
SECTARIANISM DIVIDES

No one was born hating his fellow man. No one was born hating a Protestant, Presbyterian or Roman Catholic or Dissenter. People learn what the rulers of society want them to learn. In Northern Ireland workers have been taught to believe that their fellow workers are enemies simply on account of their religion

Who stands to gain from all this? Who stands to gain from the sectarian murders which follow from this hatred?

The answer is that same British ruling class which followed a policy of divide and rule for fifty years.

Divided, the working people of the North have had to suffer high unemployment, inadequate living conditions, bad housing, poor schools and large areas of gross poverty.

Whenever working people showed signs of coming together to eradicate these evils, the old sectarian divisions were again trotted out. This is what is happening today.

The struggle for Civil Rights which would have ended first and second class citizenship in the North was met by the violence of the Unionist State backed up by the British Government.

These were the policies which created the present violence in the North. No wonder they have proved incapable of ending the violence.

How can the Security Forces, some of whom have been involved in the cold blooded killing of civilians, others in the torture of civilians and others in sectarian attacks, now become the impartial protectors of the whole community?

No amount of white washing can make these forces acceptable.

So what then are the people to do, caught as they are between the sectarian killers on the one hand and the totally discredited state forces on the other?

We must reject all those who put worker against worker. They should be shunned in the streets, in the shops, in the pubs, in the work place, every place they degrade by their presence.

We should put the interests of the working people before everything else. Our experience tells us that working people only achieve anything when they are organised. Therefore we must organise to defeat the sectarian enemy. Locally this means that at shops, churches, cafes, dance halls, wherever people gather, people should be particularly vigilant to spot anything suspicious. This in itself will not eradicate the determined sectarian killer but vigilance will mean that the intended victim can be alerted, and the toll of life and limb reduced. Children should be repeatedly warned not to handle any objects lying about on the streets in areas in which they play, near their homes, at school, etc.

At the work place the trade unions are the best organisation to organise vigilance against the sectarian killer. They should be given every support in this. Inside the trade unions fight for a more militant anti-sectarian stand.

But in the longterm we must build a society based not on religious division but on working class unity; a society in which all will not only have the right to work but the right to enjoy the full fruits of their labour.

SECTARIANISM KILLS WORKERS

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