

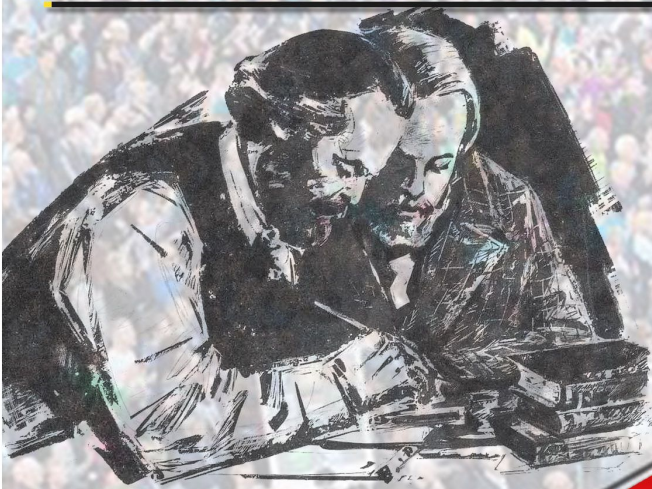
FORWARD #18

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A YOUNG VOICE FOR SOCIALISM

Victories Against JobBridge - Ireland's Abortion Issue - Anti-LGBT Bill

RIGHT 2 WATER: A DIVIDING LINE



The biggest danger to the campaign right now is actually not the government or the Gardai or even the media. The biggest threat to this campaign is the forthcoming election and the battle of the left, between the left, trying to compete for the select few seats on offer in our bourgeois parliament. In other words the biggest threat to the campaign is a split in the campaign and would be disastrous for this fledgling movement. If that was to happen, then the arms of the state would have a very easy clearing job on their hands.

READ THE FULL PIECE ON PAGE 4



CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT
ÓGRA UÍ CHONAÍLE

#WORKMUSTPAY



YOUNG ACTIVISTS TAKING ACTION TO ELIMINATE UNPAID INTERNSHIPS

#WORKMUSTPAY

ABOLISH JOBBRIDGE - Every Worker Deserves A Wage

Work Must Pay – Tackling Job-bridge at the source

Why the need for a #WorkMustPay Campaign?

After the government has proven to be so thoroughly unresponsive to polite reservations, academic criticism and political protest against their use of unpaid internships as a form of ‘labour activation’; a change of tactics has been well overdue in campaigning. Instead of lobbying politicians and hoping for a change in policy, we will be challenging any employer which profits from the use of free JobBridge labour. Peaceful pickets, chants and leaflets will be used to encourage such employers to take down any current JobBridge adverts, take on no further interns and commit to the basic respect of a day’s work = a day’s

pay for future employees. We will not be seeking the immediate abandonment of all JobBridge positions as the unexpected loss of €50 a week for the person involved would cause unnecessary hardship. Prior warning will be provided to all businesses engaged with as part of this campaign and we hope that this will be enough for them to reconsider their position before action has to be taken by #WorkMustPay .activist.

Responding to Potential Criticism

Some may say it is unfair that we focus on businesses that are only making use of a fully legal and government approved program. We would reply by saying that an under 25 year old receives only €150 a week through this scheme and there is nothing fair about trying to make that

Victory Over Businesses Attempting to Hire Free Labour!

Connolly Youth Movement continues to take part in anti-JobBridge actions under the banner of the #WorkMustPay Campaign to directly challenge the acceptability of the employers taking on unpaid interns instead of providing even the basic respect of a minimum wage for workers. These actions are a joint effort on the part of the Connolly Youth Movement, Sinn Féin Republican Youth and Unite Youth Dublin Activist Group (UY-DAG).

stretch to cover rent, food, transport, medical costs and any other expenses. The use of unpaid internships has eliminated job opportunities that used to provide a survivable income for people trying to make ends meet and it has increasingly become a scheme where employers can ‘try before they buy’ future workers, with no guarantee they will do the latter. We hope to create an environment where this practice becomes less acceptable and the amount of potential wage paying jobs being turned into internships is reduced.

How to contact us

You can email us at Workmustpayireland@gmail.com or you can find us on twitter.





The Rights Campaign - ICTU Youth

The Youth Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Union (ICTU) recently launched The Rights Campaign aimed at mobilising young people in a citizen's fight for rights. The campaign outlines five rights that young people should fight for and win.

