

No to Lisbon

A Treaty for the Rich

The WSM is calling for a No vote in the 2nd Lisbon referendum on the grounds that people in Ireland can do a lot better than a choice between the clowns in the Dáil or those in Brussels. We oppose the EU's policies of privatisation, militarisation and attacks on workers' conditions but don't insult people's intelligence by saying that our current society in Ireland with its severe recession, diabolical public services and corruption is anything better. The major lack of democracy in our lives is not between us and the EU but between the Irish government and us.

We see issues like the democratic deficit in the EU as merely a symptom of the real problem. The real problem is in how we live our own lives. We work all day and have absolutely no control over our lives or in our workplace; we are asked to vote every five years to choose who we would like to make decisions for us. This is not democracy in any meaningful sense of the word.

There are people who do have control however; the politicians and business elites. They make money off our work everyday. A quick look over the past ten years in this country has shown they couldn't care less about us. A massive amount of wealth has been created by workers in this



country during the Celtic Tiger years, yet we have seen little long-term improvement in our lives as a result.

Anarchists believe the problem is not the treaty alone but the EU as an institution. The treaty, no matter what it contained, wouldn't give us more control of our lives. This can only happen when we have democracy in our communities and workplaces. Thus, only a radical change in the democratic and economic structure of our society can change things so that the

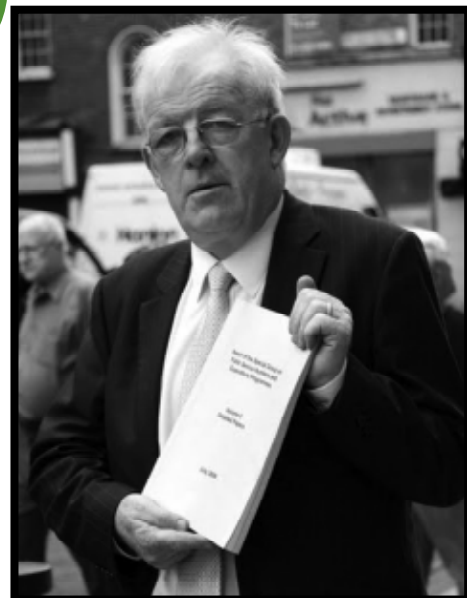
majority of people benefit from the resources of this country. The wealth, held now by the minority, must be used to benefit everyone.

So, why should we give them the thumbs up? Vote 'No' to their project for benefiting elites. But a vote 'No' is worth little on its own if things are not changed at home. The EU must change but so too must Irish society.

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Bord Snip Targets Workers & Pensioners



The McCarthy or "Bord Snip Nua" report on public spending outlined a range of proposed cuts in government expenditure. Of the €5.3b in possible savings, it can be safely said that at least €4b of this (and probably more) targets the working class. Indeed, a full third of the cuts are aimed at pensioners and unemployed. In the private sector, attacks on our class continue in the form of pay cuts, short time and lay-offs.

Different strategies have been proposed to tackle this onslaught on working people and the unemployed. Jack O'Connor, president of SIPTU, has suggested that social provisions be built into the National Assets Management Agency (NAMA) legislation so that property acquired by the state from the banks can be put to socially beneficial use. The Irish Congress of

Trade Unions has proposed a 'social solidarity pact' to deal with the problem,

These proposed solutions, while perhaps having some marginal effect, ignore the fundamental problem that capitalism, by its very nature, always involves crises. So, we will always face these arguments for combating the worst excesses of the beast, when in fact it needs to be slain.

We need an economy and a society built around anarchist principles of co-operation and mutual aid, whereby working people have direct democratic control of their workplaces and communities. Such a society will provide for all and not be subject to the vagaries of capitalism and the market.

However, this is not to say that, short of this goal, our class cannot make gains. At the time of writing, action by workers at

the Element Six plant in Shannon is ongoing in an effort to improve redundancy terms. Dublin port workers, employees of Marine Terminals Limited have been on strike since the beginning of July as their employer has tried to cut pay and break the union. To broaden the struggle there have been marches and blockades of the terminal entrance, with support from other trade unionists and the local communities of East Wall and Ringsend.

