



# UNITY

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## Deep State at its works again.

By Mel Corry

How many times does Jeremy Corbyn have to state he is not an anti-Semite? How often does he have to affirm his commitment to anti-racism and equality for all? How many prominent Labour members of the Jewish community have to come out and say there is no problem for them in the Labour Party?

They've thrown everything at Corbyn and still all he presents is a modest programme of borrowing, investment and nationalisation. A tried and tested response to multi-generational poverty and inequality.

Any considered analysis of the mainstream news outlets would make you wonder who is behind this constant smearing of Corbyn. The Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis intervened in a British general election to tell people not to vote for Labour and that Corbyn was unfit for Government. Later that evening Clerics from other faith denominations weighed in behind the Rabbi.

The fallout from this is relentless as Corbyn is pressed by Andrew Neill in a BBC interview to apologise to the Jewish Community for anti-Semitism in the

Labour Party. As Corbyn re-affirms his and his party's continued commitment to equality the headlines shout 'Corbyn refuses to apologise'.

The deep State are rattled, this on the day that Labour launched its policy on

race and faith. His support for the Palestinian cause and denunciation of the apartheid state of Israel and its continued assault on the Palestinian people is all that's required to distract voters from the clearest economic choice they've had in a generation.

Whilst Boris Johnston can bumble

### Community Solidarity

and lie his way through this campaign with promises he has no intention of fulfilling the only credible contender for his job faces the most outrageous attacks on multiple fronts. They clearly will pull out all the stops to undermine any hope for modest change in Britain.

Of course, we are no strangers to the actions of dark forces protecting evil

here. In Co. Fermanagh a story has broken of a series of sex attacks on young boys going back over 20 years. The story has been bubbling under the surface for some time here despite the efforts of Rodney Edwards of the Impartial

Reporter in Enniskillen. You have to wonder what it takes for a story like this to make the news. It seems that the those investigating have taken witness statements from multiple victims which claim they were attacked by a string of attackers, people well known in the community. The PSNI have appear to be

unable to gather sufficient evidence to make arrests This of course is not the first time that investigative journalists have had to uncover the nefarious activities at the heart of the British Security apparatus.

There is hope as civic nationalism calls for citizens assemblies to deal with issues such as Brexit and national unity, communities in Mid Ulster. Tyrone and Fermanagh have established their own Peoples Dail/Assembly,

They have elected a committee and will build community solidarity campaigns providing support in common struggle and have adopted the Democratic Programme for the 21st Century which emerged from the commemoration of the first Dail in January of this year organised by the Peadar O'Donnell Socialist Republican Forum.

Hopefully we will see more democratic fora being developed by the people across Ireland. The deep state or imperialism will never allow a true democratic expression that challenges the power of Capital. We must do it ourselves.

**Editorial**

Unity is published each week  
by the Communist Party of  
Ireland.  
PO Box 85, Belfast BT1 1SR.

## *Major areas of need*

*NEWSPAPER headlines last weekend told us that in Belfast 5 people died in two days from suspected heroin overdoses.*

*A Westminster committee reported a couple of weeks ago that the health service in Northern Ireland is in danger of collapse and now we have workers, including nurses, resorting to taking industrial action over pay and staffing levels.*

*Last week we also saw the publication by a think tank, Pivotal, of a policy document "Moving forward, putting Northern Ireland on track for the future."*

*Unfortunately it doesn't make for good reading as the document told us that with a health and school system "in crisis," and a "struggling economy" Northern Ireland is "unprepared for the future.*

*It was suggested that the north faces many economic and social challenges, all of which require policy solutions, regardless of our future constitutional status.*

*In what is described as a long catalogue of serious failures six areas requiring urgent action were identified: the economy which has the highest percentage of low paying jobs of any UK region and is one of only three places where "more jobs pay poorly rather than well," and where more than a quarter of adults are neither in work nor looking for work, the highest area of economic inactivity in the UK.*

*Health and social care, where it is said little has been done to make structural changes needed to provide for rising demand with "signs of crisis clearly showing." The example of where 120,201 people have been waiting for over a year for planned care compared to 1,154 in England and 4,176 in Wales.*

*Poverty is another issue where it is stated that Northern Ireland has the highest percentage of children living in long-term workless households out of all UK regions, 13.6 per cent compared to an 8.2 per cent UK average.*

*Other areas of concern are education, climate change and community relations.*

*Pivotal director Ann Watt said, "these major areas of need require everyone's attention, right now."*

*Unfortunately as our media page shows some political parties are more interested in re-running the 2016 referendum ignoring these "major areas of need." We wonder why.*

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**Belfast Central  
Branch Meeting**

**Political discussion  
and plans for 2020**

**Wednesday  
December 11th  
5.30pm  
CPJ Premises**

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**Unity  
Appeal Fund**

We hope we will continue to have the support you have so generously given us - both in donations and words of appreciation.

We still need all the help we can get so we can continue to print Ireland's working class weekly paper published by the Communist Party.

We will be happy to receive donations, no matter how small - or large !