The Right to a Job

The Right to Decent and Secure Employment

The Right to Equal Pay for Equal Work

The Right to Collective Bargaining

The Right to a future in Ireland

The ICTU Youth Committee believe that these rights are fundamental human rights for all young people and form the basis of decent and respectful societal conditions. Unfortunately, no Government to date has been able to secure them and as we well know they will never be granted but will need to be won.

Having already held a public event on decent work the campaign will now focus in on highlighting the third right that of equal pay for equal work. While this is often seen as specifically a gender issue, as it is still, it is also an issue negatively affecting young workers.

Young people, in both the public and private sectors, have been brought in on lesser terms and condition of employment, lesser pay rates and often on weaker contracts of employment that give greater control and flexibility to the employer leaving the worker with less rights. The issue of zero-hour contracts and exploitative internships have received a lot of deserved attention this year and we hope this will continue.

The Rights Campaign will shortly focus in on the cuts to social welfare for under 26's brought in by the Fine Gael/Labour Government in Budget 2014.

This budget cut dole payments for those under 25 from €188 to €144 per week and for those aged between 22 and 24 inclusive from €144 to €100. As a research paper by the Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI) on this subject suggests young unemployed are not work-shy. There are 32 applicants for every job vacancy. The problem is not, as some Ministers suggest, lazy unemployed unwilling to work, the problem is very clearly a lack of jobs and a Government unwilling to make jobs a priority.

The campaign facebook page for the Rights Campaign is live at [facebook.com/fiverightsforyoungpeople](https://www.facebook.com/fiverightsforyoungpeople) and we encourage all readers to like and share it. In addition to this the ICTU Youth Committee will be launching a blog to promote a range of views from within the trade union movement on issues relevant to young workers and the unemployed. So keep an eye out for this and the CYM will share it when it's live.





Right2Water: A Dividing Line

With the year 2014 now behind us and a new year already well underway, the forces against the water charges are now at a critical juncture. The R2W campaign has been a lesson in organising, demonstrating and building working class solidarity for whole swathes of newly politicised citizens. The initial success of the campaign has been clear by 1) the sheer number of people demonstrating week in week out, often culminating in nationwide protests with hundreds of thousands of people taking to the streets and 2) the government backtracking on many aspects of the Irish Water package.

It was such a relief and by all accounts a necessity that sections of the Trade Union movement (Mandate, Unite, CWU, CPSU, OPATSI) not only backed but helped spear head the Right2Water campaign. This issue, for whatever reason(s), has brought a lot of the fight back to sections of the movement and for the first time in a long time ripples of discontent are being felt by the leaders of unions and are forcing them to take a stand on the water issue, with the TEEU and SIPTU, Ireland's largest trade union,

the latest to come out against the water charges.

Now is the time to commend those unions and to welcome them with open arms into the struggle, but also for members to demand even more from their leadership. One of the most positive aspects has been the fact that the campaign has had direction, leadership and sponsorship from progressive trade unions, and without doubt this has been one of the key elements, along with great community activity .to the success of Right2Water so far However, the biggest danger to the campaign right now is actually not the government or the Gardai or even the media. The biggest threat to this campaign is the forthcoming election and the battle of the left, between the left, trying to compete for the select few seats on offer in our bourgeois parliament. In other words the biggest threat to the campaign is a split in the campaign and would be disastrous for this fledgling movement. If that was to happen, then the arms of the state would have a very easy clearing job on their hands.

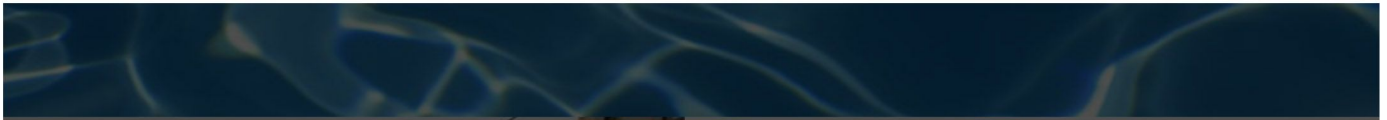
It is in this context, that for whatever the reasons the Socialist Party/Anti-Austerity Alliance put forward to justify a separate boycott campaign in the guise of We Wont Pay, the result has only led to the seeds of division being planted. The argument that the R2W campaign does not go far enough in calling for a complete boycott and tactic of non-payment is politically immature and of course opportune.

Yes it is frustrating that the unions

don't take an official non-payment position, as most people you ask involved in the campaign will say they wont pay, but the unions have only a limited mandate from their membership. They as an organisation have a lot at stake and it would be wrong and destructive to single them out as a regressive force in the campaign. Clearly however, this is not just about Irish water and the strategies of R2W. This issue may very well determine, or at least be a major factor to the outcome of the next election.

