



CAMPAIGNING FOR FULL EQUALITY

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The European Union is still a very unequal place, where women are grossly underrepresented in decision-making, where people with disabilities are regularly denied full access to education, services and jobs, and where some member state governments still believe it is acceptable to discriminate against people based on their national origin, religion, sexual orientation, family status or age.

Sinn Féin believes that the achievement of full equality of all people within the EU regardless of gender, ethnic origin (including nomadic status), national origin, sexual orientation, disability, religious or political belief, family status, socio-economic status or age, must become a higher priority objective of EU policy. The EU must lead by example on protection from discrimination and the promotion of equality.

Sinn Féin MEPs will make campaigning for equality a priority here at home and in Strasbourg and Brussels. We will work for:

- the introduction of a mechanism for equality-proofing all EU law and policy
- the levelling-up of equality rights protections throughout the EU
- full transposition of the three existing EU Equality Directives into domestic law (the Employment Equality Directive, the Gender Equal Treatment Directive and the Racial Equality Directive), including their application to non-nationals
- the introduction of more comprehensive EU anti-discrimination legislation with similar scope to the Racial Equality Directive, including:
 - a new comprehensive Gender Equality Directive
 - a new comprehensive Disability Directive
 - a new Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgendered Equality Directive
- redress of the persistent democratic deficit caused by the underrepresentation of women on EU decision-making bodies through:
 - the introduction of binding gender parity measures in the next EU Treaty
 - the appointment of at least 40% women to the next EU Commission
 - the appointment of a qualified woman as President of the Commission
 - the adoption of similar equal representation measures by the new European Parliament
- implementation of all the demands raised in Sinn Féin's Women's Manifesto Women in an Ireland of Equals/Cearta na mBan
- the extension of existing EU legislation to include a specific prohibition on discrimination on the basis of gender identity (transgender), in-line with the ruling of the European Court of Justice
- full recognition in EU law of same-sex partnerships and a revision of the EU Directive on the Free Movement of Citizens and their Families to reflect this recognition
- a revision of the Television Without Frontiers Directive to include provision for people with sensory disabilities to guarantee their equal access via provisions such as subtitling, signing, and audiodescription, including an action plan with targets

CHAMPIONING WORKERS' RIGHTS

Despite gains made for workers over the lifetime of the EEC/EU, the objective of full employment has not been achieved. Over 50 million people are unemployed in the EU. There are also more than 10 million working poor. This situation must change.

In the rush to increase competitiveness under the EU economic policy, EU workers' rights are once again under threat. Sinn Féin believes that the European Union must play a greater role in the enhancement of workers' rights and trade union rights.

We are also deeply concerned about the working conditions of many migrant workers in EU member states including Ireland. The EU must ensure non-discriminatory work practices and respect for these workers' human rights.

FULL EMPLOYMENT AND BETTER JOBS

We welcome the EU's commitment to "more and better jobs" and full employment in a knowledge-based economy. However, we share the concerns of the trade union movement that these objectives have been made subservient to corporate sector demands for labour market "flexibility".

EU employment policy must address the needs of the working poor to make sure more, better quality, better paid jobs are available to enable all workers to earn a living wage.

Sinn Féin supports an employment policy which can bring about an improvement in the living and working conditions of workers in Ireland and across the EU based on key values such as respect for the dignity of individuals, respect for equality, workplace safety and access to life long learning.

Sinn Féin MEPs will work for:

- full employment based on high quality and stable jobs
- a living wage for workers across Ireland and Europe
- the raising of working and living conditions to the highest equal standard across the EU
- the introduction of minimum standards to increase both quality of work and the protection of workers
- positive incentives including training, support and career guidance, rather than forcing people to accept poor quality low paid employment

ENABLING ALL WORKERS TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT

People living in poverty as a result of unemployment want to work. However, many of them cannot as a result of poor education, carer responsibilities for children or elderly family members, barriers to access for elderly workers, people with disabilities and asylum seekers, or long-term and generational unemployment.

Enabling all workers to take up employment is the central goal of Sinn Féin employment policy.

In keeping with this, Sinn Féin MEPs will work for EU-wide standards on:

- ensuring workers' access to life-long learning and re-training
- equal access for all to good quality childcare for all
- adaptation of social protection systems to the needs of part-time workers and other atypical workers, including single parents and others caring for dependents, and guaranteed social security rights for atypical workers
- a specific strategy to tackle disproportionately high rates of unemployment among disabled workers, including effective supports for the public and private sector to recruit people with disabilities, effective enforcement mechanisms and remedies regarding the employment quota for the recruitment of people with disabilities in the public sector, and comprehensive needs assessments for people with disabilities to direct them to the appropriate service around their education, training and employment needs
- the right of asylum seekers to work (and pay taxes) while their applications are in process

ENHANCED RIGHTS PROTECTIONS FOR ALL WORKERS

Enhancing workers rights and entitlements will ensure a better quality of life for workers and their families.

Achieving such improvements requires universal recognition of trade unions as the workers' representatives, and their coordination on an EU-wide level.

