

76. Ballyphehane / South Parish Says No, Cork

Equality and Social Justice

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits."

Martin Luther King Jr. – Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, 1964 – Oslo

We believe that equality and social justice should form the basis for all decision-making in a civil social democratic society. Just aspiring for equality and social justice falls unacceptably short of the experience in reality. We strongly believe that the following deliberations would advance considerably the practical application of the principles of equality and social justice. We further believe that these goals are attainable in the near future if courage and commitment persists.

RIGHT2WATER

We are in full agreement with the principle that because water is essential for sustaining life, therefore access to water is a basic human right. Water supply, we believe, is too important to be left at the mercy of the free market. We call for the immediate abolition of Irish Water, water charges and the installation of water meters (as well as the removal of those already installed). We fully support the idea of a constitutional referendum to copper-fasten water as a public utility into the future. Furthermore we would advocate for investment in our water system to repair its infrastructure and encourage conservation. Additionally, we believe that access to safe water should not be separated from the quality of our water supply. We advocate for a water supply of the highest quality that is as close to its natural state as possible, free from unnecessary contaminants, for example, fluoride and lead. This should be financed through a progressive taxation model.

RIGHT2JOBS AND DECENT WORK:

We would thoroughly agree with the principle of expanding the focus of job creation beyond the present modal with it's over emphasis on FDI. Along with the measures suggested in the document we would also advocate that the role of our indigenous SME sector be supported as much as possible through public policy. Also, we would support the introduction of a living wage for all as a key component of a Government strategy to eliminate poverty.

RIGHT2HOUSING

Housing, like water and healthcare, we argue, is a basic human right. How a country sets out its housing policy says a lot about the type of society it aspires to be. The systemic problem with Irish housing policy has been it's over emphasis on home-ownership and the consequence this has for other sectors in the housing system. We would agree that rents need to be controlled but this is only a short term measure. The most important response needed to overcome the present on-going housing crisis is the immediate commencement of a massive house building programme by the state. However, even when present needs are eventually met, the state house-building programme should continue at a level appropriate to meet future needs. However, we do have reservations about the suggestion that the state should seek to promote home ownership through "limited

equity” schemes or “non-speculative housing”. The role of the state, we would argue, should be focused on providing a creditable and attractive alternative to the private housing market.

RIGHT2HEALTH

The present two tiered healthcare model will never result in anything other than inequality in the provision of healthcare. That simple fact needs to be recognised before any alternative can be constructed. We would agree that we need a system that is free at the point of entry for all, is well funded and provides the best possible level of care for patients. We would further advocate for an extensive and progressive primary care system which engages with people on a personal level throughout all stages of their lives and not just when they are unwell. In other words, a system that keeps people healthy through educating them on how to maintain their health in a natural holistic manner rather than one that is solely concerned with treating people when they become ill through the prescription of drugs. Achieving this would entail challenging the powerful vested interests that at present control and profit enormously from the existing system, for example, private medicine, the pharmaceutical companies and the food industry.

RIGHT2DEBT-JUSTICE

We would agree wholeheartedly that ordinary citizens ought to be protected from the impact of failed financial speculators and vulture funds and that bank led mortgage debt relief has to be ended. The immediate introduction of a Financial Transaction Tax is a vital component in the construction of a fairer and more equal society, not just in Ireland but globally. We would also argue for the existence of a state owned bank that would provide an alternative and offer competition to the existing commercial banks. It should be focused on financing indigenous local enterprise initiatives and not on speculative investment.

RIGHT2EDUCATION

While not disagreeing with the document in any way in relation to education, we would however add the following. Education should not only be viewed as a means to employment alone but should also be a means to encourage personal development and conscientious citizenship. The present second level system with its emphasis on achieving maximum points as the barometer of success is little more than a preparation for a rat-race society. Furthermore, we would add, education should be accessible to all throughout their life, regardless of age, ideally free of charge or at least at a rate affordable to all.

RIGHT2DEMOCRATIC REFORM

We agree totally with the argument that our democratic system needs radical reform. We need a system which makes our decision makers accountable to all the people and not just sectional or constituency interests alone. We would advocate for a system of regular public meetings which are outside the control of either the media or official “handlers”, where elected representatives are compelled to attend to account for their actions. We concur with the sentiment that a general election once every five years does not constitute a sufficient degree of accountability and a mechanism of direct democracy as exists in Switzerland should be in place to facilitate the calling of an election or referendum by the public on matters they deem to be of vital national importance.

We would suggest a petition that gains a sizeable enough degree of support from the public could be a catalyst to set such a process in motion.

Furthermore, as the funding of political parties by private interests can distort the policy agenda against the public interest we believe that consideration should be given to funding the political system solely from the central exchequer, not to the degree it is funded at present but in a limited but adequate manner. To limit the burden this would impose on the tax payer a 'democratic levy' could be imposed on the profits of private companies. This could be argued for on the basis that companies benefit considerably from operating in a politically and economically stable democratic state.

Failing that, we believe that if political parties and individual politicians are to be funded by private donations then this must be as open and transparent a process as possible with the amount of all donations and the names of all donors freely available to the public.

Finally, we would particularly agree with the sentiment that advocates for the empowerment of service users in the restructuring of our institutions.

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77. Submission from Cobh Says No

Please add the following policy proposals to be put before the conference on June 14th.

Part 1 – Wages Labour Rights Decent Work & Employment

- The right to work.
- For a minimum wage of €12 an hour
- End all zero hour contracts
- For full union recognition in all spheres of industry and employment
- For a national programme of work to renew the infrastructure, build hospitals schools and houses.
- Lift the ban on recruitment of workers in all areas of public, health and social services.
- End Jobsbridge.

Part 2 - Banking Private Debt and Private Debt

- An immediate end to all mortgage repossessions of primary homes.
- Reduction of mortgage to reflect actual current value of the house. Debt forgiveness for those not working or unable to afford the payments. The option of being able to transfer your primary home to social housing with compensation for mortgage payments already made to the lending institution.
- An end to legal action for existing debt by debt collectors against those not working or on low income.
- Scrap all bank bail-outs
- Cancel the debt to the IMF/EU. Be part of the European debt conference.
- Scrap Nama

Part 3: Public Services, including health, education, childcare, public transport etc.

Health

- Immediate introduction of free healthcare at the point of need, GP, hospitals and all health centres.
- End the two tier private system within all state hospitals and health facilities
- End all waiting lists within 6 months

Education

- End the two tier system of education - remove all government subsidies for private fee paying schools
- Free state education from nursery level to university/third level education
- Scrap university registration fees
- An overhaul of the education system to make it more accessible

Childcare

- Free childcare facilities to allow all, particularly women, to play a full role in work and society.
- Restoration of one-parent allowances for children over 7 years
- Restoration of Children's Allowance for children in 3rd level education.

Part 4 - Housing

- A national housebuilding programme for social housing
- Put all unfinished housing estates into public ownership for social housing
- All housing that is currently on Nama's books to be put into social housing
- Introduce rent controls on all rented accommodation
- Funds to be put into the development of adequate nursing homes with staff, suitable housing i.e. bungalows. This will alleviate pressure on the social housing list for young families with children

Part 5 – Equality – social cultural political & economic

- For all citizens to be recognised as equals within the constitution and all discriminatory clauses to be removed through referendum
- Equal pay for all men and women.
- For the right of migrants to work, benefits, health care, education, social housing in line with Irish citizens
- Close all 35 direct provision centres and replace with housing based on need for families and individual migrants and refugees
- For an immediate national programme of work to make all buildings and public areas fully accessible for people with a disability

Part 6 - EU & International Trade & Peace

- For the building of united European-wide trade unions, political and social organisations based on a common anti-austerity programme. For the calling of a conference in Dublin to build that movement.
- An immediate end to all agreements to use Irish airports and airspace to aid international war efforts, including the rendition of suspects for torture

Part 7 - Political Reform, national and local people power

- Town councils to be reintroduced with fully autonomous budgetary powers and responsibility for all local amenities, including education, water, library services, roads, housing etc.

Part 8 - Environment Sustainability & Climate Change

- A national public transport system on a low cost basis to discourage the use of private transport
- Abolish TTIP and CETA. Abolish all fracking in Ireland.

Part 9 - Public & Private Enterprise Policy, the Indigenous Sector, national resources

- Immediately reverse all privatisation in health, transport and all public and social services
- All national resources to remain in public hands
- No more public private partnerships

Part 10 -Social Protection, poverty & deprivation

- For all social welfare payments to be at least at the level of the minimum wage. The unemployed pensioners and disabled are entitled to a basic standard of living.

Part 11: Fiscal & Budgetary Policy, taxation and public expenditure, social wage ADD

- For a budget based on need not profit
- Introduction of a progressive taxation system, targeting the wealthy, owners of production and banking.
- Scrap the Universal Social Charge and all levies

Part 12: Water policy

- Boycott all existing water charges
- Water is a human right.
- Abolish water charges and end the metering programme immediately.
- End fluoridation of our water supply.
- Regional works to find leaks and repair and renew the existing system.
- Water for the common good not profit.
- Amend proposed new Article 28 section 4.2.1 to "The government and all future governments will be collectively responsible for the protection, management and

maintenance of the public water system. The government will act in the public interest and ensure that this resource remains in public ownership and management.”

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78. Dianne Little

Congratulations on your work to protect water supply to most vulnerable people - we can all be vulnerable. Please add a call to stop work by the EPA who appointed CDM Smith to test water for impacts of fracking. If our water was not at risk from fracking process there would be no need to measure it. Their study is meant to see if fracking can be done safely. This is a waste of over 2 million euros, because there have already been over 450 peer reviewed studies that show that it cannot be regulated to make it safe. 1000s of wells in an area will result in pollution of water because there is no magic steel and no magic cement. It is proven that all well leak over time. This is not just about the first few years (5% wells fail immediately) but for decades ahead - and clean water for our children and generations ahead. It's not just about the leaking wells. After they explode the shale layer under our feet and pump millions of gallons of water chemicals and sand down to retrieve the gas, c.40% of that comes back full of all the radioactive NORMs that live peacefully in our earth. It's like the earths cry after attack. It releases the carcinogenics. There is no safe way to dispose of this toxic flow back - which often leaks and spills. The transformation of rural areas to toxic industrial zones is extremely traumatic. Clean jobs in sustainable industries like farming and tourism are replaced by toxic high risk work which is boom and bust - with nothing to go back to. Apart from the risks to our water, air and sustainable jobs, there is major ethical issue of methane being the worst offender in climate change- causing toxic shocks which result in food shortages especially in vulnerable countries. Above all our government is facilitating the gas industry which gets massive subsidies from the IMF to destroy our one and only earth - when we have all we need locally to generate our own local jobs, energy, and keep the profits in our community - by generating community owned renewable energy. We need to stop the EPA / CDM Smith / UCGEE study now, permanently ban fracking and facilitate community owned renewable energy schemes for affordable energy, sustainable jobs that will reinvigorate local communities - not destroy them.

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I understand that some people are considering a border poll in relation to Northern Ireland. Could I please highlight some important issues relevant to this consideration? It is very important there is a good understanding of the realities of NI before anyone considers this issue.

