

Where I now work we constantly have study groups to discuss dialectics, political economy, and the history of the class struggle. Those workers who today learn our ideas are the future of communism.

Forward comrades, the future is bright if we do the political work!

MENTAL HEALTH WORKER PRESCRIBES COMMUNISM

CALIFORNIA, USA – The worker was distressed because his daughter needed a medical procedure for a painful physical health problem. Due to the cost, she was unable to receive treatment. The parents were separated, and the worker gave up his apartment to save up money for this procedure. He continued to work and for several months lived out of his car. He felt very poorly about himself, although he understood he was sacrificing for his daughter. He was ashamed, depressed, and started to drink heavily, especially on cold nights.

My job is to listen to people talk about problems like these and help them feel or think differently about them. If all goes well, they start to live more fulfilling lives. Perhaps they feel less depressed, less anxious and/or stop using drugs or alcohol.

However, I cannot change the many life circumstances that create these problems under capitalism.

Kaiser Permanente (KP), an insurance and medical provider in the United States, is touted as a model agency. Yet patients like this worker must wait 6 weeks to nearly 3 months for a follow-up mental-health appointment. KP is aggressively outsourcing mental health services rather than hiring permanent staff.

US capitalism is touted as a model capitalist country, yet the gap between rich and poor has never been greater. Fascism and racism are ever more present. Two hundred forty people die PER DAY due to alcohol-related reasons. One hundred fifteen people die PER DAY from the current opiate epidemic. One hundred five people

PER DAY, including 22 US army veterans, die from suicide.

Capitalists don't assess "good" and "bad" the way most of us do. They base "success" and "failure" on profits. KP is making record profits and fascist control of people is growing nationwide. However, Kaiser workers are now fighting back.

It is inspiring to see workers going out on strike. However, strikes for reforms are limited and concessions will be taken back by the bosses as soon as they can. Capitalism continues to squeeze the working class as the bosses prepare for war abroad.

Working class unity is important, but more important is the goal. If we are looking for our freedom from wage slavery and oppression, there is something different to do.

Whether you enjoy your job or not, the bottom line is that you are tied to your job until you can retire. You work to meet basic needs and once you retire you might get enough to survive. But whether you receive enough to meet your basic needs is no concern of your past employer or the capitalists. Your productive years are done as far as they're concerned.

If you want solutions, read and distribute Red Flag and organize for ICWP. Communism is a new way of living that will be for the working class and by the working class. It will be a society where good/bad and success/failure are measured in terms of how we, the people are doing.

Money will not exist in communism and therefore the usual obstacles to treatment will be eliminated, including insurance, lack of money, or

lack of people to do the "job." In communism the social isolation that leads many to drug/alcohol abuse will also be eliminated. We will work as a community to resolve problems and to meet all our needs out of care for one another.

Getting to communism will come when most of us are committed to creating something different for our children and grandchildren. It will require a revolutionary fight, but a fight worthy of our collective efforts. We have a world to win.



Kaiser strike, 2012

COMMUNISM, NOT SOCIALISM, WILL GUARANTEE HEALTH FOR ALL

USA— Democratic Socialists like Bernie Sanders call for "Medicare for all." This a capitalist reform that will continue racist, sexist anti-working-class healthcare rationing. It won't end capitalist health care or capitalist relations of production that put profits above human life and wellbeing.

Medicine in capitalism is for profit. It can't meet our needs. Millions—many of them children—die every year from lack of basic medicines that their families can't afford. Capitalist profits drive research. Capitalism hides knowledge about health care from the masses. Often it just quickly patches someone up to get them back to work or to battle as soon as possible, without resolving the underlying problem.

The Russian and Chinese revolutions brought dramatic advances in the health of the masses. These leaps show a glimpse of what the masses mobilized for communism are capable of. However, they were limited and then reversed because these revolutions instituted socialism, not communism.

Barefoot Doctors: Mobilizing Communist Masses Can Guarantee Health of All

The masses in rural China had had no access to doctors. The Chinese communist party mobilized to train committed communist farmworkers to become doctors. They trained for several months in science, diagnosis and treatment. Then they returned to work in the fields alongside their comrades while treating their illnesses and teaching about health care. This cycle repeated over the years.

They were beloved and trusted by the masses because they worked alongside them.