So it is clear that the largest election parties on the left – Sinn Féin, Socialist Party/Anti-Austerity Alliance and Socialist Workers Party/People Before Profit are in election mode and are thinking strategically on how to strengthen themselves for the elections. In doing so they will weaken the broader movement. R2W and other anti-water public meetings and demonstrations will increasingly descend into their political platforms. The unity that has made the campaign so strong so far will begin to unravel. It is just at this moment in time that the R2W campaign needs to be more united than ever to withstand the onslaught of the state, the media and the government in them trying to pass this austere water act, but it is difficult to see how it can be maintained given the short term gains on offer. What these political parties are failing to offer is a real and credible alternative to debt and austerity and the system in which it flourishes – Capitalism.

If this government was to collapse in the morning, and another take its



place, (at best for arguments sake a SF/Left Alliance /Independent government), without a fundamental and mass opposition to the EU and the euro, and the US as the main political entities of Capitalism and its class of Industrialists, financiers, oligarchs, monarchs, land owners and all their collaborators, there would be no change.

Nothing drastic would change because the state would still be organised in the old way. Its industries, agriculture and services would still be in the service of the EU, British and US Imperialist regimes. The multi-national corporations and various legal treaties would still bind us to international monopoly capitalism and its un-ending war on workers.

We would still be bound to pay back an unjust and odious debt (€8 billion a year on interest alone). The Troika would still oversee our national budgets and the ECB would still gear the euro to suit mainly Germany's needs .to the detriment of the Irish economy All this means is that our democracy, sovereignty and independence would still be the hollowed out shells that they are. The struggle being waged now, is not a new one and it wont end with a victory over the water charges as we would still lack a mass opposition to capitalism and its highest stage - imperialism.

So the parties mentioned above and - indeed the trade unions that are looking at election strategies, may say its better to use this issue to build for a strong election turn-out and have left wing TD's in the Dáil. However, CYM would argue not if it is at the expense of a loss for the campaign, a demoralisation of the movement and not if at the end of it all we don't deepen the political and class consciousness of the people.

Ordinary working people may be up in arms against the implementation of Irish Water but the vast majority of them wont be up in arms against the State itself and the capitalist mode of production. To get beyond the stage where people have spontaneously mobilised against water meters to a position where they are actively organising and building towards a broad peoples resistance against Debt and Austerity (the next progressive step in building an anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist opposition), requires the conscious effort of the many organisations involved in the Right2Water campaign.

We find ourselves in one of those historical moments where we can either continue to be beaten back or we can learn from our shared struggles and stand up and fight back. Every group has their role to play, whether they are a trade union, community group,

political party, or activist to help the cause of labour in Ireland. A division along tactical lines is to be expected but a split in this campaign over strategy would be devastating, not just in terms of the water campaign but to the broader issue of debt, the need for its repudiation and the overall advancement of our class.

R2W and specifically the trade unions and community groups need to take hold of the campaign and steer it clear of short term electioneering and keep a focus on the issue at hand. Lets not forget the most important thing at this moment in time is to have a nation united against the water charges and from there, there is huge potential to build a movement of organised, militant and class conscious citizens. The R2W as an independent umbrella campaign should step up and be the unifying force in defeating this governments attempt to commodify and privatise the most basic and important source of life.

Whether the seeds of division will flower remain to be seen, but it is clear that the majority of people would rather be united than defeated. From there we can move on to the source of the water charges – the unjust, odious private bank debt heaped on our nation, and paid for by the impoverishment of our people and the deporting of our children.

Not a Fairy 'Bout the Place

Once again the Democratic Unionist Party has shown its true colours. The simple truth is that they are not in fact interested in either democracy or equality as they proclaim, but are very much interested in imposing their very own version of a Free Presbyterian Theocracy on all citizens in the state-let they call Northern Ireland.

This comes in the form of a private members bill from the DUP MLA Paul Givan entitled Northern Ireland Freedom of Conscience Amendment Bill. Commonly referred to as the 'Conscience Clause' which seeks to amend the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. The bill would, in effect, allow people of faith to legally discriminate against LGB&T persons on grounds of it being against their beliefs. The MLA has tried, unsuccessfully, to even convince anyone that this is or could ever be a workable law in practice regardless of it being right or wrong. He said "the law had to be rebalanced". "The dilemma facing people of faith is the choice of violating their sincerely held beliefs or going out of business," he said.

