



## Join the Revolutionary Communist **PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY**

### **Capitalism=Death** *Turn the Tide with Communist Revolution*

The HIV epidemic represents the worst of racist inequalities in health worldwide. Working class African American, African, and Latino men and women bear the largest burden of HIV for all routes of transmission - reflecting the conditions under which they live and work. Capitalist/social determinants of disease drive the epidemic.

These inequities have also generated tremendous resilience and resistance from ordinary people, scientists, and organizations fighting to save the lives of people most oppressed by poverty, racism, and prejudice for sexual orientation and gender identities.

**Class struggle and particularly the fight against racist oppression is the best tool we have for creating a world where diseases like AIDS will not flourish.** It is violent attacks on working people that create the conditions for the epidemic and limit the solutions. Examples include:

- Wars
- Mass incarceration
- Segregation and racism
- Poverty and lack of housing
- Unemployment
- Blaming the victim – Stigma and Sexism
- Limited access to public health and medical care

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) challenges you to help create a new society based on co-operation, equality, and collective ownership of the world's resources

#### **Capitalism Cares About Profits, not Workers' Lives**

Capitalists only value working class people for producing and buying the products and services that enrich themselves.

Workers never get paid for the full value of what they produce. When capitalists want to increase their profits, they drive down our wages, break up our unions, hire cheaper labor in other countries, use immigrant labor, lay off thousands, and speed up the rest of us. Keeping millions unemployed is a handy way to threaten employed workers with replacements. "You don't like the conditions on your job? We have others willing to take it!" Historically, industrialists in steel and mining routinely hired unemployed black workers to scab on strikes of white workers. At the same time, unions refused to include black workers as members leading to racial violence and divisions.

Business values our health only because it allows us to work, reproduce and fight in the military. When poor health threatens profits, corporations improve the conditions. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, hookworm in North Carolina caused an epidemic of anemia among textile workers. The Rockefeller Foundation poured money and resources into the state to eradicate the hookworm parasite so workers could regain their health and produce more. The HIV epidemic also threatens the productivity and stability of many countries, creating a security threat to the world's power elite and stimulating funding to control the spread of HIV.

Internationally, the US, China, Russia, the European Union, Venezuela, Turkey, Brazil and others compete to control world markets, resources and labor. The US has imposed many trade agreements on countries to direct revenue to US companies. Under Clinton's administration, the US forced Haiti to buy rice from US companies instead of growing its own, totally undermining its self-sufficiency. Thousands of agricultural workers left the countryside

to find jobs in urban centers, disrupting their family life and economy. In earlier centuries, colonialists took control of countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, disrupting trade and traditional family structures.

## **Divide and Conquer**

In order to maintain power, the capitalists and their friends in the White House and Congress create ways to weaken our unity and militancy. They use racism to stereotype and demean workers of color in order to divide the entire working class. These stereotypes portray Black workers as lazy and criminal and Latinos as threats to our jobs. Politicians then use these lies to explain high rates of unemployment and imprisonment of African Americans, and justify policies to cut services and benefits.

Stigma contributes to high rates of HIV and AIDS. Today, we brand people considered immoral, dangerous, abnormal, inferior or different in some way. Stigma pushes shame onto people who are poor, women, gay or transgender, imprisoned, mentally ill, or HIV positive. People blamed for their conditions are less likely to take care of themselves and their partners and to seek health care. Stigma is also a barrier to organizing against the system.

*Stigma, prejudice and discrimination are all about power – the power of the rulers to keep people weak and divided.*

## **Working People Need Communist Revolution**

Communist revolutions occurred in Russia and China during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, inspiring millions to envision a better world controlled by working people. In the Soviet Union, racism was illegal. China dedicated people and other resources

to improve the health of agricultural workers, creating the ‘barefoot doctor’ brigades and eradicating debilitating diseases, such as schistosomiasis. Life expectancy increased in both countries; when the Soviet Union fell apart in the 1990s, economic security dropped and life expectancy plummeted.

Unfortunately, both countries maintained a wage system that still valued better educated workers more than others, replicating the same class hierarchy we see in capitalism. People’s jobs determined their earnings and maintained social inequality.

Progressive Labor Party envisions a different structure of communism. Instead of paying people for their work, there will be no wage system. People will produce goods and services based on human needs without earning wages. They will contribute based on their commitment and receive the necessities of life, such as free housing, education, and health care.

