

# **The Workers' Party**

General Election Manifesto  
2016



**Democratic**

**Secular**

**Socialist**



# Contents

Introduction	4
Housing	7
The Private Rented Sector	8
Banking & the Public Finances	8
Taxation	9
Water	10
Reproductive Rights and the 8th Amendment	11
Workers' Rights	12
Childcare for families, not for profit	13
Education	14
Health and Social care	16
Our Place in the World	17
Violence against Women	18
Policing	19
Northern Ireland	20
The Environment	21
The Candidates	22

# Introduction

## We are the Workers' Party

**The Workers' Party is committed to the transformation of society in Ireland, to the building of a Democratic, Secular, Socialist Republic in which power is firmly in the hands of the working class.**

In recent years, working people in Ireland and across the world have been confronted with rising unemployment, precarious work, a dramatic decrease in real income, and increasing prices for food and the essentials of life. At the same time we are seeing decreasing expenditure on the public provision of health, education, housing, welfare and social services, raised retirement ages, attacks on pensions, increased levels of poverty, homelessness and emigration.

This is no accident. It is an inevitable consequence of the present system in which we live. The problem must be tackled at its root by challenging the ownership and control of the economic system. Those who produce the wealth of the country, the working people, do not own it.

The Workers' Party believes in a different world view, a society in which the working people who create all wealth own and control it and use the significant productive potential of the country for the benefit of the working class. However, we recognise that the state and its institutions are not neutral. As James Connolly explained 100 years ago, governments in capitalist society are but committees of the rich to manage the affairs of the capitalist class.

The Workers' Party recognises that real and fundamental change requires a break with the present system in which workers are exploited and abused - a transformation of society to create a world which maximises human potential, dignity and development rather than continue with a system driven by the relentless pursuit of profit for the benefit of the few.

Our policies are put forward in the knowledge that they can only be fully implemented through successful political and social struggle with a view to winning state power for the working class and completing a programme of fundamental change.

However, the Workers' Party immediately demands a decent and dignified life for working people and their families. It is in this context that the Workers' Party demands an economic strategy which defends the working class and the role of the state within the economy. It is within this framework that the Workers' Party puts forward its platform of progressive policies and demands in Election 2016.



## Job Creation

---

The Workers' Party believes that the creation of sustainable, well-paid jobs, across the entire economy and across all regions is one of the key tasks of government and is a necessary prerequisite to building a decent society.

Over the past eight years in excess of 250,000 people, mostly young people, have been forced into emigration because of the lack of employment in this country.

Many of the jobs that have been created over the past few years have been part-time, temporary, poorly paid, casualised and offering no long-term job security. The growth in casualisation, bogus self-employment and precarious work impinges most severely on women, on young workers, and on migrant workers.

The move towards a services rather than a manufacturing economy, along with an over dependence on construction, foreign multinationals, and the banking sector are amongst the serious weaknesses of the economy at the present time.

The state must rebuild an industrial base, must use our own natural resources to create sustainable jobs and high value exports, greatly strengthen our tax system which has turned the country into a tax haven for the international banking and corporate sector, introduce strong regulatory controls on the banking sector and especially on the IFSC, diminish our dependence on carbon-based fuels and create a secure energy supply.

The Workers' Party is committed to:

- **Making our publicly-owned enterprises and semi-state commercial companies take a lead role in creating jobs**
- **Total opposition to the sell-off of any further sections of our commercial state or semi-state enterprises.**
- **The expansion of our state companies as a means to fulfil our jobs policy**
- **The nationalisation of our oil and gas resources and the creation of a State Energy Company. This is a vital national prerequisite as a major step to energy security and long term employment in the primary and downstream industries.**
- **Recognising the importance of the combined agri-food sector to the Irish economy, and specifically to the rural economy. We propose the strengthening of Coillte and Bord na Mona as potential key anchors and drivers in this sector.**
- **Ensuring that industrial development and job creation is compatible with long-term environmental sustainability and with the achievement of our climate change targets.**

## **Housing**

---

The Workers' Party believes that the state should be the primary provider of housing. State housing policy has been reduced to being the facilitator of corporate greed through unsustainable tax breaks, non-existent supervision of standards, low corporation tax, and guaranteed rental income.

