



LGBT: CELEBRATION & STRUGGLE

June last saw another massive Pride in Dublin with approximately 25,000 people taking part. While Pride has very much become more of a social and commercial event since its early years in Dublin it also remains a strong political expression of the ongoing struggles against Queer oppression. There was also a thousands strong “March for Marriage” through Dublin on August 14th, organised by LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Noise, which opposes civil partnership on the grounds that it does not provide similar rights to those of married heterosexual couples.

This years Pride, for the first time, included LGBT Pavee, a Queer Irish Travellers group and there was also a very large “Marriage Equality” contingent. The Transgender Equality Network section of the march, which included a number of large home made protest signs, was probably most reminiscent of the spirit of the original Dublin Pride marches of the 1980’s.

One of the earliest visible mobilisations was a 900 strong demonstration organised by the Dublin lesbian and gay collective against the suspended sentences given to five members of a gang who had beaten Declan Flynn, a 31-year old gay man, to death in Fairview Park in 1982. One of the gang told Garda they had attacked 20 ‘steamers’ (clients of male prostitutes) over the previous 6 weeks.

The National Lesbian and Gay Federation were instrumental in initiating Pride demonstrations in Dublin. Gay activist Tonie Walsh told the Sunday Business Post that: “There had been a Pride event in 1979. The event that year was small-scale, maybe as few as 20 people took part in handing out leaflets in Dublin city centre.” Pride in the 1980’s was frequently very small with as few as 25 taking part because, according to one participant, Chris Robson, “it was easier to march in that one [Fairview]; to march alongside the trade unionists who came out and marched that day

in protest and with other groups; you weren’t identifying yourself as gay...Pride was seen perhaps as being more exclusively a parade for gay people and there was more than a little concern that if one was spotted at this sort of thing that it would get back to the workplace or to family.”

Even in the late 1980’s, when the numbers had grown to over a 100, a gang of small kids shouted insults and threw stones at a Pride march between South Great George’s Street and the bottom of Camden Street. As late as 1987 RTE used criminalisation as an excuse not to run an ad for “Out” magazine and it was not until 1993 that homosexuality was decriminalised. The mass participation in Pride today is a sign of just how much has been won, even if much remains to be fought for, as the ongoing marriage equality protests demonstrate.



BALLOONS & BIGOTRY

After spending tens of thousands of euro in promotion, Youth Defence's anti-choice march finally took place in Dublin on July 2nd last. Despite the free coaches and months of preparation only about 3000 took part, making it a tiny fraction of the Pride Parade of the previous Saturday. In the week before the anti-choice march, three or four people met to initiate a pro-choice counter demonstration. This proved somewhat controversial as many pro-choice activists feel that it is better to simply ignore those who would seek to jail women to prevent them controlling their own bodies. But despite having no resources, and advertising only through a Facebook event, somewhere over 300 people turned up on Saturday to provide a counter point to the bigots parade.

Youth Defence obviously had a large budget to spend on the march itself. Apart from the hire of three open top buses or similar vehicles, there were mass produced full colour signs and stickers distributed to the participants. Bizarrely the main branding they used was the LSD and Acid House associated "Smiley Face", which was obviously part of an effort to give the demonstration a youthful face for the media. Most of the more youthful participants were packed into the front, carrying the banner. The sight of priests, monks and nuns festooned with Acid House smiley faces made for a somewhat bizarre spectacle. But

unless they have suddenly taken on a pro drug legalisation stance, it rather suggests they are considerably more out of touch with actual youth culture than they were seeking to appear, as further evidenced by their sound system blasting out tunes like House of Pain's "Jump Around", a band known for "drinking prodigious amounts of beer, and swearing constantly." A strange choice indeed for a demonstration with such religious and moralistic overtones!

The apparently deliberate modelling of the anti-choice march on Pride was also very curious. Like Pride there were balloon festooned floats blaring out music and participants in weird costumes, although unlike Pride those dressed as priests were probably wearing their work clothes. Also like Pride, there was a giant flag carried horizontally by dozens of people. The Pride flag is a giant rainbow, while The Youth Defence flag was red with 'Life' printed on it in white. There was an amusing scramble by the stewards to try and remove the condoms that were tossed onto the flag as it passed the pro-choice rally.

