

RED FLAG



MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

CAPITALISM AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS: SEE PAGE 3



Talks on Picket Lines

THE WAY FORWARD TO COMMUNISM

SEATTLE (USA), November 3—“What is the role of communists at a picket line in 2021?” asked a grad student. He and his wife R, a worker, had met comrades at a demonstration. Today, in a meeting, his question provoked an hour-and-a-half discussion about labor, racism, and communism.

The previous day, a comrade had joined an informational picket of healthcare workers at a Kaiser Permanente hospital. The picketers had plenty of immediate economic demands, including opposing staff shortages and a two-tier wage system that would cut the salaries of new employees by 26%. But they were interested in more than the upcoming contract.

Two young union interns approached the comrade with the union misleaders' official list of demands. The comrade told them about similar, but more militant, fights in Boeing plants around these very issues.

“What really encourages me, though,” he said, “was how blue-collar workers (including white workers) responded to the separation of immigrant families at the U.S.-Mexico border.” The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) and friends had organized debates throughout a Boeing plant about fighting against xenophobia and for our communist vision of a world without borders. Production was paralyzed for hours.

Some Boeing workers and their families brought moral and physical support to protest encampments outside the ICE prison. They had long discussions about the racist history of the Seattle-area capitalists and about the bosses' attempts to divide workers. Over several weeks, thousands read *Red Flag*.

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From Seven New Comrades to Seven Billion:

END CASTE AND ANTI-MUSLIM VIOLENCE WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

INDIA, November 13—“When will it all end? I feel like we should all mobilize them and save them from certain death.”

Gita, a member of a new communist garment collective in Bengaluru, was talking about the scores of vandalized shops, mosques burned, and Muslim workers dragged out of their burning huts in the northeast state of Tripura for four days and nights. It was a massive, sustained, pre-planned and state-sponsored pogrom led by the fascist ruling party BJP, its army and police, and covered up by the media.

“Tripura is burning. We have no news from my relatives there,” said Sajan, Gita's neighbor. Sajan has been reading *Red Flag* (in the Kannada language) that Gita brings to her, with the help of another friend. They speak Kannada but find it hard to read. They say that every article talks about the communist solution to poverty and unemployment. We must end this caste violence with communism, they were unanimous. They came to the ICWP meeting to find how we can end this horror.

The meeting included garment workers and two comrades from Chennai and one in Delhi who participated by phone call. The Delhi comrade had seen similar pogroms there two years ago. He said that the BJP fascists have become very ruthless and violent.

“It is not a sign of strength,” he said. “Their system that they are defending, capitalism, offers nothing to the working class. When they have nothing to offer, they create hatred between Hindus and Muslims.”

The Chennai comrades related how they worked in an auto parts assembly plant but have had no work for over a year. The Covid pandemic was brutal, as almost 40% of the workforce was unemployed.

“In our neighborhood in Chennai, BJP is trying very hard to convince the workers that Muslims are producing more children and very soon Hindus will not have jobs. They also say that the Chinese workers are stealing their jobs,” they reported.

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“Workers are more than the product of the relationship capitalism imposes on us: the exploiter and the exploited,” the comrade summed up. “They are concerned about every attack on their class, particularly racism, sexism, and xenophobia.”

The interns talked passionately about the decades-long racist history of Children’s Hospital, where they work and organize. This opened a discussion of how only communism can end the capitalist horrors of racism, sexism, and xenophobia. The comrade and the interns exchanged contact information.

Other picketers were also interested. One saw the *Red Flag* article about fighting racist and nationalist divisions at the Los Angeles/Long Beach ports and responded, “I love to read articles like this!”

“This is what we workers must do,” she added. To her, multi-racial, international solidarity was the most important outcome of any fightback against capitalism.

Comrades spread this struggle in a meeting of youth and those who work with youth. A high school student asked what our party does and how we relate to the emerging strike wave. Her area once had many industrial jobs. Now, many workers are unemployed.

Reformism, Racism, and the Prospects for Communism

Our friends are justifiably suspicious of trade union reformism for a variety of reasons.

Confidence in the international working class is essential to building a base for communist revolution. Ruling-class ideology aims to destroy this confidence.

Exploiting classes invented racism, sexism, and nationalism to pit one group of workers against another. We must defeat these divisive ideologies to succeed in making a communist revolution. Only a united working class led by a mass ICWP can win.

One brand of ruling-class ideology dismisses the revolutionary potential of the so-called “white working class.” This reactionary ideology asserts that all white workers benefit from capitalism-imperialism. Hence, it says, white workers are committed to reform. Reformist trade unionism serves their needs, unlike the needs of the “true” Black, Latinx and immigrant proletariat. This false belief undermines our ability to mobilize the masses for communism.

We fight these deadly ideologies by mobilizing for communism in our daily work.

Party members have emphasized in recent meetings that reform and communist revolution are in contradiction. Some friends see reform as futile. At the same time, many engage in reform struggle because they think it’s the only game in town.