These conditions affect the relationships we develop with one another. Instead of using people to get ahead or survive, people work collectively. In periods of abundance and scarcity, workers share as equitably as possible. There is no inequality in income or wealth as we see in this society. More resources are devoted to people held back by racism, sexism, and poverty in order to level the playing field. Most importantly, the society *needs* everyone to contribute and participate regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation. Society needs the working class to cooperate and include everyone, not to scapegoat and marginalize one another.

# COMMUNISM AT A GLANCE

## Communist Principles

Working class has state power to make decisions

No wage system that creates hierarchy and privilege

Collective ownership of all resources

Production for need, not profit, with contributions from all

*From each according to commitment, to each according to need*



## Quality of Life

Everyone contributes and works, sharing intellectual and physical work

Collective responsibility for children and elders

Equitable benefits with education, jobs, health care, housing

Goods and services based on need and safety

## Equality

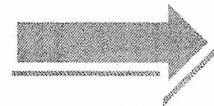
Equality of all – no divisions and scapegoating by “race” or “ethnicity”

Equality of all – eliminate sexism, men and women share the work and fruits of society

No stigma according to racial classification, national origin, sexual orientations or identities

Shared responsibility for the working class’ health and well being

*Value given to all forms of work*



## Health

Necessities of health available or shared by all if scarce

Less competition and more stability reduces stress and mental illness and isolation

Personal relationships based on caring rather than what economic resources a person can exchange

Lower rates of disease, death, disability, and access to good health care for all

*No profit from health care*

## Fighting for Equality

**The fight against the HIV epidemic advances our struggle for justice and working class solidarity.** Since the early days of the epidemic, ordinary people have pushed governments and researchers to fund prevention and care and value the health of people most marginalized by society. Many attendees at the International AIDS Conference and the Global Village have dedicated their lives to this effort.

**HIV activists fight for housing as HIV prevention and care,** gender equality, non-discrimination of people who are LGBT, and for economic justice. Advocates organize against the prosecution of people with HIV, bans on needle exchange programs, abstinence only education, and mass imprisonment of Black and Latino men and women. They also demand health care and medications for all, cheaper prices of pharmaceuticals, and inclusion of people who are LGBT.

**In DC communists in PLP have worked within the local public health association** and have joined with others to demand an end to the housing waiting list (now 1000 people). We have joined in struggles for federal funding for needle exchange, drug treatment on demand, and comprehensive school health education

**We have linked working class residents, health professionals and students together in HIV community outreach efforts since 2005** and more recently sponsored workshops on stigma at adult education programs, health centers, and a public housing neighborhood. Using 'theatre of the oppressed' approaches, participants have created and performed skits about stigma and mental illness as the audience of "spect-actors" changed the action to diminish the effects of stigma. Multiracial unity built through these activities strengthens the revolutionary movement and offers insight into a future communist society.

**Progressive Labor Party knows the fight against racism is central to the communist movement as well as to the campaign against AIDS.** We have led struggles against Nazis and KKK goons as well as racist academics. We have participated in city-wide efforts to secure construction jobs for African American workers and to force Wells Fargo Bank to divest its funds in private prisons as part of the struggle against racist mass incarceration in the US.