Most People in NI have been Personally, Physically, and emotionally impacted by 30-40yrs of Troubles

- By 1997 there have been 3,500 deaths, 34,000 shootings and 14,000 bombings.
- 45% of all adults experienced the death or injury of someone they knew personally.
- 57% witnessed one or other of these violent events - rioting, bomb explosions, gunfire, assaults, murder and other serious violence.
- 19% know someone who spent time in prison.
- Two thirds of NI population have experienced one or more traumatic events types during their lifetime.

- Northern Ireland has the highest rate of Post-Traumatic Stress in the World.
- The 1998 Good Friday agreement was a big step but not a resolution or healing.
- Northern Ireland is still a deeply divided community - which has suffered horrendously.
- Stormont lurches from crisis to crisis – and could fall at any time. There is no stability with extremes sharing power.
- Peace walls have increased from 22 to 48 since Good Friday Agreement
- Paramilitary threat remains active. Even the arrival of a fracking firm last year sparked petrol bombing.
- 90% of social housing is single identity community.
- 90+ % children and young people in segregated education – this is benign apartheid - many rural areas 100% segregated.
- Each year there are bitter protests over flying of flags, ongoing issues on parades and at interfaces even in rural communities - there is widespread deep division with no leadership to bring communities together.

No Healing means No Hope

Communities in NI are still full of fear and distrust

They hold each other in violent contempt. Peace is only superficial. It takes very little trouble or stress to ignite violence.

Each side fears what would happen if the other side, left unchecked, by ever-vigilant efforts to confront and impede their goals and aspirations, got what it really wanted.

The communities have so much in common but each community feels it must prevail over the other.

Where there has been No Healing, no chance for Forgiveness, - there is No Trust.

- The Suicide rate increased by 100% since 1998 peace – violence and aggression internalized and linked to drug and alcohol abuse. £32 million invested but still one of highest rates in Europe.
- Over 3,500 suicides since 1998 now more than the Deaths from Troubles.
- Self-harm rate in NI is 64% higher than ROI
- NI – one of highest rates in the world for anti-depressants – cost £16million a year.
- Highest rate of infant mortality in UK.

Whilst many in south think we have peace - we do not - we have less violence - we do not have peace as you do. Catholics and Protestants do not live in harmony, with equal respects as happens in the south. This is a Community which is not recovered from extreme trauma, remains hurt, threatened and deeply divided.

In relation to the suggestion of a border poll please consider - this is not a time for a political agenda. The people in Northern Ireland need people outside of NI to care. They continue to be victims because both sides pedal a sectarian agenda, constantly raking up the past, and digging deeper divisions, highlighting any differences and making most important issues into sectarian footballs. The people in NI need support to heal; they need politicians to stop trying to make each

side feel under threat. They urgently need leadership to be about what they have in common, about developing a plan to help them heal from the past and develop trust again. The last thing they need is for a new regime to enforce new authority. Two wrongs do not make a right. It would simply result in another 30 years of violence which I suggest no one has the money to adequately police or assist in health care or recovery from. The south could help in the following ways; press the NI government to end funding to segregated education for all children starting new schools and stop investing in new segregated schools. It would not be wise to enforce integration in existing schools as they already fight most days after school. Press the NI government to put in place a programme to facilitate healing between the communities. A chance for stories from both sides to be heard, a mechanism for people to be professionally, impartially, empathically, and sensitively supported to articulate their perspectives and for that to be recorded acknowledged and respected. Professional help could assist communities to move from attacking each other to a more objective stance where they could have shared understanding and move towards problem solving, where they are given the opportunity to develop various options to create a better future which can be built on together, on the basis of their common interests - of which there are many, their common humanity and desire for a better future for their children.

Sectarian politics in Northern Ireland is based on keeping the two communities apart. There is a need to empower the many who currently do not get involved in the 'tribal headcount' politics to create a new shared future, with a strong element of conflict management, conflict resolution and mediation at community level all across NI at the core. Perhaps support from social advocacy, or skills from south could assist. To try to compel or enforce a border poll is not in the best interests of the community living in NI. Try not to allow any selfish elements to force an agenda here, try to be gentle and caring and empowering rather than taking control. The community needs to heal and become partners in their future together long before they consider together what is best for them - that is decades away and a process that has not even begun. What they need now is gentle care by people who put healing first not their political agendas, the people in NI have been prisoners of the past and power and control for far too long. They need first of all to feel safe to speak without fear, there are so many basics missing, they are simply not equipped or strong enough to cope with any kind of major change which involve them being disempowered. If anyone wants to consider NI issues they should be coming from a deep understanding of the hidden hurt, and good knowledge of conflict resolution and have a read of Desmond Tutu's book 'The Book of Forgiving, which starts with the words 'HE HAD MANY WOUNDS' ... In the upper abdomen were five wounds... as Mrs Mhlawuli continued her harrowing testimony to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission where she spoke of the disappearance and murder of her husband... in the lower part there were forty three, they poured acid on his face... a wave of horror arose in Desmond Tutu.

Thread carefully please, I spoke recently about how this community could not withstand the process of hydraulic fracturing transforming rural communities into toxic industrial zones losing all they value most, their clean water, air, health, sustainable industries, beautiful rural environments, - neither can they withstand the trauma of a border poll and fall out from either outcome. Please, we need healing and stability and it's long overdue, any help and kindness would be appreciated, this could start with a good understanding, listening and trust, a border poll would only be divisive, when what we really need to bring people together and get a healing process underway.

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79. Brendan Kelly

- (1) Community groups want the Rio Agreement which was copper fastened by the Aarhus Convention and transposed into Irish Law on 21 June 2012 properly implemented.
- (2) We want the principles of sustainability (especially Principle 3) written into all sustainable Management Plans for all our natural resources and we want our 9.4 exemption written into all management plans for our water.
- (3) We want all community water groups to remain under the control of the communities as... they now are and all town council and county councils to control and manage their own water supplies.
- (4). We want all Radio Active meters removed immediately and the assets of all the directors of the companies that installed them frozen immediately to be unfrozen when they have all the meters uninstalled and their leaks fixed.
- (5) We want a criminal investigation into the October 2. 2014 High court ruling that granted a blanket injunction on every person living in Dublin and the judge and both legal teams suspended pending the outcome of this investigation. And all those arrested, detained and imprisoned on this and other illegal water acts or rulings properly compensated.
- (6) We want all water supplied for human consumption to come directly from ground water sources (aquifers) with no chemicals like fluoride added and provisions made for farmers and other industries to source their water from surface water sources.
- (7) We want the Management Plan for sustainable forest management amended and the submission by the social and environmental stakeholders that was ignored in 2002, calling for a 50/50 Native broadleaf species mix written into it. And we want Principle 3 also written into it because all local communities are Indigenous People.
- (8). Nature gave us water and only Nature should be allowed charge us for water.

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80. Kitty Lawton

Call for non-payment of the Water charges.

At this point it is obvious that the majority of citizens have and will not pay the water charges. Polls, surveys and social media have all shown this. Irish water is refusing to release information and the Government won't answer questions on compliance. So why not call for non-payment when it is happening anyway.

Right2water needs to champion this position on non-payment and then from this further advance the wider struggle against austerity.

While Trade Unions have to agree policies such as these at delegate conference level and this takes time, such agreements to support issues by the members of the Trade Unions will empower

members of social issues and engage with processes while giving leaders a mandate to pursue real change. It is no longer sufficient for individual members to burn their bills on line. It is time to rubberstamp support for the ground swell of public opinion.

Regular National Protests and Rallies on Issues that Right2water Champion.

'If you go to one demonstration and then go home that's something but the people in power can live with that. What they can't live with is sustained pressure that keeps building organisations that keep doing things and people that keep learning lessons from the last time and doing it better next time.' - Noam Chomsky

Right2water risk becoming another ineffective body if further inactivity regarding national protests continues. A culture of mobilisation sends a strong message to all observers regardless of the side they are on. To reference Dr Rory Aherne's 'The Irish water war, austerity and the risen people' published April 2015, 79.7% of the survey group said the movement should organise more mass protests and 77.6% stated the most effective way of getting change was through protest.

A principle of protest would be a vital weapon against issues on which right2water takes a position and a valued method of unifying all sides in support of an agreed stance but taking too much time to consider options and discussing future plans for prolonged periods risks losing supporters to more active campaigns.

Inclusiveness

A principle of inclusiveness whereby all interested parties in any issue or stance are included in any meetings or conferences will ensure a level of unity in any struggle.

Be it a national or local issue, all parties, concerned organisations and local groups must be given a participatory role in any and all discussion. Handpicking invitees can only drive a wedge and alienate interested parties and cause grassroots membership and citizens in general to feel unrepresented and voiceless.

While in theory this can appear to be a logistical nightmare, there is nothing to fear and everything to gain from hearing as many voices and opinions as possible rather than run the risk of never hearing the most valuable point of view on which success could hinge.

Promoting sustainable living

From supporting organic producers, to linking with anti pylon and windfarm campaigns can further enhance the activities and role of right2water in positive change for this society.

When companies like Nestle are drying rivers and destroying ecosystems in the name of big business, introduction of G.M.O into food production and allowing companies to produce green energy for the European market but not our own domestic market, promotion of a sustainable living model for citizens is problematic.

Water conservation, halting climate change and promoting domestic businesses who either produce, promote or embrace sustainable models can be considered as a policy to enhance environmental

protection of this country. Some may argue we need big businesses but we need protection from some of the environmental issues that they have escaped responsibility for in the past.

Supporting employment in the 'Green' sector, supporting local programmes and incentives and encouraging greener living can only impact positively on us all.

Nationalisation of natural resources.

Previous Government and current government policy has been to hand away rights to big businesses for our countries natural resources. Right2water having a principle to keep ownership of natural resources in our own hands ensures these valuable assets remain for our own use and wellbeing.

Funding for outlined policies on Housing Health and Education would be welcomed from our own industries and not from market borrowing which adds further to our already unsustainable debt and could if managed well make a reversal of savage cuts less of a pipedream.

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81. Workers' Party

Introduction:

The Workers' Party is committed to fundamental change, to a sustained challenge to the system in which we live. We stand for the overthrow of capitalism, to place power firmly in the hands of workers and to construct a socialist society and to build a secular, socialist, unitary state on the island of Ireland, a Republic.

The Workers' Party congratulates the R2W group on their initiative in organising the very successful event on May 1st and also on the organising the conference planned for June 13th.

We think the consultation documentation already circulated provides a useful framework for debate and discussion and that a useful political initiative can develop. In that spirit we make the observations below.

1. Wages, Labour Rights, Decent Work and Employment –

- * We affirm that all adults have the right to meaningful work with proper rates of pay and decent working conditions.
- * That all workers have the right to join and be represented by a trade union and that legislation on union recognition is immediately introduced.
- * That the "Living Wage" should be the basic wage level for a full weeks work.
- * That no worker should have their health or wellbeing placed in jeopardy by their conditions of employment.
- * That the gross exploitation of jobseekers through unpaid internships and schemes like Jobsbridge be outlawed.
- * That zero-hour contracts, no matter how they are labelled, are outlawed.

* That staff recruited via private or other labour agencies cannot be paid at rates of remuneration less than that prevailing for other workers in the sector, or under terms and conditions that are inferior to the industry norm.

