



# YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

## 49<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS POLITICAL RESOLUTION

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### INTRODUCTION

1. Britain continues to feel the effects of the capitalist slump that has affected the global economy. This has caused the collapse of industries and businesses from manufacturing to the high street. The capitalist class is striving to increase profits through the continuing offensive of deindustrialisation in our country on one hand and restructuring of the economy and privatisation on the other. This has meant increased unemployment and under-employment with low wages and the impoverishment of all sections of working people. The expansion of precarious work and the demolition of workers' rights and organisations hard-won in the last century has had ruinous effects on our class. Workers have suffered across the country. Bosses in sectors such as hospitality and construction, and seasonal employers in particular, are exploiting the huge unemployed 'reserve army of labour' consisting largely of the youth. Many of these super-exploited young people come from outside Britain, having been forced to leave their own countries, many of which are European Union member states, in desperate search of work.
2. The influx of people from former Eastern European socialist countries, as well as southern European countries, has highlighted how these countries' economies have been wrecked and plundered. The subjugation of these countries comes under the direction of the EU as part of a transnational effort to undermine and lower wages, conditions, and rights at work. Anarchic, neoliberal capitalist policies have led to socio-economic disaster and migration throughout Europe. The consequences of this have been increasing exploitation, social divisions, and the rise of the reactionary Far Right, whilst big business, especially those owned by Britain, France and Germany, have secured cheap labour, resources and access to markets. Overall, young people from Britain and elsewhere have little access to meaningful employment. Instead, they are forced to pin their hopes on precarious and unfulfilling work for little money and under terrible conditions.
3. The ruling class and its hangers-on in Britain are defending a parasitic economy dominated by the financial sector. These banks and hedge funds are only interested in extracting maximum profit from speculative and unproductive investments rather than building real economic productivity, providing jobs and public services. Monopolisation and privatisation are destroying workers' conditions and living standards and worsening the North-South, regional and national divides. Despite this, the British ruling class is divided over how to proceed. This is expressed in the instability and indecision over Brexit in the Conservative Party and Government and the rise of the Scottish National Party as the pro-EU alternative for Scottish capitalist interests. Theresa May's strategy so far has been to build consensus amongst these representatives of the ruling class and take the 'middle road' as far as possible.
4. The ruling class has intensified attacks on working people wherever possible. Although immense profits continue to pour in, the Government is shifting its social and economic responsibilities on to the shoulders of the voluntary sector or selling them off to

privateering corporations, amidst cuts to public services. The ruling class through their political representatives and ownership of the media have increased the propaganda focusing on the left wing of the Labour Party, Russia, immigration and minorities. The anti-democratic capitalist media has intended to polarise these issues as well as the popular vote for Brexit in a bid to create apathy and redirect discontent. Ultimately, the aim of the ruling class in this regard is to discourage popular participation and expression of an alternative to Britain's state of affairs.

5. Wealth and power are concentrated in the hands of a tiny and shrinking minority who have no intention or desire to guide Britain or the rest of the world away from economic and social misery. The British ruling class has focused its interests in the financial and banking sectors, which are increasingly parasitic and monopolistic; not to mention tied to US, EU and other transnational imperialist interests. Tory government policy will only lead to further division and strife, already developing at an alarming rate in the US and across the EU. This has been a trend particularly acute in the former socialist countries. In the relentless drive for profit, the ruling class is content to cut its losses in Europe, grab further markets, exploit an ever-growing and globalised army of precarious labour, and even risk catastrophic warfare.