While the Taoiseach in a reply to Sinn Féin stated that trade union recognition is "not a major item" on the EU agenda, Sinn Féin will not sit back and accept this. Sinn Féin MEPs will fight for:

- mandatory trade union recognition
- upward equalisation of statutory redundancy entitlements across the EU
- increased protection of workers from instability in their jobs as a result of sub-contracting or privatisation
- improved working conditions and health and safety at the workplace including the full implementation of the

Community Strategy on Health and Safety 2002-2006

- revision of the EU Working Time Directive to remove the individual opt-out which has had detrimental effects on the health and safety of millions of workers, as well as on their right to a work-life balance
- new working time reduction measures including a 35-hour work week and increased flexibility in working hours
- increased parental protections including the right to paid parental leave and the maintenance of pensions and social security rights during career breaks
- ending gender discrimination and the gender pay gap
- full compliance with the EU Employment Equality Directive to ensure an end to age discrimination in the workplace
- protection for the rights of migrant workers through the adoption of the UN and ILO Conventions on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families by the European Union and member states
- equal access to social protections for all EU and legal non-EU migrant workers across the EU
- equal rights for temporary workers including passage of the EU Directive on Temporary Agency Workers which would regulate and guarantee equal treatment in employment conditions (this measure is presently being blocked by the Irish and British Governments)

ELIMINATING POVERTY

People have the right to live free of poverty. As an organised bloc of some of the wealthiest states in the world, the EU has the resources to guarantee this fundamental socio-economic right at least to its own population.

Nevertheless more than 68 million people in the enlarged European Union live in poverty today.

Since its formation, the EU has primarily concerned itself with stimulating economic growth and free market competition in the belief that this was sufficient to eradicate poverty. But the widening poverty gap under the Celtic Tiger economy disproves this theory. Between 1994 and 2000 the number of people living in poverty in the 26 Counties rose to nearly a quarter of the population. In 2004, while the 26 County state is the fourth wealthiest in the world, it has the lowest level of social spending and the highest poverty rate in the EU. In the north, the situation is, if anything, worse. Thirty eight percent of children live in households in poverty.

Job creation and economic growth on their own are not sufficient to tackle poverty. Measuring prosperity in terms of economic growth without taking into account how the wealth created by workers is distributed is a useless exercise. In the EU, the richest 20% of the population receive five times the total income of the bottom 20%.

The increasing numbers of working poor in Ireland and other EU member states are testament to the fact that low-paid, poor quality employment does not necessarily reduce poverty. One fifth of Irish households living in poverty are headed by people who are working but earning low wages and overburdened by the Government's increasing use of double taxation and stealth charges.

The present situation is unacceptable. Eradicating poverty should be a top EU priority. The needs of the poor and disadvantaged must come before the needs of the wealthy and big business. While we remain committed to the preservation of national sovereignty and independence, we believe that the EU has a coordinating role to play in a genuinely redistributive economic system that has equality and social justice at its core.

As a matter of urgent priority, Sinn Féin MEPs will fight for:

- agreement of EU wide targets and timeframes for poverty reduction and elimination
- agreement of an EU wide target and timeframe for the elimination of homelessness
- poverty-proofing of all EU law and policy
- a renewed Social Exclusion Action Programme that takes into account the needs of the new member states
- an end to EU restrictions on borrowing for investment in capital projects aimed at providing improved public services such as hospitals and schools
- increased protection for public services from privatisation to ensure access to healthcare, education, housing, childcare and eldercare as essential basic rights
- agreed EU minimum standards for social protection and combating poverty and social exclusion
- incorporation of the social and economic rights outlined in the European Social Charter into the body of EU law
- Irish social spending increases to at least the EU average

DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

The European Union must lead by example on the protection and promotion of human, civil and political rights. However the present reality is that 13 of the 15 established member states tolerate domestic human rights violations according to Amnesty International - particularly impunity for excessive force by police, and allowing degrading conditions of detention. Sinn Féin believes that the elimination of human rights abuses within the EU must become a higher priority objective of EU policy.

Present EU policy is fixated on security to the detriment of freedom, justice and rights. This fixation is embodied by the set of draconian measures that make up the so-called EU Anti-Terrorism Roadmap (including the common definition of terrorist offences, the EU Arrest Warrant, and the establishment of Joint Investigation Teams).

Sinn Féin opposes present attempts to create an EU security and surveillance state in the name of the so-called "War on Terrorism" because we do not believe that this approach which involves draconian measures will make people or communities in Ireland or the EU any safer.

We believe that security and rights are indivisible and we will challenge the EU securocrat agenda. We will actively oppose the evolving EU surveillance state including such measures as universal mandatory data retention and the introduction of biometric identifiers on passports, visas, and residency permits.

We reject the federalist trend towards incremental integration and centralisation of policing and judicial powers ending in the eventual establishment of EU police, an EU prosecutor, and an EU border guard. We believe that these are matters for sovereign states.