But behind all the amusing weirdness is a sinister agenda that seeks not only to continue to deny women access to abortion but also to turn back the clock in relation to access to contraception, sex education and Queer rights, as illustrated by the fact that the few

hand made placards permitted on the rally had references to 'sodomy' and 'contraception.'

A decade ago in the aftermath of the X-Case when the government tried to intern a 14 year old who had become pregnant as a result of rape to prevent her travelling to Britain, Youth Defence managed to quickly mobilize a 10,000 strong anti-choice demonstration. This was when they had very much more limited resources, before they had captured the mainstream of the Irish anti-choice movement and obtained massive financing from US anti-choice networks.

For many of the younger pro-choice demonstrators it was something of a shock to see the anti-choice parade and to experience the vitriol unleashed at them by its' participants. However, the fact is that even with flashy branding and a massive professional Facebook campaign the bigots cannot mobilise the numbers they once could.

It does however highlight the need for pro-choice activists to again organise on a mass basis, something that has not happened for some years. If we are to force legislation for the X-Case judgment as a first step to winning free safe abortion on demand then a new movement will need to be built.

The Irish Anarchist Review



imagining the future

Irish Anarchist Review

The Workers Solidarity Movement is very pleased to announce the third issue of The Irish Anarchist Review. This magazine is dedicated to understanding the contemporary political, economic and social situation that confronts us, and finding ways to advance alternatives.

Contact us with your postal address if you would like to receive a copy or download a PDF from: <http://www.wsm.ie/sites/default/files/IAR3-web.pdf>



THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA MOVEMENT

The attempts to break the siege of Gaza have become an internationally important movement in the years since 2008. They are a model of the use of non-violence as a tactic for building resistance to imperialism. The Gaza Strip has been blockaded by Israel and Egypt since 2007 and, despite some recent improvements, the blockade still prevents the people of Gaza from obtaining many of the basic necessities of a decent life and effectively creates the world's largest prison camp

For decades now, the governments of the Western world, especially the E.U. & North America, have been complicit in Israel's continued policies of state terrorism against the Palestinians. In the U.S. case, of course, it goes far beyond complicity: they participate directly by funding Israel with financial & military aid. They also act as Israel's big brother on the international stage; the United States routinely flexes its veto powers in the United Nations to save Israel's back. Presidents, secretaries, senators and congressmen rush to give the Zionist entity their unwavering support.

Under capitalism, power is directly related to money. The Israel Lobby & AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) in the United States are multi-million dollar organisations, funded by massive corporations. To be elected as president of the U.S. it's politically necessary to publicly pledge allegiance to AIPAC and hence Israel. It's also true for the vast majority of representatives in both Houses.

The result of the H. Res. 268 vote in the House of Representatives on the suspension of aid to the Palestinian Authority (for their intention to make a bid for statehood in September) is telling: 407 ayes, 6 nays, 5 abstentions and 13 members voting "present." These representatives are more interested in defending Israel's interests than those of working class people in the US.

The U.S. state doesn't represent its people's interests but rather those of big business and capital. The same is true of the European Union, who have accepted and fostered Israel just short of being a member state. The EU played a formal role in managing the Rafah border crossing with Egypt. Israel always had a veto on the opening of the crossing. In practice, whenever Israel didn't want the crossing open, the EU obligingly kept it shut.

Last year's massacre on the Turkish ship the MV Mavi Marmara, in which 9 non-violent aid workers were murdered by the IDF, further highlighted Europe's complicity. No action was taken against Israel for behaviour that can only be described as terrorism: murdering peaceful activists in international waters.

The flotilla carries powerful symbolism. It's more than (much needed) aid. It's a form of political action designed to break the siege of Gaza. It's a message to the besieged and terrorised people of Gaza that the people of the world are with them, and that the actions of states do not represent how ordinary people really think.