The problem being, no one either inside or outside of the DUP camp can tell us what constitutes a legitimate faith or religious belief. Who gets to decide that, the courts, parliament, the DUP? Could they, should they? If I suddenly developed a deeply held belief in Unicorns, would that allow me to discriminate against women, black people or the disabled if my conscience told me to? It really is ridiculous stuff, especially from a party of government.

His proposed amendment to the law would mean that a Catholic adoption agency could refuse to place a child with a same-sex couple, but an evangelical green grocer couldn't refuse to sell an apple to a gay man. He clarified that the difference was a service or act that could be seen as endorsing a same-sex sexual relationship.

Meanwhile John O'Doherty, of Belfast based gay rights charity, The Rainbow Project said the proposed legislation was "not motivated by a desire to protect those of religious belief but by hostility to lesbian, gay and bisexual people and their hard-won rights". He said the Bill would mean restaurants could deny a same-sex couple a table, a mortgage provider could refuse to lend to a same-sex couple and hoteliers could deny a room to a same-sex couple - because all of these things could be regarded as "facilitating same-sex relations". "This is just updating, 'no dogs, no blacks, no Irish' to include 'no gays'," he added.

The DUP has taken the unusual step of publishing the proposed draft legislation on its own website in advance of being tabled in the legislative assembly, most likely to be in February. This is believed to be a political manoeuvre to play to the gallery of their evangelical supporters to show the party is reacting, or more appropriately, over-reacting to the ongoing court case regarding a Christian owned bakery refusing to bake a cake supporting Equal Marriage.

The heavily weighted consultation questions accompanying the document will also, they hope, drum up support and perhaps provide further evidence to strengthen their incredibly weak and desperate case. Casually ignoring any voice of opposition or logic naturally. The timing is of course crucial as they are walking a thin line between stoking up homophobic bigotry which was rampant at the DUP grass roots level in December and then not alienating the more moderate unionist vote to the point where they look to the Ulster Unionist Party in the UK general election in May. That said, given their recent reaction-



PAUL GIVAN

ary bile on this and many other issues, you would be forgiven for thinking the DUP have decided to give up on the popular vote completely and blindly follow the far-right fringe party Traditional Unionist Voice down their particular political cul-de-sac. They didn't really like power sharing anyway they might say.

This nasty little piece of legislation is just the latest in a long line of homophobic acts carried out by DUP representatives. First we had the Paisley led 'Save Ulster from Sodomy' campaign against the legalisation of consensual gay sex in 1982. Then their vocal opposition to Civil Partnerships, which were only passed in NI due to the fact devolution, was in suspension when the UK legislation was passed. Their Health Minister caused controversy when he used public money to exhaust the legal process to try and prevent same gender couples and un-married heterosexual couples adopting children. After a long and expensive series of court trips it was thrown out of the appeal court in 2013.

Other outstanding LGB&T issues currently needing to be resolved, but blocked by the DUP, include : Equal Marriage; the long awaited OFMDFM Sexual Orientation Strategy (which is based on current law) agreed on from 1998. Who could forget the lifetime ban on donating blood if you have ever had gay sex (even only once, with a condom). An issue which led a High Court Judge to publicly ridicule the

the DUP Minister as “irrational and prejudiced”.

The proposed legislation obviously poses more questions than answers regarding what the actual law will mean for people on a daily basis. Another big question it will raise is: when these two assumed rights clash, who will emerge as the victor? For me it's very simple: Faith and Religion (whatever it may be) is a free choice. A person's sexual orientation is not a choice and cannot be changed. Therefore I would argue that while the freedom of religion should allow everyone the right to believe in whatever they want (Unicorns or not), it should also allow everyone freedom from religion and

not seek to interfere in the rights of others, in this case LGB&T rights.

I would also point to the European Court of Human Rights landmark judgement in January 2013, where the Strasbourg court examined four cases brought by Christians, including two who argued their beliefs allowed them to refuse a service to same-sex couples. The court ruled that an individual's religious beliefs do not trump the rights of an LGBT person and may not be used to discriminate against them. Commenting this landmark ruling, Sophie in 't Veld MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament's LGBT Intergroup, said: “With this ruling, the court has established that freedom of

religion is an individual right. It is emphatically not a collective right to discriminate against LGBT people, women, or people of another faith or life stance. Religious freedom is no ground for exemption from the law. The court showed conclusively that the principle of equality and equal treatment cannot be circumvented with a simple reference to religion.”

So there we have it, the end result.