We also reject the accelerating impetus to harmonise criminal law between EU member states, not only on the basis of safeguarding a cornerstone of nation-state sovereignty, but because it is being done without first ensuring the harmonisation of rights protections - which currently vary widely from state to state. Sinn Féin cannot support criminal law harmonisation measures in the absence of equivalent protections.

In addition, the present EU Justice decision-making mechanisms lack democratic accountability.

For these reasons, it continues to be Sinn Féin's position that EU competence in (jurisdiction over) Justice and Home Affairs should be limited and the unanimity requirement should remain for decision-making in this area.

Sinn Féin would however welcome measures that harmonise human rights protections and safeguards between EU member states - just as we support the harmonising upwards between jurisdictions on this island and at a global level. For example, we would favourably consider a Common Migration and Asylum Policy that is fully human rights-compliant, consistent with international law, and based on best practice. Nothing less is acceptable. We oppose any attempts to use this policy to create a "race to the bottom" with regard to migration and asylum law and policy.

In view of our national experience of the positive capacity and potential of immigrants for a society, we oppose the evolution of Fortress Europe-style Common Migration and Asylum Policies for adoption under the Tampere Agenda. Sinn Féin has campaigned against the creation of a Fortress Europe, and will continue to do so.

Sinn Féin MEPs will work for:

- the introduction of human rights-proofing of all EU law and policy
- the establishment of an EU Human Rights Agency
- incorporation of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights into the next EU Treaty, including full enforceability
- domestic amending legislation to allow for proper full incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law in the 26 Counties
- an end to the blockage at Council of the proposed Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia
- Common Migration and Asylum Policies that are fully compliant with human rights instruments, that bring rights protections up to the highest standard, and that make the EU more open, inclusive and anti-racist
- Scrapping of the so-called EU Anti-Terrorism Roadmap and related measures and their replacement with a human rights-compliant strategy based on a "human security" approach - that is, one that seeks to prevent and resolve conflict by recognising and resolving the root causes of conflict
- development of an EU framework on corporate accountability with a strong human rights dimension

Sinn Féin MEPs will also keep a close "subsidiarity watch" on all measures proposing EU criminal law, policing, border control or judicial harmonisation.

PROTECTING PUBLIC SERVICES

People have the right of equal access to quality public services, which states have the responsibility to provide and which we pay for through our taxes.

It is wrong to make access to public services such as water, waste collection, health or education dependent on ability to pay or other factors, as so often happens when these services are privatised.

We must not allow the commercial interests of a few set to profit from privatisation of these services to subordinate the meeting of social need in the public interest.

EU restrictions on state formation of or investment in companies has created an environment where right-wing governments can push for privatisation of public services by pointing to the "failure" of public sector companies - whose development has in fact been hampered by EU regulations.

The alleged commitment to a "European Social Model" has failed to prevent a deepening divide between public and private services and this has directly contributed to growing levels of poverty and inequality in Ireland and the EU.

Sinn Féin is committed to maintaining and improving public services. We have repeatedly opposed attempts by various governments to privatisate state companies and services. Problems with public services in Ireland are the legacy of decades of under-funding. Spending on health and public transport is still far less than the EU average.

In successive EU Treaty debates Sinn Féin has continually expressed our concern about the threat to public services in the privatisation agenda at the heart of the EU integration process. This privatisation agenda has accelerated under the EU economic policy known as the Lisbon Agenda.

We do not accept that the EU has any right to impose a privatisation agenda on Ireland or on any member state.

Nor do we accept that the EU should have the right to impose methods of raising revenue on sovereign governments. We are opposed to the substitution of regressive "double taxes" in the form of service charges, levies or poll taxes. Progressive taxation is the proper means by which all people contribute to public services proportionately based on their ability to pay.

Sinn Féin MEPs will fight for:

- recognition that equal access to public services is a socio-economic right deserving of protection by the EU
- removal of privatisation imperatives from the Lisbon Agenda at its mid-term review in 2005
- easing of EU restrictions on state involvement in the provision of public services
- transparency and accountability to national parliaments of the Article 133 Committee, which advises and makes proposals to the EU Commission on the negotiation of international trade agreements: member states' proposals and voting records must be made public
- retention of unanimity in EU decision-making on trade policy in education, health and cultural and audio-visual services (libraries, museums, broadcasting etc.), which the Draft EU Constitution proposes to lift

FEACHTAS AR SON LÁN-CHOMHIONANNAS

Áit éagothrom go fóill é an tAontas Eorpach, mná go mór faoi ghannionadaíocht i ndéanamh cinntí, áit a bhfuil daoine le míchumais gan teacht iomlán acu go rialta ar oideachas, sheirbhísí agus phoist, áit a gcreideann cuid de na ballstáit go fóill nach miste leatrom a imirt ar dhaoine mar gheall ar bhunús náisiúnta, chlaonadh collaí, stádas teaglaigh nó aoise.

Creideann Sinn Féin go gcaithfidh beartas an AE tosaíocht chuspóireach níos airde a thabhairt do shroicheadh lánchomhionannas na ndaoine uile san AE, gan aird ar inscne (daoine trasinscneacha san áireamh), bunús eitneach, bunús náisiúnta, míchumas, creideamh reiligiúin nó polaitiúil, stádas teaghlaigh, stádas sochgheilleagrach nó aoise. Caithfidh an AE ceannaireacht a thabhairt trí shampla maidir le cosaint ar an leatrom agus cur chun cinn an chomhionannais.