Only the state, working for the common good rather than the maximisation of profits, can mobilise the legal, planning, financial, engineering and other necessary capabilities to create on a long-term and sustainable basis the necessary housing, in the required quantities and of proper standards, to meet the needs of the people.

The price of building land must be controlled. The failure to implement the Kenny Report and place controls on rezoned land prices has resulted in a small politically-connected elite becoming fabulously wealthy through land rezoning, and in widespread and debilitating corruption in local authorities and especially in County Dublin.

The Workers' Party is committed to:

- **Large scale construction of local authority owned housing through a state construction company and direct labour schemes.**
- **Allocating the necessary resources to local authorities for an immediate and substantial programme of social housing construction.**
- **Establishing housing as a basic and essential human right. Without fair access to suitable housing the supposed rights to family life, to healthcare, and to education are hollow.**
- **Ensuring that planning should provide the transport links, childcare facilities, local amenities, and stability that allows for vibrant and inclusive communities.**
- **Strictly controlling the price of building land. For almost five decades successive governments have refused to implement the recommendation of the Kenny Report.**
- **Guaranteeing that all housing built must reach the highest international building standards.**
- **Strengthening and enforcing the Derelict Sites Act so as to stop dereliction and speed up the regeneration of brown field sites.**
- **Implementing a windfall tax on all profits from land rezoning.**
- **Ending the privatisation of social housing.**
- **Supporting local, non-profit, cooperative, self-build, own-use housing initiatives.**
- **Ending all property related tax incentives as these have proven to be economically disastrous for this country.**

## **The Private Rented Sector**

---

There is a crisis in the private rented sector of the housing market. Thousands of individuals and families are being forced into this market by the refusal of successive governments to invest in social housing and by the policy of the deliberate sell-off and run down of local authority housing stocks. The Workers' Party believes that individuals and families in the private rented sector are entitled to decent living conditions, fair rent, protection against exorbitant rent increases, security of tenure, and protection of deposits against illegal or unjust deductions.

In government the Workers' Party would:

- End the subsidy to private landlords by the phasing out of rent supplement and its replacement by local authority owned property.
- Implement a comprehensive package of measures to ensure that tenants in private rented accommodation have fair rents, security of tenure, decent standards and conditions.
- Immediately legally implement deposit protection by ensuring that all deposits are held by an independent body like the PTRB in an independent and self-financing fund.
- Introduce legislation to control not only rent increases within tenancies but also between tenancies and set out clear guidelines by which rent levels can be established. This must be accompanied by legislation to ensure security of tenure for tenants whose properties are being sold as a result of landlord mortgage arrears.

## **Banking & the Public Finances**

---

The Workers' Party calls for:

- State control of all banking institutions. In circumstances where banks in this country are dependent on leveraging property in order to maintain liquidity, resulting in a push to re-inflate house prices, the Workers' Party demands measures to de-leverage Irish banks from the property market to facilitate the taking into state ownership of banking institutions.
- Investment in both productive enterprise and capital and infrastructural spending.
- At a time when the income gap between rich and poor is further increasing the Workers' Party calls for the repudiation of all odious, illegitimate public debt which is not the responsibility of the working class and is an attempt by capital to make workers pay for the capitalist economic crisis.
- An audit and a sustainable solution to Ireland's debt crisis to free up revenue streams for reinvestment in projects that serve the interests of working people.
- In relation to the Anglo/INBS debts, this debt has been converted to bonds in the Irish Central Bank which, once sold on the open market, will begin to cost the Irish taxpayer unpredictable amounts. These bonds must be frozen and repudiated.

