

NEW YORK SOCIALIST PROJECT



Unity — Debate — Education — Action

WHO WE ARE

WE ARE A GROUP OF SOCIALISTS FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND TRADITIONS. We believe that there is a pressing need for a socialist formation that is *different* from anything that presently exists, a formation that is open to any individual or established group that is genuinely interested in building a stronger and more unified socialist presence in New York.

WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT?

WE BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE MANY UNAFFILIATED SOCIALISTS and some socialist groups who would welcome an opportunity to work collectively and to debate the key issues of our time. *There is presently no formation in the City that makes this kind of collaboration its number one priority.* And yet, all over the world socialists are beginning to work together more closely. Fresh ways of thinking have led to new partnerships and many old conflicts have been set aside. This process—which some have called “regroupment”—has made socialist politics more visible and more appealing. In countries like Brazil, Italy, Portugal, and Scotland, a more cohesive and united socialist movement has produced quite impressive results.

The New York Socialist Project openly identifies with these initiatives and will attempt to learn from them. Our hope is that—together—we can lay the groundwork for a new type of inclusive socialist politics rooted in open debate, education, and a shared and collaborative approach to political activity.

WHAT THE PROJECT WILL ATTEMPT TO DO

Create a venue

The Project will organize a monthly discussion on a key issue with suggested reading, guest speaker/s, and a list serve for an ongoing exchange of views. All those participating in the Project will have a say in determining both the choice of subjects and potential speakers.

Recruit to socialism, build a membership

The Project will be a membership organization, open to anyone who considers themselves to be a socialist or anticapitalist. (The rights and responsibilities of membership will be decided collectively) Members of existing socialist groups are invited to join, although no one will be asked or expected to drop their existing affiliations. Project members will be encouraged to recruit others.

Be a pro-active force for socialist unity

The Project will actively attempt to build socialist unity in New York. Furthermore, it will circulate news and materials from those engaged in similar efforts in other parts of the United States and in other countries.

Engage in campaigns and actions

Project members will have complete freedom to involve themselves in any struggle or campaign of their choice, or to focus on any issue that they feel is important. And participating individuals or groups are invited to solicit the help of anyone involved in the Project. However, Project members may agree to support existing campaigns, or to generate new ones, *in the name of the group*, as a means of raising the profile of the Project.

ALL CAN BENEFIT

WE MAINTAIN THAT EVERYONE ON THE EXISTING LEFT CAN BENEFIT from being actively engaged in this kind of formation. Individual socialists who are not members of any particular group or current will have somewhere to discuss issues and engage in work with other socialists. Existing groups can promote their own materials, test their positions and analyses in open discussion, and even recruit new people to their respective organizations. And, perhaps most important, new people attracted to socialism will see socialists of different persuasions finally working together despite differences of opinion, and hopefully in the kind of numbers that can have a measurable impact on the political life of the City.

A VISION OF SOCIALISM

THIS KIND OF INCLUSIVE FORMATION WILL CREATE A VENUE where each of us can make a contribution to the development of a clear and coherent socialist vision, one that can once again ignite the imagination of millions. This is a task that will need to be undertaken by many people spread across the entire planet. But local socialists also have to address the real and pressing problems here in New York, and offer proposals that are far-reaching and clearly distinct from liberal opinion.

Differences among socialists over tactics, perspectives, analyses are all understandable and these should be debated in a way that deepens the comprehension of all involved. These differences, therefore, need not be destructive, but can strengthen our movement if we all agree to create an environment that welcomes discussion and an openness to ideas.

THE STAKES ARE HIGH

NEW YORK CITY IS THE CAPITAL OF CAPITAL, and a strong socialist presence here on the streets, in the many and varied social movements, and in public discourse is, for this reason alone, critically important. Given the visibility and political significance of New York, any success building a new and effective socialist politics here will attract the attention of socialists in other cities. Moreover, the City (and State) is presently facing a budget crisis that is more serious than at any time since the mid-1970s. Racist attacks on immigrants and all communities of color continue. Education is being cut and working class students in CUNY and SUNY face steep tuition hikes. The list is endless.

WE'RE INVITING YOU

1 If you agree with the need for the kind of formation proposed here, and you would like to become a *founding member*, then please forward you name and contact information to: socialistproject@whatever.com. Unless you prefer otherwise, we will add your name to the list of founding members at the foot of this statement.

2 Existing socialist, left, and anti-capitalist groups are invited to *co-sponsor* the Project. Please email socialistproject@whatever.com Representatives/members of such groups who would like to discuss the initiative in more detail, please call 718 369 2998.

In comradeship,