

CONSTITUTION OF THE WORKERS' SOCIALIST LEAGUE

The Workers' Socialist League is a revolutionary socialist organisation, whose aim is to organise the working class for the seizure of power and the communist transformation of society. All its activities, its method and internal regime are subordinated to this aim and are designed to serve it.

Only a self-acting and critical-minded membership is capable of forging and consolidating such an organisation and of solving its problems by collective thought, discussion and experience. From this follows the need of assuring the widest party democracy in the ranks of the organisation.

The struggle for power organised and led by a revolutionary party is the most ruthless and irreconcilable struggle in all history. A loosely-knit, heterogeneous, undisciplined, untrained organisation is utterly incapable of succeeding in this task. A revolutionary organisation has to unconditionally demand from all its members complete discipline in all the public activities and actions of the organisation.

Leadership and centralised direction are indispensable prerequisites for any sustained and disciplined action, especially in an organisation that sees its aim as leading the collective efforts of the proletariat in the struggle against capitalism. Without a strong and firm leadership, having the power to act promptly and effectively in the name of the organisation and to supervise, consolidate and direct all its activities without exception, the very idea of a revolutionary organisation is a meaningless jest.

It is from these considerations, based upon the experience of international class struggle, that we derive the Leninist principle of organisation, namely democratic centralism. This principle is embodied in our Constitution and guides us in all our organisational activities.

In any case where the Constitution does not give precise indications, the organisation shall be guided by the established traditions of democratic centralism, and particularly by the resolutions of the April 1940 Convention and the May 1953 Plenum of the Socialist Workers Party of the USA.

1. AIMS.

a) The WSL bases its policy on the theory of Marxism as developed by Lenin and Trotsky, the decisions of the first four congresses of the 3rd International and the Transitional Programme, the founding document of the 4th International.

b) The WSL fights for the political regeneration and organisational reconstruction of the 4th International.

2. MEMBERSHIP.

Members must:

i) Agree with and be committed to defend the basic aims and programme of the organisation in words and deeds.