## Taxation

---

Billions of Euro are lost to the productive economy each year through tax breaks, loopholes and tax cuts for the owners of capital, the wealthy, property developers and multinational corporations. At present, the workers of this country face an increasingly heavy burden of taxation while the wealthy use every means at their disposal to escape liability for tax. Taxation is necessary to fund decent public investment in public services. Ireland can no longer afford to be a tax haven for the rich. The Workers' Party stands for:

- A programme of progressive taxation, and an immediate end to the abuse of tax breaks and incentives.
- Legislation ending all tax loopholes.
- A legal clampdown on the use of Ireland as a tax haven by multinational firms.
- Legislation to end large scale scams like international transfer pricing and phantom companies.
- The introduction of a minimum effective tax rate for individuals.
- The implementation and enforcement of an effective rate of corporation tax.
- The introduction of a wealth tax on assets above one million Euro.
- That all income, whether earned as wages, dividend, sale of stocks and shares, capital gains etc be treated on the same basis for tax purposes.
- Abolition of the category of 'Green Diesel' and its replacement with a tax refund scheme for legitimate operators thereby ending a massive tax loss to the economy while also ending a major criminal and pollution racket.
- An increase in Ireland's rate of employer PRSI which is the lowest in Europe. Increasing employer PRSI is one useful measure to increase the contribution of capital towards the state's welfare fund.



## Water

---

The Workers' Party believes that the provision of safe, clean and adequate supplies of water, along with the provision of adequate and efficient sewage services, should be provided as a public good and not used to generate profits. To this end water and sewage services should be financed through central taxation as they have been in Ireland for decades.

The Workers' Party is committed to:

- **The abolition of Irish Water. To this end, Workers' Party activists have played an active role in the Right2Water campaign as well as directly opposing the installation of meters and supporting the boycott of Irish Water bills.**
- **Paying for water and sewerage through direct taxation, which is the most cost effective and efficient way of raising revenue for this public utility.**
- **Restoring control over water services to the local authorities and ensuring they are adequately funded from central taxation to tackle the long-running scandal of a 40% leakage rate.**
- **Holding a referendum so that the public ownership of water and the right of citizens to access water be enshrined in the Irish constitution.**
- **All new housing, as a condition of planning, being fitted with rain-water recovery technology, and grant-aid being made available for the retro-fitting of same onto existing housing.**

The Workers' Party recognises that there are urgent problems with the water infrastructure in this country. The key problem has been a chronic lack of investment in water infrastructure. Local councils had the necessary personnel, the necessary skills, the detailed local knowledge – but they were starved of funds. Quite deliberately in Ireland, as in other countries, the economic crash of 2007/08 has been used to destroy a public service and to further the privatisation agenda.



## **Reproductive Rights and the 8th Amendment**

---

The Workers' Party recognises that women have the right to control their own bodies, including their fertility, and to pursue all reproductive choices. This is fundamental to any reasonable concept of gender equality in order to achieve full political, social, and economic equality with men.

The Workers' Party rejects the paternalistic attitude that regards women as second class citizens incapable of making their own decisions. The Workers' Party supports a full programme of secular sex education for schools, free access to contraception, proper health and social care for pregnant women, the provision of appropriate free and quality child care facilities and adequate support for single and low income parents.

The Workers' Party believes in a woman's right to choose and supports the provision of free and safe abortion in Ireland which will include practical facilities to support women seeking an abortion and quality post-abortion care.

In line with these objectives, the Workers' Party is committed to: A referendum to repeal the 8th Amendment of the Constitution, followed by Legislation providing free and full access to abortion and post-abortion care.

Repeal of the 8th Amendment will be a red line issue in the programme of the next Government.

## Workers' Rights

---

### Strengthen trade unions

The Workers' Party recognises the importance of trade unions in confronting the pressures facing workers through organisation and agitation. The Workers' Party has for many decades built strong links with the trade union movement. The ability to defend workers' interests, to fight for higher wages and better conditions remains an ever important role for unions.

The Workers' Party believes the ability of workers to organise in the workplace must be preserved and strengthened through the introduction of union recognition legislation. The 1990 Industrial Relations Act (as amended) which places undue constraints on the right to strike and trade union organisation must also be repealed or adequately amended to protect and strengthen those rights.