## THE LEFT-WING PROGRAMME

6. In this climate, the Labour Party has reconciled itself to a progressive social democratic platform led by Jeremy Corbyn, his allies, and the grassroots of the Labour Party. This continues to be opposed at every stage, internally by the pro-imperialist and neoliberal right wing of the party, and externally by the full force of the capitalist state and the ruling class media. The potential for a government that could see substantial working class gains indicates working people's increasing strength and levels of class-consciousness. As the labour and progressive movements push their demands and confront the Tory Government, an escalation of the internal struggles within the Labour Party between the right and left and other interests is inevitable.
7. Notwithstanding this and the obvious progress, the Communists and our allies must also be prepared for the second defeat of the Labour Party. Compared to the ruthlessness of the British ruling class, much remains to be done in order to equip workers in Britain with the class-consciousness, organisation and confidence needed to achieve even the modest victory of removing the Tories from power. We must emphasise that even if the Labour Party is elected and achieves some welcome concessions benefiting working people and taking the struggle forwards, this should be the full extent of our expectations. Without mass struggle outside of Parliament, any Labour government and its moderate left-wing platform will end in temporary defeat, sabotage or sell out. The consequence of this will be the demoralisation of Labour's working class members and supporters, including the hundreds of thousands drawn into political struggle for the first time in recent years.
8. Communists engage with political reality as it actually stands, without dogma or idealistic consideration for how the situation could or should be. For British workers, the victory of the Labour Party with its modest left-wing programme is the only realistic chance of removing this anti-worker Tory Government at the next election. However, this will only happen if the Labour Party remains committed to a genuine People's Brexit and if pro-worker policies continue to be advocated by the grassroots left in the party and by the trade union and progressive movements. The Left who are seriously committed to removing this corrupt Conservative Government from power must withstand each attempt at sabotage from the right wing and political Establishment.
9. The election of a Labour government with a left-wing programme has the potential to achieve some of the immediate demands of the movement. These include i) removing the viciously anti-worker Tory Government, ii) rebuilding manufacturing and services and revitalising the trade union movement through investment, nationalisation of key industries and an end to privatisation, and repeal of the punitive Trade Union Act 2016, and iii) alleviating the suffering of workers under the current austerity.
10. In these circumstances, the YCL can play a unique and indispensable role as the Marxist-Leninist youth organisation of Britain. Our class-based analysis is the lens through which we can understand developments in human society and how society can be changed in the interests of working people. Our democratic centralist organisation allows our actions to be quick, united and organic with involvement of the entire League. This tried and tested

form of organisation has allowed Communists worldwide to guide the struggle and build class-conscious and united labour and progressive movements that fight capitalism and imperialism. We are able and willing to support all of our individual allies across the labour and progressive movements, including members of the Labour Party. We offer our critical support to the Labour Party, in so far as it remains a left-led vehicle for the defence of working class interests in parliament.

11. Nonetheless, Communists have no illusions about the nature of the Labour Party. The League is fighting for real socialism, not social democratic 'humane capitalism' advocated by the Labour Party, which remains not only viciously anti-Communist, but also committed to the imperialist camp, specifically US imperialism. When in power the Labour Party has always rescued the British capitalist class from dire economic straits when the class struggle became most acute, betraying our class. The spectacular failures of social democracy from the 1980s onwards allowed capitalism in Britain to stabilise and take on a new and more exploitative form. Politically, our generation has known nothing but the ruling class' attempts to roll back the gains and organisation of the British working class made since the Second World War.
12. Only a class-conscious working class and labour movement with a mass Communist Party and YCL at its core can reverse this trend. That is why the chief political and organisational priority of the League remains building our numerical and organisational ability to lead the class struggle. Where a left Labour government, under Corbyn or otherwise, might seek to deviate from a left-wing programme that brings Labour to power, Communists make clear to workers in Britain the limitations of social democracy and the need for working class state power and revolutionary socialism. Where the Party strives to rebuild a Communist base in electoral politics, Congress instructs the YCL to support this. During parliamentary and extra-parliamentary struggle, we should always seek to bring into our ranks the best and most committed fighters and leaders of the working class.
13. We oppose unconditionally the economic and social destruction and constant threat of war that are inherent in capitalism and the rule of an imperialist, monopoly-capitalist and parasitic class. The programme of the Communist Party and the YCL, Britain's Road to Socialism, outlines our strategy for struggle and our vision for transforming the country and our society. Socialism means democratic public ownership and planning by and for the working class. This would allow us to build a society that provides housing, jobs and welfare as fundamental rights enshrined in law. Socialism will end the scrapping of industries, services and skills on the grounds that they are no longer viable for extracting surplus value and making profit for the bourgeoisie. The YCL not only opposes the bankrupt cultures, ideologies, and systems of British capitalist society – we fight for a new world. We make the case for the transformation of society, based upon a democratic mass movement of working class people and their organisations, not just parliament and parties, which responds to our realities as working people.
14. Socialism also entails the establishment of a democratic, secular, and republican state. Since our 48<sup>th</sup> Congress, we have seen the ratcheting up of pro-monarchy propaganda and sentiment, taking advantage of another 'royal wedding' and the birth of yet another 'royal

baby'. Criticism of the monarchy, unsurprisingly, is almost non-existent in the contemporary capitalist media. The monarchy often escapes criticism by organisations on the Left despite the fact that the mere existence of this archaic and anti-democratic institution is based upon the fantasy that some human beings are born to rule whilst others are born to be ruled.

