

IMT Norms of Conduct

The International Marxist Tendency (IMT) is a voluntary association of revolutionary fighters, the organized expression of the international Trotskyist struggle to rebuild the revolutionary leadership of the world proletariat. The IMT is fighting on the basis of the Marxist programme to accomplish the historic conquest of power by the working class and the construction of world socialism.

Our programme expresses the continuity of the struggle of Marxists for the international revolutionary party, which began with the work of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in the International Workingmen's Association. We are the heirs to the experience of the First and Second Internationals, enriched by the experience of the October Revolution of 1917, and embodied in the first four Congresses of the Communist International. We base ourselves upon the founding documents of the 4th International, drafted by Leon Trotsky in 1938. This is our historical legacy, developed by our own theoretical and practical experience after the collapse and political bankruptcy of the leadership of the 4th International following World War II.

As revolutionary Communists, members of the IMT are not distinguished by class origin, gender, sexuality, nationality, or any other arbitrary division. All are equal and our norms of conduct are applicable to all. These norms are based on principles consistent with the united struggle of the working class for socialism. This means that at all congresses, conferences, seminars, political and educational activities, all participants, be they members of the IMT or not, must conduct themselves in a disciplined, respectful, egalitarian and comradely manner. It is unacceptable for anyone participating in our activities to breach these principles.

These principles were trampled on by Stalinism, which for decades used the methods of a bureaucratic clique, which emerged from the degeneration of the Russian Revolution, to subjugate the Communist parties, their members and the labour movement. Respect between comrades devoted to the struggle for socialism, political conviction and camaraderie were replaced by violence, authoritarianism and the demand for blind obedience, thus perverting and destroying healthy personal and political relationships among revolutionaries.

Similarly, the Social Democracy, with its political and social degeneration, combines authoritarianism with the hypocrisy of bourgeois politicians, and introduced into the labour movement the worst methods of the ruling class. The union bureaucracy, which has sold itself to Capital, reproduces these methods in an even more degenerate form. This includes different treatment for the "leaders" and ordinary members, for bourgeois representatives and workers, for men and women, and a myriad of other forms of social discrimination ultimately rooted in the capitalist system of private ownership. The bourgeoisie knows no limits and has no scruples in using such methods in its struggle against the proletariat and socialism.

The petty bourgeoisie also puts pressure on the revolutionary tendency, leading to various reactionary conclusions, which, although attempting to fight oppression and inequality, serve only to exacerbate the ills that they claim to be fighting against, such as racism, the oppression of women, gender and sexual oppression, etc. Marxists understand that these are issues that arise from a social system based on private property and can only be effectively addressed from a social, historical, and collective, revolutionary point of view.

The revolutionary organization and its members constantly come under the stress and strain of all the contradictions of class society. Such permanent pressures, particularly in capitalism's period of senile decay, work to undermine the revolutionary party, on both the theoretical and practical fronts.

In this epoch, without the disciplined behaviour necessary for united, organised struggle for socialist objectives, without a revolutionary Marxist programme, without a politically educated, active, and engaged membership trained in the ideas and methods of genuine Bolshevism, without a responsible, responsive, and accountable leadership that has earned its political and moral authority, and without the correct balance between centralism and democracy, which varies depending on the circumstances, the revolutionary organization would be unthinkable.

The need for internal democracy and comradely relations flows from the historical experience and needs of the proletariat. They are indispensable in order to raise the level of consciousness and cohesion of the proletariat and for the building of the international revolutionary party.

Comrades come to IMT events with the intention of learning and participating to the maximum degree. Comrades are therefore expected to respect the closing times of Fighting Fund activities in order to ensure that they and other comrades are prepared and rested for political meetings the following day. This includes remaining quiet and respectful in public areas and when returning to rooms.

The norms of behaviour we expect comrades to adhere to are simple:

- No excessive consumption of alcohol. Respect the judgement of the comrades on bar duty, who have the power and responsibility to stop serving anyone they think has had too much.
- No possession or consumption of illegal drugs.
- Harassment or bullying of any kind will not be tolerated.

Such conduct reflects attitudes which are incompatible with the behaviour of serious revolutionaries and have no place in our organization. Such behaviour does serious political and moral harm to the International and can lead to legal complications and loss of access to meeting locations, which are not easy to find.

In order to ensure good comradely behaviour we require the active collaboration of all comrades.

At all activities of the IMT, where the elected leadership deems it necessary, a committee composed of experienced comrades will be established to ensure compliance with these norms of conduct.

Any participant in our events can report concerns or doubts to this committee, including facts or issues that call into question the norms of comradely behaviour outlined above or decided by the leading bodies of the IMT. The committee may also appoint other intermediaries who can be approached with questions or concerns (for example, heads of delegation, comrades supervising the Fighting Fund activities in the evenings, etc.).

This committee has the right to take the initiatives it deems necessary for proper compliance with these norms. It has the power to investigate and compile the facts and present any reports it deems necessary to the leading bodies of the IMT (the IS, the IEC, as well as ECs and CCs of sections). The committee will report the facts as it understands them, having no executive or sanctioning powers. Only the IMT's leading bodies can decide upon sanctions or adopt resolutions on the issues reported by such a committee.

The IMT takes its responsibility to ensure comradely behaviour at its international events very seriously and will take all necessary steps to implement its norms of conduct. In dealing with such matters, it is essential that any complaints should not be left until it is too late to deal with them properly.

Of course, we must have a sense of proportion. In most cases, a few words will be sufficient to settle any matters that arise. However, in the most serious cases, it may be necessary to resort to disciplinary measures. The basic sanctions available are the following: Reprimand, Warning and Exclusion from the activity.

Reprimand: A verbal reprimand explains the nature of the behaviour that contravenes the expected norms or revolutionary discipline, calls for an apology to the affected comrade(s), and a commitment to comradely behaviour thereafter.

Warning: A formal warning with a political explanation of the behaviour that contravenes the expected norms of revolutionary discipline, calls for an apology to the affected comrade(s), and a commitment to comradely behaviour thereafter. It must be presented in writing and communicated within the framework determined by the leadership during the activity.

Exclusion: If the behaviour is deemed incompatible with continued participation at the event or activity, or if he or she is unable — for whatever reason — to guarantee the required comradely behaviour after a Reprimand and / or Warning, the comrade may be excluded from the event or activity.

Further disciplinary action, in particularly serious cases, may be taken by the national leaderships of sections of the comrade(s) involved, or the case may be referred to the International Control Commission.

The IEC of the IMT,

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