The Workers' Party believes:

- **\* That all adults have the right to meaningful work with decent rates of pay and decent working conditions.**
- **That all workers have the right to join and be represented by a trade union and that legislation on union recognition is immediately introduced.**
- **That the "Living Wage", currently estimated to be €11.50 per hour, should be implemented without delay.**
- **That the gross exploitation of jobseekers through unpaid internships and schemes like JobBridge be outlawed.**
- **That zero-hour contracts, no matter how they are labelled, are outlawed.**
- **That staff recruited via private or other labour agencies cannot be paid at rates of remuneration less than that prevailing for other workers in the sector, or under terms and conditions that are inferior to the industry norm.**
- **That all workers are entitled to proper pension entitlements.**
- **That workers are entitled to proper remuneration for the hidden costs associated with their employment, including costs like travel, home based office equipment etcetera.**
- **That workers who are receiving social welfare payments, whether due to unemployment, illness, or long-term disability be treated with respect and dignity and that the current demeaning and insulting attitude of the state and state agencies to the unemployed cease immediately.**

The Workers' Party supports the ICTU Charter on Workers' Rights

## **Childcare for families, not for profit**

---

The Workers' Party calls for a universal system of childcare and early childhood education which is accessible to all parents including those working unsociable hours and those living in rural areas.

Childcare in the Republic is a publicly subsidised market model which is inaccessible to many, particularly young mothers in less well-off communities who are denied an opportunity to prepare themselves for the workplace through return to education.

The Workers' Party supports a state funded high quality childcare system based on the primary school model, encompassing infant care, early childhood education and pre/after school/ holiday time care.

We believe that childcare policies must be built around families and children's educational development and welfare and not as a system to ensure 'women can work when needed'.

The present market childcare model is haphazard, unplanned and patchy. It doesn't work.

Therefore the Workers' Party calls for

- **The provision of enhanced parental care options for children under one in line with international best practice including state/employer supported parental leave.**
- **The development of a model of education and care for preschool children covering the ages three months to 2/3 years and also 2/3 years to 4/5 years.**
- **The development of a model of education and care for pre-school children with disabilities**
- **The development of appropriate 'before and after school' as well as 'school holiday' childcare provision**

TUSLA (The Child and Family Agency), as well as Síolta and Aistear which have responsibility for quality and curriculum development of early childhood education and care, must be adequately funded.

It is envisaged that the setting up, running and funding of the service on a local level would most appropriately be provided either by expanding the remit of the County Childcare Committees and bringing childcare under the umbrella of the local authorities (as in France) and/or through the Education and Training Boards.



## Education

---

### Primary, Post Primary, Third Level and Continuing Education

The Workers' Party believes that our education system must be developed on an egalitarian, democratic, and secular basis.

One of the hallmarks of the Irish education system is the huge discrepancy that exists between schools at both first and second level in relation to ethos, pupil background, the manner and extent of resourcing, facilities and the academic progress of students. This discrepancy is reflected in the profile of entrants to third level institutions highlighted by the media each year. Research shows that it is generally the students from better off backgrounds who make it to university and who pursue higher level courses.

While schools and colleges in areas of social disadvantage try very hard to respond to the challenges inherent in our highly competitive points driven system the odds are stacked high against those children. In addition, only 40% of children from lower socio economic backgrounds attend DEIS, schools where a limited level of enhanced supports are available.

According to the CSO 2015 statistics, one in eight of our children live in consistent poverty and 37% suffer deprivation. Many of those children lack basic necessities and come to school hungry and under-nourished. In our system they are expected to compete with those who can afford to buy the necessary skills to compete successfully in the high points driven Leaving Certificate examination, with those who can afford a place in a top performing league table school together with expensive after school and weekend grinds. Many of those schools are private fee-paying schools which are subsidised by the tax payer.

The Workers' Party opposes the increasing privatisation of our education system. We believe in a public system, paid for through taxation and taken out of the control of the churches and religious bodies.