Close personal and political relationships are key to transforming them into communist organizers. Potential ICWP members include those we work with, go to school with, etc., as well as those we meet at picket lines and demonstrations.



LOS ANGELES (US), 2012—Striking nurse at Kaiser picket line with *Red Flag*.

The discussion about communists at picket lines expanded during our meeting. R. listened carefully to the struggles of comrades developing party collectives at work, the army, and schools. Her big question was: Can we overcome the capitalists’ ideology among the working class?

Our communist work will settle the answer.

Our task is not to advocate militant reform. The way forward is marked by building lasting communist relationships. These will enhance ICWP’s ability to organize around communist ideas amidst the intensifying global class struggle.

LABOR CONTRACTS LEGITIMIZE WAGE SLAVERY

USA, November 13—The Alliance of Health Care Unions called off its planned strike against Kaiser Permanente after reaching a tentative deal. Crucial details of the contract have not yet been released.

The two-tier wage system has been withdrawn, but staffing shortages remain. Vague contract language is meant to appease the exhausted, overworked healthcare workers.

Throughout the negotiations, workers argued that a two-tier wage system would divide workers. But the capitalist wage system always divides us. Meanwhile, staff shortages will wreak havoc on both workers and patients.

Kaiser poses as a different kind of business where profits are not the bottom line. A quick look at its Board of Directors proves differently. It is filled with executives from aerospace, military manufacturers, corporate finance, software giants, equity firms and investment bankers. Most of Kaiser’s services are outsourced to for-profit conglomerates. This will only increase as the ruling class targets healthcare, in general, as a huge profit source.

Trade-union ideology accepts all this. Workers in recent strikes had to override union officials. Deere workers rejected several union deals. Northwest carpenters wildcatted after rejecting deals five times. Many recent worker and farmer rebellions globally occurred without any union participation.

The bottom line: Even militant trade union reform cannot rein in capitalist exploitation. Only communist revolution can end the wage system and its divisions among workers. Only communism can launch a new era of collective healthcare.



SEATTLE (US), June 2020—Seven thousand healthcare workers and others fill City Hall Plaza to demand racism be declared a public health issue.

Volume 12 Number 15, November 17 to December 8, 2021



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CLIMATE CRISIS: WORKERS NEED COMMUNISM TO PREVAIL

SOUTH AFRICA—The cause of climate change is capitalism's need to create profit. Recent *Red Flag* articles have described the impacts of climate change on the environment and on the working class. They have correctly identified its driving force: it's capitalism that dumped all this carbon into the atmosphere.

Our collective is exploring what climate change means to us, as workers or potential workers. Comrades have different interpretations.

One comrade remarked that we have been told in television, newspapers, social networks, and everywhere that we should reduce our carbon footprint. His opinion is that our carbon footprint pales in comparison to how much damage the bosses are doing.

Let's talk about the mining industry alone. Its impacts are on a massive scale.

In Rustenburg a few years back we comrades were visiting and distributing *Red Flag*. We were distributing to some coal miners who were not working but who were going to the clinic because they suffer from TB.

These are the long-term effects, not only on the environment, but on our working-class family. To address it, we have to fight capitalism directly. Once we eradicate the need to generate more profit, mining can be done, even in communism, depending on the circumstances and the needs of the working class at a particular time. But the difference is that there is no need for us to create surplus, because we will take only what we need, not what we can sell.

The comrade's view was good because even if someone can make some commitments, like to stop eating meat, it's like throwing a drop in the ocean. While you have major polluters who still resist making some tangible commitments.

Look at how companies like BP, Shell, Exxon Mobil are still stuck on fossil fuels. These companies have inflicted untold damage on the environment. These are the main ones we should hold accountable for what we face today.

In South Africa, our power generation is mainly dependent on coal. This has caused untold suffering on the working class. The main point, in our view, is that if we are to prevail in this fight or reverse some of the damage that has been done, we can't do this as long as capitalism exists.

Whatever negotiations are taking place, whatever summits have been called, won't make any

difference because of the capitalists' need to make profit. The environment and the working class will continue to suffer. Once we eradicate capitalism, we will be in a position to eradicate the damage that has been inflicted on our communities because of climate change.

Another comrade elaborated on the economic impact of this. Developing countries like South Africa have been forced to switch from dirty means of generating power to cleaner ones. But this transition becomes a problem. Let's say in a community there's a power station. The communities around it depend on it for jobs. If you switch them off, you are also cutting off these working families who depend on this power station for their livelihoods.

If you are moving away from coal, how will you replace those jobs? Most of those workers are considered unemployable because capitalism says they are not educated. Yet they can be exploited for their labor in those mines.

How do you address challenges like that? How do you make sure that you can close all those power plants, and what do you do for those communities who depend on the power plants for jobs? From the old lady who sells food to the workers outside to those working inside. It becomes imperative for us to fight for communism so that we can address these challenges.

We have to address those challenges collectively. We can't do it individually. We have to fight the disease, which is capitalism. In doing that we will be able to fight against climate change.