However, there were two separate and unequal health systems in China: rural and urban.

The hospitals in the cities made some important changes. Patients and their families devel-

oped relationships with healthcare workers. They were involved in discussions about the cause and treatment of the problem. Especially in the 1960s during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (GPCR) they were encouraged to speak freely in criticism/self-criticism meetings about the patient's care with the hospital workers.

But because of the limitations of socialism, most accepted that healthcare workers were divided by status into doctors, nurses, orderlies, janitors. They still kept the hierarchy of capitalist medicine.

During this time, a mass political struggle raged. On one side (the Left) were those who wanted to move directly to communism, eliminating rank, privilege and money. Among them were veterans who had lived without money, wages or rank while in the revolutionary army.

On the other were those who wanted socialism, with money, wages, ranks—capitalism run by the state. This included the party leadership, which fought to maintain and expand the wage system and a market economy. They were able to violently defeat the Left because the Left had illusions in Mao that kept them from organizing their own mass party to fight directly for communism.

When the capitalist-roaders won control of China, they super-exploited the workers and reversed the masses' gains. The barefoot doctor program ended. Hospitals became capitalist medical institutions where care is rationed and doctors give orders.

Today China is a capitalist and imperialist country. The rich get the best of everything and the working masses suffer. But the past achievements show that masses of workers—rural and urban—can quickly learn everything they need to fight for communism, treat disease and organize healthy lives.

Communism, Science and Health

Communism, unlike socialism, will completely eliminate money, the market, and exploitation. Collectives of our mass ICWP will replace the "cash nexus" of capitalism.

All science, including biology, medicine and dialectical materialism, will become the property of the masses—who will advance them. Children will start learning them from a young age—along with play and work. Theory and practice will go together—like the barefoot doctors.

There will be no lack of health care workers since many will be trained in detecting, treating, and curing diseases. Every production center will include workers with this knowledge and experience and the equipment needed to deal with emergencies.

We will share responsibility for everyone's mental and physical health. Capitalism celebrates "rugged individualism." Socialism promoted collective responsibility, but its material basis – wages and commodity production – undermined collectivist ethics.

In communism, collectives will organize all aspects of life and struggle to overcome all obstacles like racism and sexism. There won't be bosses or the threat of being fired, being homeless or going hungry. There will therefore be less mental illness, and what there is will be treated based on comradely communist relationships.

In healthcare institutions everyone will help diagnose and treat disease as well as clean up. Everyone will learn and teach. Communism will unleash humankind's vast potential.

We shouldn't be diverted by socialist schemes. Reforms won't stop the capitalists-imperialists' drive for profits and war! For the health and life of the working class, we need to mobilize the masses for communism.

May Day Greetings from the USA

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEATTLE GENERAL STRIKE

When I tell people I live in Seattle, USA, they imagine a beautiful city surrounded by water and mountains, where people drink coffee and work at Amazon or Microsoft.

But what they may not know is that Seattle and the Pacific Northwest have long been a hotbed of working-class struggle and left-wing politics.

In 1918 the Seattle Labor Council began publishing *The Union Record*. It was the only US daily to print Lenin's April 1918 speech to the Congress of Soviets. Twenty thousand copies were distributed to workers on Seattle's streetcars and ferries. Another 20,000 were reprinted in Vancouver and circulated throughout Canada.

A young woman named Anna Louise Strong wrote for the *Union Record*. In her autobiography *I Change Worlds* she says, "This Lenin pamphlet was seized by workers eager to know how the workers of Russia were running their new state... It was plain to everyone that these workers were conscientiously and energetically studying how to organize their coming power."

On January 21, 1919, 35,000 Seattle shipyard workers walked off the job, and 14,000 more in Tacoma. They had just negotiated their first post-war contract. But they discovered that arms were in the sealed cases that were being shipped to counter-revolutionary forces in Russia. They refused to be a part of it.

On February 2, union representatives met to plan a general strike in solidarity. Strong wrote an appeal that went out in the *Union Record*:

"We are undertaking the most tremendous move ever made by labor in this country, a move that will lead—No One Knows Where!!

"Labor will feed the people...Labor will care for the babies and the sick...Labor will preserve order."