2. Banking, Public Debt and Private Debt –

* We call for State control of all our banking institutions.

* That the state uses its present ownership of the AIB/EBS to create a viable state-owned commercial bank that will offer an alternative to the existing monopoly of the private banking corporations.

* The state must repudiate the debt accrued to pay bondholders of Anglo Irish Bank and Irish Nationwide.

* We recognise that the mortgage arrears crisis is multifaceted.

* Banks have already received state funding to cover mortgage write-off.

* Mortgage debt on private homes must be separated from mortgage debt on buy-to-let properties or “trophy homes”.

* Reformed personal insolvency legislation, split mortgages, and long-term tenancy agreements must be used to solve this problem without adding to the already massive housing crisis.

* We support the Credit Union Movement as progressive, community-based alternatives to the banks.

3. Public Services: Health, Education, Childcare, Public Transport and Others –

A: Towards the creation of a comprehensive health service by:

- Taking full control of all publicly funded and assisted medical, surgical and nursing care institutions
- Ending the two-tier health system
- Free primary health-care for all
- Ending Hospital charges
- Ending the scandal of private consultants' beds in public hospitals
- Freeing up acute beds by providing humane and dignified convalescent centre and nursing homes
- Providing Adequate hospital beds (as already promised)
- A massive investment in mental health services
- Replacing the Lunacy Regulation Act (Ireland) Act 1871, with the 2013 Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Bill as promised in the Programme for Government.
- Ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Proper funding of the health system from a fair tax system – ending tax subsidies to private hospitals, nursing homes, and insurance companies.

B: Towards the creation of a comprehensive Education service.

- The education system must be developed on an egalitarian, democratic and secular basis. All schools receiving state funding must be under democratic control and management. Sadly, one of the hallmarks of the Irish education system is the huge discrepancy that exists between schools in relation to pupil background, the manner and extent of resourcing, ethos, facilities available, and the academic progress of students.
- Education should be free at the point of entry from pre-school to post-graduate studies, with all educational requirements, including books and IT equipment, provided free at primary and post-primary level and adequate grants provided to students in higher and further education.
- "Voluntary contributions" in publicly funded schools should be prohibited.
- That no privately owned schools and colleges should receive funding from state resources, and that no salaries or wages of those employed by the same shall be paid by the state or any of its agencies.
- All schools should provide open access to all children, regardless of ability.
- Private schools should be obliged to put facilities in place without state funding to support their students with special needs.
- For-profit companies should not be allowed to exploit the publicly funded education system through recruitment practices.
- All students should have access to up-to-date science, language, ICT, and sporting facilities.
- Comprehensive and properly-funded supports should be put in place to facilitate children with special needs, those in danger of dropping out, or students at risk of not achieving their potential.
- Financial and learning supports should be available to facilitate adults re-enter the education system at any stage.

C: Childcare in Ireland

- Childcare in Ireland has developed not as a strategic policy around families and children's welfare but as a system to ensure 'women could work when needed'.
- The Workers' Party argues for a state childcare system based on the primary school model, encompassing infant care, early childhood education and after school care, and which is accessible to all parents. This would replace the present public subvented market model which is inaccessible to many, particularly young mothers in less well-off communities who are denied an opportunity to prepare themselves for the workplace through return to education.
- It is estimated that a large proportion of the funding of this service would come from the knock-on benefits to the exchequer yielded by such a model

4. Housing, including Public and Private Housing, Social and Rental

- There is a huge housing crisis in this country.

- House building has virtually collapsed in this country.
- Ireland has thousands of unemployed and exiled building workers,
- There are thousands of empty houses and ghost estates in towns and villages throughout the country where there is no present or likely future need for them.
- Due to concerted government policy over three decades public housing has moved from the local authorities to private builders /landlord.
- We need a massive investment in Local Authority housing.
- Control of the cost of building land through immediate implementation of the Kenny Report
- A punitive derelict sites tax applied to hoarded / non developed residentially zoned land.
- Proper regulation and inspection of all new residential building.
- Rent control and a regulatory mechanism be established providing full oversight in the private rented market

5. Equality – Social, Cultural, Political and Economic –

A: Reproductive Rights

- The Workers' Party wholeheartedly supports the Policy Submission to Repeal the 8th Amendment of Bunreacht na hÉireann as submitted to the Right2Water Campaign by 'The Trade Union Campaign to Repeal the 8th Amendment'. We do so in the belief that barriers to reproductive rights for women are also barriers to full social, economic, political, and workplace equality. It is, we believe, a woman's human right to have autonomy over her own body.
- The 8th Amendment equates a woman's life with that of a foetus. It denies a woman the right to an abortion even when her health, other than where suicide is a risk, is in danger. Although women can travel abroad to obtain an abortion this is not an option for many women, including migrant women, who haven't got the money.
- The 8th Amendment is an affront to women's dignity. The Worker's Party reiterates the call of the Trade Union Repeal 8th Campaign to the Right2Water Campaign to have the courage to take a leadership role on repeal and act as persuaders to those who have not yet reached that position.

B: Violence against Women

- Violence against women is a fundamental rights issue and one the Workers' Party believes should be taken much more seriously.
- Austerity has dismantled a fragile system and increased barriers to safety for women and children according to SAFE Ireland – the National Organisation of domestic violence services
- The results of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights survey (2014) revealed that Irish women are far less likely than the European average to contact the Gardaí or any other organization after enduring abuse.
- One in four women said their needs weren't met when they sought practical help.

- Almost 400,000 women, between the ages of 8 and 74, living in Ireland have experienced either physical or sexual abuse according to the survey.
- 470,000 Irish women have endured psychological abuse from a partner.
- The Workers' Party calls on the R2W Campaign to advocate for the Ratification of the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
- It further calls on the campaign to highlight the extent and enormity of this issue and to advocate for the putting in place of the 2014 – 5 Achievable Goals as set down by SAFE Ireland.

C: Gender Identity

- The Workers' Party in welcoming the announcement by the Tánaiste that the application process under the Gender Recognition Bill will, for people aged 18 years or more, be based on the person's self-declaration by way of a statutory declaration, calls on the R2W Campaign

- (i) To actively support campaigns for inclusive gender recognition legislation.
- (ii) To oppose the exclusion of under-16s from the gender recognition legislation and support the Ombudsman for Children's position that 'maintaining an absolute exclusion on young people or their parents seeking a gender recognition certificate is a disproportionate interference with young people's rights to gender recognition'. Without legal protection these young people will be open to discrimination.
- (iii) to advocate for the introduction of measures to prevent hate crimes against trans people

6. EU and International, Trade and Peace –

Ireland's foreign policy must:

- Be based on a vision of a common humanity, equality, global solidarity, international trade for the common good, peaceful relations between states and peaceful resolution of disputes between and within states, and positive neutrality. If these values do not underpin our objective then our foreign policy and external relations descend to unprincipled and Machiavellian pragmatism.
- Place the protection and promotion of human rights at its centre. All aspects of bilateral treaties, including tax treaties, must be compatible with our human rights commitments and must be assessed for negative impacts on developing countries.
- Require multinationals headquartered here to disclose all international related-party transactions producing a significant tax advantage and exchange this information with relevant countries.
- Maintain a commitment to peacekeeping under properly mandated United Nations Chapter VI protocols only.
- Investigate the past and present use of Shannon Airport for illegal activities by USA/NATO.

The EU serves the interests of big capital and the monopolies. The Workers' Party stands for a different Europe, a Europe based on genuine internationalism, peace, equality, solidarity, dignity,

social progress and workers' rights, a respect of and a defence of the environment and the value of all living things over private profit and corporate greed.

- End the austerity and anti-people measures being implemented by the EU.
- Oppose the introduction of TTIP and CETA.
- Opposing the ongoing militarisation of the EU, including involvement in EU or NATO battlegroups.
- Ban trade with entities operating in Israeli settlements and those complicit in such and support an EU arms embargo on Israel. Support the suspension of Israel from the Euro-Med agreement.
- Oppose the racist policies which are developing a 'Fortress Europe' mentality.

7. Political Reform, National and Local, People's Power -

We call for

- * The building of effective representative and democratically accountable systems of governance at central, regional and local levels of the state
- * Oireachtas debate and scrutiny of all legislation and directives transposed into Irish laws from the European Parliament or Commission
- * Full and open Oireachtas debate and scrutiny of all government votes at EU Councils of Ministers
- * Election to the Seanad by universal suffrage and on the same day as Dáil elections
- * The creation of real local government and local democracy by divesting powers from central to local government
- * The enhancement of democracy by divesting powers from Council CEOs to the elected members.
- * Restoration of democratically elected representative bodies, with local autonomy, to all areas of the state, both rural and urban.

Recognising the powerful role of the media in society we:

- * Recognise the serious dangers of media monopolisation;
- * Call for a full review of defamation law;
- * Demand the immediate repeal of our blasphemy legislation.

8. Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change –

- We recognize the growing level of environmental challenges facing humanity: Climate change; degradation of water resources; destruction of the rain forest; constant soil erosion and desertification; air pollution; the reduction of free green spaces in urban and semi-urban areas; the further commercialization of land.
- The environment will be endangered as long as the private ownership of the means of production exists.

- We are in favour of the social ownership of all the natural resources and the means for their utilization, on production with social prosperity as its criterion.
- Food production, where the people's needs are sacrificed at the altar of the profitability of the monopolies, through the use of GMOs, monoculture, intensive pesticides and herbicides, and price fixing endanger the planet and impoverish our lives.
- Waste management has developed into privileged terrain for the profitability of the monopolies, creating serious dangers for public health.
- The privatization and commodification of large tracts of the public space – areas of natural beauty, beaches, forests, parks etc. - is a recipe for environmental degradation.
- The present over-reliance, and intensified exploration and production worldwide, of fossil fuels for our electricity and other energy needs cannot be sustained.

9. Public and Private Enterprise Policy, the Indigenous Sector, National Resources

- We recognise that our commercial state and semi-state companies, across a wide spectrum of economic activities, have been a powerhouse of economic and social development in this state and have traditionally provided stable employment and decent working conditions to thousands of workers.
- We totally oppose the sell-off of any further sections of our commercial state or semi-state enterprises.
- The expansion of our state companies is the central plank of our jobs policy
- The nationalisation of our oil and gas and the creation of a State Energy Company is a vital national prerequisite as a major step to energy security and long term employment in the primary and downstream industries.
- Recognising the importance of the combined agri-food sector to the Irish economy, and specifically to the rural economy, we propose the strengthening of Coillte and Bord na Mona as potential key anchors and drivers in this sector.

10. Social Protection, Poverty and Deprivation, Pensions –

- * Social protection (pensions, unemployment payments, sick pay, anti-poverty measures) and essential social services (health care, education, childcare, etc.) can only be effectively delivered by the state.
- * These services can only be funded through an adequate and equitable tax system.
- * Research from the National Disability Council and the Disability Federation of Ireland has shown that people with a disability experience higher everyday costs of living because of their disability when compared to others in society.
- * The immediate restitution of the wide range and harrowing series of cutbacks in finance and services which have decimated working class communities and which have disproportionately impacted on women and children.