GLASGOW, November 2021: Masses protested imperialists' useless UN Climate Change Conference

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Communism Can Solve Climate Crisis – Capitalism Can't

"It turns out I am going to lead the Environment Committee," a new *Red Flag* reader "Ana" told a comrade "Ellen."

"Did you read the recent *Red Flag* article?" Ellen asked.

"Yes, I really liked it. It said what I am feeling," Ana replied. "The Environment Committee doesn't seem to want to talk about the politics of climate change," she continued. "One person keeps bringing up that the school should ban plastic water bottles and straws."

"That's your job, I guess," said Ellen. "To bring up how capitalism caused the climate crisis and we can't solve it without changing the system."

"I've been thinking about why communist revolution could actually create short-term fixes and long-term solutions," she added. "Capitalism can only do what's profitable. Even when technological measures are available, they say 'too expensive.' New levees protected New Orleans from Hurricane Ida, but it would 'cost too much' to protect other Louisiana towns. Desalination could help relieve the water crisis, but it's 'too expensive.' Hydrogen fusion could provide cheap clean energy but the research hasn't been funded because nobody saw profits in it."

Ana was nodding, so Ellen went on: "All these things take labor – workers' labor. Capitalism sees labor as a cost, the cost of wages. But communism sees our labor as a resource,

not a cost. Most of our labor power today is wasted through unemployment or working at useless jobs. End the wage system and we can decide how to deploy our labor for things that really matter. Like dealing with the climate crisis."

"I don't know if the committee would want to talk about that," said Ana doubtfully.

"At least a few people probably would," Ellen guessed. "At least one sometimes reads *Red Flag*. Build stronger ties with those who are most open, and see how far you can go with them."

Conversations like these, and with other co-workers, could help more friends decide to join the Party.

-Red teacher

Communist Work Carries on Despite Covid Lockdowns

It's been quite a while without sharing activities from our shores. I guess the Covid - 19 pandemic and the lockdowns have got a lot to do with our inactivity.

Having said that, there has also been some movement albeit limited actions.

I had always been getting a good supply of *Red Flags*, "Mobilize the masses for communism" and *Soldiers* pamphlets, and another one that deals with dialectical materialism. I made sure that I share these with workers and students.

There is an interest group of workers that always meet fortnightly over the specific task of

influencing who emerges as leadership in the national union. I distribute *Red Flag* to every member and the response is a positive one.

In the neighborhood, we also have meetings for safety, because of a rise in house break-ins and robbery, I am always ready with a good supply of RF.

Spreading communist ideas through *Red Flag* couldn't be easier.

-Metal worker comrade in South Africa



WORKERS PLAN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

EL SALVADOR, November 16— “We have invited a worker from another factory for the upcoming conference. With M, we have recently contacted her,” said a worker leader.

“L (a woman) and G (a man) are from another factory. They will also participate. We want to focus on these workers to spread communist ideas to these centers of capitalist exploitation,” said another worker comrade.

An ICWP International Conference will take place at the end of the year. It will discuss the advance and growth of the Party in different areas of the world: building new collectives and developing the new generation of communist leaders. Last weekend there were two meetings to plan this conference.

The first meeting was with women comrades who are carrying out strong work to develop ICWP, working on *Red Flag* and recruiting new readers. One said, “It’s necessary to organize more workers like us who don’t work in factories but who believe in a new system like communism and who are willing to support the factory workers in their struggle against the rotten and exploitative capitalist system.”

The other meeting was held with women and men comrades from the factory. Both meetings discussed the agenda to develop, who would attend the conference and other details, like transportation.

One topic on the agenda would be the worldwide strike wave. It shows the power of the working class, and the opportunity to organize more workers into the ranks of ICWP, to fight directly for communism.

How to establish connections with the workers in these strikes? What should our strategy be?

We should reject reformist strikes led by the unions. Party comrades have the task of organizing communist political strikes. At the same time, when we don’t have members of ICWP participating in these reform movements, how can we participate with other comrades to take communist ideas to the workers through *Red Flag*?

Comrades reported that A, a maquila worker, contacted the party cell. A previous *Red Flag* article mentioned her. A mass distribution of *Red Flag* newspaper was carried out at the factory where she works. We attempted to meet with her, but the meeting was postponed because the factory work schedule was extended that day to generate more production for the bosses. It will take place this week. We expect to invite her to the ICWP international conference.

Some workers asked the leading worker comrades if they could bring their children to the conference. They can, since in communist practice this should not be an obstacle to participating in party activities. A friend of the party will be there to carry out recreational activities with the children while their parents are in the meeting. We have done this in previous conferences. Also, these children are the future communists of ICWP.

“Will Party comrades come from other areas, like in other meetings?” Factory workers, farm workers and workers from other areas who have already participated have asked this, along with others who will attend for the first time.

The motivation of the comrades inside

and outside the factories is very strong. Every effort is being made so that this international conference of the International Communist Workers’ Party is carried out in the best way, to achieve a greater commitment to our class to recruit more workers.