These are examples of workers taking the initiative themselves through direct action, rather than passively relying on union leaders and their proposed solutions outlined above. This is the direction that our class must take if we are to successfully combat the attacks on everything we won over the last 15 years.

Vincent O'Malley

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Organise!

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Revolutionary Anarcha-Feminist Group (RAG)

PO BOX 10785, Dublin 1.
http://ragdublin.blogspot.com/

Libertarian Networks

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

Galway Social Space

24 Middle Street, Galway.
http://www.galwayspace.org

Campaigning Groups

Free Education for Everyone

Campaign to stop the reintroduction of college fees and to promote the right to free education for all.
stopfees@gmail.com
http://free-education.info/

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

Alliance for Choice (NI)

http://allianceforchoiceni.org

Residents Against Racism

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

Lisbon - Some Truth & Plenty of Lies

One of the great problems that people encounter in making up their minds about the Lisbon treaty is that, depending on who you talk to, the treaty can appear to be an altogether different thing. According to those who are campaigning for a Yes vote, it merely serves to tidy up the existing European treaties, with a few changes to allow the EU to function more efficiently.

According to those campaigning for a No vote, the treaty would sign away national sovereignty, undermine democracy and workers' rights, increase militarisation and override Ireland's social and cultural ethos. And that's without mentioning the numerous alarming claims from the fringes that predict all sorts of catastrophes if the treaty goes one way or the other.

The great confusion surrounding the treaty is not just a consequence of the dishonesty of the political parties and special interest groups that are involved in the campaign, although that certainly doesn't help. The nature of the treaty very much depends on the context in which it is considered. If the general direction and trajectory of the EU is taken as a given and the treaty is considered in isolation, the Yes campaign's interpretation of the treaty appears to be more accurate.

There is very little in it that is likely to bring about any great change to the current political or economic direction of the EU or its member states. The most substantial changes primarily focus on the problem of allowing the EU state to take decisions more efficiently, in a way that is slightly more representative of population distribution.

It's only when you look at the bigger picture that the arguments of the No campaign begin to make sense. The EU is a state in slow formation which largely exists in order to enable the European states to combine forces in order to assert themselves economically and politically on the world stage.

Since its formation, there has been a series of treaties which have seen the member nations progressively cede sovereignty over areas of their affairs to the

EU. Perhaps most importantly, the EU has served as a common political front for Europe's industrialists - negotiating trade agreements, setting tariffs and distributing subsidies in order to ensure that European industry remains internationally competitive.

Thus, despite the fact that the Lisbon treaty may not itself contain much that is new, it represents a significant step in further enabling European integration and continuing towards the goal of making the EU a global economic and political power.

This process will involve further centralisation of decision making power, economic reforms that continue to privilege property rights and free markets over social goals and workers' rights, the development of a central military capacity and the gradual erosion of national identities in favour of a unified European identity.

Of course, it is unlikely that very many people campaigning on either side of the referendum will be altogether frank. The campaigning will be dominated by political parties and interest groups who are much more interested in winning the contest than they are in presenting a realistic depiction of the treaty to the public.

Yes campaigners will continue to present any and all concerns about the overall direction of the EU as some sort of xenophobic rejection of European civilisation. No campaigners will continue to find clauses in the text that they claim reveal the treaty's enormous negative significance.

The big problem for the supporters of European integration has always been that they consider the population of Europe to be insufficiently mature to allow them to honestly consider the arguments in favour of integration. The people are too nationalistic, too economically ignorant and too sentimental to allow the rulers of Europe to openly propose the elimination of their nations and the formation of a European super-state, no matter how rational such a step might be.

Hence, they will concentrate on minute examination of the details of the treaty devoid of context alongside predictions of

catastrophic consequences if the people should be so foolish as to reject "Europe".