15. Far from being a collection of powerless figureheads, the monarchy is part of the British imperialist state apparatus with considerable and wide-ranging powers and the potential to subvert our limited parliamentary democracy, on top of this, the Monarch is also the head of the Church of England which ties the State to a religious institution. The YCL has no doubt that the British monarchy is a parasitic and historical anachronism and Congress calls unreservedly for its abolition, for separation of Church and State and for public ownership of the lucrative Crown and Duchy estates to be utilised in the interests of working people.

## THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

16. Increasingly, the YCL has had an impact upon local and national political and cultural discourses thanks to the growth and consolidation of our activities and organisation. Building new branches, recruiting more members, and educating and retaining the comrades already in our ranks are our fundamental objectives over the next two years. As outlined in Britain's Road to Socialism, a key element of this will involve the YCL, along with the Party, building an industrial broad front in order to much more significantly raise the issues of exploitation, low pay, precarious work and workers' rights. This must be done on a coherent national scale, attracting a whole new generation of working class youth to the struggle. We must draw on the experiences of our leading trade union activists and previous trade union schools.
17. The League must rise to the task of being a leading, militant political voice for young workers in Britain. The failure of Communists to fulfil this historic role in the current period is a major factor in the strength of the British ruling class and the weakness of the trade union movement. However, it is important to note that we live in radically different times to the days of the legendary UCS work-in and Ford Dagenham walkouts. The labour movement often fails to recognise this and clings to the coattails of its past. Workers of today, who are overworked, exploited and underpaid, take no solace in the successes of the past, we need a trade union movement that is capable of confronting the ruling class of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We need a trade union movement that is led by workers, not by professional activists, many of whom are far removed from the realities faced by most working people.
18. Last Congress highlighted the need for YCLers to develop our presence in and links between the student movement, trade unions and workers in educational institutions. Congress noted the progressive shifts in the National Union of Students and Labour Party policy towards education including support for free university and college education and greater investment. Since then, our members have continued to participate in agitation, broad front activities and formed Communist Societies or cells at educational institutions, and there have been periods of militant action that drew many students into political work with staff and trade unionists.
19. Activities at schools and colleges, where the existing student movement is frequently absent, have seen successes for the first time in many years. Despite this, the student movement is predominantly liberal, if not apolitical, sectarian and bureaucratised. It continues to be fragmented and stagnant. The League, as the revolutionary political organisation for Britain's students, needs to respond to these conditions with anti-bureaucratic, unifying and working class activities and demands, as well as stepping up our focus on secondary schools and colleges.
20. As part of building the YCL, there is a continuing need to create more social and fun anti-Establishment cultural activities in addition to traditional propaganda and public campaigning work. This offers the chance to increase awareness of our activities and values substantially. In time, not only can we build links with allies in other organisations and

demonstrate the correctness of our Marxist-Leninist approach, we can put our organisation on an ever-firmer footing for the future and inspire more direct action in the face of defeatist and passive politics and ideologies.

21. The creation of alliances, formal and informal, with other progressives and socialists is a continuing challenge for the League, with which we are making slow progress. We need to develop not only more activities in broad front campaigns and organisations, which YCLers might coordinate on a national level, but also a wider variety of activities that build cultural, political and social tendencies opposed to British imperialism and monopoly capitalism locally. This ought to be a long-term, outgoing approach of branches and individual members. In so doing, the League needs to confront and defeat anti-Communism and sectarianism in the labour and progressive movements, recruit where possible and publicise the League as a dedicated, honest group whose focus is a strong and united movement.
22. At present, although some progress has been achieved, the diversity of membership of the League is poor, which reflects the general lack of diversity in political organisations. This is despite the facts that women, members of the BAEM and LGBT+ communities, and people with disabilities are the victims of disproportionate and particular attacks from the ruling class. The continued effectiveness and growth of popular activities and outreach will combat scepticism and recruit more members of more diverse backgrounds to the League and movement in general.
23. Last Congress noted the prevalence amongst young people in Britain of liberal, sectarian and separatist attitudes that denied the relevance of class oppression and exploitation to issues of equality: age, disability, race, religion, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation. Currently, the most controversial issues in the labour and progressive movements is that of gender identity versus biological sex, and anti-Semitism versus legitimate opposition to Zionism and the abhorrent racist policies of Israel. The League must foster comradely discussion, understanding, and unity around these issues, no matter how complex, in line with our Constitution – constructively and democratically. The working class must lead the way in resolving our own problems without sectarianism and infighting.

