

# The Organizer

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY USA NATIONAL OFFICE

MARCH 2013

## Socialist Party USA Points of Agreement

The following points represent the key ideas of agreement of the Socialist Party USA.

- 1) The Socialist Party is a democratic socialist organization. We see socialism as a new social and economic order in which workers and consumers control production and community residents control their neighborhoods, homes and school and the production of society is used for the benefit of all humanity, not the private profit of a few.
- 2) We see the working class as in a key and central position to fight back against the ruling class and its power. The working class is the major force worldwide that can lead the way to a socialist future – to a real radical democracy from below.
- 3) We stand in opposition to all forms of oppression including but not limited to racism, sexism and homophobia.
- 4) We are a “multi-tendency” organization. We orient ourselves around our principles and develop a common program, but our members have various underlying philosophies and views of the world. Therefore we reject vanguardism and democratic centralism.
- 5) We advocate for independent political action outside the Democratic and Republican parties.
- 6) Our tactics in the struggle for radical democratic change reflects our ultimate goal of a society founded on principles of egalitarian, non-exploitative and non-violent relations among all people and between all peoples.

## NOTICES:

**Call for Applications to Serve on the International Relations Committee.** The IRC is responsible for communication with international organizations and operates under NC guidance. **Deadline April 30, 2013**

**Call For Convention Location Proposals.** State or Local organizations interested in hosting the 2013 SPUSA National Convention are encouraged to apply. Must be “east of the Mississippi” on a weekend between Oct 19 & Nov 17. **Deadline April 30, 2013**

**Send all applications to [natsec@socialistparty-usa.org](mailto:natsec@socialistparty-usa.org) or SPUSA 339 Lafayette St #303 NY, NY 10012**

*The Organizer* is the newsletter of the Socialist Party USA National Office. Subscriptions are free to members and sustainers. For bulk copies contact the SPUSA National Office at 339 Lafayette St. #303 New York, NY 10012. The Editor is Greg Pason, National Secretary.

## Spring 2013 Plan of Action



The Socialist Party has committed to a full slate of actions and events this spring & early summer.

**March 2013: International Women's Day/ Socialist-Feminism Education Campaign** The Party will organize events around International Women's

Day on the weekend of March 8 -10th and continue through March promoting socialist feminism as a key principle of the Socialist Party USA.

**Resources:** The Socialist-Feminism issue of the socialist is on-line now and individual articles have been laid out for printing. [www.socialistparty-usa.net/the-socialist.html](http://www.socialistparty-usa.net/the-socialist.html) The Party's International Women's Day website is also up [socialistparty-usa.net/international-womens-day-2013.html](http://socialistparty-usa.net/international-womens-day-2013.html)

On **April**, the Party will join the **National Anti-Drone Days of Action.**

**April 4 – 6: Drone Manufacturing -**

Organizers around the country are encouraged to identify drone manufac-

turing facilities in their regions and organize demonstrations, teach-ins and other actions calling for an end to drone attacks and an end to the manufacture of weaponized and surveillance drones.

**April 16- 18: Drone Research/Training -** Organizers around the country are encouraged to identify colleges and universities in their regions doing drone research and/or training of drone pilots and to call for an end to research and training related to drone warfare.

**April 27 – 28: Drone Bases -** Organizers around the country will be encouraged to organize protests at drone bases in their regions.

**NO DRONES**

From **May Day** through early **June**, the Party will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the reconstitution of the Socialist Party USA. The anniversary celebration will kick off with a press conference on April 30<sup>th</sup> For more info check out the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary webpage at:



[www.socialistparty-usa.net/spusa-40th-anniversary.html](http://www.socialistparty-usa.net/spusa-40th-anniversary.html)

# International Women's Day

## About IWD History

**1909:** The Woman's National Committee of the Socialist Party calls for a national day of protest on the last Sunday of February to support women's suffrage in the context of the broader movement for women's rights, workers' rights, and social justice.

**1910:** The Women's Congress of the Socialist International meets in August in Copenhagen and approves the call for an international day of protest. The specific date is left open to the participants in each country.

**1913:** Russian socialists begin celebrating International Women's Day. Their intention is to organize rallies for the same day as that set in the United States, but since the Julian calendar lags several days behind the Western calendar, the events take place in early March by our reckoning.

**1917:** The date of March 8 for International Women's Day gets established when tens of thousands of women, demonstrating on that day in Petrograd, the capital of Russia, spark a revolution that topples three centuries of czarist autocracy.

**1979:** In Tehran, women's rights activists celebrate International Women's Day by taking to the streets to demand equality for women and to protest the reactionary order of the Ayatollah Khomeini calling for all Iranian women to wear the veil.

## About IWD and Peace

In August 1914, World War I erupted, leading to the slaughter of millions. International Women's Day became a focal point for those calling for an immediate end to the war. On February 23, 1917, (March 8 on the new calendar), tens of thousands of Russian women celebrated International Women's Day by surging onto the streets of Petrograd demanding peace.

These militant protests led to the downfall of the czar and, soon afterward, Russia's decision to leave the war. Senseless war continues. Once again we are told that military action in Iraq and Afghanistan is intended to promote freedom and peace, and once again we know the real reasons are about power and wealth. As we demonstrate our opposition to war and occupation this and every International Women's Day, we commemorate the heroic actions of the women in Petrograd in 1917 and the women in Tehran in 1979. In doing so, we maintain an unbroken link in the struggle for peace, justice, and equality.

## About IWD and Power

International Women's Day is about power: theirs and ours. Their power puts courts and legislatures in charge of whether or not a woman can have an abortion. Our power leaves this decision

where it belongs: with the woman herself. Their power dictates a profit-driven "managed care" health care system, at the service of the health insurance industry and transnational pharmaceutical companies. Our power lies in grassroots organizing, for a national system of universal health care under community control.

Their power rests in greedy corporations owned by an ultra-wealthy few that deplete the world's resources and exploit its people. Our power depends on building a mass movement for a new society rooted in cooperation, equality, and workers' control.

Their power dumps toxic waste sites in our poorest communities-of-color, and builds dams that destroy the livelihoods of countless farmers in our poorest countries. Our power demands environmental justice. Their power busts unions. Our power is at our worksites, talking with our co-workers about the connections between workers' rights, human rights, and women's rights. Their power is "welfare reform" that pushes women into low-paid, dead-end jobs, and their children into inadequate child care. Our power is the fight for the creation of good jobs with pay equity and benefits, and the full funding of quality child care, education, and social services.

Their power dupes young men and women into signing away their rights and often their lives for the sake of U.S. imperialism. Our power gets the word out on alternatives to "jobs" in the military and calls for huge cuts in the military budget. Their power blames hunger and poverty on over-population. Our power blames hunger and poverty on policies and practices consciously designed to protect and enrich the global capitalist class, in particular the agribusiness of the most developed countries.

Their power gets channeled through politicians whose primary allegiance is to the economic requirements of global capitalism. Our power gets exerted through political action completely independent of both mainstream, capitalist parties. Their power resides in exploitation, inequality, domination, violence, and deception. Our power resides in cooperation, compassion, respectful communication, justice, and collective action.

**March 8th -- International Women's Day-- is our day.** It's our opportunity to come together to speak out for a world where democratic socialist feminist values and programs enable people to live lives in ways they never will be able to under capitalism and patriarchy. That's the truth. That's our power.

---

## ***The Organizer***

**c/o Socialist Party USA  
339 Lafayette St. #303  
New York, NY 10012**