It is worth noting that the treaty amounts to little more than a redrafting of the defeated European constitution and is being presented to the Irish people for a second time, entirely unchanged, after being rejected. Its proponents are certainly not people whom one could accuse of having great faith in the democratic will of the people.

However, the No campaign also faces its own big problem. While it is easy to criticise the current direction of the EU, coming up with a convincing alternative is far more difficult. Rejecting the treaty merely means the retention of the status quo. Particularly in Ireland, it's hard to see the EU state being any less democratic, honest, principled or competent than the hapless gombeens who run this place.

When it comes to alternatives, virtually none of the No campaigners are in favour, openly at least, of Ireland leaving the EU. It is indeed difficult to see how such a departure would result in anything other than a total economic collapse and the idea enjoys almost no public support. Those No campaigners who do put forward alternative proposals normally limit themselves to demanding a better deal for Ireland, despite the fact that such demands are generally unrealistic.

What this all means is that, for those who oppose the current direction of the EU, rejections of referenda are pretty pointless by themselves. In the absence of alternative ideas that are supported by large numbers of people, the status quo will reassert itself while Europe's political machine will busy itself in coming up with a more successful way of advancing integration.

The real challenge is in coming up with effective ways of convincing large numbers of people that alternatives to the current logic of the EU are seen as both plausible and desirable.

Lisbon & Democracy: Do We Really Have a Say?



It's the time of year where we plebs get a chance to rectify our impertinence in rejecting the Lisbon Treaty. In itself, rerunning the referendum is hardly an affront to democracy. After all, people are simply being asked to confirm the decision made.

The reason it raises hackles is the sheer obviousness of the government's bias; if the yes side had won, then there would be no second referendum. After all, there wasn't any after Maastricht, Amsterdam, or Nice 2.

Put alongside this the fact that the treaty is a warmed over version of the EU constitution rejected by France and Holland – whose leaders haven't made the mistake of sending Lisbon for ratification by voters this time – and it is hardly a surprise that rerunning the referendum is considered a sleight of the democratic hand.

Democracy, like motherhood and apple pie, is nowadays so universally acclaimed that alongside paeans to human rights, it is invoked by western powers to bomb disobedient third world tyrants.

It wasn't always like that. For centuries the thought that regular people might

have a say in running society filled the ruling elites with a feeling of terror that the mob would run amok and, horror of horrors, do away with the private fortunes enjoyed by Tony O'Reilly, Michael O'Leary and the like.

There was some truth to their fears. Particularly from the time of French revolution, when the domination of aristocrats and the super-rich was increasingly challenged. Many people came to the conclusion that a society which encouraged huge disparities of wealth could not be democratic in practice.

They reasoned that the wealthy would have the time and resources to dominate the cultural life of a country. In the past that included buying political support, subsidising churches, and gaining control over the press. With these levers, it is relatively easy to build a consensus that the current set up of rich and poor, of citizen and foreigner, is the most natural thing on earth.

Despite the challenge from the labour movement and other progressive forces, the cultural dominance of the powerful has not been eclipsed. Television, radio, and the press remain firmly in the control

of a minority. The internet remains an avenue of hope, but it is just as much a vehicle for celebrity trivia as for progressive reform.

Nor is the restricted arena of social and political debate the only barrier to meaningful democracy. People's chance to participate in making important social decisions is limited to mainly choosing from a set of politicians and to some decisions about one's personal lifestyle. We are never asked about the overall goals of the organisation we work for and rarely on how it should be organised.

Although the current economic crisis leaves the elites facing a series of choices, say, whether to implement NAMA or nationalise the banks, these decisions are out of our hands. Working people are, however, expected to pick up the tab through increased taxes and cutbacks to public services.

The same applies to any major investment decision taken by a government or corporation. When, for instance, were we asked whether giving away the gas off the western coast for half nothing? And when are the American people ever going to get a chance to vote on continuing their various overseas military occupations?

The upcoming Lisbon vote is one of the rare occasions that the people get a direct say. But only a very limited say. We get to choose between either a gombeen republic or an embryonic European state, neither of which makes for an exciting prospect.

