

## A voice for workers in Dáil Éireann

**Rachel Hurley Roche** is the Workers Party Candidate for Cork North Central in the 2024 General Election. This includes Corks Northside as well as new areas such as Mallow and Ballincollig. She is a youth worker and casual retail worker living in the Mayfield/Ballyvolane area.



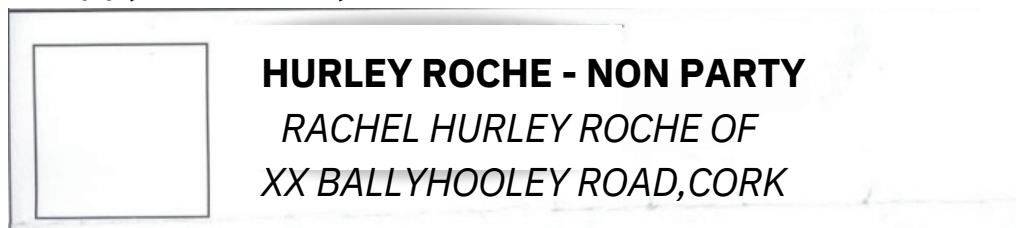
The party is conscious of the many issues facing working people and their families in Cork North Central including unemployment, inflation, housing, healthcare, etc. We lay the blame for these issues squarely where it belongs, with the capitalist system. **The people are not to blame for the widespread misery and cyclical economic crises, the cruel and outdated Capitalist system is!**



A new government under the same system of private ownership will do little to abate the impending crises facing working families, and we will not be fooled into supporting such 'alternatives.'. We stand for real change. We will settle for nothing less than socialism, for true justice and power for working people.

**We are asking you to give your number 1 vote to The Workers Party.**

Due to reasons that are mostly technical and temporary we will appear on the ballot as non party, see example below. Remember to look for the name **Hurley Roche** rather than the party logo, which will not appear on the ballot. We are more than happy to chat to you about this.



# WORKERS PLATFORM 2024

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The capitalist system is in deep crisis, and the internal contradictions can no longer be overcome through traditional methods of management i.e social democracy, austerity, etc. The system is in freefall, resulting in rising prices, increasing political repression, and military aggression.

The capitalist system's need for constant growth has shown itself to be entirely unsustainable, and is leading to the destruction of our natural environment. We fight for a world free of exploitation of working people. In order to achieve this, a significant restructuring of the economy will need to take place. This process lays the foundations for the construction of the socialist workers state.

- ★ Expropriation, acquisition, and socialisation of private companies including those incorporated into national or international monopolies
- ★ Expropriation of private energy companies. An end to private appropriation of renewable energy sources i.e wind energy, solar farms, etc.
- ★ Increasing productive capacity within the state in order to satisfy the needs of all people
- ★ The reduction of the working week to 35 hours, and an end to the indignity unemployment for all.
- ★ Liquidation of all companies with known links to drug trafficking or manufacturing.
- ★ Nationalisation of private banks to form an Irish Central Bank.
- ★ Seizing the wealth and assets of all drug traffickers and their affiliates through the court system. Use of the expropriated funds to improve the lives of the people.
- ★ The abolition of 'Irish Water' and the return of water services to public control through local government.
- ★ The abolition of the National Transport Agency and the establishment of a state owned public transport company. To include developing new routes for bus and rail.
- ★ The expropriation of private energy enterprises to ensure all people have access to high quality, sustainable energy at an affordable price.

# WORKERS PLATFORM 2024

## LAW & GOVERNANCE

The focus of the legal and political system in the new workers state is the protection of the liberty and dignity of all persons as well as safeguarding the workers ownership of the means of production.

Our current system is not fit for purpose and fails to protect the rights of the most vulnerable in society.

We envision massive democratic participation organised in workplaces, homes, and community hubs to involve all citizens in creating a new constitution and legal system that serves the needs of working people and protects our shared society.