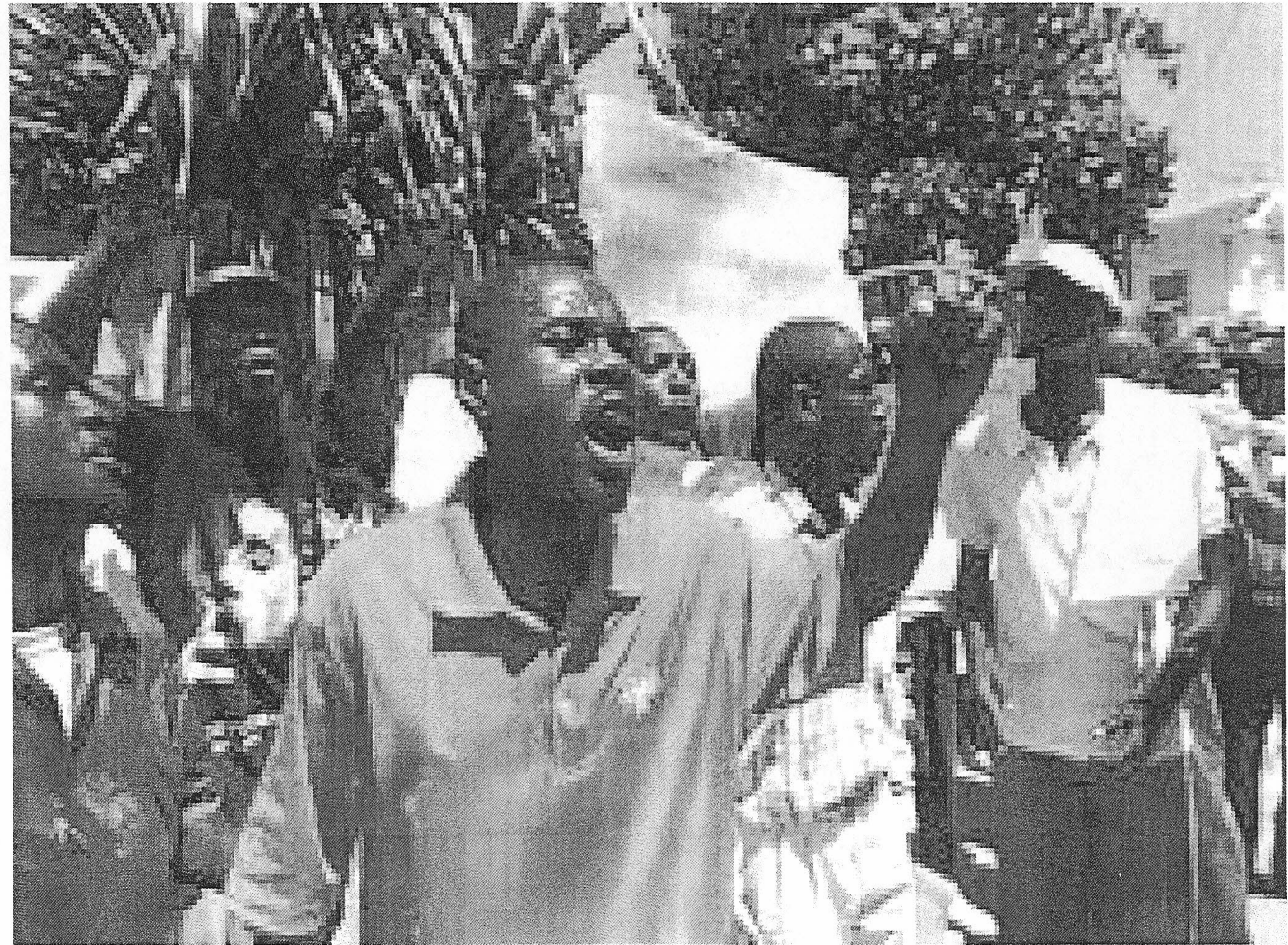
**PLP is an international party. We recognize ONE working class regardless of geography and borders.** Party members are active in Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, the US, Africa and Asia and fight collectively for a communist revolution which will abolish wages and involve all workers in the building of a society of equality.

**PLP rejects voting for 'the lesser of 2 evils' politicians as a distraction from building the movement for revolution.** Fighting for reforms has taught us how to organize and find out just who our friends and enemies are. Electoral politics do not change the class of people in power or the exploitation of the world's working class. For example in the US Obama has deported more immigrants from the US than any other president while expanding the arena of war, enriching the insurance industry with the Affordable Care Act, and bailing out the banks. The situation in Egypt, France and Greece is no different. Don't Vote – Organize!

**Creating opportunities to unite workers will help us achieve revolutionary change. To win and sustain communism we need to win the hearts and minds of millions of people committed to communist principles. This requires studying and discussing these ideas, organizing struggles, joining PLP, and becoming a leader of revolution.**

**JOIN US! Contact Linda Green at [lindadgreen@gmail.com](mailto:lindadgreen@gmail.com) or 301-779-7432 and check out the website at [www.plp.org](http://www.plp.org).**

# Haitian Workers on Strike - HUEEH Union Symbol: MOP & STETHOSCOPE



Turn the fight against HIV into a  
fight for social equality!