Whichever way the vote goes, there is no indication that either a yes or a no vote will substantially alter the exclusion of the public from major public decisions. That requires a rethinking of the kind of society we want.

James O'Brien

Find out more. Check out www.wsm.ie

Informacje i artykuły w języku polskim dostępne na stronie www.wsm.ie/polska

Thinking About Anarchism : Will the Real Communists Please Stand Up?

Today the word “communism” is most often associated with the totalitarian one-party states of Soviet Russia or China. Nothing could be further from the anarchist goal of a stateless, free society. So the association of anarchism with communism seems, at first sight, perverse.

But just as anarchists’ attachment to the ideas of democracy does not mean we are supporters of the USA’s Democratic Party, neither does our commitment to communism mean that we have anything in common with the Communist Parties of the USSR, China, Cuba, and others. Just as we still see the value of talking about freedom, even though many defenders of the current system make out that freedom is synonymous with capitalism and free markets. So we believe that there is worth in talking about communism even though many in the past have used it as a synonym for state ownership and tyranny.

Although we, the ordinary workers, collectively make everything, we can’t do so without the land, buildings, tools, machines, vehicles and other material resources we need to make our

labour productive. Without control of these means of production we cannot use our power to make the world we live in as we want it.

Throughout the last century we were told that there were only two alternatives as to who controlled these means of production. Either liberal capitalism where the means of production were the private property of individual capitalists. Or state ‘socialism’ where the means of production were the public property of the state. Either way, ordinary working people were denied any real control over these means and, so, over the use of our work.

For us communism has as little to do with state ‘socialism’ as it has with capitalism. For us there is another possibility beyond private property and public property. That is, to hold the means of production in common. To hold in common means to control directly, not to have ownership simply pass from the authority of the boss to the authority of the bureaucrat. This is why we are both for communism and against the state.

But communism is a whole made of two

halves and the second half is that, as well as holding in common all the means of making our labour productive, we also share the produce of our labour equally.

This second part is the most challenging. Can it be fair that those who work more should get the same as those who work less? The fairness of the wage system is based on the idea that those who work hardest and longest should get the most reward. But the reality of the system is that everywhere, at all times, it has been those who toil the longest at the dirtiest and most dangerous jobs who are always the worst off, whereas the richest seem to do no work at all. This is the mystery of the age. Why does the wage system always produce the exact opposite of the very fairness it is supposed to embody?

People have been trying to come up with answers to this mystery for a long time. Many say that the problem is not with the wage system itself, but something outside of it that is corrupting it, frustrating its natural justice. Communists like us say instead that the problem is internal to the wage system itself. No reform can prevent it

from forever becoming a system for making the rich richer and the poor their slaves.

The full explanation of how this occurs takes time, but we have the real world to show us that this is exactly what has always happened, without exception regardless of period, country or culture. In outline it has to do with the clash within a system based on division of labour where we must all play our part in a social collaboration, yet where we are all set in competition against each other to get different shares of the social product. The competitive aspect of the wage obstructs the cooperative aspect of our work. So much so, that communists believe that if we set aside our competitive unequal wage system, the reduction in waste and improvement in productivity will result in a better life for everyone, both materially and socially. The relative unfairness of equality, through cooperation, will give us a fairer society than the supposed fairness of a competitive society could ever dream of.

Paul Bowman

Anarchism in Action: The WSM is 25

The Workers Solidarity Movement is twenty-five years old this autumn. A quarter of a century ago anarchists in Ireland came together to establish an organisation to promote and fight for our ideas.

What exactly is our aim? Well, to put it directly, we want to change the world so that we can live in a society that works on the principles of participatory democracy, real equality and full human freedom. In other words we want to build a classless society where there is no division of people into order-givers and order-takers—that is what anarchism stands for.