INDIA: FROM SEVEN TO SEVEN BILLION FROM PAGE 1

The Delhi comrade told of a major uprising in Lakhimpur in Uttar Pradesh where farmworkers and other farmers are fighting the fascist BJP. Our party reached out to many farmworkers who saw no solution in the bosses taking over corporate farming. We grew through this struggle and won new communist leaders to ICWP. They are influencing and advancing communism to others in their villages.

Capitalism: Work Until It Kills You

The party leader in Bengaluru said she was very encouraged to see new people coming to these meetings. “When we talk about lack of employment to our coworkers, everyone wants to hear what we say,” she reported. “We say that wage slavery must be abolished to create a society without brutal police, fascist gangs, and communalism. People agree and they are fed up with the wages that don’t support them.”

She said a woman in her 50’s died working in a garment factory. She had worked there for three decades making expensive shirts for a European manufacturer. She must have made thousands of shirts. When she died, her neighbors had to borrow a Sari for her funeral.

“This is how life is for every worker. You work until you die. Now you die before you find work.” 500,000,000 people worldwide are unemployed, semi-employed, and constantly in search of a job. These working-class people are constantly on the move to other countries or other parts of the same country. They face violence by police, border patrol, and fascist/religious gangs.

“We can put an end to these barbaric conditions”, comrade Gita said. “Organizing seven billion people to communism seems impossible to many people I know. That is why people take a shortcut approach. They believe some political

party will find a solution to their problem.”

From Seven New Comrades to Seven Billion

The garment worker leader summarized: “To win seven billion people to communism, we have to win seven to communism now. We have to build communist relationships for a life of struggle for the eradication of our class enemy. These unbreakable trust and relationships develop out of class struggle.

“Look at our comrades in Delhi. They have not won thousands but they have a few who are showing the way to many more. The old communist party in India was formed by five com-

rades who traveled to Tashkent in the Soviet Union in 1926. Ten years later, the communists were leading tens of thousands of mine, railway and dock workers. We can do better. Unlike the old communists, we are going to fight for communism that will guarantee wage slavery is eradicated forever.”

We concluded by trying to chart our path by identifying specific workers that we will try to get to come to our next meeting. Most importantly, each comrade is thinking about building communist relationships with people around us.



NEW DELHI (India), November 2— Students at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) defied police to protest the government-organized anti-Muslim violence in Tripura. Stopped from marching by police and paramilitary forces, they continued to shout slogans denouncing the pogrom, the Hindutva politics behind it, and the police coverup. Much more next issue.

ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL END RACIST MURDER

USA, November 11 — “I do not have much faith in our leaders. Racism is deeply embedded in everything,” a *Red Flag* reader said about two major trials addressing racist murders of Black men.

A “modern-day lynching.” This is what lawyers for Ahmaud Arbery’s family called his murder by three white men, one a former cop. Arbery’s “crime” was jogging through their Georgia neighborhood as a young Black man. Although the murder was taped, it took over two months for the killers to be arrested.

The defendant in a Wisconsin case, a teen-aged aspiring cop armed with an AR-15-style rifle, shot and killed two anti-racist protesters and wounded a third. He said he intended to “protect” businesses after police shot Jacob Blake, a 29-year-old Black man, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.

Working class fury has erupted globally. Millions have marched in Black Lives Matter demonstrations. Millions in India have fought day-to-day battles against the fascist Modi government attacks on Muslims and Dalits. The class war against racist murder is worldwide.

“We don’t ask the bosses for anything; we organize to overthrow them,” a comrade said. Another comrade asked her, “Isn’t it better that the cop who killed George Floyd is in jail?”

“No,” she responded. “He is in a protected part of prison with guards who love and defend him. That is the ‘best’ outcome under capitalism for the killers of Ahmaud Arbery or other racist murderers.” These trials will make very little difference because they are based on the laws of the capitalist ruling class.

All jurisprudence (cops, courts, and jails) was



developed to ensure the capitalists’ ability to exploit workers and to protect their “property,” including enslaved people. Modern policing grew out of slave patrols, the suppression of the working class and imperialist military slaughter. Each was linked to capitalism’s needs during a specific historical period and was built on racism.

Racism is key, politically and economically, in guaranteeing exploitation. Blaming other workers for the horrors caused by capitalism divides our class. It allows the capitalists to extract super-profits from minoritized people and lowers wages for all workers.

Communism, in contrast, depends on collective production to provide for our collective needs. It will require massive campaigns to end racism and other divisive ideas and practices. It will end the need for jails, police, and war.

The International Communist Workers’ Party aims to mobilize masses to become communist fighters on every front. In workplaces, schools, barracks and eventually in a revolution to overthrow the rotten capitalist system that poisons our daily lives. To end, once and for all, racism, in-

justice, and exploitation.

In the work of fighting for and then establishing communism, we will develop and apply the principle of collectivity: From all according to their ability and commitment, to all according to their needs. We will support our neighbors and comrades, seeing their thriving as essentially linked to our own.

The potential for communist recruitment is growing now. New ICWP members are crucial to developing the ideas and energy necessary to create a communist future. With no money and no borders, with everyone fed and clothed

and housed, we can release true human potential and find caring, sensible ways to deal with any problems that arise.