It is a fundamental principle of the Workers' Party that all schools receiving state funding must have open access to all children regardless of social, cultural or ethnic background, intellectual ability or religious beliefs. Private fee-paying schools should receive no state funding. Their teaching and support staff should not be paid for by the state and they should not be able to claim tax rebates on voluntary contributions. The collection of 'voluntary contributions' should be outlawed in state funded schools and those schools should be prohibited from asking prospective parents for deposits when their child applies for a school place.

- **Education should be free to all, including migrant children and asylum seekers, from pre-school up to and including postgraduate studies.**
- **While it is vital that the state invests adequately in all levels of education it is particularly important to invest in early childhood and primary education. Our primary school class numbers are among the highest in Europe. One quarter of our children are taught in classes of 30 or more pupils and those classes include children with a range of special needs. Our maximum class size should be twenty pupils. There is no provision in the 2016 budget to increase school capitation, yet schools, particularly in less well-off areas, cannot meet basic running costs including water charges.**

- Investment in education should be ring-fenced. Its most vulnerable sections – traveller education, English as a second language, DEIS including School Completion Programmes and special needs education should never again become the target of the vicious cuts experienced since 2009.
- The learner/teacher ratio from pre-school to third level should be such as to make learning a quality, accessible, supported, inspiring and meaningful experience.
- Educational requirements, including books and IT equipment, should be provided free at primary and post primary level.
- All students should have access to up-to-date science and technology, language, music, sporting and ICT (including adequate broadband) facilities and students with exceptional potential should have access to facilities which will give them the opportunity to pursue and develop this potential.
- The Workers' Party opposes a 'loans' model of fees & maintenance support. Adequate maintenance grants should be provided for all third level students.
- Financial and learning support, including all the necessary supports required by people with disabilities, should be available to facilitate both young people and adults to re-enter the education system at any stage of their lifetime.
- No work in the education system should be of a precarious / internship / JobBridge nature.
- Research in our universities and institutes of technology should be funded through taxation. Third level teachers should be allowed to get on with the business of teaching and research and freed from the ever increasing pressures of pursuing funding for their departments from private companies.



## Health and Social care

---

The Workers' Party is committed to a New Direction for health and social care services in Ireland. This includes:

- **Introducing a universal publicly funded health system through general taxation and free at the point of delivery model of Health and Social Care Services.**
- **Developing a cohesive health and social care strategy, including community care, which, as a primary political priority, tackles existing health inequalities and accords a proper level of funding to meet the needs of all citizens.**
- **Ending all State subsidies to the private health care sector, including the insurance sector, and ending all HSE contracts with private for profit organisations.**
- **The State directly employing staff to carry out all health care roles.**
- **Introducing a direct state contract for General Practitioners and consultants which precludes them from working outside of the public health care system.**

The crisis in our Mental Health services must be urgently tackled. Therefore, the Workers' Party is committed to:

- **The provision of sufficient staff across the relevant range of specialties, along with adequate clinical and hospital facilities;**
- **The prioritisation of sufficient investment in home treatment and crisis response teams needed to maintain people in the community, and support service users in their recovery;**
- **Replacing the Lunacy Regulation Act (Ireland) Act 1871, with the 2013 Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Bill, and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**

The Workers' Party believes that a properly funded health service is central to the development of a humane and decent society and demands health and social care services fit for purpose and designed to deliver quality health outcomes and address decades of inequalities and neglect.

Health can be fixed, but it requires the political will to do so.



## **Our Place in the World**

---

The Workers' Party supports effective multilateralism based on a reformed and democratised United Nations.

The Workers' Party oppose the use of WTO treaties and agreements as a means of entrenching capitalist domination of the developing and emerging economies.

In order to promote fair and democratic economic relations worldwide, Ireland must insist on a limit to the power of the IMF, World Bank, and WTO, and on a revitalisation of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation).

The Workers' Party is committed to:

ending the illegal use of Shannon Airport by the US Airforce as a refuelling depot and transit hub.  
ending the illegal use of Shannon Airport by the CIA.

fulfilling Ireland's international human rights responsibilities by investigating the past and present use of Shannon airport for illegal activities, including extraordinary rendition by the CIA.