The sexist bosses' media accused her of "changing the strike into a drama...the laborers versus the capitalists, us versus them." They said the editorial had a "romantic touch." But they had to admit that "it captivates people."

In truth, Strong focused on the essence of communism: *labor will provide and labor will run society*.

All in all, about 100,000 workers went out, including 40,000 nonunion workers. Some were



The 1919 Winnipeg general strike, a few months after the Seattle general strike, followed a similar pattern. But it lasted longer and the conflict was more intense.

During World War I, the bosses had brought in tens of thousands of immigrants to do the work of absent soldiers. They were ruthlessly exploited as cheap labor. As a result, they were especially eager to strike. Many enthusiastically supported the Russian Revolution.

The building workers walked out on May Day, 1919. Two weeks later, thirty thousand workers were off the job and the general strike began. The first to

walk out were five hundred women telephone exchange operators. As in Seattle, the strikers guaranteed that essential services, like distributing milk and bread, were carried out.

The bosses ramped up the xenophobia in an unsuccessful attempt to split the strikers. They denounced strike organizers as "alien scum" and mocked leaders who spoke with a different accent. They changed the Immigration Act to allow deportation of even British-born workers and jailed some leaders in illegal internment camps.

The bosses finally cracked down. On June 21, the RCMP (national police force) attacked a demonstration of strikers and veterans, killing two and injuring thirty. The RCMP and military patrolled the streets with machine guns.

The Winnipeg strikers were not prepared for this level of violence. They called the strike off a few days later. But the lessons learned – that unionism is not enough – were not forgotten. For example, veterans of the strike were instrumental in founding the Canadian Communist Party.

Japanese immigrant barbers, hotel and restaurant workers, who were not allowed to join the racist AFL unions.

The strikers did set up childcare, medical care, kitchens, garbage collection and hospital laundry. World War I veterans provided an unarmed security force. No money was exchanged, no one was arrested or killed.

Of course, the Seattle ruling class could not allow this to go on. They busted the general strike after five days. The shipyard workers stayed out until March 11th. A few months later a similar general strike took place in Winnipeg, Canada (see box).

The Seattle General Strike is an exciting part of the history of our international working class. This history is either ignored or portrayed as a disaster where the workers were duped by the left.

Although the strikers did not win higher wages or benefits, they learned valuable lessons and passed them on. Many, like Anna Louise Strong, embraced communism. She traveled to the Soviet Union and China and wrote about the accomplishments of the proletariat.

Members of the ICWP have learned that, without a doubt, capitalism cannot be reformed. Capitalism cannot survive without exploitation of the working class, and can only achieve this by using racism, sexism, and xenophobia to divide us.

Capitalism causes poverty, homelessness, starvation, disease, war, and destroys the environment. Why would we want to keep such a system?

Only with communism can the working class

create a world without borders, without banks and without money.

When we march this May Day, we should remember the workers who walked and marched on the very same streets 100 years ago. Long live the International Working Class! Long live Communism!

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

ICE destruction of families in San Diego shows need for communism

Immigration raids in February in San Diego included an Asian market owned by a rich Korean immigrant family. Over two dozen workers, some who have worked there for many years, are being processed for deportation. The owners have not been prosecuted. Those deported include workers with US citizen children, who are devastated by the loss of their parents.

The Trump administration's separation of young children from their parents at the border and other vicious policies have been in the news, but family-destroying deportations have been regular occurrences in Southern California for years. Last week, I spoke with a young

