

1976-5

## May Day Committee Manifesto - 1976

Sinn Fein

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# MAY DAY COMMITTEE

8 Belvedere Pl., Dublin 1  
Tel. 746227



1. May Day is an International Day of celebration for the working class of the World. It originated in Chicago in 1886, when the Workers demanded an 8 hr. day. Many workers were killed by the police while demonstrating for their demands.
2. Every year since May day has been acknowledged as International working peoples day, when workers express their Solidarity and Friendship with their struggling brothers and sisters in other countries.
3. May Day in the Socialist World is used to celebrate the victories already won by the working people in the Socialist third of the World and to promote demands for more democracy in the Capitalist world.
4. Even in those countries where May Day is illegal e.g. Chile and Spain, May Day is celebrated still, as a working Class festival.
5. The May Day committee in Ireland is composed of working Class, Youth and Student organisations. Chief of the demands for May Day '76 are :-
  - STATE OWNERSHIP and control of all: -
    - (a) Banking and financial Institutions.
    - (b) Natural resources and the development of the Industrial potential resulting from them.
    - (c) Labour intensive industries.
  - We call on the Government to implement policies, in order to resist the placing of the burden of the Capitalist crisis on shoulders of the working class.
  - We call for stronger and more militant Trade Union action, to channel the discontent in our Society for fundamental Social change.
6. We Salute :
  - The endeavours of those building Socialism in their own countries.
  - Those struggling for National Independence.
  - Those in the Capitalist countries struggling for a better Society.
  - In particular those fighting against Fascism and racism.

== MAY DAY 1976 ==

# May Day Committee '76

The May Day Committee will hold meetings to all workers and their organisations, in Ireland and throughout the World.

We salute:

- Those in the capitalist countries struggling for a better society
- Those struggling for National Independence
- Those in the capitalist countries struggling for a better society

## MANIFESTO

We express in particular our solidarity with those countries struggling against fascism and racism. We are mindful of the daily fight of the men and women of Chile, Spain and Southern Africa against their oppressors. To them we pledge our friendship and assistance.

### World Capitalist Crisis

Ireland is in the grip of the World capitalist crisis. The Irish Government and employers have accelerated the effects of the crisis by policies of co-operation with the Monopolies and Financial Institutions. Unemployment has soared as a result with an estimated 150,000 now unemployed. The Anglo Irish Free Trade agreement and the E.E.C. have contributed to worsening the employment situation in this country.

### The working class:

Working People with direct attacks on their living standards by continual price rises, excessive Wage agreements and now the threat of a wage freeze. The working class have been further hit by the 10% cut in the Health services.

Youth in particular Of the 35,000 young people who left school in 1974 - '75, tens of thousands are still out of work. The training of apprentices has dropped drastically. In 1972 there were 3,672 registered apprentices (1st yr.) but in 1973 there were only 2,671, a fall of 1,000. In the event of closures and redundancies young people are always the first to go.

Education Spending is also being cut back, coupled with the threat of higher fees for new entrants.

Youth in Ireland are doubly hit by unemployment and workers.

Women Despite the great year of the Women's Year, are still second class citizens. The attacks by the Government and Employers to refuse Equal Pay and the continued discrimination against women is a challenge to the whole working class movement.



### For Working Class Politics and Working Class Action

On this May Day we call for policies to resist the placing of the burden on those who are responsible for the crisis. We call for a mass Militant Trade Union Movement and the Irish Open Shop Campaign. We call for a Workers' Party and a Workers' Society for fundamental social change.

**MAY DAY COMMITTEE**

8 Belvedere Pl., Dublin 1 Tel. 746227

80  
140

The May Day Committee send Fraternal greetings to all workers and their organisations, in Ireland and throughout the World.

**We salute :**

- The endeavours of those building Socialism in their own countries.
- Those struggling for National Independence.
- Those in the capitalist countries struggling for a better society.

We express in particular our solidarity with those countries struggling against fascism and racism. We are mindful of the daily fight of the men and women of Chile, Spain and Southern Africa against their oppressors. To them we pledge our friendship and assistance.

## **World Capitalist Crisis**

Ireland is in the grip of the World capitalist crisis. The Irish Government and employers have accelerated the effects of the crisis by policies of co-operation with the Monopolies and Financial Institutions. Unemployment has soared as a result with an estimated 150,000 now unemployed. The Anglo Irish Free Trade agreement and the E.E.C. have contributed to worsening the employment situation in this country.

The crisis hits hardest at : -

**Working People** with direct attacks on their living standards by continual price rises, successive Wage agreements and now the threat of a wage freeze.

The weaker sections have been further hit by the 10% cut in the Health services.

**Youth in particular** Of the 55,000 young people who left school in 1974 - '75, tens of thousands are still out of work. The training of apprentices has dropped drastically. In 1969 there were 3,672 registered apprentices (1st yr.) but in 1975 there were only 2,671, a fall of 1,000. In the event of closures and redundancies young people are always the first to go.

**Education Spending** is also being cut back, coupled with the threat of higher fees for next year.

Youth in Ireland are doubly hit both as students and workers.

**Women** Despite the great platitudes of International Women's Year, are still second class citizens. The attempts by the Government and Employers to refuse Equal Pay and the continued discrimination against women is a challenge to the whole working class movement.

## **For Working Class Policies For Working Class Action**

On this May Day we call for policies to resist the placing of the burden on those who are in no way responsible for the crisis. We call for a more Militant Trade Union Movement and Working Class activities, in order to channel the discontent in our Society for fundamental Social change.

In particular we call for :-

- **State Ownership** and control of all the Banking and Financial institutions.
- **State Control** of all our National Resources and the development of the Industrial potential resulting from them.
- **The establishment of State Ownership** and control of in particular, labour intensive industries which utilise native raw materials like construction, leather, woolen and food processing Industries.

On immediate issues we call for : -

- A return to free collective bargaining with the weight of the ICTU being used to increase wages and conditions.
- Immediate implementation of Equal Pay and job opportunities for women.
- Democracy in Education by the setting up of fully comprehensive, secular, State controlled schools, managed by those most involved parents, teachers and pupils. For access to higher education based on academic ability and not ability to pay.

## **Solidarity with democratic forces in the North**

We extend to the Trade Union Movement in Northern Ireland our support and solidarity in the present campaign to win initiative back to the democratic forces. We condemn the continued militarisation of Northern Ireland by the British Government, which has overall responsibility. The six point programme of the Northern Trade Unionists - For A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL - will help defeat sectarianism, isolate the sectarian murders of the paramilitary organisations and champion the common interest of the Working Class.

The Irish Government must be pressurised to demand of the British Government that they implement the steps for democracy as outlined by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association.

**WORKERS OF ALL LANDS UNITE !**