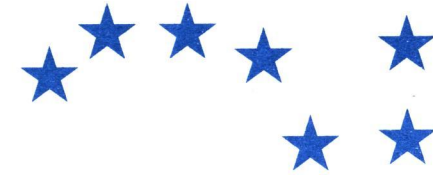


# REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST YOUTH MOVEMENT



**HANDBOOK OF A  
REVOLUTIONARY  
YOUTH MOVEMENT**



# THE RSYM

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REVOLUTIONARY  
YOUTH MOVEMENT**

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**RSYM: A REVOLUTIONARY  
YOUTH ORGANISATION**

The RSYM is a working-class revolutionary youth movement that stands in the proud political tradition of James Connolly, Seamus Costello, Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin. Our aim is to spread the ideals of Republican Socialism throughout the youth of Ireland, with our ultimate goal being the establishment of a 32 County Socialist Republic.

"The socialism we embrace is the kind that liberates, not enslaves."

- IRSP Document - "This is Republican Socialism"

**REPUBLICAN SOCIALISM  
FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION  
AND SOCIALISM**

The RSYM believes that the current political establishment is set up to preserve and perpetuate the economic ascendancy of a corrupt minority in society. This minority exploits the Irish workforce, seeks to accumulate huge wealth and then to place it in the hands of a small group of undeserving individuals. It is the position of the RSYM that those who create the wealth in society through their labour, namely the workers, are the ones who deserve to benefit from its creation. Accordingly, we support the total uproot of the capitalist system, a system which generates extreme poverty, persecution and injustice. In its place we fight for a Workers' Republic, one which is compatible with the needs of the Irish people and one which above all champions equality, justice and democracy.

However, it is quite clear that such a society cannot be built while a foreign imperialist power continues to occupy our country. It is equally true to say that

without the strength of a mass worker movement behind us, the national question will never be resolved satisfactorily. Therefore, it is certain that the struggle for national liberation and socialism go hand in hand, they are two sides of the same coin and can never be divorced from each other.

Socialism cannot be established in a nation that is under imperialist occupation, but this occupation can only be ended when a mass workers movement is mobilised. Traditional republicanism does not draw the sympathy it used to in communities and it cannot mobilise a force capable of freeing Ireland. The Republic we envisage is not about traditional, romantic notions, or righting wrong doings of the past. No, our Republic is very much about the future. The working people are motivated by their material conditions, and by showing them why their economic liberty can only be realised in a 32 County Socialist Republic we will thus involve the masses in the liberation struggle and class struggle simultaneously. Both questions shall be resolved in one blow.

"It is still Britain's objective to find and impost a political solution which will guarantee the continued protection of Britain's economic and strategic interests in both parts of Ireland"

- **Seamus Costello**

## THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

The GFA is not a document which progresses our struggle for a United Socialist Republic, in fact it does quite the opposite. The GFA has reduced every polling day in the North to a sectarian headcount. The whole 'vote us in to keep them out' attitude remains, with several unionist candidates actually having similar slogans on their election material. This gives an indication as to what the GFA has done to the democratic process, it has made a mockery of it. There are now more peace walls in the North than there was in 1998, when the agreement was signed. The GFA is a sectarian agreement, it does nothing at all to alleviate sectarianism, it rewards and perpetuates it.

The question must also be raised, can a Socialist Republic be achieved through an institution like Stormont? The answer is no. There is no parliamentary road to socialism, without the strength of the industrial union, there can be no democracy or justice. The GFA has no mechanisms in place which further the cause of Irish republicanism, it has left the workers of the North divided on artificial lines once more

and without question hinders the advance of socialism.

A Socialist Republic can only be achieved by mass mobilisation, a workers movement that will crush the political institutions that has cast them into daily servitude. An approach centred on mere economism will end in failure, as will one with traditional militarism as its key component. An alternative to the Stormont assembly, an imperialist political police force and the sectarian nature of the statelet must be sought, but strategies around conspiratorial militarism or economism will make little headway. The answer is Republican Socialism, with the national and class questions tied together and progressed simultaneously. Our goals will be achieved through extra-parliamentary agitation mainly, and although we acknowledge the usefulness of using political institutions as a platform to our own advantage in certain contexts, it is on the streets the Socialist Republic will be won.