The Workers' Party believes that the EU serves the interests of big business and the multi-national companies. This is clearly demonstrated by the plans for TTIP. The EU, and its vast bureaucracy, is inherently anti-democratic. It has been instrumental in the attacks on the social and economic conditions of working people. Irish neutrality is under attack. Fortress Europe is being constructed with contempt for democratic rights. Increasingly the EU coalesces with NATO in its aggression against sovereign states.

The so-called Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is currently being negotiated in total secrecy by the EU and the USA. If allowed to pass it will be one of the most dangerous and damaging events for workers and consumers on both sides of the Atlantic.

TTIP aims to supersede the laws and economic regulations of individual states, and to punish those governments that fail to comply with the demands of international capital in courts staffed by corporate lawyers – the so-called Inter-State Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

TTIP seeks to transform the nature of labour relations for the sole benefit of the employer, by weakening the rules on health and safety both for workers and consumers, as well as environmental laws.

Under TTIP large international companies would be able to take control of the provision of essential public services such as health, education and water supply, and much else besides, purely in the interests of making profit and with no concern for the public good.

Therefore the Workers' Party is totally opposed to the ratification of the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

## **Violence against Women**

---

The Workers' Party calls for the implementation without delay of the Action Plan outlined by Frances Fitzgerald on 5th November 2015 when she welcomed the signing of the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and demands the immediate Ratification of the Convention .

The Workers' Party advocates as a priority the putting in place of the 5 Achievable Goals set down by SAFE Ireland in 2014 which include

1. **Amend, develop and enact housing legislation as a matter of urgency to address the many barriers to safe accommodation currently experienced by victims of domestic violence.**
2. **Increase the emergency accommodation capacity of domestic violence service.**
3. **Ring-fence budgets.**
4. **Ratify the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.**
5. **Establish a high-level cabinet committee on domestic violence and ensure that this committee is briefed in full by SAFE Ireland and its members.**

## Policing

---

The Workers' Party believes that police and policing must be subject to democratic control. The Workers' Party is committed to exposing the use of the police to further vested private interests, assert state control and to stifle popular dissent. To that end the Workers' Party demands the:

Establishment of a powerful Police Authority with members drawn from all sections of society and with the power to appoint senior police officers and remove them.

Strengthening and adequate funding of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission – ensuring no Gardaí or retired Gardaí are employed in investigations, expanding its power of investigation to cover the Garda Commissioner and access to all Garda records, including the Pulse computer system.

Establishment of local police partnerships with membership including community activists and civic leaders with the power to call Gardaí to explain and, where appropriate, justify operations.

The immediate removal of all Gardaí found to have been involved in systemic misconduct.

The establishment of public inquiries into the policing of working class communities and to review current and historic relations between Gardaí and major illegal drug importers.



## Northern Ireland

---

The Workers' Party is an all-island party, and has a long and proud track record of opposing sectarianism in Northern Ireland and promoting the unity and interests of working people of all religions and none. For years, our programme was summed up in the slogan, "Peace, Work, Democracy and Class Politics". Though the people of Northern Ireland have peace, there is insufficient democracy, little work, and the need for class politics remains as strong as ever.

Today, the Workers' Party offers socialism as the alternative to the divisive politics of unionism and nationalism, and the right-wing economic policies of the Northern Ireland Executive that will devastate public services and the public sector, cutting 20,000 jobs and taking hundreds of millions of pounds from the public purse and working people to boost the profits of multinational corporations seeking a new tax haven. Despite the rhetoric from the Executive parties, these cuts are made in Belfast, not dictated from London.

In this election, the Workers' Party stands for the socialist alternative across all of Ireland. The Workers' Party demands that the Irish government use its influence to promote policies that break down barriers among our people, not reinforce them. A vote for the Workers' Party is a vote to build a better future for the people of Ireland, north and south; for an end to sectarian politics and austerity; and to place the interests of workers first, with an economic programme designed to create sustainable, high-quality jobs.