Now we just have to wait on the usual merry-go-round of the Stormont circus followed by protests, petitions and court dates. Nothing new here then. MH



Don't Mention The A Word

The abortion debate has gathered significant attention in Ireland over the past year, with the experiences of several women featuring in the media;

In August news broke on 'Case Y'; a young woman who arrived in Ireland claiming asylum after having been raped in her home country. Despite verbalising suicidal feelings as a result of the pregnancy and a wish to proceed with an abortion, Ms Y was coerced into continuing with the pregnancy, under threat of detainment under mental health legislation, until such a time as a caesarean section could be performed and the baby taken into care.

The Marie Stopes centre in Belfast (the first private clinic in Ireland to offer abortions within heavy legal controls) also became embroiled in anti-choice sentiments during the course of 2014. Health Minister Jim Wells advised that he will propose an amendment to effectively outlaw Marie Stopes in the north and impose a maximum ten year prison sentence on those who access it. This will equate to an expansion of appallingly restrictive rules on abortion that criminalise, rather than support women experiencing crises. It is also likely to further incite the anti-abortion 'curb counselling' that has been taking place effectively unchallenged outside the Belfast clinic since it first opened in 2012. This includes tactics such as playing sound clips of crying babies and verbally harassing vulnerable women as they enter the building. The extent of

this on-going harassment emerged through reports that staff are now required to wear body cameras while escorting visitors into the clinic for protection.

Finally, to the horror of many, in December a clinically brain dead pregnant woman was kept on a life support machine in a Dublin hospital for 3 weeks, against the request of her partner and parents who expressed a wish for life support to be switched off to let her to die with dignity. The move was taken by doctors unwilling to open themselves up to potential legal repercussions from Irish anti-abortion laws. In a case that disturbingly resonates with the pro-choice slogan “I am not a vessel”, this woman was reduced to just that for a system more concerned with legal intricacies than humanity.

These events are examples of the con-

ditions currently being faced by women as a whole in Ireland today. Ruling class opposition to universally accessible abortion services is being hidden behind a smokescreen of 'morality-talk' that functions as an excuse for severe restrictions on terminations provided by the state. Prior to her death in 2012, Savita Halappanavar was declined a lifesaving termination on the grounds that 'Ireland is a Catholic country'. But, should the aim of a society not be the pursuit of the highest standards of health and wellbeing for its people rather than their oppression?

It is estimated that twelve women each day travel outside Ireland to access abortion services currently not provided here. This is being done on an individual-by-individual basis with little to no support from the state or health

Social Issues

service, including post abortion care after returning home. Travelling outside of Ireland to access these services is not an easy option for most women. There are significant financial costs involved, with a surgical abortion below 14 weeks costing at least €1000. However, women travelling from Ireland tend to have later and more costly abortions due to issues such as raising the necessary funds, negotiating time off work, child care and making travel and accommodation arrangements. Many are forced into contact with loan sharks, with incidents recorded where women have been violently beaten because they cannot afford to repay the loans that funded their abortions.

For a great majority of Irish women these costs are beyond reach and as a

consequence they are driven into either completing pregnancy or pursuing unsafe methods of self-induced abortions. Consequences of continuing with an unintended pregnancy include intense pressure to accept low paying and precarious jobs to support resulting children, thereby reinforcing existing inequalities. Research indicates Irish women have resorted to measures such as drinking bleach, throwing themselves from heights and ordering unregulated drugs from the internet in attempt to self-induce abortion. Clearly these acts of desperation carry potentially serious medical implications, however these women are likely to avoid seeking emergency medical help as to do so could lead to criminal persecution.

What is clear is that access to abortion is far from a purely personal issue. While a culture of 'family values' perpetrated by the ruling class in Ireland strives to keep reproductive planning issues out of public sight, research illustrates that access to safe abortions is an everyday concern accessible only to those who are able to travel outside of Ireland and pay for it. As a result a woman's control over her own body in Ireland is largely anchored to her economic position. Women's struggle for free and open access to abortion services is therefore part of a much wider struggle regarding the type of society we wish to live in.

JMA

Anti-Imperialism

Five Techniques of Torture

Operation Demetrius, the introduction of internment without trial was launched across the six British controlled counties in the north of Ireland on the morning of the 9th August 1971. Internment was a weapon the Stormont government was used to deploying, having resorted to its implementation every decade since its inception in 1921. The early 1970's would prove to be no exception; with the continuing destabilisation of the six counties, the Stormont government unleashed its trusted weapon for smothering dissent, citing its success in the preceding decades.