"Do not be misled by the promises of politicians. Remember that the whole history of Ireland is a record of betrayals by politicians and statesmen, and remembering this, spurn their lying promises and stand up for a United Ireland - an Ireland broad based upon the union of Labour and Nationality."

**- James Connolly Loyalism - Our Approach**

The first thing that must be mentioned in regard to this subject is that we make a clear distinction between Protestantism and Loyalism. Loyalism is a reactionary and outdated ideology which has no place in Ireland's future, we remain steadfast in our opposition to it. However, it remains a problem that must be tackled if we are to make progress towards a 32 County Socialist Republic. The question is, what can we as republican socialists do to convince this section of the Irish working class, largely of Protestant background, of the benefits of the Republic we envisage?

It is the position of the RSYM, as it was of Connolly and Costello, that any co-operation with that section of the Irish working class must be on the basis of a principled political position. It will do our cause no good whatsoever to co-operate on a level that is limited to only extend to social issues. We must make it abundantly clear who we are and what it is exactly we stand for. At the heart of our ideology is the struggle for the liberation of Ireland, and this cannot be brushed aside or made a secret of for fear of losing the temporary co-operation which came about because of a common social issue affecting both communities. It is not good enough to suggest that both communities come together for a time, and once the issue at hand is resolved each returns home to their own communities.

We have to educate and politicise the protestant workers in the North, at the heart of our socialism lies the right of Ireland as a nation to self-determination and this cannot be relegated to the sidelines in some attempt to artificially unite our class. To forget who we are, to approach this question from an unprincipled position, is to cross a line from being revolutionary to being reformist. The national and class questions cannot be separated, and it is with this in mind that we can safely say that any class unity on any other basis but a principled political position is superficial and will eventually crumble.

"The pressure of a common exploitation can make enthusiastic rebels out of a Protestant working class"

**James Connolly**

## RELIGION

Some people will often profess the incompatibility of religion and socialism, but this is most definitely not the case and so it is important for us to dispel this misconception from the outset. The RSYM seeks a secular republic, in that we believe that religion has no place in the political processes of a country. But having said that, we also think that religion is a private matter for the individual and that they have every right to practice their chosen faith freely, without fear of persecution or repression, as long as that religion does not detrimentally impinge on the lives of others.

Religion has divided our class in Ireland along artificial lines for many years. Throughout these years there has been one common denominator which has overseen and benefited from this sectarian division. This is British imperialism. It is quite convenient for the imperialists to brand our legitimate struggle for national sovereignty as simply a religious conflict, but our political analysis is based on much, much more than what the capitalists and imperialists would wish was the case. Our republican socialism is based on a scientific analysis of history, which ex-

poses the fact that history has always been a continuing process of class struggle. From freeman and slave, feudal lord and serf, to capitalist and worker, history has always been an ongoing struggle between those who exploit and those who are exploited. It is class that matters and not religion, colour or creed. Persecution on religious lines is an accomplice of capitalism and imperialism and of course as socialists we oppose all such discrimination. A Socialist Ireland will be one that espouses expression and not repression, with every citizen free from oppression whether it be in the economic or religious fields. No matter what religion, race or ethnicity, we champion liberty for all!

“Religion is the sigh of the oppressed people”  
- **Karl Marx**

## INTERNATIONALISM

The RSYM empathises with many struggles across the world, whether they revolve around the matters of self-determination or native, economic servitude. Capitalism has left in its wake a wave of destruction, with Latin America, Asia and Africa perhaps the areas worst effected. It is true that capitalism creates an image after itself, and as we can see from the areas mentioned especially, it is a very destructive and parasitic image indeed. Capitalist media corporations may question the success of socialism, but in response to this we ask, where is the success of capitalism? On an international scale capitalism has produced huge inequalities, exploitation, war and persecution.