## **DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE YOUTH**

24. The League condemns our ageist society where 16-year-olds are permitted to join the armed forces and be groomed to go to their deaths in imperialist wars abroad, but are not permitted to vote. Young people are under-represented in political and social organisations. It is commonplace for young people's contributions and opinions to be worth far less in Britain, which is clearly reflected in the hourly minimum wage rates for workers under twenty-five, in addition to scandalous unpaid work. Congress calls for the incoming Executive Committee to campaign for an end to pay discrimination on the basis of age and for raising the minimum wage. Congress calls for votes at 16 without further delay. A society that fears the voice of its youth is a society that is broken and unsustainable. The League will continue to develop our campaigning programme around socio-political and economic enfranchisement for the youth in Britain and against discrimination.
  
25. Capitalist economy actively excludes the disabled and those less able to be exploited as efficiently. It is also unsurprising that the warped society the ruling class imposes has led to a startling rise in mental illness. Alienation, poverty and a lack of prospects drive the working class youth to despair, desperation and suicide in increasing numbers. The disabled, those afflicted by mental illness, and doctors and carers have been directly impacted by vicious ideological cuts.
  
26. The strain placed on carers and doctors is reaching critical mass, with dwindling support and increasing financial burdens leaving people unable to care for those they love or the community in general. We understand the first step to correcting this is greater investment in care and access to therapies. We know this is not enough to achieve equality for disabled people and those with mental illnesses, but it is a necessary step before we can achieve true equality. We will strive to make YCL activities and membership more accessible to those with disabilities.

## **BREXIT AND THE NATIONAL QUESTION**

27. The Brexit vote has rocked the legitimacy of the ruling class, bolstered the principles of the popular vote, national sovereignty and democracy, and removed obstacles to the future success of socialist policies in government. This contrasts with the further integration being pursued by the EU that continues on its trajectory as an increasingly imperialistic and regressive bosses' club. The express aim of the EU is to destroy the gains of working people across Europe, promote privatisation, and smash barriers to cheap labour and markets for French, German and, until recently, British industry and financial interests. Britain must now take this opportunity to present a progressive alternative to economic decline and diktat from the European Commission and the transnational corporations that it represents.
28. Since our last congress in 2016, the spike in racist, xenophobic, homophobic, transphobic and other reactionary incidents following the successful outcome of the EU Referendum was thankfully short-lived. This was despite the efforts of the ruling class and the media to stoke reactionary feeling and provoke a crisis. Communists predicted the implosion of UKIP after the EU referendum, and we have seen in the period since our last congress the spectacular splintering of this once-threatening right-wing force. At the same time, we have seen increasing prominence of the so-called 'Alt-Right', a more openly pro-fascist force inspired by events in the United States. Undoubtedly, the development of the Alt-Right has been aided by the right-wing capitalist media.
29. This Congress recognises the efforts of the Left in helping to break the unity of the right wing since the Referendum. However, we must also recognise that the Far Right has made substantial organisational advances in the last two years, in no small part due to the Left's failure to counter the rise of new groups such as the North East Infidels, the Football Lads Alliance, and groups centred around far right figure heads. Britain First also remains a significant enemy of working people despite their recent temporary setbacks of imprisonment and social media disruption.
30. In order to marginalise such forces that seek to divide workers along lines of race and religion in ripe conditions of socio-economic decline, the Left must mobilise locally and can no longer ignore or deny those issues around which the Far Right are organising. These include serious domestic and international problems frequently ignored by the Left, such as ghettoisation and the failure to integrate minority communities, the rise of Jihadist terrorism, Islamist extremism and ethnic and religious sectarianism.
31. Congress applauds our comrades and those on the Left who have recognised the need for frank and honest debate around issues of social cohesion and challenged the approaches of the wider Anti-Racist and Anti-Fascist movements, which play right into the hands of the Far Right at times. We can and must do better than merely shouting slogans and waving placards. Where communities are threatened, militant direct action, broad inclusive education and serious discussion and solutions are needed in order to tackle the rise of the Far Right.