Aimed specifically at the nationalist community and the IRA, 342 people across the north were arrested by the British army working from lists of names compiled by the RUC Special Branch. The ineffectiveness of the RUC's intelligence to penetrate the nationalist community was soon proven

when it was found that many arrested had no connections to the IRA, caught up in the swoop were many who's association with the Republican movement had ended decades before or students who were involved in the Civil Rights campaign.

The deplorable treatment of those arrested and particularly the abuse suffered by those who would become known as the 'Hooded men' at the hands of the British Army soon began to leak out. It became known that after these men had been arrested they were selected to be taken to a secret interrogation centre later identified as being located at Ballykelly, county Derry. There they were subjected to deep interrogation methods known as the Five Techniques, these included prolonged periods of hooding, sleep, food and water deprivation, being made to stand against walls for prolonged periods in forced stress positions and exposure to excruciatingly loud white noise. Failure to maintain the stress positions against the walls brought savage beatings which the men describe as the sixth technique from the British soldiers who at all times were

controlling the men's ordeal. There is even the possibility the men were drugged with LSD to further enhance their disorientation. After the torture sessions had finished at Ballykelly the men were transferred to Crumlin Road gaol in Belfast by helicopter. While in the helicopter the men, handcuffed and hooded were led to believe by their British captors that they were above the Irish Sea, they were then thrown out. This was a further act of psychological torture as the helicopter was not above the Irish Sea but hovering 10-12 feet above ground, the men



Anti-Imperialism



however were not to know this and surely must have believed they were falling to their death.

The case of the Hooded men was subsequently taken up by the government of the twenty six counties which filed a complaint against the UK to the European Commission of Human Rights, the commission ruled that the Five Techniques used against the men constituted torture. However, the perusal of the case by the twenty six county government to the European Court of Human Rights led to an overturning of the commission's judgement. By a vote of 14 to 3, the court found that although 'the Five Techniques amounted to inhuman and degrading treatment' their use did not constitute torture.

The importance of the ruling was not lost on the British or their Imperialist allies who now had a precedent in how

far they could take the brutal treatment of anyone who they might consider a threat to their authority. Both the US and British have referred to the case in justification of their horrific abuses carried out in their wars against the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan, the Israeli's have also taken advantage of the ruling to repeatedly justify their brutal treatment of the Palestinian people.

New evidence unearthed by the Pat Finucane Center has shown unsurprisingly that the British withheld information at the original trial which resulted in the flawed verdict. This evidence shows the British lied about the length of time the men endured the stress positions and about the amount of food they received. The British would have us believe that the men were fed every six hours during their ordeal, this is refuted by the men, who went as long as

72hours without food or water. The evidence also shows British compliance with the interrogations at the highest levels; a letter from Merlyn Rees the then Home Secretary to the then Prime Minister James Callaghan states that the 'decision to use methods of torture' was a political one taken by ministers.

The discovery of this evidence has led to the case of the Hooded Men to be referred back to European Court of Human Rights, the outcome of which could have far reaching implications for the British and others in the Imperialist camp, who through these methods have destroyed and ended the lives of thousands of people who would not bow the knee to these Imperialist marauders.

CMAT

Culture

Damo...

Damo...

Damo...

Damien Dempsey's live performances are getting better and better. His pre-Christmas shows in Vicar Street were, for this fan, his best yet. Reminiscent of a Tommy Tiernan gag about

the session of all sessions that lifts the pub off the ground and into space Dempsey's gig does seem to move you to another place. For that hour and a half you are solely focussed on singing all of your cares away and the outside world doesn't seem to matter.

Yet ironically, the lyrics you are belting out are about everything that is happening in the world beyond those doors. From geo-political landscapes to gay rights, industrial schools and prisons to Phil Lynott and Luke Kelly

Dempsey's words mean something to his audience who predominantly came from and grew up in the same environment as Damien leaving no barrier or falseness between performer and audience.

Is it an overstatement to say that Damien Dempsey is the Luke Kelly of our time? I don't think it is. This, of course, is coming from someone who was still in nappies when Luke Kelly died so take it as you will. But the par-

allels are there.

Dempsey signs with his own voice. No media friendly cleansing of his working class accent. He sings songs about life, work, struggle, compassion, empathy, abuse, solidarity, humanity, friendship, love, hardship. All themes that wove through Kelly's life. He is immersed in the issues of the day and doesn't shy away from controversial themes. He exposed the shallowness of the Celtic Tiger mid boom when to criticise it was to want to commit suicide according to the Taoi-

search of the time. He recognises the attraction of gang life to working people abandoned by the State and powerlessness. His songs are amazingly relevant and capture what so many of us feel, anger, frustration and desperation contrasted with hope, energy and compassion.