“Mutual aid and communal support” is how a high school *Red Flag* reader describes communism. No one flourishes while another starves. No one has a mansion while others live on the street. The racist, xenophobic violence of the capitalist state, the police force, courtrooms, and jails will be gone.

“The bosses’ criminal justice system is built on racism and racist structures,” added the young reader. She, like millions worldwide, can no longer accept this way of life. She won’t put her faith in the bosses’ courts.

To end racist murder, we must build a society based on communist structures. Communist revolution will immediately end the wage system. Racist divisions will have no place in collective work. When our young friend, and many like her, join the ICWP we’ll be on our way to eliminating the plague of racist cop killings with communist revolution.

NICARAGUA ELECTION: WORKERS NEED REAL COMMUNISM

November 16— “We fought in Nicaragua, wanting to implement the model of proletarian internationalism. We did it later in El Salvador. We have to keep fighting,” said a former Colonel of the Sandinista army who is a friend of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

“Nothing is at stake. All the opponents are imprisoned or out of the country. This is a dictatorship like that of Nayib Bukele in El Salvador. Daniel controls almost everything,” said a well-known liberal, who once fought alongside the Sandinista National Liberation Front. Daniel Ortega won the election in November 2021 with 75.92% of the votes.

Ortega’s government in Nicaragua has a relationship with Russia that dates back to the 1980’s. At that time, the US imperialists supported the contras in Nicaragua and paramilitaries in El Salvador and Guatemala, with \$2 million/day.

The “liberation” groups did not consider the ideological struggle to implant communism to be important. They set aside class struggle to simply support their nationalist efforts. As a result of this political outlook, many guerrilla commanders are now administrators of the capitalist system. The goal of the Russian imperialists was to create a ruling class that would respond to their interests.

Some comrades in the International Communist Workers’ Party passed through the ranks of

those guerrilla groups and are critical of these opportunist governments that only try to deceive our working class. That’s why the struggle to implant communism worldwide constitutes the greatest battle for revolutionaries. In these inter-imperialist proxy wars, many fighters learned lessons that allow them to think about a new communist world.

Bosses’ Elections and Communist Leadership

Bosses’ elections are nothing more than the way capitalists guarantee their system. The empires are not interested in who wins but in who best administers the profits generated by the workers. ICWP’s war is against the capitalist system and its leaders.

In communism there will be no elections of this type. The leadership will be given to those who demonstrate the greatest commitment to the fulfillment of the human being. In the factories today, the workers’ collectives give leadership to the comrades who demonstrate their willingness to fight for a new world.

Nicaragua, like Honduras and El Salvador, has maquila factories with poverty wages for the working class. Many maquila factories have been moved to Nicaragua to pay the lowest wages in Central America (\$199 a month).

In the communist system, centers of exploita-

tion will not exist. Our workers will only produce what workers need, not to generate profits for the bosses.

Fight for a World Without Borders

Many Nicaraguans emigrate to Costa Rica and El Salvador, where they are often accused of causing everything bad that happens. They are discriminated against in a racist way and forced to work in agricultural areas where they are paid less.

US President Biden recently extended the “RENACER” Act that imposes sanctions on Nicaragua and limits its access to economic credits country through the IMF and the International Development Bank. It monitors foreign relations, mainly military, between Russia and Nicaragua. It revises the Free Trade Agreement through which 60% of Nicaraguan exports enter the United States at preferential rates. This law will push even more Nicaraguans, like other Central Americans, to seek to emigrate to the US or to Costa Rica.

This inter-imperialist rivalry is nothing more than a fight between fascist and reformist bosses who are all looking for the best way to exploit our working class. Workers must fight in Nicaragua and around the world to achieve the communist system, in which there will be no borders, wars or money.

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Health Care Worker Fights Division Between “Mental” and “Manual” Work

The healthcare collective of the International Communist Workers’ Party recently discussed the division between mental work and manual work. Health workers from the United Kingdom, the United States, South Africa and El Salvador shared their experiences. I remembered an incident that happened a few months ago.

I work as a doctor in a basic primary health care center in El Salvador. Once, while I was working in my office, a child spilled his drink all over the floor. The health care center was full. To avoid adding more work to my co-worker in the cleaning service, I went to the warehouse in the bathroom area where they keep the mops and the floor disinfectant. The Director (my boss) saw me with the mop and disinfectant

and asked me, “What are you doing?”

“Nothing,” I answered.

When he saw me begin to mop my office, he raised his voice and said: “Let the cleaner do their job, you shouldn’t be doing that!” I answered that I had no problem doing it. He reluctantly let me finish and went back to his office,

I remembered that for me this was normal but other colleagues in the medical sector and even other health workers frowned upon that the “doctors and health chiefs” take a mop and a broom and clean their offices because that’s what cleaning workers are for. There is much work to be done.

The dominant ideology is that of the bourgeoisie: the work of some is worth more than

others. They forget how essential the work is of those who maintain health centers in sanitary conditions, including health clinics, healthy homes and hospitals.