32. With the growth of effective branches, links with other organisations and general membership, the YCL has taken a more active role in antifascist activity against the extreme-right and racist groups that have grown due to splits and the collapse of UKIP. Last Congress demanded that we develop a coherent Marxist and working class programme of political agitation regarding Brexit, which is now far more possible thanks to our organisational growth. This programme argues for a pro-worker completion of Brexit, highlighting the disastrous effects of EU policies in Britain and other countries, whilst simultaneously opposing xenophobia and support for British imperialism in order to win the argument for a People's Brexit.
33. Until the election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party, supported by the grassroots members and the wider labour and progressive movements, mainstream British politics amounted to unchallenged attacks on working class living standards. This created the conditions for the predominance of the Conservative Party in addition to Scottish nationalism as reactions to New Labour's bankrupt policies. The 2017 general election, held over a year ago, confirmed the need for and popularity of Labour's new left-wing programme. Subsequently, Labour recovered support throughout the country, including in Scotland where the SNP's opportunist pro-EU position and Scottish brand of neoliberalism in government has lost traction.
34. Communists have played a leading role in exposing the dead-end solutions of capitalism with a nationalist face in Scotland. Rather than opportunistically jumping on the nationalist bandwagon, we have fought to emphasise class struggle at every level. We have made the case for working people of all nations of Britain to fight together to win. This Congress reiterates our demand of a federal Republic of Britain, including unification of the Northern counties of Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland, further devolution for Scotland and Wales and a federal parliament where regional and national parliaments are represented.
35. Of crucial importance, given the current political gerrymandering and backdoor organising around Brexit, is the YCL's demand for Irish reunification. There can be no debate, the British border in Ireland must be removed. The occupied counties of Ireland must be returned to whom they rightfully belong - the Irish workers. However, the need for nuance is essential at this time, while we unilaterally support Irish independence from Britain, this should not simply mean that the North of Ireland is left to the behest of the EU. We encourage Communist and progressive countries across Europe to use Brexit to their own benefit, to bring about the end of the EU as a whole and to allow for an end to the neoliberal dominance that has existed for so long across the continent.
36. Congress notes that the English, Welsh, Cornish and Scottish working classes have a proud shared history of struggle as old as our working class itself. This tradition remains the basis of our movement to this day and foundation of the Communist approach to the national question in Britain. Only by organising at a British level will workers in Britain be able to resist the power of international finance capital.

37. At the same time, Congress considers that a new progressive federal structure, as set out in the Programme of the Party and the League, Britain's Road to Socialism, is the most effective way of advancing the democratic powers of the peoples of Britain while also achieving a radical redistribution of wealth to the regions and nations of the country. The League calls for strengthening the powers of the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh assembly to allow them to intervene decisively in the economy. The House of Commons should reconstitute itself as an English Parliament where English-only measures are considered. Directly-elected regional government in England should proceed where there is clear demand. The distinctive cultural and social characteristics of Cornwall should be expressed through a directly elected Cornish Assembly.
38. Congress notes that the left cannot abandon the national question and national identity to the right wing. The fight for democracy and national sovereignty go hand in hand with the struggle for socialism. We must celebrate the progressive history embodied in each of our constituent nations. We must fight to make socialist patriotism central to national identity.

