

**DIRECT**

Industrial Workers of the World

**ACTION**

An Injury To One - Is An Injury To All!

# BLM Events: Apologies Ring Hollow

The Industrial Workers of the World Ireland Branch rejects the official apology from the Police Service of Northern Ireland's (PSNI) chief constable Simon Byrne, issued after a report from the Police Ombudsman found that the policing of the two Black Lives Matter rallies in Derry and Belfast had been 'unfair and discriminatory'.

On Saturday 6th June 2020, following the brutal murder of George Floyd by the hands of police, Black Lives Matter held events in both Derry and Belfast at which the PSNI selectively targeted and harassed activists.

The report into the PSNI operation found that confidence among Black Asian Minority Ethnic communities had been "severely damaged".

A spokesperson for the Industrial Workers of the World Ireland Branch said: "For the IWW the announcement by the PSNI today, apologising for their blatant acts of racial harassment and discrimination rings hollow.

"Today seems to have been a good day for the cops to bury bad news, amongst a number of major news stories from Covid lockdown to Brexit.

"They have been caught out and have been rightly publicly challenged by civil rights lawyers and activist.

"For our part, as a union, the IWW demands that all fines issued on June 6 2010 are immediately scrapped and funds reimbursed.



"All pending charges against participants in the Black Lives Matter solidarity actions must also be formally scrapped. As a grassroots union, created by and for working class people, we have no faith in the PSNI protecting working class people's rights or lives, nor the laws of their judicial system to which they adhere to.

"Only working class self-organisation and solidarity, within our communities, our workplaces and on our streets can protect our own interests in the face of continual sectarian and racial division."

## HELP OUT WITH IRELAND MEMBERS SURVEY: DON'T FORGET TO PLAY YOUR PART!

The Industrial Workers of the World Ireland Branch has continued to grow over the last number of years thanks to the participation of an active membership. As a growing grassroots union we now have members across the entire island of Ireland in almost every county.

Over the coming weeks, each member will be sent an email from the IWW titled: **IRELAND MEMBERS SURVEY**. This survey will take details of members thoughts on how you would like our union to build in the future. It is important that you as a member take a few minutes to complete and return it.

As a radical grassroots union it vital to have your thoughts and ideas to ensure continued direction, growth and development as we move forward.

The **MEMBERS SURVEY** will roughly take 10 minutes in order to complete with a series of easy tick box questions as well as space to add your own thoughts or ideas on the IWW and its future.

**\* Please encourage fellow workers in your area to complete and return the IRELAND MEMBERS SURVEY!**



# FIGHT BACK AGAINST RACIST ATTACKS ON MIGRANT WORKERS!

The Industrial Workers of the World Derry Branch has hit out at growing harassment of - and racist attacks on - migrant workers in recent months.

As Covid-19 restrictions ease for now, what little relief was there for precarious, migrant and unhoused workers has disappeared and we have seen an increase in intolerance and intimidation.

Following the arrest and deportation of a Romanian migrant citizen in Derry last week, a spokesperson for the IWW said: "This is a land which once happily extended a warm céad míle fáilte to everyone just as Irish migrants have been welcomed in other countries throughout the world. However what has been happening in recent times is that this warm welcome only extends to those who are white and wealthy.

"Attacks on migrants come from many quarters. Be that from the political establishment or their courts in the form of harassment, arrests, petty fines, detentions or deportations - or from the press and in public forums on social media.

"Similarly too, migrant workers are attacked in the workplace

through unfair practices that curtail their ability to unionise, preventing them from defending their right to equal pay or health and safety, and keeping them isolated or intimidated by ruthless bosses only interested in their profit margins.

"With the ongoing financial crises caused by Covid-19 and the uncertainties of a post-Brexit future, structural racism and inequality that our class face will only get worse and the most vulnerable minorities will feel its impact most keenly.

"We call on workers and the trade union movement to mobilise to protect and support the most disadvantaged in our society as it is clear those in positions of power have another agenda."



**MIGRANT RIGHTS ARE  
WORKERS RIGHTS!**



**NO ONE IS ILLEGAL**

## IWW 630 IU HOLD ONLINE SOCIAL

Ireland musical and artist wobblers held their first ever online social event last month which was a great success. Members of the newly established **Industrial Union 630 (Performing Arts, Recreation & Tourism)** took part in organising the online event mid-December via ZOOM.

The event itself displayed a variety of music from IWW members ranging across folk, jazz, punk and others - music to fan the flames of discontent. There was also readings from two members who are writers.

One member described the event as a successful first for IU 630 Ireland members. *"I thought the event was a successful first for the IU 630. It was just another way to end what was a difficult year for everyone. The event itself was used as another way for members to get to know one another in a less formal way such as a branch meeting."*

If you are involved in the world of arts then please take part in the next IU 630 meeting which is held monthly online.

Further details will be issued in Ireland Wobchat channel.

## New Date: Let's Talk About Sexual Harassment Workshop

There is now a new date for the 'Let's talk about sexual harassment workshop'. It will be on Tuesday January 12th @7pm. Fellow Workers who are interested in attending **MUST** register as soon as possible, as low registration numbers was the reason it was cancelled previously. For those of you reading about this for the first time, please see below the text about the workshop. The new link is also in the text below.

The workshop, which is kindly facilitated by Belfast community group Raise your Voice, explores the issue of sexual harassment. Do we recognise it when we see it or experience it? How common is it? Where does it fit into the larger problem of sexual violence?

The format is online interactive, with polls and quizzes and an opportunity for discussion at the end. Participants may join anonymously if they wish, so there is no need to put your camera on and replies to interactive sections are kept anonymous.

To register please use the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-talk-about-sexual-harassment-tickets-133089059961>

If you require more information you can contact: [equalities.ireland@iww.org.uk](mailto:equalities.ireland@iww.org.uk)

## JOIN THE IWW!

Don't forget the easiest way to become a member of the IWW in your area is by going online to the link below.

We already have active members in towns and cities across Ireland, both north and south, such as Dublin, Athlone, Cork, Derry, Belfast, Galway, Newry, Dungiven, Clare, Waterford, Donegal, Newcastle, Limerick, Portadown, Kildare and Tralee.

Our membership is wide and varied which so far includes workers in the public sector, construction, students, musicians, administration, artists, community, unemployed and hospitality workers:

[www.iww.org.uk/join](http://www.iww.org.uk/join)

## IWW CONTACTS IN YOUR AREA

Members in each area meet each month to discuss, support and organise activity locally.

You can contact your closest area organiser at the following email nearest you or online via Facebook or Twitter:

**Dublin:** [dublin@iww.org.uk](mailto:dublin@iww.org.uk)

**Derry:** [derry@iww.org.uk](mailto:derry@iww.org.uk)

**Belfast:** [belfast@iww.org.uk](mailto:belfast@iww.org.uk)

**Cork:** [cork@iww.org.uk](mailto:cork@iww.org.uk)

**Galway:** [galway@iww.org.uk](mailto:galway@iww.org.uk)

**Email:** [ireland@iww.org.uk](mailto:ireland@iww.org.uk)

**Online:** [onebigunion.ie](http://onebigunion.ie)

[facebook.com/iwwireland](https://facebook.com/iwwireland)

