



## Summary

- **Oppose Racism in all its forms – legislate to make racism a hate crime.**
- **Oppose the policy of Fortress Europe – welcome a proportion of those fleeing war and persecution.**
- **Legislate to End Direct Provision System.**
- **Oppose all deportations – treat refugees and asylum seekers with dignity and respect.**
- **Integrate Migrants - Give them Voting Rights.**
- **Oppose all forms of Islamophobia.**
- **Support the right of Muslim people, along with all other religions, to practice their religious beliefs**
- **Reverse Cuts to Traveller Supports - oppose state racism against Travellers.**
- **Establish an Independent National Housing Agency to oversee the delivery of safe and culturally appropriate Traveller Accommodation.**
- **Reverse cuts to Traveller services and the improvement of those services, to include Education, Health, Employment and Equality programmes.**
- **Public inquiry into the Carrickmines Tragedy.**
- **Traveller representation in the Seanad and other organs of the state.**
- **No Platform for Fascists – oppose them on the streets if necessary.**
- **Oppose Donald Trump’s Racism.**
- **Oppose Israel as an apartheid state. Support the Ban Divestment and Sanctions Movement against Israel.**
- **Oppose Britain First in the North.**

## Introduction

People Before Profit stands against racism in all its forms, including Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-Traveller racism. Racism became a major force in the modern world as a justification for slavery and empire. Later, it was used by the rulers of capitalism to divide and conquer, setting ordinary people against each other to the advantage of the elites and their rotten governments. Racism is based on a reactionary myth. People have been moving across the world in large numbers since the dawn of history. With the exception of the Native Americans, for example, who arrived about 20,000 years ago, the entire population of North and South America have arrived at various points in the last 500 years. Without migration human development would have been impossible. The Irish in particular have been forced, by poverty and unemployment, to emigrate to many parts of the world where they have made a huge contribution to the culture and economy of their destinations as well as playing a crucial role in the development of the international labour and socialist movement.



Just think of James Connolly as one example. We absolutely reject the view that immigration causes unemployment, that immigrants 'take our jobs' or that immigrants are responsible for the housing shortage or the state of the HSE. These social problems derive from an economic system based on production for profit and capitalist governments that serve the interests of the rich. Where unscrupulous employers try to use migrants as 'cheap labour' our answer is to fight alongside those migrant workers for decent wages for all, not to object to the presence or employment of 'foreigners'.

Immigrants are welcome here. Their presence enriches our society and brings both economic and cultural benefits. We seek to unite with them in the struggle for a better Ireland and a better world. We are completely opposed to the politics of scapegoating minorities and expect all our public representatives and spokespersons to combat it.

## Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees

People Before Profit is opposed to the policy of 'Fortress Europe' which is designed to keep out migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. This policy has already led to the deaths of 30,000 people with many more being trafficked into slavery due to their vulnerable positions. We believe that

- **Europe should open its borders.** With 500 million people, Europe can easily cope with two million refugees. Europe should open its borders and Ireland has a duty to welcome a proportional share of refugees from war, oppression, persecution and other inhuman conditions, for the creation of which, Western imperialism bears a heavy responsibility. At present this is not the case for Europe or Ireland. We call for the EU and our own government to do much more in this regard.
- **End Direct Provision System.** We also believe that Ireland has a duty to treat asylum seekers and refugees who arrive here with decency and humanity. This means first and foremost ending the disgraceful system of direct provision and allowing all asylum seekers the right to work the right to a house and the equal right to a third level education.
- **End Deportations - Legalise Undocumented Migrants.** We support the call to normalise the undocumented Irish in the USA, but this must go both ways. We are for the normalisation (i.e. 'legalisation') of undocumented migrants here in Ireland too. We oppose all deportations either from Ireland or the USA.
- **Integrate Migrants - Give them Voting Rights.** People Before Profit supports the right of all residents to vote in elections and referendums after a suitable period of residency. We believe everyone should be able to have their say regardless of race or citizenship.
- **Oppose all forms of Islamophobia.** Islamophobia is one of the main forms of racism in the contemporary world. It has been systematically cultivated by the US and European ruling elites since 'Muslims' replaced 'communists' as the enemy of choice with the end of the cold war. We note that just as racism was used to justify



slavery and empire in the 18th and 19th centuries so Islamophobia has been used to justify Western wars, interventions and occupations in the Middle East, particularly with a view to protecting oil supplies. People Before Profit opposes Islamophobia: specifically we reject the idea that there is a particular link between Islam and terrorism. People Before Profit is against terrorism and we reject the demonisation of Muslims. We also reject the idea that Islam is a peculiarly backward or reactionary religion. Like the adherents of all major religions, Muslims come in all political shapes and sizes ranging from right wing and reactionary to left wing and revolutionary.