Déanfaidh FPE Shinn Féin tosaíocht den fheachtasaíocht ar son an chomhionannais, abhus sa bhaile agus i Strasbourg agus sa Bhruiséil. Oibreoirímid i dtreo:

- tionscnamh meicnóchta do phrofú comhionannais gach dlí agus beartas de chuid an AE
- cothromú chosaintí cearta comhionannais ar fud an AE
- lánaistriú na dtrí Threoir Chomhionannais reatha AE isteach sa dlí baile (an Treoir Chomhionannais Fostaíochta, an Treoir Chomhchaithimh Inscne agus an Treoir Chomhionannais Chine), agus go bhfeidhmeofaí iad maidir le neamhnáisiúnaigh
- tionscnamh reachtaíochta frithleatstroim AE a bheadh níos cuimsithí agus raon aici mar atá ag an Treoir Chomhionannais Chine, agus san áireamh:
 - Treoir Chomhionannais Inscne, úr agus cuimsitheach
 - Treoir Mhíchumais, úr agus cuimsitheach
 - Treoir Chomhionannais Leispiach-Aerach-Déghnéasach-Trasinscneach
- cúiteamh sa dochar daonlathach leanúnach a thug gannionadaíocht na mban ar chomhlachtaí déanamh cinntí an AE trí:
 - tionscnamh bearta cothroime inscne ceangailteacha sa chéad Chonradh eile AE
 - ceapachán ar a laghad 40% de mhná sa chéad Choiisiún eile AE
 - ceapachán mná cáilithe ina hUachtaráin ar an Choiisiún
 - go nglacfadh an Pharlaimint Eorpach úr le bearta ionadaíochta den chineál céanna
- feidhmiú na n-éileamh uile a tógadh i bhForógra Ban Shinn Féin Mná in Éirinn na gComhionannach/Cearta na mBan
- leathnú reachtaíochta reatha an AE le cosc ar leith ar an leatrom a chuimsiú, ar bhonn chéannacht inscne (trasinscne), de réir rialúcháin Chúirt Cheartais na hEorpa
- lánaitheantas páirtíochtaí aoninscne i ndlí an AE agus athbhreithniú Threoir an AE ar Shaorghluaiseacht Shaoránach agus a dTeaghlaich, leis an aitheantas seo a léiriú
- athbhreithniú Threoir Theilifíse Gan Chríocha le soláthar do dhaoine le míchumais chéadfacha a chuimsiú, a chinnteoidh go mbeidh teacht cothrom acu trí sholáthairtí mar fhotheidliú, chomharthaíocht, chlosmhíniú, agus pleán gníomhaíochta le spriocanna san áireamh

FEACHTAS AR SON CHEARTA OIBRITHE

Ainneoin ar ghnóthaigh oibrithe le linn CGE/AE, níor baineadh amach go fóill cuspóir na lánfhostaíochta. Tá breis agus 50 milliún duine difhhostaithe san AE. Tá festa breis agus 10 milliún oibrí bocht. Caithfear deireadh a chur leis an chás seo.

Sa rás leis an iomaíocht a mhéadú faoi bheartas geilleagrach an AE, tá cearta oibrithe an AE arís faoi bhagairt. Creideann Sinn Féin go gcaithfidh páirt níos mó bheith ag an AE i gcur chun cinn chearta oibrithe agus chearta ceardchumann.

Táimid iontach buartha faoi na coinníollacha oibre atá ag go leor noibrithe imirce san AE agus in Éirinn féin. Caithfidh an AE cinnte a dhéanamh go bhfuil cleachtais oibre ann nach dhéanann idirdheallú, ach a léiríonn meas do chearta daonna na hoibrithe seo.

LÁNFHOSTAÍOCHT AGUS POIST NÍOS FEARR

Fáiltímid roimh cheangaltais an AE ar "níos mó post agus iad níos fearr" agus lánfhostaíocht i ngeilleagar eolasbhunaithe. Ach ar nós ghluaiseacht na gceardchumann, táimid buartha go bhfuil na cuspóirí seo ag géilleadh d'élimh na hearnála corparáidí a iarrann "solúbthacht" i margadh na hoibre.

Caithfidh beartas fostaiochta an AE aghaidh a thabhairt ar riachtanais na mbochtán oibre lena chinntíú go mbeidh níos mó post ar fáil, de chaighdeán agus de thuarastal níos airde, a ligfeadh d'oibrithe pá maireachtála a shaothrú. Tacaíonn Sinn Féin le beartas fostaiochta a thabharfadh feabhas i gcoinniollacha maireachtála agus oibre oibrithe in Éirinn agus ar fud an AE, bunaithe ar eochairluachanna mar dhinit daoine aonair, meas ar chomhionannas, sábháilteacht san áit oibre agus teacht ar fhoghlaím fhadsaoil.