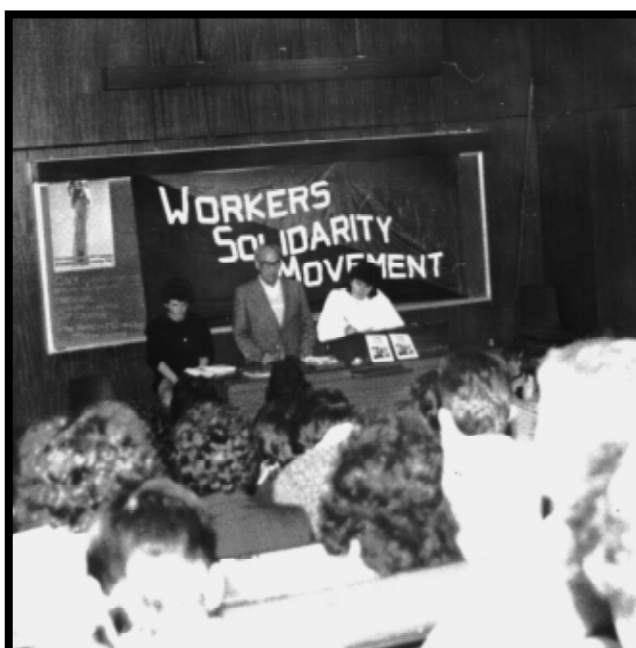
We are sometimes told that this a lofty aim, perhaps even impractical. We don’t agree. In the last century the workers’ movement came close to achieving what anarchists want on a number of occasions. One fine example was Spain in 1936/37 but there are others.

How we get to an anarchist society, how it will become possible, is completely tied to how we fight on the issues that affect us now. This has always been the anarchist movement’s strength. We are a movement of people like you, affected and angry about the same issues. We simply want this: to organise to win.

Twenty-five years ago in Ireland, it was hard to find much information on anarchism, let alone meet with other anarchists. The ‘left’ at that time was dominated by moderates from the Labour Party and those who espoused the idea that the Soviet Union was the sort of society we should aim to create! Yes, you are right, it was strange back then. The WSM was set up as break from this straightjacket.

We rejected the idea out of hand that socialism has anything to do with curtailing people’s freedoms (as was clearly the case with the old Soviet Union). We felt it was important for the left in Ireland to realise that there is a bigger tradition of rebellion and socialism. This is the ‘libertarian’ or anarchist tradition – a working-class movement that celebrates individuality, diversity & free expression as well as the struggle for change.

Since the foundation of the socialist movement, we have always been opposed to the idea that meaningful change could be brought about by any minority. We want democracy or course – who doesn’t – but the Dáil or Stormont have little to do with democracy, they are just about choosing a small group of rulers. You will never find anarchists standing in those elections.



Spanish Anarchist & Civil War Veteran Enrique Marco Nadal speaking to a packed audience in Cork in 1986. The WSM organised a Nationwide speaking tour for the veteran fighter on the 50th anniversary of the Spanish Revolution.

As anarchists, the WSM argues that the most effective way to win any struggle is through our own power, by using ‘direct action’. What exactly is that? Well direct action is the idea that we are collectively strong and that if enough of us act together we can bring the necessary change.

A good example of direct action that the WSM was centrally involved in was the defeat of the Water Tax in the Dublin area. We argued that people should defy the law and not pay the tax. This is what masses of us did and the Councils were powerless! We won.

When the WSM was founded, we had just a branch in Dublin and the beginnings of one in Cork. We were small – determined mind, but small. Now, today, there are three WSM branches in Dublin alone, one branch (probably soon two) in Cork, a branch in Belfast – and we hope to have a branch in Limerick later in the year.

There are also WSM members and supporters across the country, in Sligo, Derry, Buncrana, Drogheda, Dundalk, Wexford, Tralee, Forkhill and Killarney to name just a few places. It seems fair to point out that there are very few big

working class struggles that go on anywhere on this island that don’t see us involved in some way. This is a big step forward – a breakthrough.

A massive achievement for us has been our newspaper – this one that you are reading! It has gone from a circulation of 1,000 to 10,000. It could be a better paper & it could be bigger but all that is just a matter of time & more resources.