It is essential to understand that imperialism is a developed phase of capitalism. This international phenomenon is the search for new markets and new workers to exploit to produce massive profits for a tiny elite minority in society. As capitalism is international, socialism must be also. As Connolly said, the foreign worker is a friend as the native capitalist is an enemy.



It is also important to understand the role the state itself has to play under capitalism. It finds its origins in an attempt to prevent a great revolutionary struggle between oppressor and oppressed, it is there to blunt any potential revolutionary blow by the workers for their own emancipation as well as to ensure the economic ascendancy of the bourgeoisie. This leads us to the conclusion that it is not the state that is important, that is the capitalist manifestation of the state, but the working class on an international scale that concerns us most. Once the class antagonisms which have formed the modern state are resolved, then the state will become unnecessary and post-revolution will begin its process of withering away. Borders have been a method of the capitalists to divide up their respective spoils, and in the end these will also disappear as true democracy through a classless society is established.

The RSYM for its part will continue to offer solidarity to all our comrades internationally, in the struggle against imperialism and global capital. We wholeheartedly support a nations right to self-determination and will offer all the support we can to all socialist revolutionary groups throughout the world. No war but the class war!

"There are no boundaries in this struggle to the

death. We cannot be indifferent to what happens anywhere in the world, for a victory by any country over imperialism is our victory, just as any country's defeat is a defeat for all of us."

- Che Guevara

## ACTIVISM

The RSYM is an energetic and extremely active youth movement, whether this be through national campaigns, demonstrations or local community activism.

A major role of the RSYM is to build the 'Red Base', a level of support throughout Irish communities that will stand the Republican Socialist Movement in good stead to progress in the future on a national basis. While appreciating the importance and usefulness of campaignism, we also acknowledge the transient nature of a strategy based on activity of that nature solely or in the majority of cases. Instead, we propose a strategy based in local communities, we seek to build foundations in these areas which will encompass a new found degree of relevancy and respectability for republican socialist politics and then knit these areas up at a later date.

The Red Base can be built through numerous activities. These may include being part of residential groups, housing committees, community watch groups, through electoralism or any contemporary

issues effecting the lives of our class. This sort of activity establishes a firm and lasting foundation in the respective areas and thus simultaneously attains a relevancy and respectability for the politics of the movement. When people see an organisation actually has their interests at heart, then they will be much more open to the concepts outlined in the republican socialist doctrine. We must at all times relate our activism back to our political programme, mere economism would be a futile venture for us. We have got to throw ourselves into every struggle our class faces, doing well to remembering that without them there will be no revolution, while simultaneously pushing our politics in an attempt to politicise the workers and increase their level of class consciousness.

"In short, it is your duty to become active, hard working members of each and every organization that is working for the welfare of all the people and towards the reunification of the country." - Seamus Costello

## JOIN THE STRUGGLE

The Republican Socialist Youth Movement was founded in September 2005 following discussion between young Republicans and Socialists who were influenced by the Irish Republican Socialist Movement. It was agreed that an active, educated and energetic youth movement was needed to further the cause of Republican Socialism in Ireland. We are a movement for young people ran by young people and are active throughout the country. Membership is open to all youth regardless of colour, religion or creed.

If you wish to get active in the struggle for a 32 County Socialist Republic, then join the Republican Socialist Youth Movement. Stand up for a Workers' Republic!



Please visit:

[www.rsym.org](http://www.rsym.org) or [www.irsm.org/irsp](http://www.irsm.org/irsp)

Contact: [rsym.info@gmail.com](mailto:rsym.info@gmail.com)

Or alternatively:

Republican Socialist Youth Movement  
Costello House  
392 Falls Road Belfast,  
BT48 6DH, Ireland

Tel no: 028 90 323416

"Everyone, republican or otherwise, has their own particular part to play. No part is too great or too small; no one is too old or too young to do something."

- **Bobby Sands**

## BUILD THE MOVEMENT





**Title:** Handbook of a Revolutionary Youth Movement

**Organisation:** Republican Socialist Youth Movement

**Date:** 2005 c.

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