More discussions with co-workers and friends intensify our internal contradictions and theirs. This allows new people to step up to fight for communist revolution. Part of this process includes developing social relationships in the factory, the community and the home.

Being a communist in ICWP helps us to socialize and establish links with our co-workers in solidarity and equity. This lays the social basis of our work and advances the fight for communism.

-Comrade in El Salvador

Capitalist Vaccine Mandates Backfire Against Care Home Workers and Elderly Patients

The British government, earlier in the year, announced mandatory covid vaccinations for all care home staff by 11th November. Refusal of workers in this sector to take the vaccine means they will be fired.

The rulers have mishandled this crisis from the beginning. This enforced vaccine roll out by the state will lead to a further crisis affecting care home workers and patients alike. This is a prime example of the class nature of such mandatory vaccines as has been discussed in ‘Red Flag’. Marxism teaches us that the state is not neutral. It always benefits the ruling class and attacks the working class.

Workers in care homes are some of the lowest paid and most undervalued in Britain. Yet their work is vital to elderly and disabled patients. They risked their lives during the pandemic and are overstretched and understaffed. Their wages are only a few pence over the legal minimum. Most have to work un-social hours (outside the hours of 9 to 5) and many

receive no sick pay!

The 13% of unvaccinated care home-workers likely fear that vaccine side-effects could result in them being off sick would lead to loss of wages. Even taking time out of work to attend a vaccination clinic would be unpaid!

The government is refusing to back down. Up to 60,000 care workers now face the sack. This would create a massive crisis in the care sector with consequences in the National Health Service (NHS). Some care homes would close, and patients would be sent to those still open or to hospitals, leading to overcrowding. Already many NHS hospitals have run out of beds with surges in seasonal illnesses.

The ruling class’s vaccine enforcement is affecting the low-paid and elderly the most and risking a new health crisis.

In addition, the government last week announced all NHS staff must have the full vaccination by April 2022. The NHS employs around 1.5 million people and if just 10% refused the vaccine 150,000 people would be out of a job! Leading to a massive staffing shortage in the

NHS which is already struggling.

While we want to encourage people to get vaccinated, it must be done through comradely persuasion, education, scientific explanation and solidarity with the vulnerable.

-London NHS worker

November 1917: The Bolsheviks led armed workers, soldiers and sailors in overthrowing Russia’s capitalist government. For the first time, workers under communist leadership held state power. Fourteen capitalist nations invaded Red Russia, trying to “strangle the baby in the cradle.” The Bolsheviks won soldiers from the invading armies to revolt, forcing the imperialists to withdraw. The ICWP celebrates this revolutionary spirit by fighting directly for communism.

Bring Workers’ Voices into Articles about Imperialist Conflict and War

“How can we make *Red Flag* articles about imperialist conflict and war more useful?” a comrade asked their collective. “I read them all because I work on the paper. But do you?”

“I watch a Japanese TV station NHK,” another comrade responded. “They have a lot about the US-China conflict. Do you think a US-China war can be avoided?” She didn’t mention reading the *Red Flag* articles about this. Later she said she usually just read the stories and letters about the party’s work in South Africa, India, El Salvador and other places.

“Preparations for that war are already happening,” replied the first comrade. “And the closest the US has ever come to nuclear war (except for the US bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki) was probably over Taiwan.”

“I don’t read anything,” a third comrade admitted. “Including *Red Flag*. I just don’t read. Other people are like that too. They listen to podcasts.”

“So, we really need to make podcasts of the articles as well as printing the paper,” said the first comrade.

“I have read every word of the papers you have sent me electronically,” said a friend who was attending our meeting for the first time. “I would rather read a paper copy. What I really like is the workers’ voice in most of the articles. It is relatable to me even though I work in a different industry. Everyone has hopes for something different.”

“My partner and I have all the equipment you’d need to make podcasts,” she added. “I would like to help with that.” She agreed to put together a proposal for how that could work. Everyone is excited about this new project.

“Would the RF articles about global affairs be better if they also had workers’ voices in them?” asked the first comrade. “Some of us are thinking about how to do that.”

“Yes, definitely,” others chimed in.

We appreciate the hard work of comrades who research and write the informative *Red Flag/Bandera Roja* articles about global affairs. We hope that others will step up to help with this. We welcome new ideas about how to make these articles more useful tools to mobilize masses for communism.

-Collective in Los Angeles (USA)



PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS, RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS TO
ICWPREDFLAG@NYM.HUSH.COM

The Only Way: Fight for Communist Egalitarianism

Corona itself is not a villain. The true villain is our capitalist system and a lifelong fascist government. Corona has exposed the terrible face of the system that confronts us and the filthy insensitivity of the government.

The dirt of this system and the horrific failure of this government have taken the lives of millions of people and have shattered families.

I am one of those who lost her loving father, and there is also a mother who has lost her young activist and revolutionary son.

But I am not the only one who lost family members. There are millions of people. What to do? Should I keep crying in a corner of the house, or wipe the tears of others?

I have accepted another way.