The willingness of European governments to do Israel's bidding was disgustingly obvious in recent events in Greece. The Greek government forbade the Freedom Flotilla ships from leaving its ports. Audacity of Hope and Tahrir disobeyed. They were intercepted by the Greek coast guard, brought back to shore and dozens of activists arrested.

At the same time as acting for the state of Israel, the Greek state was violently repressing the Greek people and putting them deeper into decades of slavery to the IMF, ECB and private bankers. It would be ridiculous to suggest that given this situation, the imperial powers of the EU and the U.S. did not pull Papanreou's puppet strings to encourage the Greek authorities to act as they did in bringing this year's flotilla to Gaza to a halt.

Each year the movement has snowballed. More people have become interested and involved, waking people up to the system's inherent flaws. Every activist involved in Palestine solidarity will tell you that they are even more driven following the criminal acts of various governments. This can only be a healthy thing, as more people realise that if the people's interests are to be carried out, they have to be carried out by the people themselves. This is at the core of the Freedom Flotilla. More boats will come, and civil society will continue to take direct action until the Palestinians enjoy peace and freedom.

JIMMY BILLINGS

On the Web

Anarchism on the Internet

www.anarkismo.net

www.anarchistblackcat.org

International Anarchist website with news & discussion from all five continents.

A friendly online discussion board for anarchists of all stripes.



WWW.WSM.IE

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WSM



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FINGER LICKIN' GOOD

JOINT LABOUR COMMITTEE & THE SOCIAL PARTNERS

When John Grace of Famous Fried Chicken fame is counting his money, he occasionally has to wet his finger with his tongue in order to facilitate the separation of individual notes and ensure an accurate count.

Since 7th July last he has to apply spittle more often, he has received a pay-rise of over 7% thanks to a ruling by Judge Feeney of the High Court that the "Joint Labour Committee (JLC)" rates of pay for the catering industry, which are set by the Labour Court, were unconstitutional. (See table inside for more details)

So, John Grace and his "competitors" from the "Quick Service Food Alliance", Subway, Abrakebabra, Supermacs, Burger King and others, will now be allowed to pay €8.65 per hour instead of €9.31 per hour to a new employee. Overtime rates of time-and-a half after 39 hours work in a week are no longer a legal requirement. The nighttime allowance premium of 25% extra and the Sunday allowance of 33% extra are wiped out at the stroke of a judicial pen.

The Catering JLC Sick Pay scheme for a worker with over two years of service will gradually disappear and the working week will increase from the present 39 hours to 48 hours. The judge who made this decision enjoys a salary of €243,080 (€4,674.62 per week or €119.86 per hour based on a 39 hour week).

John Grace and his colleagues in the Alliance would like us to believe that their challenge in the Courts had nothing to do with getting a pay-rise for themselves at the expense of their workers. They are saying that it will be "good for business and will create jobs!"

How will lowering the rate of pay be

"good for business"? What do they mean by "business"? Is it "trade", "profit" or a "combination of both"? By lowering wages will the catering sector be able to sell their product more cheaply, attracting more customers and boosting profit? The economy is depressed and, despite several sectors of the retail economy dropping prices, economic stimulation is not happening. One look at the drop in house prices would seem to verify this position. However, if "business" means the more honest definition of "profit", then it certainly will be good for business as the cut in wages will have a direct co-relation with the increase in employer's profits.

Will increased profits for the employers create more jobs? Not unless you conduct more trade and this will not happen as long as government and employers (including catering employers) continue to take money out of the economy through wage cuts and taxation. So, while the court decision will certainly be good for profits it won't lead to price reductions for the consumer nor will it create one extra job.

But what if the wage cut is passed on to the consumer? If wages go down by 7% and in the highly unlikely event of the "Quick Service Food Alliance" deciding to pass this "saving" on to the consumer, will we see the €2.80 bag of chips or the €3.50 burger being reduced respectively by 20 cents and 25 cents? The answer is it can't be done, as all costs (not just wages) have to come down by 7% and with gas, electricity and rates all going up, the wage cut (if wages were half overall costs) would only allow for a price drop of 10 cents and 13 cents each for the same chips and burger. It hardly seems sufficient to stimulate the fast food sector!