Oibreoidh FPE Shinn Féin ar son:

- lánfhostaíocht bunaithe ar phoist ardchaighdeáin agus sheasmhacha
- pá maireachtála d'oibrithe in Éirinn agus ar fud na hEorpa
- feabhsú choinniollacha oibre agus maireachtála go dtí an caighdeán is airde ar fud an AE
- tionscnamh íoschaighdeán le cálíocht oibre agus cosaint oibrithe a mhéadú
- dreasachtaí deimhneacha, san áireamh, oiliúint, tacaíocht agus gairmthreoir, seachas tabhairt ar dhaoine glacadh le drochfhostaíocht ar phá íseal

CUMASÚ NA N-OIBRITHE UILE LE FOSTAIOCHT A GLACADH

Daoine atá ag maireachtáil sa bhochtaineacht mar gheall ar dhífhostaíocht, ba bhrea leo bheith ag obair. Ach tá mórán acu nach dtig leo mar gheall ar dhochoideachas, freagrachtaí cúramaí as páistí nó seanbhaill teaghlaigh, nó cosc ar aimsiú oibre do dhaoine le míchumais, iarrthóirí tearmainn nó difhostaíochtfadtréimhse nó gluine.

Is é lársprioc bheartas fostaiochta Shinn Féin, cumasú oibrithe chun glacadh le hobair.

Dá réir seo, oibreoidh FPE Shinn Féin i dtreo caighdeán ar fud an AE a chinnteoidh:

- go mbeidh teacht ag oibrithe ar fhoghlaím fhadsaoil agus athoiliúint
- teacht cothrom ag cách ar chúram páistí ardcháilíochta, beag beann ar ioncam
- oriúnú córas cosanta sóisialta do riachtanais oibrithe páirtaimseartha agus oibrithe eile neamhghhnácha, tuisimitheoirí singile, iad siúd a dhéanann cúram do chleithiúnaithe agus daoine spleách eile san áireamh, agus cearta leasa shóisialta ráthaithe d'oibrithe neamhghhnácha
- sainstraitéis le tabhairt faoi ardrátaí difhostaíochta i measc oibrithe míchumasacha. Go leanfaí sochair thánaisteacha oibrithe míchumasacha le feidhmiú éifeachtach meicníochtaí agus leigheas maidir le cuota fostaiochta d'earcú daoine le míchumais san earnáil phoiblí agus measúnuithe cuimsitheacha riachtanais do dhaoine le míchumais le iad a threorú go dtí an tseirbhís chuí maidir le hoideachas, oiliúint agus riachtanais fhostaíochta
- an ceart chun oibre (agus íocaíocht chánach) fad atá iarratais ar thearmann ar siúl

COSAINTÍ MÉADAITHÉ CEART DO GACH OIBRÍ

Cinnteoidh feabhsú cearta agus teidlíochtaí oibrithe cálíocht mhaireachtála níos fearr d'oibrithe agus dá dteaghlaigh.

Le feabhsuite mar sin a bhaint amach caithfear ceardchumainn a aithint mar ionadaithe oibrithe, agus iad a chomhordú ar fud an AE.

Cé go dúirt an Taoiseach, mar fhreagra ar cheist ó Shinn Féin, nach bhfuil aitheantas ar cheardchumann ina gné mhór ar chlár an AE, ní ghlaicfaidh Sinn Féin leis an seasmh sin.

Troidfidh FPE Shinn Féin ar son:

- aithint shainordaitheach cheardcumann
- cothromú in airde teidlíochtaí reachtúla iomarcaíochta ar fud an AE
- méadú cosanta d'oibrithe ar neamhsheasmhacht ina gcuid post mar gheall ar fhochonraitheoireacht nó phriobháidiú

- coinníollacha feabhsaithe oibre agus sláinte agus sábhálteachta san áit oibre agus san áireamh, lánfheidhmiú an Straitéis Phobail ar Shláinte agus Shábhálteacht 2002-2006
- athbhreithniú Threoir Am Oibre an AE a chuirfeadh deireadh leis an tarraingt siar duine aonair a d'imir drochthionchar ar shláinte agus shábhálteacht na milliún oibrí, agus ar a gceart chun cothrom saol oibre
- bearta úra laghdú sa tréimhse oibre agus san áireamh, seachtain oibre 35 uair agus solúbthacht mhéadaithe in uaireanta oibre
- cosaintí méadaithe do thuismitheoirí agus san áireamh, ceart ar shaoire tuismitheora agus coinneál pinsean agus cearta leasa sóisialta le linn sosanna gairme
- deireadh le leatrom inscne agus an phábhearna inscne
- cur i bhfeidhm iomlánTreoir an AE ar Chomhionannas Fostaíochta le deireadh a chur le hidirdheallú aoise sa láthair oibre
- cosaint cheart na n-oibrithe imirceacha trí ghlacadh le Coinbhinsiúin NA agus ILO ar Chearta Oibrithe Imirceacha agus a dTeaghlach ag an Aontas Eorpach agus ag na ballstáit
- aimsiú comhionann ar fud an AE ar chosaintí sóisialacha do gach oibrí imirceach AE agus oibrí imirceach dleathach nach den AE
- cearta comhionanna d'oibrithe sealadacha agus san áireamh, rith Threoir an AE ar Oibrithe Sealadacha Forais a rialódh agus a chinnteodh caitheamh cothrom i gcoinníollacha festaíochta (tá an beart seo á bhacadh anois ag Rialtais na hÉireann agus na Breataine)