Unique in live performances is that the gig is just as much about the fans as it is the artist. He shares the venue with everyone. There are no ego's present. The fans sing every word, literally every word to every song. At time he

steps away from the mike, humbled by the experience, and allows the fans to take over.

Long may he continue to write and perform for in this age of monopoly production and control of music it is rare for a true working class hero to fight his way to the top.



Léirmheas: “An Triail” san Amharclann Axis

Léiríodh an dráma Gaelach cáiliúil, "An Triail" le Mairéad Ní Ghráda, san Amharclann Axis i mBaile Munna le déanaí. Is ionad pobail é an Axis i lár an bhruachbhaile a chuireann léirithe ar fáil go rialta. Tá sé mar aidhm acu daoine óga a spreagadh le teacht ag an amharclann, agus is fiú a luadh gur féidir "An Triail" a dhéanamh mar chuid den chúrsa Ardeistiméireachta. Is amhlaidh gur eisceacht é an Amharclann Axis sa chontae seo ó thaobh drámaíochta trí mheán na Gaeilge a chur ar fáil. Mar sin, tá moladh tuille ag an bhfoireann a chur an léiriú seo le chéile as ucht an leagan comhaim-

seartha a chum siad.

Níl amhras ar bith gur bh ábhar teibí go leor a bhí á phlé sa dráma, ní hé an cineál saothair a mheallfadh déagóir de ghnáth. Tarlaíonn na heachtraí ag tús na 1960idí, ag tosú in Iarthar an Chláir i dtosach agus i mBaile Átha Cliath i ndiaidh sin. Baineadh úsáid cruithaitheach as ceol éagsúil chun meon na tréimhse seo a thaispeáint, le roinnt óráidí ó Martin Luther King agus fiseán a léirigh teacht an tUachtarán John F Kennedy chun na tíre i 1963. Casann bean óg, Máire Ní Chathasaigh, ar mháistir scoile, Pádraig Mac Cárthaigh, ag rince agus ní fada go n-éiríonn sí torrach. Tá faitíos ar mháthair Mháire go náireofar an chlann os comhair na gcomharsan agus ní mór do Mháire an teach a fhágáil. Is é a cruachás Mháire ábhar an dráma. Cé gur tragóid é an dráma agus tagann deireadh tromchúiseach leis an scéal, tá ábhar grinn ar fáil sa dráma. Caitheann gach aisteoir masc plaisteach a chléadaíonn an chuid uachtarach dá aghaidh, rud a chonníonn aird an bhreathnóra go maith.

Pléitear dearcadh na sochái i leith

Mháire ag an am, chomh maith le fimíneachas na gcarachtar (téama a threisítear go maith leis an gcuma bréagach atá ag gach carachtar, seachas Máire, de bharr na mascanna).

Ba iarracht mhaith é an dráma chun léargas a thabhairt, do dhaoine óga go háirithe, ar an tsocháí in Éirinn ní fada ó shin in aon chor. Is minic go gcloistear caint ar ról na hEaglaise sa tír, agus tugann an dráma seo tuiscint don aos óg ar an gcineál eagla a bhí mar chuid den saol, agus a mhaireann go fóill. Cé go bhfuil an aisteoireacht ar ardchaighdeán agus tá an-samhlaíocht ag baint leis an dearadh seit, go háirithe ar stáitse sách beag, coinnítear atmaisféar réchúiseach san amharclann, a chruthaíonn caidreamh níos dlúthpháirte idir na carachtair agus an lucht féachana. Is dócha go spreagann an cineál cur chuige seo na mic léinn chun dul i mbun na haisteoireachta. Gan amhras, tuigtear beocht na teanga níos fusa i léiriúchán cosúil leis an gceann seo.

SOD



The Hunger Games Propaganda and Influencing Public Opinion

In the newest film installment of the bestselling teenage trilogy by Suzanne Collins; *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1*, continues to explore its themes of economic oppression from an elite minority over the working majority in a dystopian future. What's fascinating is that we spend much of our time here watching the war play out in an arena far to unfamiliar in action films- the battle for public opinion

A public relations war that feels far more relevant and realistic to modern day political uprisings than any pseudo-revolutionary film that has come before, because we all know *The Hunger Games* structure is nothing new in itself.