Remember that in the catering sector, restaurants, café's, takeaways and pubs have (with a handful of exceptions) an appalling record of failing to apply the correct rates of pay even during the years of the so-called Celtic Tiger. The archive of the Independent Workers Union bears testimony to the horrific treatment meted out to catering workers by their employers over the past decade. If they treat their workers badly then it stands to reason that their customers are only a means to an end for profit making.

What is to be done? We workers know that the Courts never do us any favours and the rights that we have achieved have come about because of organisation.

Workers' organisation means that we are in a position to exercise economic muscle, through the threat or actual withdrawal of our labour. Through the years of "Social Partnerships", when many Union leaders severely damaged (and sometimes destroyed) our structures, through open collaboration with our class enemies and their agents in Government, we lost the habit of exercising our economic power. We need to re-educate and re-train ourselves in this department.

We need to talk to workers whose wages and conditions were part of the JLC system. We must convince these same workers that, by being united in Trade Union organisation, we will once again be in a position to use economic muscle. In such circumstances, employers will reluctantly enter into agreements with us, as their fear of losing profit is foremost on their minds and they realise that a withdrawal of labour will see no profits being made.

NOEL MURPHY - IWU
WWW.UNION.IE

THINKING ABOUT ANARCHISM: “I HATE MONDAYS”

EDDIE CONLON
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED FEB. 1988

Unemployment is at alarming levels. There are hundreds of thousands of workers who would take any job. At least it is better than being on the dole. But of course that is what unemployment is all about. It is a tool the bosses use to discipline those in work and help them keep wages low. Also, as workers are let go those remaining are expected to take on more work. Few workers are resisting this. Most just want to hang on to what they have.

Unfortunately all this makes us forget that work, as it is under capitalism, is a pretty unattractive proposition. Most workers still hate Mondays knowing that the week ahead has little to offer except a repeat of last week and the week before that. Most work is boring and repetitive. You spend most of your day doing what you have done day in and day out.

Workers have no control over their work. They do not decide what is produced, how much will be produced, when and under what conditions. There is no sense in being really fulfilled or socially useful. Indeed a lot of products produced at the moment have no real social value. All workers see at the end of the week is their wage packet, which for most is the only good reason to work. They also see the boss creaming off the profits and able to afford a bigger house, bigger car, bigger everything.

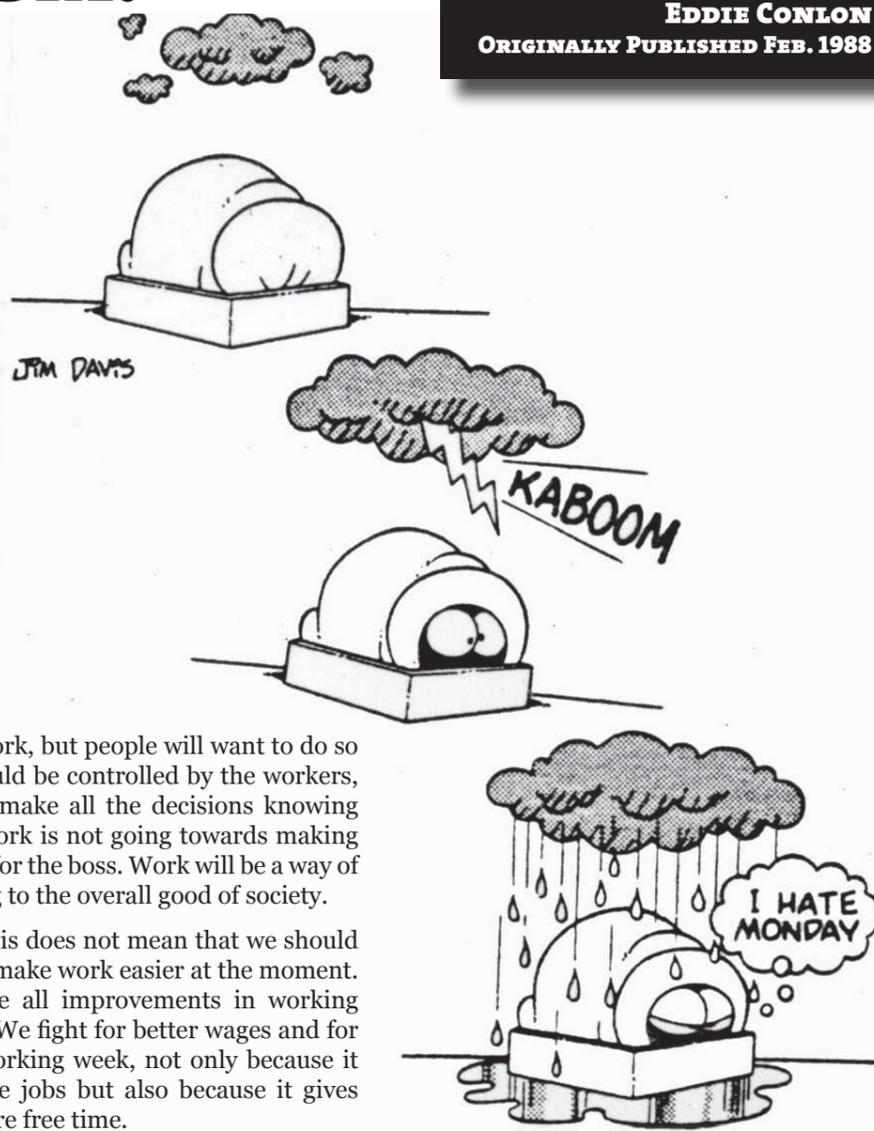
In an anarchist society, work would be radically different. The economy would be planned and would not be prone to the booms and slumps that we have now. Thousands of workers would not be thrown out of work because it is not profitable to continue production. Production would be to meet people's needs.

