

Defend a woman's right to choose abortion

Message to 8 March Dublin demonstration by Pamela Holmes, Communist League candidate for mayor in Tower Hamlets, London; and Catharina Tirsén, Communist League candidate for Manchester City Council.

We salute all the participants in this demonstration and others around Ireland and in other countries to Repeal the Eighth.

Many of you have worked for a long time to make this happen, as a step towards the right of women to choose. Women don't need guardians – not the state or the church, not relatives or doctors. The right to decide is fundamental for women to win full social, economic and political equality.

This is in the interest of all working people. The fight for a woman's right to choose is critical to break down divisions fostered by the ruling class and to unite the working class in struggle. It must have the backing of the trade unions.

This is needed to build a movement of millions to confront the propertied rulers' attempts to make working people pay for the crisis of their system – and the indignities, wars and assaults on living standards and conditions that this entails.

Your fight is one example of a political awakening and growing resistance around the world. Women and men in their hundreds of thousands took to the streets in Iran in December against the regime's wars in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, its assaults on women's rights and other consequences for working people. Teachers and other school workers are on an all-out strike in West Virginia in the United States. They say: "We're fighting for all workers".

Campaigning door to door in the UK, joining picket lines, talking to workmates and others, we participate in the broad discussion going on among working people about the way forward.

The Cuban Revolution shows what's possible when working people throw off the self-image the rulers teach us and recognise that we are capable of taking power and organising society. That revolution established a woman's right to choose abortion from the beginning. Workers need such a revolutionary movement to topple the propertied rulers and put workers in power.

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