DÍOTHÚ NA BOCHTAINEACHTA

Tá ceart ag daoine maireachtáil saor ón bhochtaineacht. Agus é ina bhloc eagraithe de chuid de na stáit is saibhre ar domhan, tá na hacmhainní ag an AE leis an cheart bunúsach sochgheilleagrach sin a ráthú dá phobal féin, ar a laghad.

Mar sin féin, tá breis agus 68 milliún duine san Aontas Eorpach méadaithe ag maireachtáil i mbochtaineacht inniu.

Ó bunaíodh é, ba é an obair ba mhó ag an AE fás geilleagrach a spreagadh agus iomaíocht shaormhargaidh, ag creidiúint gur leor sin leis an bhochtaineacht a dhíothú. Ach tá an teoiric sin bréagnaithe ag an bhearna leathnaitheach faoin Tíogar Ceilteach. Idir 1994 agus 2000 mhéadaigh líon na ndaoine atá beo sa bhochtaineacht sna 26 Chontae go dtí beagnach an ceathrú cuid den daonra. Sa bhliain 2004, agus stát na 26 Chontae ar an cheathrú ceann is saibhre sa domhan, is ann atá an leibhéal is ísle caiteachas sóisialta agus an ráta is airde bochtaineacht san AE.

Ní leor cruthú post agus fás geilleagrach ina n-aonar le tabhairt faoin bhochtaineacht. Cleachtadh fánach atá ann an mhaoin a thomhas i dtéarmaí fáis gheilleagraigh gan an dóigh a riartar an mhaoin a chruthaíonn oibrithe a thabhairt san áireamh. San AE, faigheann an 20% den daonra is saibhre cúig oireadh ioncaim iomlán an 20% ag an bhun.

An líon méadaitheach bochtán oibre in Éirinn agus i mballstáit eile an AE, is teist é nach gá go laghdódh festaíochta ísealpá, droch-cháilíochta an bhochtaineacht. Tá an cúigiú cuid de theaghlaigh na hÉireann atá beo sa bhochtaineacht faoi cheannas daoine atá ag obair ach ag saothrú tuarastail ísil agus faoi ró-ualach ag úsáid cánachais dhúbailte agus costais chalaoise an Rialtais.

Tá na dála láithreacha do-ghlactha. Ba chóir go mbeadh díothú na bochtaineachta ar bharr thosaíochtaí an AE. Ba chóir riachtanais na mbocht agus lucht míbhuntáiste a chur roimh riachtanais toicithe agus lucht mórghnó. Táimid ceangailte ar fad do chaomhnú ardcheannais agus neamhspleáchais náisiúnta, ach creidimid go bhfuil páirt chomhordaithe le himirt ag an AE i bhfíorchóras riarthá geilleagrach a bhfuil an comhionannas agus an ceartas sóisialta ina chroílár.

Mar ábhar géarthonsaíochta, troidfidh FPE Shinn Féin ar son:

- aontú spriocanna leathana agus frámaí ama AE leis an bhochtaineacht a laghdú agus a dhíothú
- aontú sprioc leathan agus frámaí ama AE leis an easpa dídine a dhíothú
- profú maidir le bochtaineacht gach beartas agus dlí de chuid an AE
- Clár Gníomhaíochta Eisiata Shóisialta athnuaithe a thógann san áireamh riachtanais na mballstát úr
- deireadh le srianta an AE ar aimsiú iasachtaí le hinfheistiú i dtograí caipitiúla dírithe ar sholáthar seirbhísí poiblí feabhsaithe mar ospidéil agus scoileanna
- cosaint mhéadaithe do sheirbhísí poiblí ar an phríobháidiú le haimsiú cúram sláinte, oideachais, tithíochta, cúram páistí agus seandaoine a chinntí, mar chearta bunúsacha daonna

- íoschaighdeáin aontaithe AE do chosaint shóisialta agus don troid in éadan na bochtaineachta agus an eisiata shóisialta
- corpráidiú na gceart sóisialta agus geilleagrách, a mhínítear sa Cháirt Shóisialta Eorpach, i gcorp dlí an AE
- méaduithe i gcaiteachais shóisialta na hÉireann a fhad le meán an AE ar a laghad

COSAINT CHEARTA DAONNA AGUS SAOIRSE SIBHIALTA

Caithfidh an tAontas Eorpach ceannaireacht a thabhairt trí shampla maidir le cosaint agus cothú cheart daonna, sibhialta agus polaitiúil. Ach is é firinne an scéil i láthair na huaire go nglacann 13 agus na 15 ballstát bunaithe le sárú ceart daonna baile, de réir Amnestie Idirnáisiúnta - go háirithe saoirse ó phonós as foréigean iomarcach ó phoílíni, agus as ceadú choinniollacha táireacha géibhinn. Creideann Sinn Féin go gcaithfidh diothú shárú ceart daonna san AE bheith ina cuspóir tosaíochta níos airde i mbeartas an AE.