The other way is to fight and smash the system of capitalism and its endless brutality. The other way is to build communism by organizing a society that will never let the system of profit to take root.

The other way is to fight now, today and tomorrow to build the masses prepared to rise for the call of communist egalitarianism so we can all prosper as the human race.

We offer the other way and the only way: Read *Red Flag*, organize and mobilize the masses for the International Communist Workers' Party.

-Comrade in India

Communist Agriculture: What Was It, What Will It Be?

I gave the last edition of *Red Flag* to my workmate to read in our lunch hour. There was an article relevant to us at work. However, she read through a lot of the paper and was particularly interested in the article on climate change.

"It says we need communist agriculture" she said. "What does that entail?"

As she is from Romania and grew up there under the Communist Party's failed socialist attempt at creating communism, I thought she would have an example which might be positive. But she did not really know about the collective farming. She said her grandparents were private farmers performing traditional farming.

I had no answer for her. But I said it was something we should think carefully about.

It made me think about the Peoples Commune movement in China in the 1950s and the Collectivisation of agriculture in the Soviet Union in the 1930s. We should analyse these and other attempts at transforming agriculture in a communist direction and their positive and negative aspects and their successes and failures.

-Comrade in London



France: International Communism Will Defeat International Fascism

November 15—France's fascists have a new poster boy: Eric Zemmour ("zuh-MOOR"), TV personality and columnist for the right-wing rag *Le Figaro* ("fee-gah-ROH").

Zemmour will probably overtake fascism's current poster girl, Marine LePen, in the Spring 2022 presidential election. In 2015 she came in second to Emmanuel Macron, France's current president (and former Rothschild banker).

LePen had moderated her anti-immigrant fascism to make herself more acceptable. This bought her votes but disillusioned her xenophobic base. Enter Zemmour. He preaches the "Great Replacement" lie that "powerful forces" supposedly want to replace White French people with immigrants.

We communists believe in a different great replacement: Replacing the bosses with the united working class everywhere. This means repressing fascists like Zemmour and LePen and their movement. It means convincing immigrants and non-immigrants alike that their best interest (communism) can only be achieved through multi-ethnic international solidarity.

This is why the fascist movement is so dangerous. It's a roadblock to communism.

Zemmour calls for a complete halt to the "tsunami" of immigration. He wants to deny all government aid to immigrants – including unemployment insurance, welfare, housing subsidies, and healthcare.

Yes, healthcare – during a pandemic!

He proposes constitutional changes to ban "non-French" names like "Omar", "Farah" and "Mohammed". This is on a par with former president Sarkozy's proposed constitutional ban on burkinis (full-length women's bathing suits).

Zemmour is partly Jewish and thoroughly antisemitic. He complains that a US-backed "Jew-

ish lobby" has made the Shoah (Holocaust) part of "France's national religion". He's unhappy that some Jewish kids, victims of a racist school shooting in Toulouse, will be buried in Israel.

Zemmour claims to be anti-American but his people have borrowed tactics from Trump's movement. Recently *Le Figaro* published a vicious hit piece attacking French teachers for supposedly "indoctrinating" French children with "woke" ideology. This refers to the government requirement that pupils be taught anti-racism. According to *Figaro*, teaching anti-racism is somehow "racist".

Figaro even cloned a cover of the US *National Review* that showed a frustrated kid in front of a blackboard covered with 'anti-racist' slogans.

Communism will act quickly to suppress the curse of anti-Semitism. Zemmour and his poisonous ideas will go straight to the garbage bin. Millions of French workers already recognize how toxic they are. Antifascists hound him everywhere he appears. But anti-fascism on its own can't put Zemmour out of business. For that we need a millions-strong ICWP. Join us!

-Comrades in Canada



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Poland/Belarus Border Crisis: Migrants Are Workers, Not Political Footballs

LET'S RECRUIT IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN EUROPE AND WORLDWIDE TO BECOME ORGANIZERS IN THE FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS

November 17—Thousands of migrants, mostly from Iraq and Afghanistan, are in grave danger in the wintry Belarus woods near the Polish border. Decades of imperialist war in the Middle East, famine, poverty and exploitation have created an ongoing refugee emergency. Capitalists backed by imperialists on both sides treat workers as expendable in their struggle for dominance. Both Belarus (a Russian ally) and Poland (a NATO member) have increased their military presence at border. The confrontation could potentially spark a wider war.

We are an international working class, all struggling under the yoke of capitalism. Our differences are irrelevant. Capitalists built borders for their own purposes. They build xenophobia to keep us separated: attacking workers from Zimbabwe in South Africa, African workers in France, Haitian workers at the US/Mexico border, and Afghan, Syrian, and Iraqi workers at the Poland-Belarus border.

No worker is a stranger. We are committed to free the whole working class. We will overthrow capitalism and build a communist world without borders or nations, exploitation or war. Communist immigrants will be key to this victory.

