

RE-THINK

A Labour Movement Agenda for Change

We believe a better, alternative future for Northern Ireland is possible.

That will require principled, political representation rooted in the labour movement and working class communities. The parties of sectarianism and austerity that dominate our political institutions represent a dead-end for our society, offering only continued paralysis and stagnation.

We are calling for a **new alternative** for Northern Ireland through the election of political representatives of the labour movement that seek to serve ordinary people, not capitalism.

■ **Opposing austerity in deeds, not just words**

We reject the logic that ordinary people must pay the price for the mistakes of the bosses and bankers. While some of the main parties may posture as opposing austerity, in reality they are all united in implementing policies that are destroying jobs and services. All our main parties support a cut in corporation tax.

Instead, we demand **public investment** in society. Our candidates will never vote for austerity in any form and will build campaigns to defend jobs and services.

■ **Demanding a real living wage and dignity in work and education**

Poverty pay, precarious work and poor conditions are increasingly becoming the norm. The so-called 'living wage' falls far short of what is required to make ends meet, while young people are denied even this. Meanwhile, our education sys-

RE-THINK - A Labour Movement Agenda for Change

tem is being corporatised and students shackled with huge debts.

Our candidates support the trade union movement's demand for a **£10/hour minimum wage** regardless of age, as well as the abolition of zero-hour contracts. We will campaign for the **scrapping of anti-union laws**, allowing workers to organise to defend their rights. We support access to **free, public education for all and a living grant for students** in further and higher education.

■ Fighting for equality and the right to choose

We demand the extension of the **1967 Abortion Act** to Northern Ireland. Women here have been denied equality and, in particular, their basic reproductive rights for far too long. This injustice is completely unacceptable.

Likewise, we demand equality for all, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, gender, physical or mental ability, age, class or sexual orientation. We will continue the fight for **full marriage equality** and will stand against all forms of hate crime and intolerance. All our main political leaders have denied basic rights to the people of Northern Ireland, while ordinary people are increasingly rejecting backward attitudes on LGBT and women's rights. This must change.

■ Challenging the dead-end of Orange and Green politics

We believe that ordinary people in Northern Ireland have more that unites us than divides us. We face the same day-to-day struggles. The labour and trade union movement has a proud record of resisting sectarianism and providing an alternative to the divide-and-rule politics of Orange and Green. Our candidates stand in this tradition. We aim to **unite working class communities around our common interests** while advocating **compromise** and **mutual respect** on parading, flags and the other issues which have traditionally divided us.

■ Workers' representatives on a worker's wage

We need elected representatives who understand and share the experiences of working class people and will fight to provide **a better life for all**. We do not need representatives who vote for their own salary to increase whilst denying teachers and other workers any pay rise at all.

If successful, **our candidates will only take the average industrial wage** and will donate the rest to labour and progressive causes.

Signed: **Carmel Gates**, leading trade unionist
Maria Morgan, Chair Northern Ireland Committee ICTU (personal capacity)
Louise Meek, President, Belfast Met Students' Union (personal capacity)
Neil Moore, Chair Unite the Union Irish Youth Committee

For more information contact Carmel Gates on 0781 1463368
e-mail: rethinkagenda@gmail.com
Facebook: RE-THINK - A Labour Movement Agenda for Change

RE-THINK - A Labour Movement Agenda for Change