11. Building a secular Ireland

- * We commit to the primacy of a secular democratic society based on principles of equality and justice and support the need to defend the state against all those who seek privileges and special treatment on the grounds of their religious belief, whatever that belief.
- * The complete separation between church and state i.e. that there is no place for the special position of any church, denomination or religious belief in the public life or institutions of the state.
- * All citizens must be free to practise their religious beliefs subject to respect for the rights of others, to change their religious affiliation or to choose not to hold any religious belief.
- * No church or religious belief should be endorsed or conferred with any special rights or privileged position by the state.
- * It is the duty of the state to create public institutions and spaces which are religiously neutral and this includes schools, hospitals and places of work.
- * The children of the nation should be educated through and in a properly integrated system of education.
- * The state should abolish religious declarations and oaths for public positions including the office of President and judges with immediate effect.
- * That the existing charity status of all religious organisations and institutions be removed, and that all of their assets and incomes be subjected to the same taxation as other private owned institutions.

12. Fiscal and Budgetary Policy, Taxation and Public Expenditure, Social Wage –

- * A progressive income tax system, applied to all income regardless of source, allied to a progressive Social Insurance system with balanced employee and employer contributions is the most equitable taxation system.
- * Our corporate tax regime must become transparent and we must cease to be a de facto tax haven for multinational firms.
- * Our shadow banking system must be properly regulated and taxed.
- * Spending taxes and charges for state services impact negatively on low income households.
- * Our target for all state payments must be the Living Wage
- * An end to the “tax exile” status. These people are tax fugitives who are using an arcane law to rob the Irish state. The hypocrisy with which some of these fugitives then portray themselves as philanthropists adds insult to injury.
- * The treatment of all income (EG sale of shares, etc.) to be on the same basis as PAYE
- * A complete review of the tax reliefs and shelters.
- * The introduction of a wealth tax and also the introduction of a windfall tax on land rezoning or speculation.

13. Water Policy

- * We endorse the position of the United Nations that the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.
- * We are totally opposed to privatisation of any aspect of the provision or maintenance of water and sanitation systems.
- * Water is not a commodity – as a necessary prerequisite for all animal and plant life it is a social, not a tradable, product.
- * Domestic water supply and sanitation must be funded through central taxation.
- * The Workers Party opposes the government’s policy of charging for domestic water supplies and calls on the Right to Water campaign to launch a vigorous campaign of non-payment of water charges
- * We demand that water and sanitation services should revert to the control of local authorities directly employing all the necessary personnel to operate the system.
- * We advocate strongly for water conservation measures and for a public education programme to be put in place in order for people to understand the necessity of water conservation.
- * All new homes must have water conservation measures, i.e. rainwater harvesting and/or dual flush systems. The introduction of these measures should not place any additional burden on householders.

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82. Sinead Stewart

Right 2 Water

I welcome the proposal to enshrine in the constitution the public ownership of our water.

This is the nub of the issue. Privatisation is the end game.

I’ve been debating with myself about the proposal to replace Irish Water PLC with a single national board. I can see the sense in a single board, simply in relation to economies of scale in sourcing materials etc. but I can also see why people are slightly mistrustful of this and want to see the water services returned to the remit of the county councils for fear of it ever becoming privatised. I’ve come down on the side of a single national utility only if the change in the constitution is passed as this takes care of the privatisation issue.

I would go further and ask that consideration be given to providing that water for human consumption not contain fluoride or harmful chemicals.

I would also ask that in relation to all our natural resources, not just our water, that consideration be given to a law similar to that of Bolivia’s Law of Mother Earth also be enshrined in our constitution.

Right 2 Jobs & Decent Work

I fully agree with this policy. As a member of the so called working poor I fully support the proposal for the introduction of a living wage, the ending of low pay, zero hour contracts and Jobsbridge type schemes.

Mandatory Trade Union recognition by employers and an examination of the Industrial Relations Act 1990 which restricts the rights of workers and union officials

A further consideration would be to address the issue of gender imbalance in the workplace. Lack of access to decent, affordable childcare is one of the most inhibiting factors for women, especially single mothers, in relation to career progression in the workplace.

Access to quality, affordable, properly subsidised childcare should be made available for all families. Publicly owned childcare facilities or properly subsidised childcare provided by employers would address this problem.

Right 2 Housing

The homelessness epidemic in this country at the moment is outrageous especially when considering there are many vacant properties around the country. The vulture capitalists are currently eating these up in anticipation of future profits.

At the very least the government should explore the option of taking over the NAMA portfolio of properties with a view to renting them to those on the housing list.

Public investment in housing, rent controls & properly regulated equity ownership schemes are essential to help alleviate this crisis and prevent future crises.

Right 2 Health

Public healthcare in this country is practically non-existent at this stage. With the introduction of the Lifetime Community Rating Legislation in April, thousands of people aged 35 or over have rushed to take out private health insurance.

The problem is that there is no distinction between private & public systems like there is in the UK. Private patients attend private doctors & consultants in the UK. Here private health insurance fast tracks patients within the public system at the expense of patients without health insurance who get pushed further and further down the lines, further widening the inequality. A real investment in our health system is a matter of some urgency.

Right 2 Democratic Reform

We need the right of the people to call for a referendum on any issue. We no longer trust politicians to serve the interests of the people and the balance of power should most definitely be redressed. On that note, we need the right of recall back also.

Proposals for any increase in pay rises in politicians' wages should be put to the people and decided upon on the basis of carrying out the policies they got elected on.

The right to pensions should be based up on need rather than automatic entitlement and forfeit in the event of proven corruption.

There are so many issues with the current system. A radical overhaul is necessary.

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83. Limerick We Won't Pay Campaign

NON-PAYMENT

Any political platform that opposes water charges and Irish Water must be representative of the active resistance in communities across the country and support the call for boycott of water bills. Along with opposing water metering and mass protests, non-payment represents the active participation of working class people in the struggle against water charges and is crucial to building the political pressure necessary to force their abolition.

WORKERS WAGE

Any Left/Progressive/socialist formation contesting national elections should put forward candidates on the basis that it is the group's policy that their elected TDs will only take the average industrial wage and donate the rest to causes and movements as determined by the membership.

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84. Right2Water North Kerry

Following a public meeting in Listowel and open consultation via a social media campaign, the following submission represents the views of members and supporters of Right2Water North Kerry.

Right2water

There is broad support for the policy principles in respect of Right2Water. However, some concern was noted regarding the proposed reliance on a new government abolishing domestic water charges. It was felt that this could be too little too late and was overly dependent on a government majority, which cannot be assumed. It was further noted that the policy principle states "within 100 days of a government endorsing this policy", giving no indication of when that endorsement may be.

Whilst the change to the constitution was welcomed, it was commented upon that a referendum outcome cannot be assumed or predetermined.

In light of the above points it was felt that the priority needed to be to keep the momentum of the campaign and seek to progress it further, building a boycott and defeating Irish Water and water charges without being dependent on an election to do so.

Questions arose in respect of metering works already completed and the ongoing maintenance of those – who would be liable for those repairs and costs?

There was concern about the replacement of IW with a single national body, albeit retaining water supply in public interest. It is openly apparent that the establishment of IW has cost the taxpayer excessively and unnecessarily. It is expected that there will be cost with the abolition also. The return of responsibility to local authorities, with dedicated monies and transparent accountability structures was greatly favoured over the establishment of another nation body.

Perhaps most significantly was the lack of information on the progressive taxation measures. Whilst such a proposal is broadly welcomed, specific detail and costings would be required before lending support to such a proposal.

Right2 Jobs and Decent Work

The proposal to facilitate and enable all workers to be protected from work related oppression in relation to terms and conditions, employment types and wages is a welcome proposal. However, the general view of the group was that this section of the document offered little in the way of substance and represented ideals that any working community would look towards. It did however raise some concerns. North Kerry has a particular employment climate. Seasonal work fluctuates in response to a number of factors such as tourism for example. The proposal to eliminate precarious employment was welcomed cautiously. There is an anxiety that being overly prescriptive may be detrimental to rural areas such as North Kerry where casual and seasonal work is in some ways the most secure work available. There was also concern for the small businesses. Until there is greater clarity to substantiate proposals it is not possible to ascertain how much support there would be for this. This is not due to a lack of desire for a right to jobs and decent work but moreover the requirement for assurance that consideration has been given to rural Ireland where employment is a very different animal to elsewhere and where there is little in the way of infrastructure such as a national roads network or access to public transport which are all factors in a proposal of ensuring employment for all. How will investment in rural Ireland be rejuvenated? What are the proposals that will enable residents of rural communities to find work locally? How is it proposed that businesses will be incentivised to locate themselves where rural Ireland will benefit?

There was also some concern that this section only appeared to consider the lack of jobs / decent jobs as the issue rather than considering the barriers to employment such as access to affordable childcare, availability of training and education and access to funding for same, welfare penalties for part time working, availability of public transport.

Right2Housing

It is not possible to disagree with a principle that promotes a right to housing but this section raised more questions than it answered. Again there was particular concern for rural Ireland where there are towns too many to number that have seen the departure of banks, shops, post offices, garda stations and all the facilities that are the norm within a community. It was not clear what, if anything was to be done to try reverse this and seek to secure the relocation of families and individuals into these towns once again.

The proposal to commence building projects was raised as a concern in respect of the potential impact on the environment. It was noted that Ireland has already seen excessive development on land that was not fit for development and that has resulted in major stresses such as flooding.

In respect of the current homelessness crisis it was felt that a very narrow view was taken on this as a cause. Whilst it is fair to say that some of this results from the state's failure to deal with the issue, it is important that causation of the issue arising is looked at and addressed rather than simply the effect. In that regard, a range of social policy matters pertaining to health, particularly mental

health, employment, social security, rehabilitation, immigration and others need to be considered in this context.

The same concern about the funding of this policy was also a common point throughout the discussion. Members felt there needed to be assurance of the reality of the proposal through the provision of a detailed cost breakdown.

Right2Health

All members fully supported the proposal that access to quality healthcare should not be dependent on income or wealth but also extended this to outline that it should not reasonably be dependent on geographic location. Access to specialist healthcare throughout rural Ireland is substandard and in the main requires travel to large urban centres such as Cork, Galway or Dublin. Even non-specialist healthcare provided by hospitals requires extensive travel. Lives are lost as a result of the extensive area that these hospitals are required to cover. Investment in more regional centres needs to be considered.

The proposal refers to a well-funded and efficient healthcare system. Again this is welcomed in principle but how will this be funded, what changes are proposed, how will this be done without further cuts? In contrast, how will responsible use of services be promoted?

Right2Debt Justice

To date the burden of debt has been carried by the tax payer in a disproportionate amount. Any proposal to return the responsibility for the repayment of that debt to those that created it is fully welcomed. More detail on how this will be implemented is required. The group felt it was difficult to discuss this issue without any specifics.

Right2Education

The proposal for free education up to third level was welcomed although some members felt this particular section was based on soundbites or electioneering playing on the emotive issues that are present for many.

There was particular interest in the assertion that professional and technical education should be “equally accessible”. How will this be ensured for the residents of North Kerry in comparison with the residents of central Dublin for example? Access to education is not solely an issue of qualifications and entry requirements; it also relates to geographic location.