The working day could be radically reduced. All the unemployed would be brought into productive activity. Unproductive jobs such as advertising and anti-social production such as in the arms industry would be done away with. Ads are only needed when there is more than one type of a particular product. For example, we have at least ten brands of washing powder, which all wash whiter than white. In an anarchist society we would produce one, the best one. Goods would be made to last to ensure that time and resources are not wasted continually producing those that only last a short time. Thus there would be more people producing the goods we need and want.

Technology would be developed and its use expanded to the benefit of workers. All of this would ensure that workers have the time to do what they want to do. Nobody would be left doing the really boring, repetitive and dirty jobs, which would be rotated. Everybody would be expected to do some of this work. Everybody who could would be ex-

pected to work, but people will want to do so as work would be controlled by the workers, who would make all the decisions knowing that their work is not going towards making vast profits for the boss. Work will be a way of contributing to the overall good of society.

Of course this does not mean that we should not fight to make work easier at the moment. We welcome all improvements in working conditions. We fight for better wages and for a shorter working week, not only because it creates more jobs but also because it gives workers more free time.



ANARCHISM & THE WSM

The major development for the WSM of late has been the establishment of a Galway branch, which is now up and running and meeting fortnightly in the city. We have had contacts with various anarchists in the city for a number of years and are delighted to now have a core of people in Galway campaigning and promoting anarchism in the West.

Some of our new members from Connacht joined our Dublin based members at a pro-choice picket of the Youth Defence march in Dublin in June (see article elsewhere). We were also present on Pride in the city (again, see article elsewhere in this edition). WSM supported the efforts of the Freedom Flotilla to break the Israeli siege of Gaza and we attended protests following the sabotage of the Irish boat on the flotilla by Israel at port in Greece, as well as outside the Gaiety theatre before a performance of Riverdance aimed at encouraging the company to boycott their proposed tour

of Israel. Elsewhere on the streets, our members helped organise for a “Real Democracy Now” protest to the Dail in July. We also had a presence at the Shell 2 Sea day of action in Mayo on July 29th (see <http://bit.ly/pzPAvr> for more on the days activities)

July also marked the 75th anniversary of the start of the Spanish Civil War and we held a bookstall at an Eirigi commemorative event in the Teachers Cub in Dublin, focusing an Irish involvement in the anti-Franco alliance, where speakers included the noted historians Harry Owens and Emmett O'Connor.