A strong showing for the Workers' Party in this election will be a powerful boost to anti-sectarian, secular, socialist politics throughout the island.

## **The Environment**

---

The Workers' Party recognises that global warming, brought about by man-made increases in greenhouse gases, is real and is destabilising the world's climate with disastrous effects for most species on the planet and humanity itself.

Changes in the world's climate will mean more extreme weather events, including hotter and drier summers, flooding and rising sea-levels leading to coastal realignment. Other severe environmental issues include contamination of the air and surface waters with industrial pollutants.

The 'carbon footprint' of wealthy states and households is proportionally greater than poorer states and households. The system of global capitalism, which puts profit and expansion above all other concerns, is fundamentally responsible for our environmental problems.

Environmentally sustainable capitalism is a contradiction in terms and, given the scale and complexity of the issues, technology is unlikely to provide all the answers. Only a society which puts human and environmental needs above those of profit can begin to deal with the serious problems we and our grandchildren will face.

The Workers' Party believes that the outcome of the recent world climate summit in Paris, while welcome, is not sufficient to deal with the crisis of climate change.

The Workers' Party supports lessening our dependence on fossil fuels through the development of wind generators, solar panels and other forms of renewable energy.

The Workers' Party believes that the conversion by large multinational firms of large tracts of arable land, especially in developing countries, away from food production towards crops for bio-fuel production is largely a regressive step and is not the solution to our fossil fuel dependence.

We urge close cooperation and consultation with local communities to minimise opposition to the erection of wind farms in localities. Co-operatives and ventures involving many stakeholders ought to be established to maximise the potential of renewable energy sources.

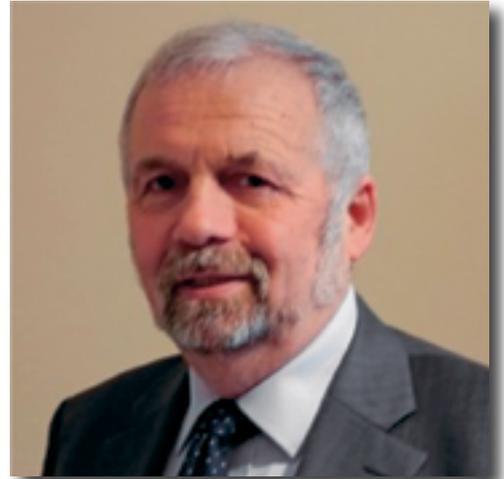
The Workers' Party is totally opposed to fracking. Fracking is a highly dangerous process with serious short-term and long-term consequences for the environment.

Our planning process must be strengthened so that the highly destructive speculator-driven developments and re-zonings which have characterised recent decades cannot re-occur.

The ratification of the TTIP or CETA treaties by the EU would be hugely environmentally destructive as they would relegate environmental or consumer concerns into second place behind the need for corporate profit.



Éilis Ryan  
Dublin Central



Seamus Mc Donagh  
Meath East

Workers' Party  
General Election  
candidates 2016



Lorraine Hennessy  
Dublin Mid West



Jimmy Dignam  
Dublin North West



Cllr. Ted Tynan  
Cork North Central

# **SOCIALISM IS THE ALTERNATIVE**

The gap between the rich and working people grows relentlessly wider. The crisis which this country has faced did not happen by chance. It arose from the inherent flaws and contradictions of the failed system in which we live. The Workers' Party is clear where it stands – it stands where it has always stood, clearly and unambiguously with the working class and believes that exploitation will only be ended under a radically transformed social, economic and political system where the working class controls its own destiny – socialism.

## **TAKE A STEP IN A NEW DIRECTION**

### **VOTE**

### **WORKERS' PARTY**

### **ON 26 FEBRUARY 2016**

#### **Contact Details**

24a/25 Hill Street,  
Dublin 1,  
Ireland  
[info@workersparty.ie](mailto:info@workersparty.ie)  
[workersparty.ie](http://workersparty.ie)

## **THE WORKERS' PARTY**