## GLOBALISATION AND IMPERIALISM

39. British, EU and US imperialism have continued to use a wide range of economic, political and social weapons in their struggles to gain new influence, markets and resources. In general, these have come in the form of 'colour revolutions', all-out and low-intensity conflicts, soft power coercion, direct and indirect support for international terrorism and sectarian ideologies and the use of non-governmental organisations. Imperialism takes advantage of disinformation, ignorance, ruling class propaganda and the weakness of opposition in order to carry out interventions and subterfuge against enemy governments and socio-political forces, often popular ones that reject imperialism and domination.
40. The increasing concentration and globalisation of capital has reduced even national capitalist classes, large or small, into struggles for survival against Western imperialist monopoly based in the EU and US. For example, the Russian capitalist class has become increasingly bold in asserting itself in the countries of the former Eastern European socialist bloc as well as in the Middle East. At home, the Russian government is increasingly anti-democratic and anti-Communist. In addition, monopolisation and inter-imperialist rivalry is revealing more and more the divisions that exist between capitalists allied in global imperialist institutions like the EU, with the United States, and within each country's ruling class.
41. Imperialism has created conditions in which big business is now dependent upon military dominance, expenditure and expansion. The Yemeni civil war generated more than a billion pounds in UK weapons sales to Saudi Arabia in the first three months of the conflict. Interventions in countries like Syria and Venezuela have aimed to secure oil and gas production and resources, as well as redrawing the geopolitical map in favour of monopoly capital. Isolating Iran, creating a new compliant Middle East and rolling back the progressive advances of the Venezuelan government and Latin American peoples are some of the priorities of the imperialist camp in general. As part of the 'Pivot to Asia' strategy, the United States has aimed to stir up border disputes in the South China Sea, isolate China and move in on the highly important shipping lanes there.
42. Imperialism has long-term strategies that seek to ensure favourable conditions and remove opposition throughout the world. These include the criminal blockade of socialist Cuba, a small Communist-led country that has inspired progressive, anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist struggles in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. Blank cheques are provided for the apartheid state of Israel as well as Islamist and theocratic dictatorships like Saudi Arabia. These countries act as strongmen of imperialism in the Middle East against Iran and other countries, crush progressive alternatives such as secularism and encourage chauvinistic and medieval ideologies, even terrorism against Arab peoples across the region. Mercenary Islamist terrorism rubber-stamped in Saudi Arabia, armed and funded by the West, has spread not only to Africa and Asia, but also to Europe where the resulting fear and hysteria have empowered right-wing chauvinists, who act as openly violent defenders of capitalist interests. In Ukraine, the West has similarly supported fascists, ultra-nationalists and their liberal allies. They have driven the Communist Party of Ukraine and other progressive forces underground with legal manipulation and violence

and plunged the country into a civil war targeting the Russian Ukrainian population, wrecking the country's economy and infrastructure in the process.

43. The imperialist clique reacts with either despair, indifference or anger towards the struggles for peace and progress around the world. The Koreans have made concrete steps towards demilitarisation, friendship and a united Korea, despite the efforts of the United States to keep them in a situation of military confrontation. South African Communists, progressives and trade unionists continue to build a new country out of the poisonous apartheid past and root out corruption. The Syrian government is close to defeating the last terrorist groups. The YCL applauds the people of these countries for choosing peace first and turning away from the dead-end road of subjugation by the imperialist camp.
44. The League must continue to build popular opposition and understanding in our country to undermine imperialism. This was ratified at our last Congress, outlining three prongs of the imperialist foreign policy of the British government: cooperation with the EU, NATO and the United States; dirty wars and interventions including arms sales in other countries such as Syria, Ukraine and Yemen; and the maintenance of the Trident nuclear weapons system. This Congress instructs the League to build its own anti-imperialist campaigns and events and participate in broad peace and solidarity organisations. Public work can link British imperialism's actions abroad to the nature of monopoly capitalism, the class struggle in our country and a humanitarian foreign policy for refugees and other peoples who are victims of Western imperialism. Consciousness of the anti-people and imperialist policies of the United States government provides an opportunity to link Donald Trump and US warmongering to British withdrawal from NATO.
45. The YCL offers solidarity to Kurdish forces involved in the defeat of ISIS and jihadist forces in Syria and Iraq including the international volunteers from around the world such as Britain's Bob Crow Brigade of the International Freedom Battalion. We support the right of the Kurdish people to national self-determination. We oppose the US-EU-NATO led attempts at the Balkanisation of the Middle East.

## **THE SOCIALIST CAMP**

46. The socialist camp including Cuba, China and Vietnam, continue to represent a beacon of democracy and progress for humanity. Congress expresses our solidarity with those across the world already advancing down the socialist path. Through the stunning achievements in those countries is indisputable evidence of the superiority of the socialist system and the importance of the vanguard role of the Communist Party. Since the destruction of the Soviet Union the other countries of the socialist camp have remained a growing anti-imperialist bulwark to resist the reckless aggression of the USA and NATO.
47. Cuba and Vietnam have offered a model of sustainable and humanitarian growth to developing countries across the globe. China has played a leading role in assisting third world countries to develop their own economies, investing in infrastructure, free from the predatory loans of the western capitalist powers. Congress notes the need for the incoming Executive Committee to better coordinate our solidarity work with the socialist countries and our efforts to resist imperialist and anti-communist propaganda.
48. Congress calls on the incoming Executive to expand the work of the League in publicising the achievements of the socialist countries among British young workers.

