

Solidarity Greetings to the meeting of the ISN this weekend from the Workers International Network!

Austerity in the global north and restructuring in the global south represent an onslaught on the gains and rights of working people and the poor of the earth. Wealth is transferred from poor to the very rich at a pace unprecedented in 60 years; all that we gained since World War 2 can be lost unless the strength and organisation of the workers', peasants' women's and community movements can be built afresh, stronger, more democratic and more effective.

The new working classes of the emerging economies begin to show their strength as in the Indian general Strike in 2012 and the strike movements for higher wages in China and recently in Vietnam. The desperate need for effective organisation was shown tragically in the recent factory collapse in Bangladesh and fires in clothing factories in Bangladesh and Pakistan. In these terrible events more than 1,300 young workers, mainly women, died.

The majority of the earth's population are now proletarians; their power once organised could defeat all that opposes it. The will to resist is growing; today we can see struggle in Turkey and send them solidarity. The beginning of resistance is seen even in the UK with bedroom tax and anti-cuts groups and the brave work of the CPS strikes.

Placed central to these struggles are the women of the world, a majority of the new industrial proletariat, the producers of most informally grown food, and in the front line of many attacks from capital.

From the simplest village to the teeming metropolis the capitalist tries, mostly with impunity, to rob from the common wealth. Big business restructures and privatises basic services – health, water supply, even seeds and DNA, for its own incremental wealth. Even the conduct of war is becoming a privatised corporate operation.

The ruling class use their ideological tools, with a worldwide reach, to control and attack us. Violence against women is intensified in physical attack, in the media, in law and in the gendered aspects of Austerity and Re-structuring. The economic crisis, environmental and climate crises, food and water crises require a political answer from Marxists. Analysis, education, agitation and organisation are all going to be needed.

It is good that in this turmoil new formations of activists and Marxists are forming. Far from being the end of history; a new epoch is opening up. If the worker's movement is not regenerated and re configured to meet this onslaught the prospects are dire indeed. Workers International Network is cooperation between individual socialists, and small groups of socialists, with a range of experiences and from a range of traditions, in Pakistan, Ireland, South Africa, USA, Canada, France, Sweden, Denmark, Sri Lanka, England, and other countries. We are all individual activists, members of different trade unions, political organisations or none. We are working

within the traditions of Marxism to understand the new situations we face and to work towards building workers consciousness and organisation in order to end to capitalism and to see the building of a socialist world free from want, oppression and pollution.

Our ideas have developed a distinct political tendency, but we are a network, we have no pretences to being or desire to become an embryonic centralist political party.

We operate an online socialist discussion list; a broad forum for the exchange of ideas between unaffiliated socialists and individual members of existing socialist groups. We would be happy to discuss with you on this and other forums. Our web presence is developing in other areas (though still needs work).

We send solidarity to you in your deliberations. We would be happy to cooperate with you in your work.

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