

YOUTH & THE CRISIS OF CAPITALISM

The burden of the capitalist crisis is being passed on to the working class and the youth through a near-universal assault on our quality of life. Millions of jobs have disappeared forever and unemployment is especially high among young workers. Both the federal government and almost all the states have been slashing their education budgets, further exacerbating the pressure on the youth. Access to education is increasingly difficult for the average working class family. Those who can go to school face fee increases and cut-backs in all areas: lost programs and courses, redundancies in school staff and faculty, increased class sizes, cuts in student transportation and other services.

Instability, austerity, and stagnation are the “new normality” and have led to a questioning of the capitalist system. This is a world-wide phenomenon and has brought about a growing radicalization of the youth in Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, and beyond. Right here in the U.S., a huge layer of discontented students are living through the experiences that are preparing them to struggle as part of the working class.

Youth for International Socialism and *Socialist Appeal* magazine believe young people deserve a better future than that which is possible under capitalism. We believe that the working class is the only force in society that can bring about fundamental change. We believe that the crisis of the capitalist system should be paid for by the capitalists, not the workers and youth. We believe that both the Republicans and Democrats are bought and paid for by the billionaires and therefore cannot serve the interests of the working class majority. We believe the unions need to break with these parties and build a party of, by, and for the working class: a mass party of labor based on the unions. We believe that everyone living in the U.S. has a right to quality jobs, health care, education and housing. We believe we need a society that is truly democratic, with leaders that are directly elected and directly accountable to their constituents. But none of this is possible under capitalism, a system based on maximizing profits for the few at the expense of the majority. This is why we fight for socialism. If you agree with the program we outline in this leaflet, please contact us and join us in this struggle!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
YOU CAN CONTACT US AT

YFIS@SOCIALISTAPPEAL.ORG



✱ THE QUEBEC STUDENT STRIKE - 2012

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YOUTH & THE CRISIS OF CAPITALISM



A PROGRAM OF STRUGGLE FOR YOUTH & STUDENTS

OUR PROGRAM: WHAT WE FIGHT FOR

FREE, LIFELONG EDUCATION

Free education from pre-school through all levels of school, including trade and vocational schooling, college, graduate school, and doctorate-level education!

QUALITY SCHOOLS

Fully fund all public educational institutions. End “No Child Left Behind.” No to segregated school districts, overcrowded classrooms, crumbling facilities, and school closures. For all education dollars to be spread evenly across the nation’s schools, regardless of each district’s tax base. Protect and expand public schools, nationalize private learning institutions! No to privatization and charter schools. No to corporate control of the classroom.

QUALITY UNIVERSITIES & TRADE SCHOOLS

All students to receive a living stipend so they can study without being distracted or exhausted by having to work an outside job while in school. For free childcare for parents who are seeking education; having children should not be a barrier to training and learning! For fully funded study-abroad programs, so all students have the opportunity to learn from other cultures!

QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL

Private colleges and universities have billions of dollars in endowments. Harvard alone has an endowment estimated at \$27.4 billion! One way of increasing funding for public colleges and universities is to nationalize the private universities and merge them into one united public system of higher education. Why should the children of the rich have more right to an education than the rest of us?

IMMEDIATE CANCELLATION OF ALL STUDENT DEBT

Immediate forgiveness of all student debt for working families and their children. Nationalize the banks and education lenders under public and workers’ control. Educated youth deserve better than indentured servitude!

A FIGHTING STUDENT MOVEMENT

Students must organize to fight back against attacks on the education system. For the formation of militant student unions at all high schools, trade schools, colleges, and universities, and the creation of a national student union based on these local and statewide organizations. Students must link up with the educators and staff at their schools to struggle to protect and improve education!

STUDENT & WORKER CONTROL OVER EDUCATION

All educational decisions, priorities, and policies to be determined democratically by students, educators, and the trade unions, not by corporate boardrooms or unelected university bureaucrats. For union rights, protections, and wages for all education workers.

QUALITY JOBS FOR ALL

For a guaranteed job upon graduation with union-level wages. Young people deserve quality employment so they can put their education to use for the betterment of society. For paid internships. For a massive jobs program to end youth unemployment. Lower the retirement age so older workers can retire comfortably and give the youth a chance to enter the active workforce.

A LABOR PARTY

Energetic young activists must not be drowned in the dead-end of Democratic Party “activism.” For the political independence of the youth and student movement from the twin parties of the capitalist class. For a mass party of labor based on the unions to fight for and win demands that benefit working class youth!

SOCIALISM

Youth deserve a future! Real gains for youth and students are not possible on the basis of capitalism, which can no longer afford to offer real, meaningful reforms. For the nationalization of the Fortune 500 to provide a basis for a democratic plan of production! For socialism!