There appeared to be no reference to the post primary sector and reform yet it is often argued that the current system and assessment is out of date and no longer fit for purpose. It also fails many of our young year on year and there are minimal alternative education programmes available to them.

The current grant system for third level only allows for study in a public sector provider. Students should have the right to choose and particularly where this is suited to their personal circumstances. The money should follow the student.

Presently the state subsidises private education through paying the salaries of teachers employed in private schools and colleges in the primary and post primary sector. These are for profit

organisations that should not be subsidised by the state and the tax payer. Investment by the state in education should only be where it can be of benefit to all, not restricted to those who have the means to pay.

The apprenticeship programme proposed is welcomed but, in light of the policy on right to a living wage, how will it be ensured that apprentices are not used as a form of cheap labour?

Right2Democratic Reform

It was strongly felt that there is urgent need for democratic reform. In particular it was felt there must be a means of recalling TDs and parties where they deviate from election promises or programmes for government. Further it was felt that a means of the people being able to initiate a general election must be introduced.

The reference to breath testing ahead of votes was received as a positive intention but it was questioned why this was singled out when the obvious priority is the introduction of a code of professional conduct that imposes expected norms of behaviour, ethics and duty and includes transparent accountability mechanisms.

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85. Dublin Bay North Branch Anti-Austerity Alliance

Debt and Banking

Ireland's national debt now stands at 111% of GDP and in 2015 we will spend over €8 billion on servicing debt repayments. The scale of the debt is a by-product of the bailout of the banking system and the catastrophic economic downturn brought about by the property crash. Therefore any debts owed as a result of the bailout, the financial crisis and economic collapse it caused, should not be paid.

The money used for debt repayments should be invested to create jobs through the building of socially useful projects. A public audit should establish what is the odious debt that should not be paid. There should be a united movement of working class people across Europe against potential sanctions from capitalist European institutions. The dictatorship of the markets should be brought to an end. The major financial institutions and banks should be brought into democratic public ownership so that we have a banking system that caters for our needs not that of private profit.

Equality in Education: This should mean equality among staff and students therefore there should be no disparity between the pay rates and conditions of new teachers and these should be in line with that of the existing conditions for teachers. Teachers' conditions of employment should be reinstated to pre Croke Park and Haddington Rd agreement levels and should not be renegotiated when these agreements expire.

There should be in school support for pupils who are identified as needing interventions from specialist services such as the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). Guidance Counsellors should provide a service to students in the interim and their role in schools should be supportive to teaching services with no teaching responsibilities.

Support Special Needs Assistants (SNA's) and children with Special Education Needs (SEN). Sen Provision should have an equal status as mainstream provision and should be funded and planned for with long term goals. Sen Staff should benefit from terms of employment which provide contracts offering employment for minimum periods of three years. This will increase access and identification for children needing SEN support. SEN support roles shall be supportive to teaching services and have little administrative duties.

Provide adequate funding for add-on support services to schools. Schools should endeavour to meet their pupils needs holistically particularly in areas of social disadvantage. Initiatives like School Completion and Sphere 17 should be funded to enable pupil's basic needs to be met thereby removing barriers to learning. After school provision and extracurricular activities e.g. homework clubs and personal development courses should extend the school day and adequate funding should be allocated to meet this need.

Industrial, Workers Rights, Pay

The experience of many industrial disputes not least the Greyhound lockout demonstrated that again that the Industrial Relations Act 1990 and the application of other laws are designed to prevent effective strike action. This act must be repealed but while it is in place we support workers who break it and likewise break injunctions obtained by employers in order that occupations and pickets can be carried out.

Our movement supports legislating for compulsory trade union recognition and a right to organise effectively in the workplace. We need a new generation of shop stewards/representatives with the confidence and authority to lead action on the ground to improve pay and conditions and no return of social partnership which squeezed the life out of the trade union movement. A revived trade union rank and file would then need to find its democratic reflection in the leadership of the trade union movement.

We support all pay claims that meet and exceed rises in the cost of living and support the creation of a unified, society-wide, compulsory defined benefit occupational pension scheme and the right to retire at 60. No more to workfare schemes like Jobbridge and for a minimum wage increase in line with the EU decency threshold of €11.45 per hour

Equality

The resounding victory for marriage equality has highlighted the demand for true equality amongst young people, women and working class communities. No other political campaign in recent history has stirred as many young people into political activity, which is extremely positive. Addressing issues of equality is crucial for any "progressive" left force

- full equality for LGBTQ people, including the repeal of Section 37
- No to direct provision
- repeal the 8th amendment - legislate for a woman's right to choose
- Separate church and state - end the influence of the church in education and health care.
- challenge all forms of discrimination
- reverse all cuts to single parents, traveller communities, "disadvantaged" communities

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86. Eamonn Crudden

Fit for purpose health service free at the point of delivery,

An end to tax evasion and avoidance.

Wealth tax

Tax on high earners (above 100,000) to be increased.

Vat increase (substantial) on LUXURY goods

Collect current rate from multinationals rather than letting them write it all off in some dodgy way.

Water free publicly owned and controlled as per right2water demands.

No fracking on Island ever.

Free education to 3rd level including Masters level.

Expansion of freedom of information.

Transparent facility/mechanism allowing for RECALL of elected representatives.

Increase of E5 in minimum wage.

No jobbridge or other 'slave schemes'.

No differential rate of dole for young people.

Rent controls in Dublin and other property baron hotspots.

Public housebuilding programme immediately.

Legalize weed to keep ming on side (lol).

Repeal the 8th.

Shut down direct provision.

Amnesty for asylum seekers in direct provision en masse.

Right to education and work and social welfare for those given refugee status.

Dismantling of DOB media. 10% as max ownership of media allowed by one group/individual.

Transparent facility/mechanism allowing for RECALL of elected representatives.

Proper sex education in primary and secondary schools.

Right to organise in TUs.

Right for TU recruiters to visit any workplace and speak to any staff member privately a reasonable number of times per year (3?) for a reasonable amount of time (15 mins).

Breakfast clubs in any school where parents/teachers indicate this is needed. Remove religious bods from health and education administration.

Historical reparations from the Catholic Church

Vape juice and other 'aids' free for smokers.

Punitive taxation on cigarettes and energy drinks.

Health programs in primary and secondary schools.

Immediate redress for symphysiotomy survivors.

Harm reduction policies across the board for drug issues including the decriminalisation of addiction.

Substantial Tax breaks for small sustainable media companies and co-operatives.

Encouragement and facilitation of co-operatives at a state level.

Withdrawal from fossil fuels in energy generation aiming at less than 30% of generation thru them by 2026.

Public investigation followed by renegotiation of the terms of the Shell/Statoil terms of agreement with the Irish State wrt Mayo refinery and drilling as these were negotiated by a proven corrupt FF politician.

State focus on sustainability tourism.

Take back rights to fishing offshore.

Open up the books of INBS and ANGLO and IBRC and NAMA to FULL public scrutiny and conduct a public people's inquiry into the crash and aftermath and the unfair distribution of bads in the aftermath.

An audit of state surveillance practices and agreements with non-national bodies that impact on these practices.

Proper oversight of military flights transiting through Ireland to ensure compliance with neutrality provisions of the constitution.

Strengthened mechanisms to protect whistleblowers motivated clearly b public interest.

Access to UA and UB to failed sole traders / small companies

A people's debt audit. A renegotiation of the 'bailout' on the basis of its results.

Support for a European Debt conference.

IMMEDIATE and ongoing use of idle nama properties for community groups/ creches / social centres / youth clubs / sports facilities. We were promised a 'social dividend my NAMA and this was renegeed upon.

A declaration by government that the level of youth emigration constitutes a national emergency.

The mandatory offering of alternatives to competitive team games like GAA and SOCCER in primary and post-primary schools. Book clubs, equipped music rooms, coder dojos, dance classes, art workshops.

Internet access as a right. State driven and controlled broadband rollout and provision. The pale still exists in Ireland in terms of data services.

No GMOs ever anywhere on the Island of Ireland.

The provision of effective anti-racism and integration programmes at all levels of the education system.

The immediate recognition of the Traveller community as an ethnic minority. Reparations to be paid for their forced settlement (which was proposed as a 'final solution' to 'the problem of itinerants' by Charles Haughey in his early career) and the resulting partial destruction of their culture.

A rejection of TIPP in its entirety.

Rebalancing of subsidies to farming making small scale organic production viable and attractive as a job option.

The systematic development of organic farming.

A REDUCTION in the overall level of beef and pork production and of meat exports. Ireland is not a ranch.

A constitutional right to the space to grow your own food.

Encouragement of and tax reliefs targeting the facilitation of distributed micro-generation at home, business and community levels.

A restructuring of the Arts Council so that the confidence of the artistic community in it is restored and so that there is meaningful democratic input into its funding decisions.

The immediate breakup of Denis O'Brien's partial media monopoly.

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87. Sinn Fein

Sinn Féin response to Policy Principles for a Progressive Irish Government

Introduction

Sinn Féin welcomes the opportunity to make a written submission to the process of developing Policy Principles for a Progressive Irish Government.

Right2Water has provided a focus for an unprecedented social movement, helping to mobilise hundreds of thousands of people in a relatively short period against the water charges and Irish Water and against the wider austerity agenda.

The Right2Water unions in particular have played an important part in ensuring the ongoing success of the campaign. They have provided essential leadership and resources for marches, meetings and this political initiative.

There is a legitimate expectation that the movement can and should be developed, aiming not only to defeat the water charges but austerity itself. Crucially, in order to do this, the credible alternative to austerity must be put forward. That alternative is a political and economic approach based on equality and aimed at a real recovery for all, leaving none in our society behind. It is an approach rooted in the most progressive traditions of the Irish people, including the 1916 Proclamation and the Democratic Programme of the First Dáil Éireann.

The conference held on May 1st was a positive development. The Policy Principles for a Progressive Irish Government launched at this event are a welcome initiative.

Sinn Féin supports the initiative and will continue to be actively involved in developing these principles.

Some of the details and costings need to be developed but this is a task for the respective parties, unions and organisations. The role of this document should be to solely focus on the broad guiding policies that anti austerity parties, trade unions and community groups can sign up to.

Sinn Féin is proposing a new section entitled Right to Independence & Sovereignty. It is important that any agreed set of principles and debate is on an All-Ireland basis. The effects of inequality and austerity do not stop at borders.

The policy principles will allow for a proper debate in the run up to the forthcoming General Election. It should not be seen as a basis to debate about seats or transfers. It should be about setting out an alternative to the policies of austerity that have been pursued by respective Governments in this state.

1. Right 2Water

The abolition of Irish Water & water charges are red line issues for Sinn Féin. We stopped water charges in the North and we want to do the same in the South. We support the call for a constitutional amendment to keep the water system in public ownership.

We believe it would be best if the figures of €6 to €7 billion contained in that section were removed. How to fund the public water system and how much it would cost over the long term is something that has yet to be fully developed.

2. Right2Jobs & decent work

Government should reverse the embargo on public service recruitment.

There should be legislative commitments on making zero hour contracts illegal.

The state should not be seen as simply, “an employer of last resort” as outlined in the document. The state should be seen as a key employer providing essential services. The government also have a key role in creating an environment for sustainable job creation.