Alongside Workers Solidarity, the WSM has produced hundreds of different leaflets, magazines and posters over the years. Moving with the times too, we now have a big internet presence – see wsm.ie.

Membership wise we began with just five – yes five – and now there are just over sixty of us. Membership means agreeing with a general set of ideas about what we stand for; agreeing on a plan of action to spread anarchism; and giving a small amount of money to support the running of the WSM.

We organise ourselves democratically and twice a year we meet in conference to decide on policies and priorities. Over the years these priorities have seen us commit ourselves to a host of important campaigns. We have fought in our unions against ‘partnership’ with the bosses; we have campaigned for divorce and abortion rights; we have been involved in combating racism and sectarianism.

It would be wrong to suggest that it has been a cake-walk getting this far. When the WSM was formed in 1984, we didn’t realise how bad the recession was going to be – emigration was rampant and there was a lot of demoralisation. Here in Ireland we had to contend with ‘Partnership’ and constant imposition of an agenda on the shop floor that encourages passivity. But we dug in nonetheless and held on.

Crucially, during this first quarter century, we have always been sure about our ideas – not just about our ultimate goal but just as important, about the relevance of our methods. Time and again in our activism, we have won respect and support because we are prepared to stand side by side with people in struggle. So it should be.

At 25 the WSM remains clear about our objective. We intend to be part of a movement that makes a revolution. What we intend to do now is to take the next steps: to grow even bigger and stronger. Doing that of course is not solely up to us. As much as anything we need your assistance: think about getting involved, think about fighting back with us! We have a new world in our hearts.

Kevin Doyle

The Employers Offensive: *Striking Back Gets Results*

Thomas Cook workers refused to go quietly when they were tossed onto the dole. Cooks had made £400m profit in 2008 and their boss, Manny Fontela-Novoa, took home €7 million. This was not a failing business.

With the support of their union, the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association, they occupied their workplace in Dublin's Grafton Street and defied a High Court order to get out. After four days they were arrested in a 5am garda operation that involved sealing off surrounding streets.

The support generated by their courageous stand made the Court reluctant to jail them and forced management to increase their redundancy payments by conceding an 'ex-gratia' payment on top of the five weeks per year already offered.

Less than a mile away, cleaners at the Department of the Environment in the Custom House won their strike against pay cuts. After a new firm won the cleaning contract they were told to do more work in fewer hours for less money. SIPTU members refused to accept this and the new bosses told the cleaners they would not be employed when the company took over the contract on July 1st.

Pickets were placed, and held firm for a month. The civil servants' unions, CPSU and IMPACT, began balloting their members for action in support. By standing firm and building wider support they won. They went back to work victorious; with their original jobs, hours and pay.

Car workers at the recently closed Visteon plant in Belfast also saw their redundancy terms improved after a militant occupation of their workplace, as did the Calcast workers in Derry.



The strike by 10,500 electricians in July was the first big test of strength in the private sector. Although the strike only concerned the electrical contracting industry and the way pay is negotiated there, support from other private sector workers made it more than simply an electricians' strike.

When the ICTU executive cancelled the national strike against pay cuts on March 30th, many employers saw this sign of weakness as a green light for sticking the boot in. The electrical contractors wanted to withhold an 11% increase owed for over year and add on a 10% pay cut across the board.

After a week on strike the TEEU ended up with a 4.9% pay rise recommendation from the Labour Court. It was only a partial victory, and a lot more could have been won if the strike had continued a little longer.

It was, however, a stark contrast to the ICTU leadership's pathetic attempts to get back into talks with the Government and breathe life into the corpse of "social partnership."

Of course it is true that if you fight you may not always win. Which side comes out on top depends on determination, combative spirit and getting enough solidarity action. We have a lot of work to do when it comes to rebuilding our unions as fighting organisations, and rebuilding the tradition of workers supporting each other.

But if you never fight you will lose every time. And every time we lose the bosses get more confident and come back looking for even more. As employers are on an offensive to reduce our living standards, our choice is between workers' solidarity and the "race to the bottom".

