



Communist Party of Greece

18 JUNE, Cost Of Living Crisis Protest: WORKERS JOIN FORCES FOR OUR CONTEMPORARY RIGHTS!

The working class and the low-income families in Ireland, Greece, and all the countries in Europe suffer from a huge wave of price rises in electricity and gas, fuel, groceries and all other products. In conjunction to the intensified overtaxation and the effects of the bourgeois anti-people management of the pandemic, the steeply increased cost of living critically hit people's incomes and their quality of life. In parallel, the anti-people policy in health, education and working relations escalates, affecting every aspect of people's lives.

The price rises on products occur at the same time when big businesses make huge profits and the bourgeois state gives them vast subsidies to enable a new profitable capitalist investment cycle and safeguard their competitiveness. The "expansionary" policy that bourgeois governments, irrespective of their social-democratic or liberal orientation, follow to respond to the capitalist crisis and the effect of the pandemic on the economy is as harmful for the peoples as the restrictive fiscal policies.

In Ireland, and many other countries alike, the inflation is now at 38 year high, according with the CSO, adding more pressure on the stagnant salaries and the skyrocketing households debts, which brings millions of people to an everyday struggle for survival. Electricity has risen by 41%, Gas by 61% and home heating oil by 102%. Food prices are also steadily rising. Clothing and footwear went up by almost 2% in the last month alone. Rents are up by 10%. The surging prices and living cost are here to stay and the average working class family income will be constantly attacked because of the never ending greed of capitalists for profits. The top 5 Irish energy firms made €280 million in extra profit in one year alone. The boost of their profits goes hand by hand with the increase of the exploitation of the working force, by increasing the unpaid working hours and by lowering the "labour cost" by all means. This could be massive sanctions of workers with established rights and replacement with cheaper services following fire and rehire practices, outsourcing of services, exploitation of the most vulnerable members of the working class, such as migrants and refugees, youth, and women. Furthermore, the '1990 industrial relations act' is still in place and it is used to control the trade unions and weaken workers struggle. Political and support strikes are banned, places onerous requirements for conducting ballots on trade unions, and makes it easy for employers to sue trade unions for even minor breaches of the law. At the last Irish Congress conference a motion was unanimously passed calling for legislation to restore all rights lost by workers as a result of the 1990 industrial relations act. Since then, nothing has happened which shows that the workers have to take steps to put aside the compromised leaderships.

Energy costs will continue to be a nightmare for the people as the so-called "green" transition leads to more expensive electricity. The costs will also be transferred to all the products. The price rises are combined with the escalation of imperialist and intra-capitalist contradictions. The war in Ukraine, which takes place in the framework of monopoly capitalism, is linked to the US, NATO, and EU plans and their intervention in the region in the context of their fierce competition with capitalist Russia for the control of the markets, raw materials, and transport networks of the country. The Russian invasion in Ukraine promotes the interests of the Russian monopolies in Ukraine and their fierce competition with Western monopolies.

The intense and dangerous competition between the USA and China regarding the leadership of the imperialist system escalates. The European Union and Russia also claim their share. The main objective of this competition is the control of regions of geostrategic importance and energy routes.

Workers do not benefit from taking sides in the imperialist competitions. The people's struggle should target the real opponent!

The struggle that will enable people to live with dignity is the struggle for the immediate relief from the price rises, substantial increases in wages and pensions, support to families, permanent and stable work.

The growing wave of people's anger and mobilisation against the anti-people strategy of the EU, the capital and bourgeois governments across Europe shows that organised resistance is possible. The people's struggle can get bigger and stronger as the labour movement gets firm class orientation and targets the real opponent: the power and the strategy of the capital, which all the bourgeois parties serve.

The recent big strikes and protests in Kazakhstan showed that when the right conditions form, social contradictions can turn into a clash between the working class and the bourgeoisie. A condition for the victorious outcome of the struggle of the working class, the unemployed and the poor workers is the focus on the independence of the aims of the struggle, so that it is not trapped into the aims of one part of the bourgeoisie or imperialist centre.

Only the people can save the people!

The rightful indignation should not be trapped into false expectations about a change in government that will only lead the struggle to another dead-end. Social democracy in Ireland and Greece has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to integrate and disarm the militant stance of the working class and people's movement.

The hypocritical declarations about the reduction of social inequalities and a socially just "green" growth are nothing more than a plan for the redistribution of poverty, while leaving the causes of poverty intact. The only progressive answer is the organisation of the struggle for the satisfaction of the people's needs on the basis of existing possibilities - and not the embellishment of the dictatorship of the capital and capitalist exploitation.

We organize our struggle for our contemporary needs!

The people will see real changes that serve their interests only if they claim all the wealth that the capital seizes from them. They must promote and fight for their needs to have a permanent and stable job with rights and social insurance, exclusively free and public health and education etc. The people must promote the only way to satisfy these needs: the struggle for workers' power, the struggle for socialism-communism.

Irish and migrant workers, let's make this call for nationwide mobilization an opportunity for organizing in our unions, and taking matters into our own hands!

- ✓ For working and living conditions that correspond to the 21st century capabilities.
- ✓ For a real pay rise and collective agreements, against the barbarity of flexible and insecure contracts.
- ✓ For our rights to access free and high-quality health, education and social services

Cost Of Living Crisis Protest
SATURDAY 18 JUNE
1pm, Saturday June 18th, Parnell Sq



Title: Cost of Living Crisis Protest: Workers Join Forces For Our Contemporary Rights!

Organisation: Communist Party of Greece (KKE)

Date: 2022

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