Down South, our Cork based members have also been involved in Real Democracy Now activity in the city as well as ongoing Independent Workers Union organising campaigns (see article elsewhere). Our Solidarity Books store hosted two book launches during the summer, Conor McCabe's “Sins of the

Father” and Tommy McKearney's “The Provisional IRA: From Insurrection to Parliament”. The regular series of film nights at that venue continued while our members also participated in a Solidarity Books fundraising climb of Carran-touhill on August 6th.

Looking ahead to the autumn, the campaign against the proposed household charge will gather momentum. The WSM is already involved in laying the groundwork for this (see <http://bit.ly/pqMhGV>) but we will need as many people as possible both supporting and active in the campaign if it is to succeed. If you are interested in helping out or in learning anything else about our work or activities, then get in touch!

For further information on the above and other breaking news, check out

<http://www.wsm.ie>

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Indymedia Ireland
Alternative user-generated Irish news.
<http://www.indymedia.ie>

Seomra Spraoi
Dublin Social Centre
10 Belvedere Court, Dublin 1.
<http://www.seomraspraoi.org>

Solidarity Books
Cork Radical Bookshop & Meeting Space
43 Douglas Street, Cork.
solidaritybooks@gmail.com

Just Books
Belfast Radical Bookshop
13-15 Clarence Street, Belfast.
justbooks@rocketmail.com

Shell to Sea
Campaign to move Shell's gas pipeline offshore from Co. Mayo.
<http://www.shelltosea.com>

Hands Off the People of Iran
Anti-imperialist network for solidarity with Iranian trade unionists & the women's rights movement.

<http://www.hopoi.org>

Choice Ireland
Abortion rights action group
choiceireland@gmail.com
<http://www.choiceireland.org>

Residents Against Racism
Opposing racism and deportations.
24 hour helpline: 087 666 2060

Cork Palestine Link
Part of the Free Gaza Movement that is sending a convoy of aid to Gaza.
palestinecork@gmail.com
086 337 8146

Irish Palestine Solidarity Campaign
01-6770253 | info@ipsc.ie
<http://www.ipsc.ie>

solidaritybooks



43 Douglas St., Cork

Solidarity Books is a radical bookshop in Cork open for the 18 months. It has a wide selection of books on anarchism, socialism and Irish history. It also holds regular radical film nights and is a meeting space for progressive groups in the city. It is run by WSM.

	JLC Rate	New Min.Rate	% Wage Cut
Chef/Cook	€9.51	€8.65	9%
Head Chef /Cook	€9.92	€8.65	14%
Short Order Cook / Fast Service Cook	€9.51	€8.65	9%
Waiter/Waitress	€9.31	€8.65	7%
Barperson	€9.31	€8.65	7%
Counter Assistant	€9.31	€8.65	7%
Clerical Worker	€9.31	€8.65	7%
General Worker	€9.31	€8.65	7%
Part-time Employee	€9.31	€8.65	7%
Casual Employee	€9.31	€8.65	7%

Note 1: Some particularly brilliant Chefs/Cooks can command high salaries – but these are the exception rather than the norm.

Note 2. Although Irish Law has outlawed discrimination on grounds of age – there exists in-built discrimination against young workers as those under 21 years of age get a lower “Minimum rate of Pay” which can be as little as - €6.06 €6.49 €6.92 or €7.79 per hour.

Note 3: As the outlawing of the JLC also eliminates premium payments for Sundays, Overtime and Night Work, the percentage pay cuts for the workers is greater than shown above and likewise the percentage pay rises for the Catering Bosses.

HOUSEHOLD TAX CAN'T PAY - WON'T PAY

Workers Solidarity Movement members are currently centrally involved in helping to establish a campaign against the new household tax announced by the government. For this campaign to be successful it will have to be built at a local level in every area of Dublin and in every town and city around the country. The central plank of the campaign will be non-payment and it will be based on the successful anti-water charges campaign of the 1990s.

