

CPGB-ML
party programme

Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist)



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(Updated 2008)

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PO Box 110, Castleford, WF6 1XZ
www.cpgb-ml.org



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Programme of the Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

1. Realising:

a) that the capitalist system of production is but a transitory system – a definite stage – in the long march of humanity from primitive communism to the higher phase of communism;

b) that, notwithstanding the recent setbacks and defeats suffered by socialism (thanks to the treachery of modern Khrushchevite revisionism, which triumphed at the 20th Party Congress of the CPSU), and the triumphal assertions of the imperialist bourgeoisie concerning the alleged unworkability and failure of socialism, humanity has no other future than that of communism;

c) that communism, which represents the bright future of humanity, cannot, and will not, establish itself automatically in the fashion of ripe fruit falling from a tree, and that it has to be worked and prepared for,

d) that the only class which can be the instrument for bringing into existence communism is the proletariat, for the proletariat

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alone is the most consistently revolutionary class, for it alone has an interest in the elimination of, not just one system of exploitation of one human being by another, but of all exploitation;

e) that the proletariat cannot even begin to take the very first steps in the direction of this, its historical mission, namely, that of the overthrow of capitalism, the establishment of socialism (the lower stage of communism), and marching towards the higher stage of communism, unless it is armed with a revolutionary theory, for *"without a revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement ... The role of vanguard can be fulfilled only by a party that is guided by the most advanced theory"* (Lenin);

f) that, in addition to the most advanced revolutionary theory, the proletariat must possess, must create, a revolutionary organisation – a vanguard, a class-conscious and organised detachment, which is the embodiment of the connection of the vanguard with the working-class millions, which represents *"the highest of all forms of organisation"* of the working class, and whose mission it is to guide all other organisations of the working class, for *"in its struggle for power, the proletariat has no other weapon but organisation. Disunited by the rule of anarchic competition in the bourgeois world, ground down by forced labour for capital, constantly thrust back to the 'lower depths' of utter destitution, savagery and degeneration, the proletariat can become, and inevitably will become, an invincible force only when its ideological unification by the principles of Marxism is consolidated by the material unity of an organisation which will weld millions of toilers into an army of the working class"* (Lenin) – an army which will sweep away the historically outmoded rule of the senile monopoly-capitalist class;

g) that such a vanguard organisation, as is fully confirmed by history, can only be a Marxist-Leninist party guided by the ideology of Marxism Leninism;

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h) that without such a party, as described in (f) above, the British proletariat has no general staff of its own to represent and fight even for its immediate interests, let alone to lead it in accomplishing its historical mission of establishing socialism through the overthrow of capitalism.

2. Recognising the aforementioned, the Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist) is guided by the following principles:

i) The party, in its world outlook as well as in its day-to-day activities, is guided by the principles of Marxism Leninism.

ii) In the sphere of organisation, the party follows the principles of democratic centralism.

iii) While participating in the parliamentary sphere, it is the bounden duty of the party, and every party member, to expose bourgeois parliamentarism, which, although a great advance over medieval institutions, is decidedly reactionary as compared with the dictatorship of the proletariat, which represents, for the first time in history, a class rule of the majority over a tiny minority of the former exploiting classes, for "*only he is a Marxist who extends the recognition of the class struggle to the recognition of the dictatorship of the proletariat*". (Lenin)

iv) Recognising the teachings of Marxism Leninism, fully confirmed by history, the party is duty bound to inculcate that "*the working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery, and wield it for its own purposes*" (Lenin), and that it is the task of the proletarian revolution not "*to transfer the bureaucratic-military machine from one hand to another, but to smash it*" (Lenin) and replace it with the dictatorship of the proletariat.

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v) Recognising the earth-shaking historical significance of the Great Proletarian Socialist October Revolution in the struggle of the international proletariat and oppressed people against all exploitation and oppression; the successful building of socialism in the USSR, serving as an inspiration to the working class and oppressed everywhere; the signal contribution of the socialist USSR to the smashing of the Nazi war machine, the party shall defend the gains of October and refute all slanders against the undisputed correct leadership of the CPSU during the period of socialist construction.

vi) Recognising that social democracy (Labour party in Britain) has, since the first world war, been a vehicle for not only purveying the influence of the bourgeoisie into the working-class movement, but also an instrument of the imperialist bourgeoisie for suppression of the working class at home and the national-liberation and proletarian movements abroad, the party will wage a relentless and uncompromising struggle against social democracy and its variants, namely, revisionism and Trotskyism.

vii) Recognising that, under the conditions of capitalism, in the struggle for its social emancipation, it is impossible for the working class to confine itself at all times to legal forms of activity, the party, while taking part in as ramified a network of legal societies as possible, will not forego illegal work and will resist all attempts at liquidationism.

viii) Steadfastly adhering to the principles of proletarian internationalism in its struggle for the establishment of such a state of the proletariat, the party shall expose and oppose all imperialist exploitation and oppression and subjugation of peoples of the oppressed countries, rendering all possible political, moral and material support to national-liberation movements everywhere, including the struggle of the Irish people for national self-determination,

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for the expulsion of imperialist occupation and for the reunification of Ireland, for the *"revolutionary movement in the advanced countries would actually be a sheer fraud if in their struggle against capital, the workers of Europe and America were not closely and completely united with the hundreds upon hundreds of millions of 'colonial' slaves who are oppressed by capital"*. (Lenin)

ix) Steadfastly adhering to the principle of equality of working people – men and women – of all national, racial and religious backgrounds, the party will resolutely fight against all forms of discrimination based on sex, race, religion or national origin.

x) This party firmly believes that immigration is not the cause of the ills of the working class in Britain, which are solely the result of the failings of the capitalist system. Immigration and asylum legislation and controls under capitalism have only one real goal: the division of the working class along racial lines, thus fatally weakening that class's ability to organise itself and to wage a revolutionary struggle for the overthrow of imperialism. These controls have the further effect of creating an army of 'illegal' immigrant workers, prey to superexploitation and living in dire conditions as an underclass, outside the system, afraid to organise and exercising a downward pull on the wages and conditions of all workers. The scourge of racism, along with all other ills of capitalism, will only be finally abolished after the successful overthrow of imperialism. But since immigration can no more be abolished under capitalism than can wage slavery, the party calls not for the further control and scapegoating of immigrants, but for the abolition of all border controls, as part of the wider fight to uproot racism from the working-class movement and build unity among workers in Britain, so strengthening the fight for communism.

Contact the CPGB-ML for further copies and a list of publications.
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