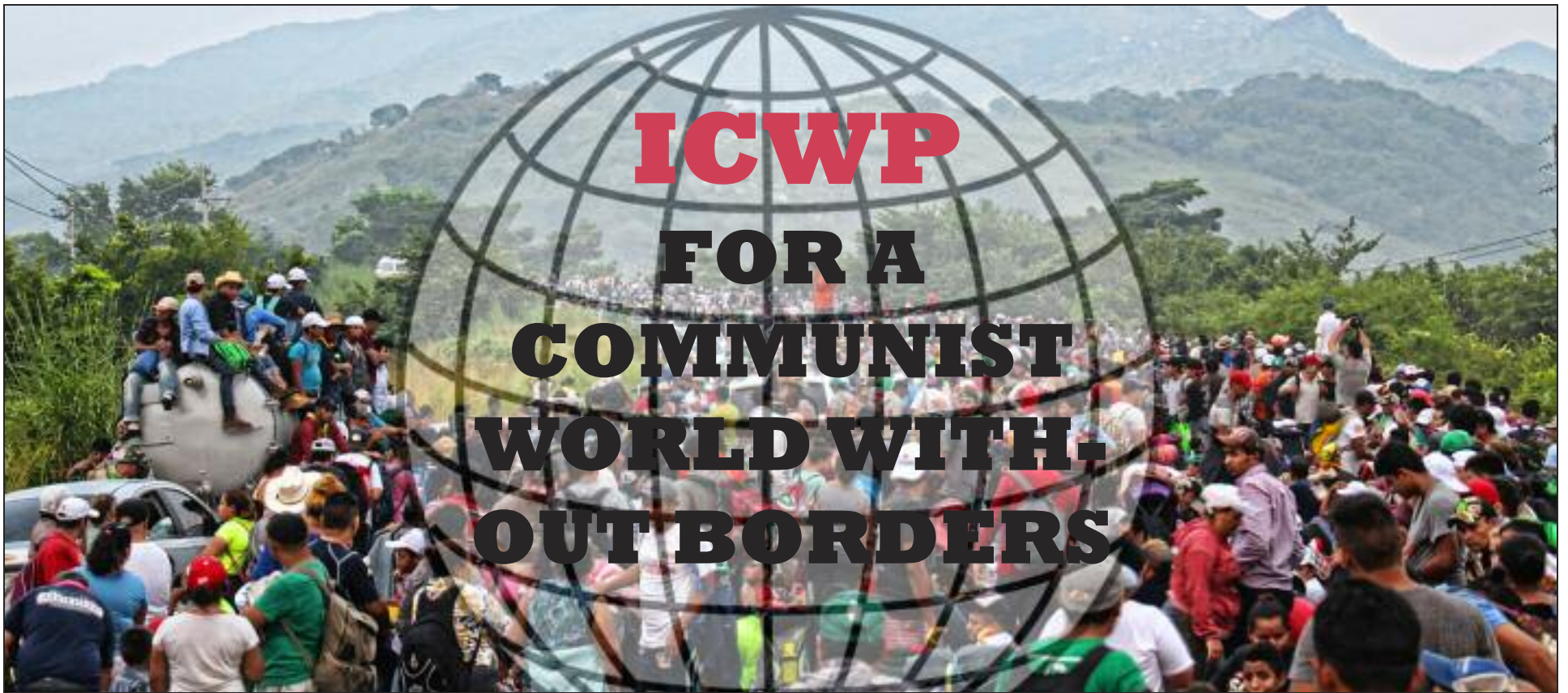
woman student in Tijuana, Mexico, who explained why she spoke English well. She was a US citizen living with her family in Mexico because her father had been deported. In Tijuana, there is even a center for US military veterans who have been deported.

Not only Trump but other Republican and Democrat politicians have tried for decades to convince workers that US citizens would have more jobs if immigrants were kept out or deported. Economic research reported last year by UC Davis Professor Chloe East and others showed the opposite. The massive US deportation program called "Secure Communities" that deported 450,000 people from 2008 until it ended in 2014 also cost the jobs of 300,000

male US citizens. Most of these jobs were lost from US businesses that depended on immigrant labor.

The idea that anti-immigrant policies help US citizen workers is just one more on the list of vicious racist lies that US capitalist politics rests on. Lies, cruelty and exploitation are permanent features of capitalism, in the US and elsewhere. This will not end until communism wins and the masses run the world. Read and distribute the latest ICWP pamphlet "Fight for the Day When No Worker Will Be Called Foreigner," and join us to mobilize the masses for communism.

—San Diego Red



MAY DAY GREETINGS FROM COMRADES AROUND THE WORLD

El Salvador

On this day of the working class, we inform you that we are taking the firm decision to fight for a communist world.

Our workplace, where every day we leave our labor power, is also the center of organization where we forge this effort for those of our class.

There we distribute our **Red Flag** newspaper to a good number of men and women workers.

Distance does not separate us in the class struggle.

We invite the working class to join this effort.

Long live ICWP!

Long live communism!

Long live the working class!