- ★ A reduction in the salaries of members of Parliament. Match deputies salaries to the average industrial wage so that the people and their representatives progress together.
- ★ Establishment of a citizens assembly to draft a new constitution based on the social ownership of the means of production. To be ratified by referendum following engagement in workplaces and communities to raise peoples awareness of the changes.
- ★ Reform of democratic structures to facilitate recall of representatives, and mandate them to represent the genuine views of constituents.
- ★ Dissolution of existing city/county councils structures in favour of a reformed local government system.
- ★ A truth and reconciliation commission administered by the state to investigate and offer the truth regarding crimes of the state, intra community violence, etc.
- ★ A new legal system that centres the protection of the workers power, and weakens the ability of the exploiters to oppress others. Promoting pro social behaviour and sanctioning that which harms the people.
- ★ Immediate repeal of The Industrial Relations Act 1990 and all other legislation that limits workers rights.
- ★ Reform of the employment system for solicitors and barristers. Supporting secure employment with good pay and conditions to promote every persons access to justice and representation.

# WORKERS PLATFORM 2024

## HOUSING

The Workers Party of Ireland is entirely opposed to the classification of housing as a commodity i.e something to be bought, sold, and/or rented in order to make a profit. Housing is a universal need and as such should be provided by the state, based on the needs of the people.

The bourgeois parties disregard our solutions that we outline below as ignorant and idealist. Their solution is to 'support' the market by finding ways to increase property ownership, and transfer more public money into private hands. We state that this will only serve to 'heat up' the market and accelerate the catastrophic burst of the property bubble and deepen the capitalist crisis. We pose the question to the bourgeois parties, if the market could resolve this crisis, why has it not done so already?

Of course they cannot answer this question, because the fact is a private market driven by profits will never be capable of satisfying the people's needs.

- ★ Expropriation of the construction industry by the state and the establishment of a state construction company specifically to build, renovate, and maintain public homes on public land.
- ★ These homes, as well as pre existing homes would be part of a comprehensive 5 year programme of the construction and maintenance of public housing for the people run by the state.
- ★ The state construction company will also be responsible for the construction of new group housing schemes and upkeep at existing halting sites.
- ★ The state will implement services for those exiting homelessness, including the provision of public housing, mental and physical health supports, and job training.
- ★ The state will take action against housing that is unsafe or unsuitable. this means urgent action to address mould, energy inefficiency, and accessibility issues within the home.
- ★ The abolition of private mortgage loans, to be replaced with state loans with zero interest for family homes.
- ★ Housing built by the state must take measures to protect the environment such as provision of solar panels, rainwater collection facilities, and energy efficient building design.
- ★ All state housing must consider the necessity to be reasonably close to work and learning centres as well as play and recreation spaces.



# WORKERS PLATFORM 2024

## HEALTH

Our health system is on its knees, but we will not allow the people to be deceived. The health service is being attacked by the bourgeois parties and their capitalist allies who are attempting to make the case for its complete privatisation. When the capitalists have exhausted the potential for increasing profits in the private sector, they turn to the public sector and begin to dismantle it via restructuring, outsourcing, and eventually privatisation.

Healthcare is not a privilege, it is a human need, and the service must be structured, planned, and administered in a manner that reflects this.

There is no solution to the challenges facing the health service other than complete nationalisation, and an end to privatisation and outsourcing. Any party that refuses to support nationalisation is supporting the roots of this crisis.

- ★ The expropriation of the private healthcare system ( buildings, machinery and other assets) and use of the assets to fund and a fully public system of healthcare. The incorporation of private sector healthcare workers into the public system.
- ★ A focus on preventative care, particularly for those with chronic conditions. Effective interventions to prevent future unnecessary complications that would negatively affect the persons quality of life.
- ★ Expropriation of large pharmaceutical companies to build a state pharmaceutical manufacturer that develops and distributes medications and routine vaccinations for the good of the people.
- ★ Greater resources directed to staffing availability for patient education so that patients can understand the nature of their illness (mental or physical) and work in partnership with their provider to achieve positive health outcomes.
- ★ An improvement in working conditions for all healthcare staff. An end to unpaid placements poverty wages, and unreasonably arduous commutes.
- ★ Detox/Rehab facilities for all persons affected by drug and alcohol abuse where they can access necessary physical and mental health services and re integration supports.
- ★ Implementation via education and practice development of a holistic perspective on the health of all persons in the state, to support mental and physical wellbeing.
- ★ Expansion of step down services for those with a physical or psychological illness to assist them in re entering the community and to prevent unnecessary hospitalisations.

# WORKERS PLATFORM 2024

## EDUCATION

Education is a right for all working people and families, the socialist system of production is the only system capable of making this right real for all citizens as the profit motive is removed from all educational institutions.

The extraction of profit from educational institutions leads to poorer outcomes for students and teachers who are forced to learn and teach in underfunded and under resourced environments.