- **Support the right of Muslim people, along with all other religions, to practice their religious beliefs.** Just as we support Christians in practicing their religion so we defend the Muslim community in the same way and fight against any discrimination or racist attacks.

## Travellers Rights

Travellers are Ireland's indigenous minority who have lived as a distinct ethnic group for upwards of a thousand years. They have long been subject to massive racist discrimination and bigotry, resulting in major economic, social and political deprivation and disadvantage.

Statistics on life expectancy, health, employment, educational attainment and poverty all confirm that Travellers are one of the most oppressed groups in Irish society. This oppression has been added to in recent years by huge cuts in services to Travellers. This racism and oppression must be fought and reversed.

- **Reverse Cuts to Traveller Supports.** Over the period 2008-2013 when overall government spending was cut by 4.3%, programmes for Travellers were cut as follows: Education -86%, Accommodation -85%, Equality initiatives -76.3%, National Traveller organisations -63.6%, FAS special initiatives for Travellers -50%, Traveller Interagency activities - 100%. This level of cuts was vastly disproportionate to any other section of society and demonstrated a clear disinvestment by the State in the Traveller community which has had detrimental impacts. These resources must now be re-established as an urgent priority.
- **End State Racism.** There is an established and deep rooted institutional racism against Travellers which is quite complex. It is racism from the top down, backed through the institutions of the state, the capitalist system and the media where government policies create the conditions for racism to take root and grow. Equality legislation from 1998 formally made discrimination against Travellers an offence. Contrary to this, the rise of anti-Traveller racism among arms of the state has been alarming. This must be ended immediately.
- **Independent National Housing Agency.** The establishment of an Independent National Housing Agency is essential to oversee the delivery of safe and culturally appropriate Traveller Accommodation.



- **Enquiry into Carrickmines Tragedy.** A public enquiry must be conducted into the Carrickmines tragedy.
- **Political Representation.** Travellers with relevant expertise and selected by the National Traveller organisations to be co-opted into the Seanad to be represented on relevant government committees and to be visible within the relevant state departments;
- **Zero Tolerance to Traveller Racism.** A policy of zero tolerance on racism where (1) politicians who play the anti-Traveller card to win votes should be held accountable - expelled/banned for going for public office (2) media bias which feeds prejudice and discrimination against Travellers will be challenged and offenders held accountable.

## Fighting the Far Right

One symptom of a decaying capitalism is the rise of racist and fascist organisations. Typically these organisations use racism as the principle lever for dividing the working class, attacking the left and building support for themselves. In so far as they succeed, they pull the whole political climate to the right. This rise in racism (while it is officially deplored) is both fuelled and appeased by the state racism of 'the centre' and by the mainstream media in terms of their hostility to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers and the policies of Fortress Europe, Direct Provision, deportations and so on.

We are fortunate that so far no significant far right has emerged in Ireland (with the exception of right wing loyalism in the North) but there is no room for complacency. It is clear from everyday experience, from social media (e.g. the campaign against Ibrahim Halawa) and from anti-social behaviour marches that there is significant racism out there, particularly in the form of 'we should look after our own first'. This is not only a major problem in itself but also fertile ground that could potentially be capitalised on by an emergent far right force. Luckily United Against Racism has emerged as a key anti-racism organisation. People Before Profit supports UAR and works alongside its members in a number of key initiatives.

In terms of the far right the following are our key objectives.

- **No platform for fascists** – People Before Profit opposes any opportunity for fascists and hard right groups to spread their hatred. We will oppose them on the streets if necessary and stop them from spreading their message in any way we can.
- **Oppose Donald Trump's racism** – Donald Trump has legitimised racism and fascism across the world. He attacks the people who are victims of the capitalist system particularly Muslims, Mexicans and black people and shields the powerful in big business. We stand with groups like Black Lives Matter in opposing racism and his far right ideas.
- **Oppose Israel as an apartheid state.** Israel is an apartheid state. People before Profit stands with the people of Palestine. We support the Ban Divestment and



Sanctions Movement against Israel and look to a one state solution that gets rid of all sectarianism.

- **No platform for fascists in the North.** Recently Britain First have been trying to organise in the North. People Before Profit have mobilised on the streets and will continue to oppose them wherever they emerge.