Mexico

Comrades, another May Day is approaching, an ideal time to reaffirm our commitment to the project of ICWP.

Last week we distributed about 1000 **Red Flags** at one of the UNAM high schools. We discussed communist ideas with students in each classroom where teachers allowed us to come in. Old and new members led the discussions, inviting students to the weekly study groups. Another important achievement was the economic contribution of the students. We managed to recover 30% of the newspaper's expenses.

On difficult days, we are inspired by the work of our comrades around the world. From South Africa to Nepal, from Spain to El Salvador, the reports of the work motivate us not to falter.

But the collectives of the Party cannot maintain themselves only through determination and spirit. The advances are modest in relation to what is needed. The Party must have the boldness to become a force with the possibility of winning in every place where it exists. Every decision is vital!

Each one is necessary for the Party, each one must take as their own the struggle to mobilize the Masses for communism. Everyone can and must perform an urgent and necessary task for the construction of the Party.

Communism has never before been so urgent and so possible. Let us have the commitment to be communists all our lives. There is no time to lose!

Spain

In Spain, as in all of Europe and the world, the imperialists with their crises, are always attacking the working class. They are enslaving us and say-

ing that everything is due to immigration. The workers are tired of so much racism, so much sexism, so many promises (or reforms) that only benefit the big millionaire companies. The working class needs a change and a solution to stop hunger, lack of employment, and racism. This solution to meet the needs of all workers is found in Communism.

We will defeat racism and borders. We are going to destroy them and we will triumph by establishing the Communist System.

We, the International Communist Workers' Party, fight for the working class to unite and defeat capitalism all over the world!

We send fraternal greetings to all the comrades for this May Day! Let us go out proudly to the May Day march and distribute millions of **Red Flags** to our class. That's how we will continue advancing towards our goal: TO BUILD A COMMUNIST WORLD.

Bangladesh

On the eve of May Day, the members of ICWP in Bangladesh wants to express our solidarity in our common struggle to build communist society without bosses and borders. In garment factories we are using the migration pamphlet to counter xenophobia and racist attacks on the workers who come from other countries in search of jobs. We clearly show that eliminating the capitalist system and its exploitation will open a new way of living where workers will share everything we have. We realize our path is full of struggle, ups and downs. We will need millions of workers won to communism to confront the capitalist bosses with violent revolution. We have confidence that we will be victorious because we are on the right path.

Afghanistan

It is with utmost joy I bring you red salute from Afghanistan. I read **Red Flag** along with some of my friends who have been active against the regime for several decades. Most of the world knows Afghanistan as a country ravaged by wars by imperialists. The bosses are trying very hard to push religion to blind the masses. However, the working class has a long tradition of communist thinking. They are looking for a true alternative to endless wars. We believe ICWP has the correct analysis. We want to extend solidarity and support to all our comrades as they organize

for a massive May Day. Long live communism.

India

We are sending a revolutionary message of international solidarity from various corners of India. As you know, India is in the midst of general elections. The bosses of various shades are trying to mislead the working class into useless electoral process that only serves the interests of our class enemy. We are organizing tea workers, auto workers, dock workers, students with a message of communist revolution. Although we are thousands of miles away from you, we will march shoulder to shoulder with you, comrades in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. On this May Day, let us dedicate all our energy to fight for communist revolution.

Nepal

Nepal ICWP members are with you in struggle, solidarity and revolution. Along with you, we will bring **Red Flag** and its ideas to the masses on May Day in Khatmandu. Our urgent immediate task is to smash nationalism, opportunism and revisionism that is showered on the working class by fake communists disguised as Maoists. They are the enemies of the working class. We will fight and win the battle for communism.

Sweden

Sweden is experiencing a severe economic crisis. Once a hub of heavy machinery production, Sweden's factories are falling silent. Cheap machinery from China is forcing factories here to close. Our currency is in decline. Unemployed youth, refugees and immigrants from Africa are desperately searching for non-existent jobs. Homelessness and hunger are no longer hidden in the urban areas. Right-wing and fascist groups are blaming immigrants and Chinese for this problem created by capitalism. We want to send our warm wishes of communist solidarity on this May Day 2019. Under communist rule, we can open the factories where all workers can contribute their labor. We can build houses, hospitals. We will not tolerate xenophobia, racism and sexism.