Sinn Féin agrees that employers PRSI should be increased. Sinn Féin agrees that employers PRSI should be increased. The detail of what this should be raised to should reflect the need for incremental increases. To do otherwise would only serve as a distraction from the debate.

3. Right2Housing

Commitment to enshrining housing as a human right in Bunreacht na hEireann is in line with our policy. Sinn Féin drafted a Bill which would have amended the constitution guaranteeing housing as a right in 2003.

This right must be underpinned with adequately resourcing a home building programme, designed, funded and managed by local authorities.

4. Right2Health

Sinn Féin believes in cradle to the grave health care delivered free at the point of delivery. This service would be paid by a progressive taxation system.

We also believe that the 8th Amendment to the Constitution must be repealed. Any incoming government must ensure this happens as soon as possible.

5. Right2Debt Justice

Sinn Féin believes a European Debt Conference would be an important development in tackling sovereign debt. But to commit to the introduction of a Financial Transaction Tax without a programme of costed tax reforms would only serve to focus the debate on one option of reforms. This level of detail should be left to the respective parties and organisations.

6. Right2Education

Sinn Féin strongly believes that education is an essential tool in combating poverty and inequality.

There should be free education from pre-school to primary degree level.

There should be a commitment to greater support for children with mild to profound physical and intellectual disabilities.

7. Right2Democratic Reform

Sinn Féin is committed to the creation of participative democracy from the local to the highest level of governance. For this to happen there must be radical reform of our democratic structures.

We need reform at every level of representation:

- Oireachtas reform to make the Dáil and Seanad more accountable to the people (including a democratically elected Seanad and votes for citizens living outside the State i.e. in the North and overseas.) The Cabinet and individual Ministers must be made more accountable to the Dáil.
- Local Government reform to return real powers and responsibilities to Councils and to the communities they represent.

- EU reform to greatly reduce the power of the centralised bureaucracy, the dominant States and the economic and political elites, and to develop a truly people-centred EU.
- The outstanding recommendations of the Constitutional Convention should be implemented.

We are committed to establishing a further Democratic Convention to engage and consult as widely as possible and to agree on a set of proposals to implement a programme of radical reforms.

8. Right to Lasting Peace, National Reconciliation and Independence

The Irish Peace Process, despite its limitations, has been a transformative and progressive process. We need to build on its achievements.

- **Full implementation of the international agreements - the Good Friday Agreement & St Andrew's Agreement.**

- Establishment of an independent commission of peace & reconciliation / north south bodies
- The development of All-Ireland co-operation on as broad a basis as possible. Community relations councils
- The right to pursue the goal of Irish unity and independence by peaceful and democratic means.

We are also committed to international solidarity and peace and call for:

- Positive and active Irish neutrality and non-membership of military alliances, to be enshrined in the Constitution.

* * *

88. People Before Profit Kerry Branch

The following represents the views of People before Profit Kerry Branch and has been compiled following a meeting of the Branch.

People before Profit Kerry fully supports the Right2Water Unions policy principles document as published. The key question that arose was in respect of how this would develop in reality and specifically how they would be costed. Reference to progressive taxation was noted but without specific detail it was not possible to fully analyse the proposals in context.

Some additional feedback related to the need to consider the specific context of the different communities of Ireland and recognise that proposals that may address socio-economic issues in large urban centres and suburbs will not necessarily be of benefit to rural Ireland.

On reviewing the principles the branch found a sense of segregation between policies as though each had been considered in isolation, with occasional exception. The integration of policies and of

policy types i.e. social policy with fiscal policy, would give a greater clarity of the intentions of all who would subscribe to this platform.

PBP Kerry would welcome more full information on the Right2Water unions' position on a range of other policy issues. If it is the intention that the Right2Water unions are seeking to form a political party then transparency on a range of other policy issues needs to be provided before full support can be offered.

PbP Kerry would also propose inclusion of the following:

- Continued building of the national campaign to abolish domestic water charges and Irish water through a range of strategies including, meter resistance, building the boycott, mass mobilisation through national protests and the continued working together of the many campaign groups that have secured the success to date;
- Following the recent marriage equality referendum there should be a push for full equality including in respect of the traveller community, immigrants and constitutional recognition of single parent families. All forms of discrimination should be challenged and removed.
- The closure of direct provision centres and the forced poverty on asylum seekers removed through the provision of a right to work;
- State investment in housing;
- Repeal of the eighth amendment, support for a woman's right to choose;
- An increase in the minimum corporation tax rate to be comparable with norms across the EU and the abolition of practices that enable large multinationals to avoid payment of tax for trading in Ireland;
- Greater accountability for financial institutions with regular, publicly accessible monitoring requirements;
- A write down of the banking crisis debt;
- Cessation of practice that compromises Ireland's neutrality through the military use of Shannon airport ;
- Full separation of church and state;
- Commitment to not enter into any form of collaboration or coalition with the establishment parties of Fine Fail, Fine Gael or Labour or their newly formed alternatives that support austerity such as Renua;
- Reversal of privatisation in the health system;
- The return of public transport into full state ownership;
- The right to recall elected representatives and hold them to account.

There is a strong view that the Right2Water movement is a movement that has been coordinated by three pillars but is essentially a movement of the people by the people and that must remain. We, the communities of Ireland, are all right2water. Right2water may endorse candidates that are opposed to water charges and Irish Water but should not in itself become a political party.

Right2water is the people, the many tens of thousands that have contributed to the campaign. It was a coming together formed from a common goal in respect of water and water charges and the differing opinions in other policy areas are not necessarily consistent. If the union pillar choses to launch a new political party that is recognised and respected but this should only be endorsed by

right2water in the same way as all existing political parties and independents of the campaign should be.

* * *

89. Anna Visser

Add to section - 'Right2democratic Reform'.

Add to first paragraph, after second sentence, ending '... heart of decision making':

'A more participatory democracy would enhance both the quality and quantity of democratic participation across a range of social spheres, and which serve both as an expression of a more equal society as well as a means to achieving more egalitarian outcomes.'

Add to second paragraph, after the last line

'Civil society organisations are both the means and expression of more engaged citizens. The fundamental democratic role of these organisations should be acknowledged and actively supported.'

* * *

90. Evelyn Campbell

R2ENTERPRISE ACCESS & SUPPORTS FOR INDIGENOUS START-UPS & SME'S

Submission for developing policy based on : H.E.A.R.T(HUMAN ENTERPRISE AND RESOURCE TAP)

OVERVIEW

At this crucial time in the economic and social development of our country the need for fresh and creative thinking has become apparent. In the drive to create jobs, reduce welfare dependency, and recover the financial stability and autonomy of the country, innovative solutions need to be adopted. This proposal suggests a combination of ENTREPRENEURISM and SOCIAL ENTERPRISE as a vehicle for sustainable growth in job creation. By encouraging and developing the inherent resourcefulness of people through the provision of a practical workable Initiative that empowers them, we can create a culture of independence through inter-dependence with long-term social benefits for all. This Initiative has the potential to capture the imagination of both public and media for a positive outlook into the future and also allows for further organic development as it unfolds.

The programme targets in the short term:

HIGHLY-SKILLED JOBSEEKERS ON LIVE REGISTER

JOBSEEKERS WITH LESSER SKILLS ON LIVE REGISTER

and longer term:

RECIPIENTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH DEPENDENCY MENTALITY

'DISADVANTAGED' IE: EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS, YOUNG OFFENDERS

Others from broader community positively affected:
PEOPLE BEING MADE REDUNDANT
INNOVATORS AND INVENTORS WITH NO ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS
PRODUCTION, SERVICE, TRADE, & BUSINESS PROVIDERS EXPERIENCING
SLOWDOWN IN TRADE OR RETIRING FROM BUSINESS

The proposal is referred to under the working title of HEART. It must be stressed that this is NOT a proposal that duplicates services provided for by County Enterprise Boards or Leader programmes but rather supports business ideas that do not normally make it to the table for consideration by these agencies. However, integral to the proposal, is the collaboration of HEART with these and other Enterprise Support Agencies. HEART proposes to collate a bank of ideas with job creation potential and link them directly to skilled jobseekers who collaborate with the innovator to pursue the project as a team. Having been facilitated to develop the project and structure their relationship formally, successful projects move over to the Enterprise Support Agencies for start-up thereby creating jobs for the team members.

INTRODUCTION

It is not easy to bring a fledgling idea through the process of development to a successful enterprise. The variety of skills required are seldom found in one person. Difficulty in accessing finance and assistance can be overwhelming for the innovator/designer/creator/inventor. Actually inventors and creative people shy away from the very skills required to launch their ideas. By providing a skills network developed from the live register that supports the creative individuals, ideas that otherwise would never present as potential enterprises, or fail due to lack of skills, might be realised. This proposal envisages an increase in new business ideas coming through by tapping these hidden resources.

This proposal targets those for whom the system is unknown and prohibitive territory.

Existing support Agencies base the delivery of services for enterprise on those who come forward with plans. In HEART the emphasis shifts to bringing ideas to those who need jobs. As the Initiative gains momentum think-tanks and discussion groups can be formed at community level to encourage further idea development. Success stories will automatically lead to further uptake and progress the scheme. Support from the media and the broader business and civil communities will be actively developed. HEART will encourage a diverse range of ideas that will broaden the jobs market potential in all areas and not just 'smart' business.

Successful projects will employ those involved in the fledgling process who will have helped create a job for themselves. Support of the existing Enterprise Agencies will be utilised as an integral part of the proposal and a thorough assessment of how this will operate must be made through strategic alliances.

There is potential for Government to make an additional payment on top of social welfare, as used in other initiatives, to support this proposal.

* * *

91. People Before Profit Wexford

People Before Profit Wexford Branch Submission to the Right2Water discussion meeting

Wages Labour Rights, Decent Work & Employment

- Abolish USC for those on less than 30k, establish higher banded rates. 30-60000-2.5%. 60-100k-5%. 100k+- 7.5%
- Abolish JobBridge and other labour schemes. But encourage apprenticeships and post 3rd level training
- Fight TTIP and CETA as they will have huge repercussions on labour rights
- To pay for the reductions in USC, establish higher tax bands above 100k. 100k-140k=50%. 140-180k=55%.180-250k=60%. 250k+=6.5%
- Introduce collective bargaining, Union Recognition legislation. Freedom to choose which union to join.

Banking, Public Debt & Private Debt

- Public debt Audit. ie which % is banking Debt. Banks must shoulder their portion of the debt
- Independent Banking Regulator. Separate from banks and Government
- Publicly owned banks must suspend bonus payments and high salaries
- Thorough scrutiny of all bank transactions with corporate entities, and/or mega wealthy individuals should be undertaken
- Introduce a fair program of debt forgiveness. 1banks must take into account ability to pay, and current market value. No more repossessions, enshrine the right to an adequate family home relative to needs and size
- Protect and maintain the cooperative and community based nature of Credit Union be protected

Public services. Health, Education, Childcare, Public Transport

HeALTH

- No privatisation of Public Services
- Create a National Health Service. End 2 tier health system
- Roll out primary care centres, proven to save money
- Reverse all cuts to health service, restore staff levels
- Ban private practice for HSE consultants in Public hospitals, saving 400 m
- 24 hour services for services for mental health. Acute centres in each area
- 24 hr ambulance services in each area, with local control centres. Examine section 26 before implementation.