5,000 March for Gay Rights

Sunday, August 9th saw over 5,000 demonstrators in Dublin take part in a march in support of equal marriage status for gay couples. The 'March for Marriage' was organised by lobby group LGBT Noise, and was supported by the LGBT community, heterosexuals, and political groups, including the Workers Solidarity Movement.

The demonstration took place in order to highlight the inadequacies of the Civil Partnership Bill for gay couples. The proposed legislation has been criticised for institutionalising discrimination against gay couples, and it would have significant repercussions for inheritance and adoption.

According to Liam Connolly of LGBT Noise, "the government insists on introducing a civil partnership bill which, by its very nature, is unequal. It is unequal because it is separate. Even if its provisions were identical to marriage, it would still send out a message that same sex relationships are inferior, that our love and our families don't count and that gay people do not deserve an equal standing in society."

The WSM fully supports the introduction of equal marriage rights for gay couples.

According to one of the marchers, WSM member Donal ó Fáilín, "equality means equal rights for everyone regardless of sexuality, gender or race. Our fight for a better society means that we support any effort to reduce inequalities and discrimination amongst the working class."



'Sicko' at Leas Cross

The report into the Leas Cross Nursing home scandal was a shocker. Elderly patients were dying in unexplained circumstances; others had open and infected sores which were left untreated; others still were being restrained and held against their wishes. Odd though isn't it, given the uproar about what went on there, that so little attention was focused on the businessman who ran Leas Cross. There's a reason for that.

Leas Cross was a 'for profit' medical establishment – the sort of thing Harney and Cowen are promoting as a solution across the health service here in Ireland. The report into what went on at Leas Cross found that 'the principal cause of the decline in care standards failure of the home was the failure of the home to employ sufficient competent staff'.

Yet when this 'decline' was happening, Leas Cross was posting not just profits but big increases in its profits. In 2005 alone profits jumped up by 40%. At the time Leas Cross was owned by the businessman, John Aherne. Says it all: 'for profit' health care, no thanks.

A Good Man with Sheds & Fences...

John Fleming, the west Cork businessman who began his career making sheds and ended up owing the banks €1 billion – the tab for which we will be picking up, no doubt – is a great example of how the other half is dealing with the recession. Whereas you and I have to pinch and scrape, John Fleming can still call on plenty of spare coins – despite his massive debt.

A few years ago Fleming was the 75th wealthiest person in Ireland, worth over €138 million. Now apparently he has fallen to 104th in the Sunday Times Rich List and still has close to €60 million in personal wealth. In other words times may be 'baddish' but Fleming, like most of Ireland's rich, has ring-fenced his core wealth so that it will be untouched by the collapse in his building empire. It's not NAMA we need, it's expropriation.

Judy Boland

That's Capitalism



Mayawati, the Prime Minister of India's Uttar Pradesh province has spent €177 million of taxpayers' money on massive statues of herself and of her party's symbol, the elephant. She also spent €11.2 million on a private jet to save her 10 minutes on her visits to New Delhi.

While children's hospital beds are closed because "there is no money", the government refuses to even consider a tax increase from 41% to 51% on incomes over €100,000, which would yield an extra €1.4 billion.

A millionaire member of the British House of Lords has claimed more than £20,000 in allowances by saying that a small rented flat occupied by his brother is his main home. When questioned, Lord Bhatia could not even remember its address.

Central Statistics Office data on wage earnings of almost 200,000 workers in manufacturing shows that management awarded themselves an average 6.5% increase in the first quarter of 2009, while at the same time average earnings of clerical workers were cut by 2.3% and production workers' earnings were cut by just under 1%. The average annual pay of a manufacturing manager is €61,000. The average for manufacturing clerical workers is €39,000, and €33,000 for production workers.

anarkismo.net

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

www.anarchistblackcat.org



A friendly and respectful online discussion board for anarchists of all stripes and those just interested in seeing what anarchists think.