Tá an beartas láithreach grinnithe ar an tszlándáil. le haimhleas na saoirse, an cheartaí agus na gceart. Tá an grinniú seo neadaithe sa tsraith bheart danartha a chomhdhéanann, mar a thugtar air Léarscáil Bhóithre Frith-sceimhlitheoireachta an AE (ar a bhfuil an cur síos coiteann ar choireanna sceimhlitheoireachta, Barántas Gabhála an AE agus bunú Comh-mheithle Fiosrúcháin).

Tá Sinn Féin ag cur in éadan na n-iarrachtaí láithreacha le Stát Slándála agus Faireacháin AE a chruthú in ainm an "Chogadh-ar-Sceimhlitheoireacht" mar dhea, nó ní chreidimid go ndéanfaidh an cur chuige seo, ina bhfuil bearta danartha, daoine nó pobail in Éirinn nó san AE a dhath níos sábháilte. Insíonn ár dtaití féin - stairiúil agus comhaimseartha - a mhalaírt dúinn.

Creidimid go bhfuil slándáil agus cearta doroinnthe, agus tabharfaimid dúshlán chlár oibre slánlathach an AE. Cuirfimid go tréan in éadan éabhlóid Stát Faireacháin an AE agus san áireamh, bearta mar coinneáil ordaitheach uilíoch sonraí, agus tionscnamh aitheantóirí bitmhéadracha ar phasanna, víosaí, agus cheadúnais chónaithe.

Cuirimid suas don chlaonadh cónascach céim ar chéim i dtreo comhtháthaithe, agus lárú cumhachtaí pólíneachta agus breithiúnacha nach mbeidh de thoradh orthu ach bunú phoílíni an AE, ionchúisitheoir an AE, agus garda teorann an AE. Creidimid gur cúrsaí iad seo do stáit ardcheannasacha.

Diúltáimid forsta don ghlúaiseacht luasaithe seo leis an dlí coiriúil a chomhréiteach idir ballstáit an AE, ní amháin ar mhaith le cloch choirnéil ardcheannais an náisiún-stáit a chosaint, ach go bhfuil sé á dhéanamh gan comhréiteach cosaintí na gceart a chinntíú - a athraíonn go leathan ó stát go stát. Ní thig le Sinn Féin tacú le bearta comhréitigh an dlí choirúil gan chosaintí coibhéiseartha.

Agus forsta, tá meicníochtaí reatha déanta cinntí Ceartais an AE gann i bhfreagracht dhaonlathach.

Ar na cúiseanna sin, is é seasamh Shinn Féin fós gur chóir go gcuirfí teorainn le hinniúlacht AE (dlínse ar) ar Cheartas agus Ghnóthaí Baile agus go mbainfeadh an riachtanas aontoilíochta le déanamh cinntí sa limistéar seo.

Ach d'fháilteodh Sinn Féin roimh bhearta a chomhréiteodh cosaintí agus bannaí idir ballstáit an AE - mar a thacaímid le comhréiteach suas idir dlínsí ar an oiléán seo agus ar leibhéal domhanda. Mar shampla, smaoineoimis le fabhar ar Chomhbheartas Imirce agus Tearmainn a réiteodh go hiomlán le cearta daonna, ag teacht leis an dlí idirnáisiúnta, agus bunaithe ar an chleachtas is fearr. Ní bheadh a dhath ní ba lú inghlactha. Cuirimid in éadan aon iarracht leis an bheartas seo a úsáid chun "rás go bun" a chruthú i dlí agus i mbeartas imirce agus tearmainn.

Mar gheall ar ár dtaití náisiúnta ar acmhainn agus ar fhéidearthacht imirceach do shochaí, cuirimid in éadan glacadh le Comhbheartais Imirce agus Tearmainn ar nós Dhaingean na hEorpa faoi Chlár Oibre Tampere. Rinne Sinn Féin feachtasaíocht in éadan Dhaingean na hEorpa, agus leanfaimid de sin.

Oibreoidh FPE Shinn Féin i dtreo:

- tionscnamh phrofú cearta daonna gach dlí agus beartas AE
- bunú Fhoras Ceart Daonna AE
- corpráidiú an Chairt Eorpach um Chearta Bunúsacha sa chéad Chonradh eile AE, lán-infheidhme san áireamh
- reachtaiocht leasaithe baile a cheadódh lánchorpráidiú ceart Choibhinsiún na hEorpa um Chearta Daonna sa dlí baile sna 26 Chontae
- deireadh leis an bhac sa Chomhairle ar an Chinneadh Creata ar Throid in Éadan Ciníochais agus Seineafóibe atá molta