Education and childcare

- Introduce a Scandinavian model childcare provision
- Genuinely free primary and secondary education
- Primary class size max 20

- Reverse cuts to education and restore all staff
- Full support for SNA's. Including for gifted children. Special needs support available to all from early childcare to 3rd level remove religious ethos and church control from publicly funded schools
- Means tested access to free 3rd level education

Public transport

- Coherence between all services ,ie in Rosslare, the train leaves 10 mins before the ship comes in
- Restore existing routes, and stop the privatisation of routes
- Regular rural transport
- Make fares affordable

Housing, including public/private housing. Social & rental

- Investment in building social housing
- Take over empty/ derelict houses and ghost estates by local authorities, to alleviate demand, can also provide employment. Including NAMA properties
- Quality of housing is important. Mixed developments avoid ghettoization. Planning must take social amenities needs in consideration
- Private rental sector crisis. Bring in rent controls and rent regulation
- Local authority tenants must never be evicted and left with nowhere to go
- Introduce an Enforceable state backed charter of rights and obligations for the tenants and landlords
- Abolish LPT and Household charge. To make up the loss introduce a wealth tax on assets over 1 million, excluding the family home

Equality social, cultural, political and economic

- End homelessness
- Repeal the 8th Amendment
- End Direct Provision
- Equality for all minorities, trans, traveller Roma
- Recognise traveller ethnicity, by social inclusion projects, education in schools
- Textbooks should represent the plurality of society. LGBT, Traveller, black characters in books
- Hate speech and all violence arising from prejudice should be recorded as such, and legislative protection for minority groups be enforced
- Investment in inclusive community programs be priority
- Address institutional racism across all state bodies through training staff
- National Heritage be preserved ad supported an inclusive arts education programme be established
- Access to the legal system should not be precluded due to economic reasons
- Review of legal system including fees and costs
- End political appointment to judiciary, board of state owned
- All people have the right to access information held about them by any agency of the state

EU and international Trade & peace

- Stop TTIP and CETA
- End move towards federalisation of EU
- Defends neutrality. End agreement with US allowing Shannon be used as military base. Full disclosure
- Be anti-war, and pro-peace. Support oppressed nations, e.g. Palestine, by trade embargo
- All company information for corporations should be a matter of public record
- Whistleblower legislation
- That state funds not be used to support corporations that engage in abuses of human rights/ damage the environment

Political reform, National & local people's power

- Citizen initiated referendums
- Power of recall for public reps
- Politicians' pensions review. Only 1 pension paid from age 67
- Establish local people's councils to direct and be involved in local decisions
- Where there is concern regarding public reps conduct or integrity, be suspended pending an independent investigation. If guilty of misconduct position should be vacated
- Automatic citizenships after a defined period of residency, without fee. But once resident over 1-2 yrs, the right to vote should be afforded

Environment sustainability & climate change

- Sustainable energy should be developed.
- Focus should be on developing Sustainable Energy for local use not export, incentives
- Review of policy on Nat Resources
- Outlaw fracking
- Independent review of fluoridation policy
- Transparent record of environmental policy for all businesses and corporations
- No incinerators
- Expand recycling facilities
- Develop widespread allotment scheme
- Grey water policy, rainwater harvesting incentives

Public and private enterprise policy. Indigenous sector, natural resources

- Maintain public ownership of state bodies
- Encourage co-operative and worker owned businesses
- Reduce reliance on FDI
- Stop TTIP and CETA
- Introduce differential rates for businesses, based on turnover, not size
- Natural resources remain in state hands, renegotiate Gas & Oil deals in favour of Irish Public
- Support fishing industry, reclaim lost fishing limits. Review quotas based on sustainability

Social protection, poverty, deprivation and pensions

- Reverse all social welfare cuts.
- End poverty trap. Introduce a living wage
- Support lone parents ability to work, by implementing childcare model
- Elderly and those on Social Welfare should also be paid a living wage

- To address and rebalance factors causing individual or family to drop below living wage level.
- Abolish stealth taxes
- Safeguards for pension schemes

Fiscal & Budgetary policy, taxation & public expenditure, social wage

- Implement a Financial Transaction Tax
- Enforce 12.5% corporation tax

TD's on average industrial wage, pension based on above

* * *

92. Limerick Anti-Austerity Alliance

Any Left/Progressive/ Social formation contesting national elections should put forward candidates that show opposition to TTIP/TISA. We want to prevent TTIP and TISA because they include several critical issues such as investor-state dispute settlement and rules on regulatory cooperation that pose a threat to democracy and the rule of law. We want to prevent lowering of standards concerning employment, social, environmental, privacy and consumers and the deregulation of public services (such as water) and cultural assets from being deregulated in non-transparent negotiations.

* * *

93. Cavan Water Charges Opposition Group

1. That any privatisation of State or Semi-state bodies be put to the will of the people as an asset of the people, in full transparency and accountability.
2. Priority of national self-determination in regard to international and corporate treaties forced upon this state by an external body e.g. TTIP
3. Article 11 of the constitution gives the right of ownership of natural resources of Ireland to the people of Ireland. Any use, management or private sale of these resources on a large scale must therefore be put to the will of the people. Anything otherwise being morally and constitutionally infringing on the Republic e.g Irish Water and Oil rights.
4. Increased democratic principles, transparency and accountability to be introduced into executive management of high impact public bodies. E.g. Gardai, HSE, Local Authorities. This would include the public election of court judges and public election of a "People's Watchdog" to maintain integrity of such bodies and to erode undemocratic appointments to such bodies.
5. Adoption of a "Bankers Oath", similar to a doctor or lawyers oath, binding those in financially and economically responsible positions to a moral code of behaviour and good governance

* * *

94: Meelick/Parteen/Ardnacrusha Says No To Water Meters/Charges Group

Introduction

In addition to the published Right2water policy principles a progressive Irish Government needs to put front and centre the issue of the legacy debt burden. There needs to be a mandate to have this debt transferred back to the financial markets. This debt was incurred due to excessive speculation and poor/inadequate regulation.

Workers Right's

Workers have a right to join a Union and recognition of unions is one which should be enshrined in law. Workers' rights are being eroded through the Neo-Liberal agenda. Organisations/Corporations expect workers to be almost flexible to the point of breaking. There needs to be a complete and total reform of the work practices in Ireland and a focus on an economy serving society not the other way around.

Healthcare

As the old saying goes "your health is your wealth. The wealth of any society is underlined by the strength of the health system. At the moment we see cut after cut to vital services in our Health System. There needs to be a focus within the health system to design the system around the needs of the patient and also fund that system. There should be a red line or ceiling in that no Government should cross with regards the level of investment in our Health System.

Education

Investment in our children's futures is of paramount importance. The costs of education are rising all the time and this goes against the principle of free education. While costs rise, the rate of unemployment maybe decreasing but workers are no longer paid an adequate living wage, this means that people are unable in many cases to pay for basic services. There needs to be a commitment to reversing this with a clear plan for the next two budgets so that people can see it happening.

Parliament (The Dail)

The Dail is no longer fit for purpose. 5 years is too long for any Government to serve in office. Also TD's serving in public office should I believe be on a performance based salary. KPI to be discussed and worked out. No TD including Taoiseach should be on a blanket salary of over €250,000. I believe the Salary should be a basic Salary+bonus based on performance. There should be a mechanism for people to recall the parliament if the promises made during elections are not being carried out. Pension's given to TD's and public servants need to be completely reformed. It seems to be that these pensions are out of line with line with our means.

Notes: Below are what some specific requests from people that we discussed this document with more local jobs for local people, zero hour and low hour contracts to be banned, strategies on homelessness and evictions, local contractors to be used on Co. Council building programmes. The people cannot be treated as an insurance policy for the banking system/financial markets. Banking debt must not/never be placed on the shoulders of taxpayers.

Historical Bailouts:

Insurance Corporation of Ireland

[Break the reliance of the financial markets on taxpayers]

The Insurance Corporation of Ireland (ICI) was a wholly owned subsidiary of AIB when it collapsed in 1985 with losses of over £200 million. When it was discovered in November 1984 that ICI was operating below the statutory reserve ratio, a request for further capital was made to AIB — ICI had returned a profit of £80 million the previous year.

This collapse occurred at a time of deep economic recession in Ireland. The level of Government debt at that time was 116% of GDP. But the Irish taxpayer bailed ICI out of its difficulties. The Irish Government did so to ensure a continuation of the insurance business and to protect policyholders. AIB claimed that it could not resolve the problems of ICI without putting its core banking business in jeopardy. The investment of £85 million by AIB in ICI was written off and the cost to the Irish taxpayer was £400 million.^[12] As far as I am aware a 1% insurance levy still applies today in the aftermath of this bailout.

In reference to the above laws need to be passed that makes it illegal for banks to rely on population of a country for a bailout. Banks will have to devise an insurance policy to act as a failsafe to protect in event of banks get into trouble. Also stronger regulation is needed of the banking sector.

Taxpayers have a right to be protected from the losses that occur due to speculation in the financial markets.

Greece Spain, Portugal

Build strong alliances with the debtor nations in the EU with a view to making position stronger for a European Debt Conference.

* * *

95. Colin Walsh

My submission has two main strands; they are broad ranging and open to discussion.

1. Societies, subservience, to Profit Motive.

The profit motive has no part in certain areas of society, the ability of the wealthy to use their economic power to separate themselves from the rest of society leads to a two tier system in which it is easy for them to ignore the plight of ordinary people, if everybody has to use the same services I suspect it won't be long before we see a radical improvement in quality of services provided.

Obviously this will require radical change and involve major conflict with vested interests, but the fight will be worth it because it will have a transformative effect on equality and on people's wellbeing. Areas to be ring fenced and provided by the state or not for profit organisations, there would need to be checks and balances to stop to discourage misuse or abuse of the system possibly low cost charges at the point of use

- Healthcare
- Education

- Housing
- Legal system
- Essential services, water, sewage, waste collection, electricity, telecoms including broadband
- Media, print and broadcast
- Banking/Finance

2. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

The main threat in the developed western world to the Neo-Liberal project is ordinary people becoming informed and then starting to assert control of how society is run through the democratic process. Big capital knows this and is constantly vigilant and ready to subvert this. They have powerful tools at their disposal like ownership of large swathes of print and broadcast media, compliant or complicit politicians, financial markets Etc.

Recently there has been an increase in big businesses efforts to insulate themselves from interference from governments' e.g. an increase in anti-union laws, so called anti-terrorist laws which are so broad they pose a serious threat to civil liberties, trade agreements like TTIP etc. If big capital manages to get the latest round of laws and trade agreements in place I feel they will have all the tools they need to stop the people from legally taking control of their societies, the only option left would be some form of violent revolution. This is why I feel that radical reform of the democratic system is needed, this will involve much higher participation and responsibility from the general population, but the consequences of not taking control of the democratic system while we have the power are truly terrifying .