This needs the active involvement of as many people as possible - both people who have been involved in campaigns before and, more importantly, people who have never been involved in any campaigning before. Those who have been involved in similar campaigns before will bring considerable experience and ideas to the tactical development of the campaign. But the key ingredient needed now is the energy and enthusiasm of the many thousands of people who see this tax as unfair and unjust and who view this as an opportunity to organise against the constant attacks on us by government policy.

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION OR WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER YOU CAN ALSO TEXT OR RING GREGOR KERR

086 1501151 / KERRGREGOR@YAHOO.CO.UK

AFTER CLOYNE

Enda Kenny's speech in the Dail about the Cloyne report seems to signal that the southern Irish ruling class is preparing to break with the Catholic Church. While Kenny's statement has been the strongest to date it is a pitiful reflection of the state that it has taken it this long to categorically condemn the Roman Catholic Church that, after Cloyne, is tainted beyond what even their most ardent supporters thought possible.

Ultimately however talk is cheap. While Kenny can play the great statesman and the Vatican can stomp deeper into irrelevancy by withdrawing the papal nuncio, the core issues around what will be done remain unresolved. While the Dail goes on break the church still has its tentacles in the vast majority of schools in Ireland.

Currently the government has a proposal to remove 50% of the schools from the churches clutches. This falls far too short. The question should surely be how could we, as a society, justify the Catholic Church having any contact or control over the lives of children? The dangers of the Catholic Church's involvement in schools on any level was horrendously highlighted in one case exposed in the Cloyne report, where a member of the clergy used his position on the board of management to threaten a teacher who tried to report a suspected abuse case.

This is the type of activity covered up by the church right up until 2008. Indeed there's no reason to believe that the cover up ended then given the level of resistance to the report put up by the Church. It has exposed its contempt for ordinary people even further by closing ranks around the issue of protecting the 'seal of the confessional', even if that means protecting abusers. Supposed reforming clerics like the Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin believe this to be the correct course of action. It is abundantly clear, for decades now, that they are a danger to society and surely no further proof is needed that all sections of the religious organisations put their organisation before the safety of children.

While recognising that abuse is always the result of unaccountable power, whatever forms that power takes, given the Catholic Church's record, the only solution is to completely remove them from the running of schools. We also need to examine their role and place in society as a whole and end church control of schools, community centres and sports facilities.



GREECE™ BARGAIN OUTLET!

Don't visit Greece this summer, boycott it. This is not an order by the invisible hand of the markets, but a mere suggestion from someone who was born in the so-called Greek territory.

Why travel to a country that treats its own citizens as an enemy of the state and has no real problem, in the name of tourism, to release sadists, dressed as policemen, against protestors and even, well... tourists? Why support a country that stages a court martial which sentences 18-year olds to eleven years of imprisonment with no hard evidence, effectively creating perhaps the youngest political prisoners in Europe (as happened in the "Halandri" case)?

The more time PASOK (the ruling party) stays in power, the more obvious it becomes that the Prime Minister, George Papandreou (also president of the Socialist International, former President Mubarak of Egypt was a member) has put Greece up for sale in an effort to ease its debts in order to keep the EU, IMF and ECB happy. In the effort to convince the public that this loss of sovereignty is essential, they have mobilized once again their loyal news agencies (which go bankrupt one by one), their fascist friends and riot police that threaten to send fascists to your work place if they don't really like your face (as happened to a group of immigrants in Athens).

Nevertheless, people go on to the streets being impolite and ruining the otherwise perfect picture of Greece to the outside world. There's a thin line between politeness and being civilized and our leaders always try to mix these meanings together via the mass media that promotes the model of a European citizen: a polite smiling family-man who feels democratic every four years in front of a ballot box.

Now we experience the first steps of a society that starts from below and spreads horizontally. Plazas fill with infuriated people demanding direct democracy, independent workers unions' form against the two major ones, boosted by the new cuts and unemployment rates of 16% to 20% (depending of your sources). From the events of 2008 and on, the anarchist and anti-capitalist movements have gained momentum, but now they need once again to redefine themselves and their ways. The events run faster than static social perspectives. Now we need to get down and dirty, mix with the masses and hear what they have to say. And this is not a suggestion, it is a fact!

**MARIO
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR**