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COMMUNIST PARTY

16 March 2021

To all CP members

CONGRESS LETTER # 1

The Executive Committee has decided that the Communist Party's postponed 56th Congress will be held this year on Saturday and Sunday, November 6-7, 2021. The venue will be announced within the next month or two.

TIMETABLE

The EC has established the following timetable:-

- May 17: deadline for submission to Party centre of Branch, District and Nation amendments to the Party rules and Congress standing orders.
- July 19: EC draft resolutions, Congress agenda and rules amendments to be sent to Party organisations.
- October 1: deadline for submission of Branch, District and Nation resolutions and amendments to the EC resolution(s) and of nominations for the EC, Appeals Committee and auditors.
- October 23-24: first meeting of Congress committees.
- November 6-7: 56th Congress.

MAIN ISSUES FOR CONGRESS

After considering the likely economic, social and political perspectives for the coming period, the March 2021 EC identified what it believes should form the main issues requiring debate and discussion at the Congress.

These are:-

1. 'Unemployment Fightback!': Meeting the challenges of mass unemployment as the ruling class and its Tory government pursue policies to restore the general rate of profit by intensifying the exploitation of labour, attacking the terms and conditions of employment, reducing the tax burden for the capitalist monopolies and maintaining the value of the Pound by slashing public sector borrowing and reducing the National Debt. How can the People's Assembly and the labour and progressive movements best defend jobs and organise and mobilise unemployed and their supporters on a mass scale. Should we support a Universal Basic Income?
2. 'Production for the People and Planet!': Exposing the unbalanced, precarious and predatory character of British imperialism's economy at home and abroad; promoting Green, sustainable policies that create jobs and living standards while also combating global warming; elaborating the Left-Wing Programme for Britain and economic strategies for its nations, regions and key industries based on public ownership and planning - and which also secure economic and social equality for women, young, immigrant, migrant and disabled workers. Should we embrace Modern Monetary Theory?
3. Progressive Federalism: Elaborating our policy and building alliances in the face of aggressive Tory-British unionism and vigorous Scottish and Welsh separatism. How should we address questions of English nationalism, regional devolution and local government?
4. 'No to the new Cold War': Exposing the motive forces and strategies for imperialist re-division, domination, militarism and war, past and present; strengthening Liberation and the British Peace Assembly and projecting the World Peace Council; winning the labour movement to the case for cancelling Trident and alternative socially-useful production; and defending China in particular against false atrocity propaganda, contrasting its economic, social and cultural advances to those of other developed and developing countries.
5. Waging the war of ideas: Promoting the Morning Star as the voice of the labour and progressive movements in the fight for democratic mass media against monopoly domination; promoting the classes, publications and other activities of the Marx Memorial Library & Workers' School; and using all forms of media to project three fundamental themes against the state-monopoly capitalist offensive: (i) for working-class and people's unity; (ii) for peace and solidarity against militarism and imperialist wars; and (iii) for socialist revolution.
6. Building the Anti-Monopoly Alliance: Strengthening and uniting the labour and progressive movements in the struggle against state-monopoly capitalism; in particular, projecting the Charter for Women; building the National Assembly of Women and a new initiative against racist laws as broad-based campaigning bodies with strong links to the labour movement; and assisting the Young Communist League to project the Charter for Youth.
7. Building the Communist Party: Projecting the Party's publications (notably the *Communist Review* and *Unity!*); strengthening its commissions - including a women's commission in every Party district and nation - and establishing new trade union advisories; and securing five standing committees to deal with Political Education, Communications, Recruitment & Membership, Elections and Internal Complaints & Discipline (a 'Control Commission' established by rule change).

There will be other important issues to consider and these may feature in the EC's main resolution(s), in Branch, District and Nation amendments (up to three each per EC resolution), and separate resolutions (up to two) on topics not covered by the EC resolution(s).

PROPOSED CONGRESS SLOGAN

- The Crisis is Capitalism - The Solution is Socialism!

CONGRESS COMMISSIONS

As for the 55th Congress, the outgoing EC proposes a number of Congress commissions where delegates can discuss their experiences and ideas and make proposals to the incoming EC for the Party's future work. At the moment, the EC is proposing Congress commissions from among the following areas of work:-

1. class politics and the struggle for women's liberation
2. fighting racism
3. building the peace movement
4. building local anti-monopoly alliances

YOUR VIEWS

Party organisations are invited to submit their views on the above proposals to me at Party centre on any of the matters in this Congress Letter by Friday, May 4. This will mean online meetings wherever possible to ensure that these are the collective views of the Party organisation concerned.

DISTRICT AND NATION CONGRESSES

These were due to be held this year, as the alternate year to our biennial National Congress. But the EC has decided that the postponement of the 56th Congress to 2021 should mean that the District and Nation congresses are all now postponed to 2022, to be held on a date to be decided by the District or Nation Committee concerned.

In comradeship,

Robert Griffiths
General Secretary

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