## **ANTI-REVISIONISM AND ANTI-COMMUNISM**

49. Since before the fall of the Soviet Union, revisionism and anti-communist sentiment have been used against communists internationally. This revisionism has led to increased dangers placed upon our comrades abroad. As communists we must provide as much support as we can to our international allies, with particular focus on the former Warsaw Pact states as they have seen the sharpest rise in hostility.
  
50. We must challenge the lies spread and become a vessel to highlight the oppressions being placed upon our comrades, draw attention to protect those who are fighting for the truth and highlight the hypocrisy of bourgeois politics. Our strength comes in unity. We must counter anti-communist propaganda against actual existing socialist states. As the League we must draw stronger ties with our allies offering support where we can give it and encouraging aid where they need it most.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY**

51. The state of the world's ecosystem and sustainability is reaching a critical point due to climate change and increasing greenhouse gas emissions alongside environmental degradation and habitat loss. It is becoming increasingly likely that in the near future the planet will no longer be able to support human civilisation. Globally, capitalism has vastly accelerated the destruction of the natural environment and accelerated the extinction of many species and indigenous cultures. Regardless of however capitalism may be modified, it will still incentivise the exchange of long-term ecological stability and humanity's survival in return for short-term profits. Capitalism has proven itself unable and unwilling to save our planet, the cradle of humanity.
  
52. In Britain this wilful destruction of our planet is demonstrated by the recent government decision, at the behest of transnational energy companies, to end the moratorium on fracking. Britain's young Communists condemn this unconscionable decision which threatens the safety of local communities and water supplies as well as increasing greenhouse gas emissions. This Congress acknowledges that only Socialism can allow for balanced and sustainable management of the Earth's natural resources for the benefit of all its inhabitants, in addition to the need to act now to stop climate change before the devastating effects become irreversible.
  
53. The YCL also seeks to highlight the environmental impact of many of the EU's policies, most notably the common fisheries and the common agricultural policies, causing waste, mismanagement, over-fishing and stockpiling of foodstuffs to inflate prices. The YCL also stands in solidarity with the growing numbers of climate refugees, particularly on the continent of Africa. The YCL recognises that the situation is certain to spread in terms of numbers of people and geographical regions affected and calls for aid to climate refugees.

## **NOT ONE STEP BACK**

54. As the only Marxist-Leninist organisation for young people in Britain, the YCL offers hope for a better future and principles that are missing from our degenerated and warped capitalist society. We fight for strategies that win people's confidence in our ideas and ability to lead the way forwards for our class and generation in small but substantial steps.
55. Each member of the League must be responsible for leading the League forwards in the struggle against the ruling class, with the help of the incoming Executive Committee. Congress calls on each and every member of the YCL to be the change that they want to see in our organisation. Members must create new and consolidate existing branches, districts, regions and nations of the YCL, and recruit more members. Above all, members must build resistance in whatever capacities they are able, bearing in mind the finalisation of the Brexit deal, the next general election and worldwide uncertainties. What's more, the threat of another capitalist crash that will accelerate and destabilise events always looms around the corner.
56. The new challenges and threats to Britain's working people are inspiring a whole new generation of Communists and other progressives to lead the struggle, whether in the League or other political parties or campaigns. Each member of the League is assuming their historic task – with each new activity, campaign, and event, and with each new branch and each new member. We are agitating and educating at school, in work, on our campuses and in our communities. We are fighting for an independent and sovereign foreign policy and a People's Brexit and we are rallying and uniting the whole working class in the struggle against British imperialist monopoly capital.
57. We are part of a truly global political movement and tradition. For the first time since the defeats beginning in the 1980s, before many of our members were even born, momentum is shifting back to the socialist camp. Across the planet, Communists are on the march. In our hands and our hearts is the birth of a new world based on cooperation and human freedom. Communism is the youth of the world. Congress demands that no member of the League shrink from their duty to our class and to humanity.

**HALT THE RULING CLASS OFFENSIVE!**

**BUILD THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE!**

**FOR PEACE, JOBS AND SOCIALISM IN OUR LIFETIME!**