Border Crisis and Intensifying Inter-Imperialist Conflict

The Belarus rulers manufactured this crisis. It's their response to European Union sanctions, including over Belarus forcing a civilian airliner to land to arrest an opposition leader. Twenty percent of Europe's natural gas comes through Belarus from Russia. President Lukashenko threatened, "If they impose additional sanctions on us, we must respond. We are heating Europe, and they are threatening us, what if we halt natural gas supplies."

The Russian capitalists have supported Lukashenko with two bombing training exercises over western Belarus in the last week and a parachute landing exercise near the border of Belarus, Poland, and Lithuania. The completion of Nord Stream-2 (see last issue) at the onset of winter may have led Russia to encourage Lukashenko to increase pressure on the European Union (EU).

Meanwhile, Polish President Duda (a Trump-wannabe xenophobe) has sent thousands of troops to the border while keeping activists, NGOs, and the media away. He claims to be protecting the EU from a "great migration crisis," while positioning Poland within NATO as an ally of the US and the UK. The British government has supported him by sending ten military engineers to help build a border wall.

Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, under EU pressure, have now stopped Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis from boarding flights to Belarus.

Migrants at the border are still freezing – and boiling mad. Angry groups have started throwing rocks at Polish troops, facing down their water cannons.

Worldwide Migrant Crisis Grows

Three more migrants drowned in the English Channel on November 11. They were among hundreds daily who risk their lives in small boats.



Migrants lobbing rocks at Polish border guards

British Home Secretary Priti Patel has vowed to "make this route unviable." That is, to make it so dangerous that desperate people will die. In the Mediterranean, this strategy has resulted in over 1,300 refugee deaths this year.

Germany's Merkel and France's Macron have intervened for the EU, trying to defuse tensions. But the EU has long hypocritically bribed countries like Turkey and Libya to stop migrants from reaching Europe. Media focus on Belarus diverts attention from the murderous border policies of the capitalist rulers of the EU, the UK and the USA.

Comrades in Europe Build Communist Ties with Immigrant Workers

The bosses' media call migrants on the Poland/Belarus border "pawns" and "political footballs." None of us, immigrant or citizen, is a chess piece or a football! We are workers. Some of us live in the country of our parents and grandparents, and others of us are immigrants or children of immigrants.

The work of ICWP comrades in Europe reflects the historical and present-day importance of immigrant workers and their families in the working-class struggle. In the words of *Red Flag* readers and friends:

"When the working class is united there is no one who can stop it." — French worker in Barcelona during the 2010 Arab Spring

"The system we live in treats us like garbage and we have to fight to change it." — Cuban hospitality worker in Barcelona:

"The working class has to actively fight so that the system does not continue to destroy nature. We must organize and resist." — Irish eco-architect and activist in Spain

"In the end the transnationals and the powerful are never interested in the working class." — Transport worker from Equatorial Guinea in Spain

"It's hard for poor people to live because the rich steal everything from us." — Senegalese worker in Spain

"The capitalist system is interested in super-profits, not in the welfare of the working class." — Catalan worker in Slovakia

"We are all citizens of the world. We should not be afraid to think that we can be free." — Peruvian dentist in Portugal

And from a Chilean mechanic who lost vision in one eye during the protests in Chile early in the pandemic: "Comrades, today more than ever I know that the capitalist system has to be defeated because it only serves to massacre the working class."

BRITAIN, 1977: IMMIGRANT WORKERS' STRIKE SPARKS MASS LABOR MOBILIZATION

Forty-five years ago, south Asian women sparked one of the largest mobilizations of the workers' movement in Britain. Working in a small photo-processing plant, Grunwick, they had put up with low wages, petty humiliations and compulsory overtime. They were wage slaves.

Then a racist boss called them "chattering monkeys" for speaking Gujarati (their home language) on the job. One woman snapped back, "We're lions who could bite your head off!" Then a small group walked out, demanding a Union. Women, immigrants and few in numbers, they were sacked.



The Union movement correctly saw this as an attack on "union rights" and organized mass picketing. Steel workers, coalminers, dockworkers and others – some 20,000 strong – picketed in support. Local postal workers, crucial to Grunwick's mail-order business, refused to handle their mail.

The strike still failed. The postal workers' union caved in to legal challenges. The strikers' union caved in to the Labour government's pressure. One of the biggest mobilizations of the labour movement, one which had swept aside anti-women, anti-immigrant prejudices in a massive wave of class unity, became one of the biggest betrayals of the working class in Britain.

Even if they had won union recognition, the workers would have still been stuck in the trap of negotiating the terms of their wage slavery. The wage system – fundamental to capitalism – divides workers.

Today, women and migrants are still concentrated in the lowest-paid jobs. And they will become lions who, united with other workers, will bite the head off capitalism and its wage system. They will bring about the victory of the communist revolution.

Immigrant workers, wounded by the need to leave home and family to survive in this murderous capitalist system, have an especially strong motivation to fight for a better world. Communism is the world we need. We need to redouble our efforts to recruit readers like these and their working-class global family to join and build collectives of the International Communist Workers' Party.

Read our pamphlet
**Fight For the Day When
 No Worker Will be Called
 Foreigner**
icwpredflag.org/ffde.pdf