Education in the new workers state is organised and delivered with the aim of promoting critical thinking, collective responsibility, and finding new solutions to build a better society for us all through innovation and cooperation.

- ★ The transfer of ownership of all primary, secondary, and third level education to the state. Free for all students to achieve their educational potential and within schools the provision of all learning materials necessary for students including books, uniforms, course materials, and physical education equipment.
- ★ A national literacy action plan to eradicate illiteracy and support early school leavers and adult learners.
- ★ Full educational integration to end discrimination against students based on class background, disability, religion or family status
- ★ The building of specific accommodation for post secondary school students where they can live safely and affordably.
- ★ A reform of the national curriculum to promote scientific and critical thinking. Doing away with 'rote learning' and allowing for more discursive explorations and analyses.
- ★ An end to insecure employment for teachers and an immediate re negotiation of pay, conditions, and pensions.
- ★ Integration of sporting and physical activity into the school day of all children to combat lifestyle related disease, promote social interaction, and foster good mental health. Responsibility for leaning centres to provide appropriate and respectful alternatives for children with physical or mental/intellectual disabilities.
- ★ Support for every learner, providing additional supports based on needs.

# WORKERS PLATFORM 2024

## LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTIONS

We are fighting for a world free of exploitation of man by man. A world in which children do not go to bed hungry, workers are not forced into poverty by injury, and in which no one suffers the indignity of unemployment.

This is possible through the establishment of the workers state because it is a system administrated by and for working people, not for profit. It will bring an improvement in pay and conditions for workers as well as their families, with a focused approach to those with disabilities, different needs in the workplace, and family accommodations.

Everyone has the right to good work in which they are supported to positively contribute to society insofar as they are able.

- ★ Creation of a central wealth fund for workers who become injured at work, die before retirement, or become unable to work for any other reason. Financed by worker contributions, but not tied to years of service as this can disproportionately affect young families.
- ★ Setting the standard retirement age at 60 years, except in employment considered more precarious to human health such as military service, aviation, chemical manufacturing in which it may be lowered based on the evidence.
- ★ Hiring and firing decisions to be managed by the workplace assembly.
- ★ Construction of nurseries and preschools at all work centres with access for families of workers to health facilities inclusive of dental, psychological, and physical health.
- ★ Inspections of work places and adjoining facilities to be carried out by workers councils rather than private bodies or employer representatives.
- ★ Provision of specific supports for workers caring for family members with disabilities including appropriate respite, supplementary payments, and workplace accommodations.
- ★ Prioritising access to employment or voluntary work for those with disabilities who are willing and able to participate. Recognising that every person regardless of ability can make a positive contribution to our shared society given the right support.

# WORKERS PLATFORM 2024

## WAR, PEACE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We are carving out a foreign policy direction with the sole aim of preserving and maintaining peace and prosperity amongst working people of all nations.

We stand in opposition to the horrors of war in which working people are sent to die and to kill other working people in order for the capitalists, and their allies in our parliament, to extract as much profit, raw materials, and natural resources as possible. We say no to war profiteering, to the ideology of endless growth at the expense of the people, and the splitting of the world into warring spheres.

The international situation is on the edge of a horrifying conflict spreading across the world. Working people must stand up and say no, a vote for a real anti war candidate is the beginning of this, however there is more for us to do together i to end this war.

We pursue cooperation for peace, not for profit, and we want to build a real movement capable of making that a reality.

- ★ An end to the participation of our state in imperialist blocs such as The European Union, NATO, etc
- ★ A foreign policy centred around the promotion of peace between working people of all nations. Seek to use our influence within the international community to promote peaceful resolution to ongoing conflicts.
- ★ A workers state does not support either capitalist state in ongoing conflicts. We ally ourselves with the working people of Ukraine and Russia in their struggle for peace, socialism, and self determination.
- ★ Participate in the rebuilding of the international workers and communist movement. We identify working people of all nations as our allies in the fight for socialism and against capitalist barbarity.
- ★ Support for the Palestinian people's right to self determination by:  
eliminating trade with apartheid Israel  
supporting the case brought by South Africa to the international court of Justice.  
Using our influence within the United Nations to bring an end to the genocide
- ★ We recognise people's right to freedom of movement. We wish to build a world in which people who migrate may do so by choice, and not by force i.e war, trafficking, famine.