- All public representatives to be paid the average workers wage.
- Increase powers/responsibilities of county councils with councils being run on the principles of direct democracy. All elected positions open to recall by their electorate (% required for recall to be decided after research/discussion)
- Decrease number of TD to 140 all open to recall by their electorate
- Seanad to be abolished
- Quota system for public representatives , to insure the makeup of public representatives mirrors society in so far as is practical (system to be decided after research/discussion)Quota must consider areas such as Gender, Sexual orientation, Employed/unemployed, Income level, Public /Private sector/Self-employed, Occupation (having high proportions of the Dail coming from a handful of professions is not acceptable)
- Maximum 10 years in office for politicians
- Modernise and reinstate the right of the people to call referendums.

I believe that the importance of true democratic representation, of an informed population, cannot be over stated. Likewise the importance that any movement, which purports to represent the ordinary people, be directly democratic is obvious.

The agenda must be set democratically, all decisions must be taken democratically and participation must be open to all.

Egotist or self-serving personalities driving their own agenda will split and sink the movement before it can pose a viable threat to the establishment.

With this in mind the utmost importance must be given to the June 13th meeting being large and open to all with people being encouraged to participate, contribute and lay the foundation of a new united left wing front.

* * *

96. Right2Water Galway

RIGHT2WATER GALWAY COMMUNITY input on the Policy Principles for a Progressive Irish Government as compiled following the Right2Water Ireland conference held on 1st May 2015: As a grassroots campaign R2W Galway circulated the Policy Principles document to seek opinions on it. We then held a meeting to discuss our collective response and further proposals that we wanted to add as a community. Individuals in R2W Galway were also encouraged to make their own submissions. As R2W Galway was not invited to send delegates to the 1st May conference we also sought feed-back from individuals in Galway that had been invited and attended to give a report back. Unfortunately we only knew of one such person, and they happened to be away and so could not attend our discussion meeting. Following our open discussion & debate on proposals for R2W Galway community feedback on the R2W Ireland policy document, we have compiled a representation of ideas of what we collectively think, and want to aim for. We submit the following points for general consideration and await an invitation to the June 13th Conference to put them forward to the broader audience. R2W Galway.

Right2Water Galway welcome the initiative of the Policy Principles for a Progressive Irish Government as compiled following the Right2Water Ireland conference held on 1st May 2015. We thank R2W for the circulation of their proposals and an opportunity to have input into submissions for further consideration. As a campaign group active in Galway for over a year on the issue of water charges and privatisation were we taken aback that we were not invited to the initial conference on 1st May where the idea of supporting a Progressive Government formed from the opposition benches was discussed. It would appear that the invitation selection process was not open and transparent and we have no explanation to give to our community as to why we were not invited to send a delegate.

1. We propose that all procedures, meetings, discussions from this point onwards are conducted in a democratic manner that is explained to the broader campaign. We want to see the decline of top-down politics and so this initiative must go forwards on an inclusive, grassroots basis. The June 13th conference must be open to all activist groups and individuals in the water campaign. R2W Galway wants the right to put forward our proposals to the conference and discuss/debate them there with others.

2. a) Before addressing the points in the Policy Proposals document we need to state that the wording should be more inclusive to encompass 'the people of Ireland' rather than just 'Irish citizens'. Consequences of the Referendum on Irish Citizenship are that those people living in Ireland but not holding Irish citizenship are alienated by such wording. It wouldn't be a luxury to be clearly inclusive e.g : people of Ireland, men women, children living in Ireland... b) We want a society that is equal for all regardless of ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability. Ireland needs a genuinely Progressive Government and not one that will repeat the betrayals of the Labour Party and the Greens that talked radically before election but settled for coalition with conservative parties.

3. To achieve this we need to agree to NO coalition with neo-liberal, austerity parties (namely Fine Gael, Fianna Fail, Labour, Greens, Renua)/ & independent politicians of the same ilk. A Progressive Government needs to offer a positive, practical and realisable manifesto for society. The main elements of which are included in the Policy Principles: housing, health, education, public services etc. However, we also need to state exactly how we propose to achieve such a vision.

4. Costing needed for each of the essential provisions and how the money will be obtained.

In our most unequal of societies we need to look at where the wealth is and how do we access that wealth by tackling the richest and not the poorest? R2W Galway advocate the following:

5. A policy that targets

a) The wealthy: to pay more through taxes (wealth tax on assets/ higher rate of income tax on highest earners).

b) Corporations: corporation tax must be strictly charged and collected at the full 12.5% with no loop-holes or tailor made tax legislation/ a 'robin-hood' financial speculation transaction tax.

6. 'Drop the debt'.

The interest on our national debt will have us paying out ever increasing billions in interest from now to 2053. The last payment was €8billion - money that a progressive government needs to provide housing and healthcare etc... Instead we are accommodating the European 'debt'. A proposal to freeze the debt and hold a debt conference raises questions as to who would attend such a conference anyways; what will the Irish mandate be; which institutions will have regard for any agreements coming out of the conference; fallback position if non-acceptance by international financial creditors? Ireland needs a stated position of unilaterally dropping the debt, regardless.

7. Right2Jobs & Decent Work: a

We would like to see an informative session on a Basic Income Guarantee (income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement) to then be openly discussed and considered. b) Asylum seekers should be granted the right to work in this country.

8. Right2Housing:

- Meeting the housing needs of the Traveller Community

- The provision of student accommodation in University towns

9. Right2Health & Social Welfare:

- Reversing the cuts to care workers, lone parents, young jobseekers, disability support workers, special needs assistants etc

- Giving bodily autonomy to women in Ireland by repealing the 8th Amendment

10. Right2Community

- Ending the creeping privatisation of the community development sector

11. Right2Education

- Primary, secondary and tertiary education should be free at the point of entry
- Increase the maintenance grant at tertiary level
- End the commercialisation of our schools and universities
- Stop corporate monopoly on the funding of research in Science and Engineering

12. Right2Language

- Support for community-based Irish-language teaching programmes - Restore funding for language support teaching in schools.

13. On education and healthcare: There is the 'Separation of Church and State' to be addressed, which is currently a huge problem. Our state schools and hospitals must be free of religious ethos to be inclusive and to be run in the interests of the people rather than following a dogmatic religious representation.

14. The manifesto of a progressive government must make a call against The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). This new free trade agreement is due to be agreed between the US and EU by the end of 2015 and will facilitate a serious attack on workers' rights, open up our public services to US corporate giants, and undermine the little legislation we already have regarding the environment and climate chaos.

15. No Government could call itself progressive if it does not openly commit to an end to Ireland's collusion with Imperialist Wars. Therefore, use of Ireland's airports and airspace must be withdrawn for US military. We must reclaim and restore our neutrality.

16. The R2W campaign must not forsake the very mechanism that has brought the movement this far, people power. The water charges, Irish Water, and the Government's domestic water services policy have not been defeated yet. Those that have taken to the streets throughout the 26 counties for the last year need to know that the campaign is ongoing and still striving for the abolishment of the WATER CHARGES. So do the people in communities that have been won over to the campaign position to defeat water charges and say 'NO to privatisation' and 'NO to commodification' as well, as this distinction is often the point of government denial. We've seen from Detroit that publicly owned water can still lead to sale of the income stream from charges. So do local and national politicians and the Irish Government.

It would be a grave error to put all the water campaign eggs in the electoral basket. We still have this campaign to win. If we do not, it will be a massive blow for the people and to the detriment to our society. Mobilising people is the way to win the campaign and also keep them involved and interested in developing a movement that will support a progressive government.

17. Therefore we affirm that R2W will continue to organise days of local and national protests, and be seen to be fighting any new legislation that the Government seeks to bring forth regarding attachment of income to pay for householders' water bills. *We look forwards to confirmation of

receipt of our submission, and an opportunity to discuss this along with other proposals at the June 13th Conference.

* * *

97. Clare Daly TD

Social Housing

A social housing programme should be a priority for a progressive government. It should be ambitious in its targets to provide thousands of homes across the country. This programme should be administered by local government and use direct labour employed by Councils.

A programme of this nature would add significantly to the housing stock. There are very good examples of well-built public housing estates across the country built by local authorities in the 1930s, 1950s and 1960s. These good quality houses have provided the basis for working class communities for decades.

Any housing programme must be developed in conjunction with the planning authorities to make the provision of resources (schools, shops, playgrounds, transport, libraries etc) a priority from the outset.

These houses and apartments should be made available to rent under a differential rent scheme, to ensure that the most in need are housed at an affordable rate.

Before any building programme gets underway strict regulations and a rent cap for the private rental market should be put in place.

The benefits of social housing are numerous: it will provide significant employment in building and maintenance. It adds to the State's housing stock which will provide an ongoing income to local authorities. It frees people from the strangle-hold of banks and mortgages companies. Social rents would be significantly less than the high rents of the private rental market which will improve spending power in the economy. A social housing programme will counteract the private market's creation of an under-class 'no rent allowance' and end this discrimination while providing homes to the thousands of people on housing lists around the country.

Education

Education should be viewed as a right and a public good. A decent education policy needs to begin with early childhood learning and go right through to third level. Primary and Secondary Educational institutions should be secular and strive to live up to high standards of social inclusion. This means an ending of the employment embargo, a decrease in class sizes and the teacher pupil ratio, an increase in the provision of special needs assistants and other support services. Public contributions to private schools must be brought to an end.

Austerity policies have undermined Third Level Education, starved many institutions of investment and placed a huge financial burden on students. The reduction of grants and cuts to the Back to Education Allowances along with the increased registration fees have all played a role in forcing people out of third level. There can be no doubt that universities are being driven towards

privatization and students towards a system of student loans. While this is happening the housing crisis has adversely affected students who face a day to day struggle to survive.

Multi nationals have benefitted from the highly educated workforce over the years while contributing little to our central tax funds. An Education system funded through an equitable taxation can provide all who want to with the opportunity to study to third level. Students should be free to develop their skills and abilities free from the burden of financial stress.

Transport

Any progressive society should have at its centre a decent public transport system.

An Underground/Metro system for Dublin city should be developed to increase circulation around the city for both tourists and residents alike helping to rejuvenate the city centre and increase regular footfall. A metro system does not have to be as sophisticated as the London Underground, it can begin by reinstating the shelved plans for Metro North which would link the city to Dublin Airport. This would provide much need jobs and relieve road congestion and cut down on the need for privately owned vehicles and fuel emissions which have a devastating impact on the environment.

Cuts in the subvention to Dublin Bus should be reversed and routes need to be reinstated as to provide adequate service to workers and students who rely on public transport daily. Adequate publically owned Bus service is also vital for our rural towns which need efficient connection to shops, schools and hospitals.

Water

Water is a basic human right and no progressive society should prevent a person access to water because of their inability to pay for it. Our water services should continue to be funded through centralized taxation to ensure that clean water and sanitation is provided to every home in the country without fear of cut offs or rising bills. It is essential to the health of our society that our water services continue to be funded in this way and remain in public hands. Water is essential to our lives and should never be viewed as a commodity for multi nationals to exploit and make huge profits at our expense.

The entity Irish Water needs to be abolished and the programme of metering stopped. The money spent on meters and consultants fees is wasteful at a time when the infrastructure needs great investment. A plan to fix the pipes needs to be implemented at once; this along with conservation measures is a vital first step. There is no reason why Ireland cannot have world class water treatment plants, water does fall from the sky and in Ireland it falls a lot, we need a long-term plan for our water services including water harvesting and desalination plants.