

---

## **COST OF LIVING CRISIS: WORKERS MUST DEMAND ACTION!**

---

We are deep into a worsening cost of living crisis. We are all feeling it and all indications are that the worst is yet to come. After two years of the pandemic everyone notices the big increases in the costs of shopping, fuel bills, entertainment and transport. Add to that is the continuing housing crisis. People can't afford to buy their own home now and rents are increasing at a frightening rate; 11.7% in the last year alone!

Wages aren't increasing at anything the rate needed to cover the rising cost of basics. The minimum wage remains a poverty level wage. Even the proposed living wage of EUR 12.70 per hour would not be enough to allow workers deal with the present cost of living crisis. An immediate increase to of the Living Wage to EUR 15 per hour must be supported but it is questionable if even that will still be enough in the long run. The cost of living crisis we are living through is also a crisis of low wages.

The Central Statistics Office reports inflation in May as running at 7.8%, the highest level since 1984. The Russian state's invasion of Ukraine is a major factor in the jump in transport, gas and electricity prices.

Food prices in particular are increasing and we all know that we are paying much more for our weekly shop than we did last year or the year before. Everyone is feeling the pinch.

The pandemic has impacted severely on many sectors of our society. The European Statistics Agency – Euro Stat – provided one sharp example earlier this year. They showed that since 2019 severe material and social deprivation among young people in Ireland has more than trebled from 2.8% to 10.1%.

It is clear that the government does not care about the impact of the surging cost of living crisis which is happening alongside the housing crisis. Their attitude is summed up by the disgusting comments by Fianna Fáil TD Sean Fleming that workers must 'shop around' to deal with the cost of living crisis!

**URGENT ACTION NOW! PRICE CONTROLS  
AND WAGE INCREASES NEEDED!**

Militant Left argue that immediate measures must be introduced to protect the living standards of working class people. Price controls must be introduced on basic food

---

# URGENT ACTION NOW! PRICE CONTROLS AND WAGE INCREASES NEEDED!

Rent controls and reductions are urgent measures that must be implemented.

Returning key parts of our economic infrastructure – such as fuel and energy supply and housing – to democratic public ownership will eliminate the profiteering and exploitation at the root of the present crisis.

The minimum wage must be increased to EUR 15 per hour for all workers with no lower rates for young workers.

The best basic defence workers have at times like this is membership of a trade union. Trade unions must put aside all notions of partnership with government and go on the offensive. If this means confrontation with an increasingly vicious Right-wing State and engaging in so-called 'illegal' industrial action, then so be it. The present crisis leaves no room for politeness or inappropriate notions of industrial peace. Only 25% of workers are members of a union and even fewer are covered by collective bargaining agreements. The unions must mobilise to fight for the right to collective bargaining and trade union recognition.

Inflation busting wage increases must be demanded across the economy for all workers affected by the present crisis. If that doesn't happen hundreds of thousands of workers will sink even further into poverty. There is no time to lose. Workers need action today to stop the cost of living crisis.

Capitalism is a system of permanent crisis for working class people. We are always the ones who have to pay. In 2008 we paid for the bank bailout; during the austerity years we had to pay too; and, now, we are having to pay for the cost of the COVID crisis. This has to end. Only a transformation to a socialist system will end this permanent crisis and ensure a decent society for workers.

**THE 'COST OF LIVING COALITION' MUST PUSH FOR THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM DEMANDS:**

- ⇒ EUR 15 per hour minimum wage with annual increases
- ⇒ All pay rises to be higher than inflation
- ⇒ Price controls for food, energy and fuel
- ⇒ Bring the gas and electricity companies in to public ownership under workers' control
- ⇒ Rent controls and reductions now
- ⇒ Mass public house building programme
- ⇒ Kick out all investment funds and vulture funds from the Irish housing system
- ⇒ Mandatory trade union recognition and collective bargaining rights for all workers
- ⇒ Build a new party of the working class to fight for socialist change

## THE NEXT STEPS TO FIGHT THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

TUESDAY, 23RD OF JUNE.

7:30PM

**SPEAKER: CLLR DONAL O'COFAIGH, MILITANT LEFT**  
**ZOOM ID: 869 2313 3662**

### ABOUT US

Militant Left is a socialist organisation and the Irish section of the Committee for a Workers International (CWI).

Facebook: Militant Left

Twitter: @Militant\_Left

Instagram: @militantleft

*Join the Socialists*

**militant-left.org**

**Title:** Cost of Living Crisis: Workers Must Demand Action!

**Organisation:** Militant Left

**Date:** 2022

Downloaded from:

## **SNAPSHOTS OF POLITICAL ACTION**

A project from Irish Election Literature and the Irish Left Archive.

[irishelectionliterature.com](http://irishelectionliterature.com)  
[leftarchive.ie](http://leftarchive.ie)

*Snapshots of Political Action is provided as a non-commercial historical resource, open to all, and has reproduced this document as an accessible digital reference. Copyright remains with its original authors. If used on other sites, we would appreciate a link back and reference to us, in addition to the original creators. For re-publication, commercial, or other uses, please contact the original owners. If documents provided to Snapshots of Political Action have been created for or added to other online archives, please inform us so sources can be credited.*