



The Socialist
Party is part of the
Trade Unionist and
Socialist Coalition



SRI LANKA: REVOLUTIONARY POTENTIAL

- Sri Lankan masses force out president
- Global capitalism ready to strike
- Fight for a socialist alternative

- What can we learn from the mass movement in Sri Lanka? What are socialists fighting for on the ground?
- How do we fight for working-class political representation and join with workers and young people fighting back across the world?
- In a world wracked by war, extreme weather events and worsening living standards how can workers and young people fight back? Both here and across the world what is the socialist answer to economic crisis?

**Lobby the TUC
Organise to strike together!
National Shop Stewards
Network Rally**

**Sunday 11th September
1pm - 3pm**

Holiday Inn Hotel, 137 Kings Rd, Brighton, BN1 2JF
www.shopstewards.net

SOCIALISM 2022

Saturday 19 - Sunday 20 November
A weekend of discussion and debate
about how workers can change the
world

www.socialism.org.uk

Join the Socialists!

Everyone should have a warm home,
a well-paid job, free education
and health, while protecting our
environment. If the capitalist system
can't afford that, we need to change
the system along socialist lines to one
that works for us.
visit www.socialistparty.org.uk/join
or text your name and postcode to
07761 818 206

WWW.SOCIALISTPARTY.ORG.UK

Scenes broadcast around the world from Sri Lanka showed protesters storming the government buildings, forcing the right-wing President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee while they took over his luxury apartments and swimming pools.

The anger in Sri Lanka over the post-covid cost of living crisis boiled over and swept away the Rajapaksa clique after over 100 days of protest. This movement has shown once again the potential power that ordinary workers and young people have to fight back against repressive state machines and sweep away the bosses' politicians and parties.

Sri Lanka's economy is in crisis, the government has defaulted on the \$51bn of debt and inflation is running at 100%. Inflation has hit workers and poor people hard. Months of fuel price increases and shortages in basic goods have fuelled anger at the ruling Rajapaksa clique, notorious for their role in overseeing murder of tens of thousands of Tamils during the civil war.

Workers and the poor travelled hundreds of miles to demand the resignation of Gotabaya – a planned train strike was postponed to allow people to travel to the capital. Protesters beat the barricades set up by the police and the army. Their numbers and determination meant Gotabaya had no other choice than

to step down, attempting to flee the country by a number of means, finally managing to escape abroad only through connections in the military.

BUT AFTER THE ABDICATION OF RAJAPAKSA, WHAT NEXT?

The capitalist class are trying to form an interim government made out of various representatives in the parliament. But events have already shown where the real power lies. The sister party of the Socialist Party in Sri Lanka, the United Socialist Party, is fighting for a national assembly of workers and poor with elected delegates from the workplaces, villages and towns. This could then take action against the crisis by cancelling the massive debt, confiscating the businesses and wealth of the corrupted elite and using these to deliver food and fuel that people need. These bold actions would transform the global situation; the masses could appeal to workers and poor people across south Asia and the world for support.

A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME

The events in Sri Lanka are just the start. Global capitalism is loaded with debt, exacerbated in the aftermath of the covid pandemic when capitalist governments were forced to spend to shore up their system. Other countries have similar levels of debt to Sri Lanka and are likely to default. Further crises and subsequent anger from the masses is inevitable.

And it's not the end of the story in Sri Lanka. After defaulting on the debt an attempt will be made to extract as much profit as possible. The strings attached to the debt restructuring will attempt to force Sri Lanka to open the doors to more exploitation of workers, to privatise sections of the economy and increase the profits of multinationals,



To read more developments and socialist analysis from across the world visit the Committee for a Workers' International website on www.socialistworld.net

and enrich the advanced capitalist countries further. Only a bold socialist programme opposed to austerity and capitalist misery offers a way out.

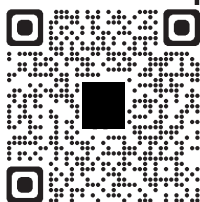
These problems facing workers and young people aren't unique to Sri Lanka or the neo-colonial world. The cost of living crisis – rising prices for workers while bosses attempt to maintain their profits – is hitting workers all over. Here in Britain there are rocketing energy bills and rising costs of food.

As part of the world socialist organisation, the Committee for a Workers' International, we are fighting for the socialist programme necessary to deal with the multiple crises. We say take the wealth and resources off the bosses and put them to use for us all. Instead of profit for those at the top being the decisive factor, draw up a democratic socialist plan for what people actually need across the world. If the capitalist system can't afford a decent standard of living for us all, then we can't afford their system! We need to build new parties which will fight for a bold socialist programme and can gain mass support from workers and poor people.

If you want to learn the lessons from struggle, to discuss what way forward and to join the fight for socialism across the world then come to a Socialist Party meeting and discuss with us.

Find a local meeting near you where you can find out more about the Socialist Party and the next steps for working class struggle www.socialistparty.org.uk/events

Or scan:



WWW.SOCIALISTPARTY.ORG.UK