- Comhbheartais Iimirce agus Tearmainn atá ag teacht go hiomlán le hionstraimí ceart daonna, a thabharfadhbh cosaintí na gceart a fhad leis an chaighdeán is airde, agus a dhéanfadhbh an Eoraip níos oscailte, cuimsithí agus frithchiníoch
- caitheamh ar leataobh an Léarscáil Bhóithre Fhrith-sceimhlitheoirreachta AE mar dhea, agus bearta eile gaolmhara agus stráitéis eile a chur ina n-áit a bheadh ag teacht le cearta daonna, bunaithe ar chur chuige "slándáil dhaonna" - is é sin, ceann a d'fhéachfadhbh leis an choimhlint a sheachaint agus a réiteach trí aithint agus réiteach bhunchúiseanna na coimhlinte
- forbairt chreat AE ar an fhreagracht chorparáideach le gné láidir cheart daonna

Déanfaidh FPE Shinn Féin fostá "faire choimhdeachta" ghéar ar na bearta uile a mholann comhréiteach an dlí choiriúil, na pólíneachta, rialú teorann nó breithiúnach.

COSAINT SHEIRBHÍSÍ POIBLÍ

Tá ceart ag daoine ar aimsiú cothrom seirbhísí poiblí ardchaighdeáin, agus freagracht ar stáit as iad a chur ar fáil.

Níl sé ceart go mbeadh teacht ar sheirbhísí pobail cosúil le huisce, bailiú dramhaíola, sláinte nó oideachas ag brath ar ábaltacht le híoc nó fachtóirí eile, mar a tharlaíonn nuair a dhéantar na seirbhísí seo a phríobháidiú.

Caithfimid gan ligean do leas tráchtála lucht fáinne óir, teacht i dtír ar phríobháidiú na seirbhísí sin de rogha ar theacht i dtarrtháil ar an riachtanas sóisialta ar mhaithle le leas an pobail.

Chruthaigh srianta AE ar na stáit cuideachtaí a bhunú nó infheistíú iontu, timpeallacht ina dtig le rialtais eite deise príobháidiú seirbhísí poiblí a bhrú is a rá gur "theip" ar chuideachtaí na hearnála poiblí - ar chuir rialúcháin an AE bac ar a bhforbairt.

Theip ar cheangaltais do "Shamhail Shóisialta Eorpach" mar dhea, deighilt idir seirbhísí poiblí agus príobháideacha, atá ag dul i ndoimhne, a sheachaint agus chuir seo go díreach le leibhéal mhéadaithe bochtaineachta agus éagothroime in Éirinn agus san AE.

Tá Sinn Féin ceangailte ar chaomhnú agus ar fheabhsú seirbhísí poiblí. Arís agus arís eile chuir muid in éadan iarrachtaí Rialtas éagsúil le státhchuideachtaí agus seirbhísí a phríobháidiú. Fadhbanna le seirbhísí poiblí in Éirinn, blianta fada de thearcmhaoiniú a d'fhág le huacht againn iad. Tá caiteachas ar shláinte agus ar iompar poiblí i bhffad níos lú ná meán an AE.

I ndíospóireachtaí Chonartha AE i ndiaidh a chéile, léirigh Sinn Féin go leanúnach ár n-ábhar buartha faoin bhagairt ar sheirbhísí poiblí atá sa chlár oibre príobháidithe atá i gcroílár phróiseas comhtháite an AE. Luasaigh an clár oibre príobháidithe seo faoi bheartas geilleagrach an AE ar a dtugtar Clár Oibre Liospón.

Ní ghlacaimid leis go bhfuil aon cheart ag an AE clár oibre príobháidithe a bhualadh anuas ar Éirinn ná ar aon mballstát.

Agus ní ghlacaimid leis go bhfuil ceart ag an AE modhanna ginneadh ioncaim a chur ar rialtais ardcheannasacha. Cuirimid i gcoinne 'cáin dúbalte' aischéimnitheach i gcrut taillí seirbhíse, tobhach nó cáin chloigne. Is é cánachas forásach an bealach ceart le ligeadh do dhaoine íoc as seirbhísí pobail de réir ábaltacht s'acu íoc astu.

Troidfidh FPE Shinn Féin ar son:

- aithint gur ceart sochgheilleagrach é aimsiú cothrom seirbhísí poiblí, a thuilleann cosaint an AE
- tógáil orduithe príobháidithe ó Chlár Oibre Liospón ag athbhreithniú lártháarma 2005
- maolú shrianta an AE ar cheangal stáit i soláthar seirbhísí poiblí
- tréadhearacht agus freagracht do pharlaimintí náisiúnta ag Coiste Alt 133, a thugann comhairle agus moltaí do Choimisiún an AE ar chaibidliú comhaontuithe trádála idirnáisiúnta: caithfear moltaí agus taifid vótála na mballstát a dhéanamh poiblí
- caomhnú na haontoilóchta i ndéanamh cinntí an AE ar bheartas trádála i seirbhísí oideachais, sláinte agus cultúrtha agus closamhairc (leabhrálanna, iarsmalanna agus craoltóireachta), rud a mholann Dréacht-Bhunreacht an AE á thógáil.