Played out by Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) as the figureheads of the oppressed working 13 'Districts' and the opulent oppressing Capitol, respectively. The 13 Districts are heavily guarded, influenced by the Capitol's propaganda and working in poverty to provide resources for the Capitol. After Katniss and Peeta were victors for their District in the Hunger Games, a televised fight to the death where teenagers are randomly selected to participate from each District, they inspired the workers of the Districts to unite and stand up

against the tyrants controlling their lives.

The aftermath of the previous film leaves Peeta in the hands of the Capitol and they use him, as a supposed representative of the Districts, to condemn the uprisings on television. He regularly appears on a show that is broadcast across the Districts denouncing the uprisings and calling for the Districts to cease revolt and reinstate peace. Much like in our own world, any rebellion against the oppression of the establishment is branded as undemocratic and furiously attacked by mass media. Yet while condemning violence with one hand, the ruling elite with the other enact great brutality in an attempt at solidifying their power. An exciting duel over the airwaves ensues while the Capitol bombs their homes.

Propaganda is seen as a tool that should be used on either side of the war. The 13th District, which is the hub of the rebellion, with Katniss as their heroin, are forced to hack into the Capitol's means of communication in an attempt at educating and inspiring the other Districts from which they are cut off. Katniss is followed by a television crew throughout much of the film as they document some of the barbari-

ty carried out by the Capitol in response. The filming of these events were as paramount to the education and uprising of the oppressed working Districts as they have been to the comradery and support of the Right2Water campaigns here in Ireland.

Highjacking RTÉ isn't a logical approach for our current political uproar but luckily with the growth of communication technologies we've been able to rapidly spread information with one another, creating grass roots movements more easily than ever before while highlighting contradictions and corruption found throughout our political systems. It's an uphill battle against the superior public relations skills and media dominance of the political and financial elite but there is only so much they can twist and the average Irish person is becoming all too aware of newspapers and RTÉ's leniencies.

Our Peeta in this instance, a figure for the Capitol, disguised as your average worker comes in the form of Joan Burton. Who, after the significant increase of Irish Water scandals and water protests, could suddenly be found in a whole variety of underprivileged areas. The government needed a martyr. Burton got exactly what she wanted in the form of a protest involving a missile (though it was only water, it was all they needed) and after a brief entrapment in her limo she began brushing the water protestors as fascists. 'Poor helpless old woman' - the media had a frenzy.

Irish Water protests are in just as much as a need as the establishment for icons or moments to rally behind. The woman that was thrown into a bollard by Gardai during a protest sparked an incredible reaction. The violence permitted by the establishment against the democratic protestors hadn't been so accurately publicised before. While the candle-lit vigils held outside Gardai stations in the following few weeks had an important impact on the Gardai and to those who saw videos of it online, much of it went unnoticed by

Culture

massmedia as it didn't play into their narrative.

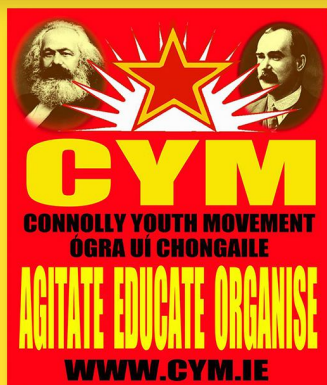
It is of vital importance that the Right2Water campaign and all associated grass roots movements are aware that their campaign cannot be won by protesting alone but by influencing public opinion. This is a battle of public relations and it must be fought at every opportunity. Education and awareness are paramount to the defeat of Irish Water and of the cronyism that runs rampant throughout our political establishment. AC

“If you think for one second that the Capitol will treat us fairly, then you’re lying to yourselves! Because we know what they are, and what they do.”

- Katniss Everdeen, The Hunger Games Mockingjay Part 1



www.CYM.ie



The Connolly Youth Movement is a youth organisation committed to fighting for democracy, freedom and unity in this country. The CYM takes part in the struggle to build socialism in Ireland and everywhere around the globe.

Since 2008 the crisis in Ireland has deepened which has seen many talented and gifted young people leave this island in search of a better life abroad. We as a youth organisation are fundamentally opposed to any government using its youth as a safety valve in trying to ease economic and political tensions. So we are determined to stay and fight the injustice brought on this and future generations.

Working with progressive movements to develop young workers' and students' consciousness in their own proud history and culture. As a member of the World Federation of Democratic Youth we struggle in opposition to imperialism and for liberation around the globe of all oppressed peoples, including ourselves.

The CYM has branches in Dublin, Belfast and Cork.

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