I am sending £.....  
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Please send all donations payable to:Unity Paper,  
PO Box 85, Belfast, BT1 1SR

# Peadar O'Donnell and John Hewitt

People popping in for a pint at the John Hewitt last Wednesday night could not be blamed for looking taken aback when met, depending on when they came through the door, by a justified tirade against global imperialism, a call for filling Northern Ireland's political vacuum with a people's plan and a reminder of the debate that split the Republican Congress in 1934!

What they had walked in on was the launch of the Communist Party publication "*The Legacy of Peadar O'Donnell*". The book, edited with Introduction by Lynda Walker, is built around what could also be seen as an equally out of place experience: a May Day celebration talk given by Donal Donnelly in Crumlin Road Jail – from which he had escaped when a republican prisoner in 1960.

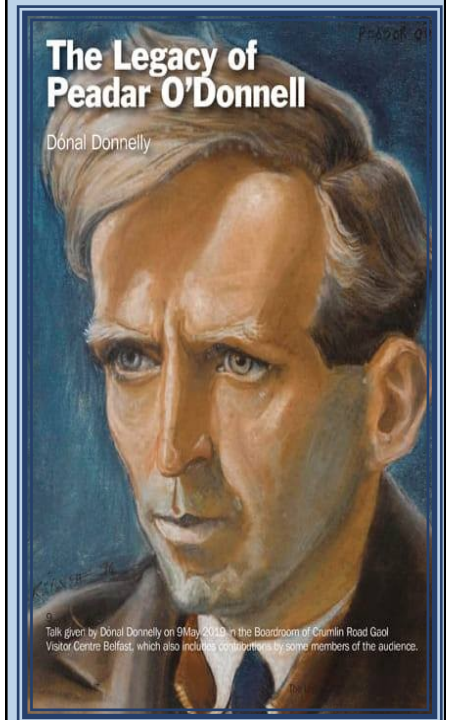
As with his talk in the 'Crum' (which had launched a reprint of Peadar O'Donnell's "*Their Will be Another Day*" on the struggle against land annuities), Donal held the attention of all those in the Hew-

## By John Pinkerton

itt. He shared aspects of the rich political and cultural life of Peadar O'Donnell as only someone who has been described as O'Donnell's "right hand man for twenty years" could. He had even unearthed a poem which he read by the renowned John Hewitt, in whose memory the bar is named, about O'Donnell.

As with the publication launched that night (which includes alongside of the May Day talk seven other short essays), what Donal had to say was complemented by contributions from Tommy McKearney (his were the comments on imperialism's crisis globally and nationally) and from Dympna McGlade (the call for a people's plan to fill the vacuum left by Northern Ireland's politicians was hers). Both of them had also contributed to the publication. Mel Corry, another contributor to the book, also added to the launch with his popular labour movement song, written by him for the late John Hannah, trade unionist and communist.

## "The Legacy of Peadar



*O'Donnell* can be bought from: Unity Press, PO Box 85, BT1 1SR £5 or £6.50 p&p cheques payable to Northern Area Trading;

Shanway.com-Online;

Culturlann Bookshop; An Ceathrú Póilí - Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, 216 Falls Road BT12 6AH;

Carlton Books, 159, London Rd. Glasgow G1 5BX (Available online)

And from December 6th: Connolly Books, 43, East Essex Street Dublin 2; (<https://www.connollybooks.org/>)

Little Acorns: Independent bookshop Derry

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43, East Essex Street, Dublin 2 or PO Box 85, Belfast BT1 1SR.

Visit the CPI Website on [www.communistpartyofireland.ie](http://www.communistpartyofireland.ie)

Report by Adam Murray

## ‘Class, Culture, and Prejudice’

LAST Saturday activists from across the trade union movement and civil society gathered at the Irish Congress of Trade Unions building to participate in an open discussion organised by the Belfast and District Trades Council entitled ‘Class, Culture, and Prejudice’.

Mel Corry opened up the meeting using visual images to give an introduction into aspects of racialism and prejudice through culture and the media he then introduced Dr. Stephen Baker, a lecturer in Media Studies and an activist with the UCU, He gave a presentation which explored how capitalism in the West rarely needs to presently employ violent tactics to enforce the status quo.

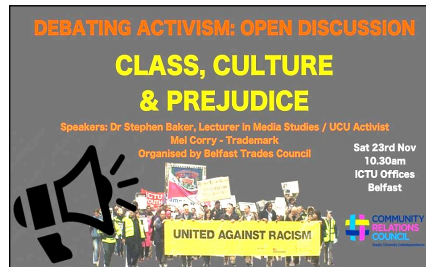
Instead, insidious propaganda has become a hallmark of popular culture. Culture is a part of people’s everyday experience, and it is not hard to see how the media impacts on people’s views.

Whether it is the gutter press tabloids demonising immigrants, or the proliferation of programmes which showcase some of societies poorest citizens for light entertainment, cultural programming and media organisations have the ability to impact hearts and minds.

Dr. Baker explored the history that for many on the left popular culture has been seen as a deeply compromised culture which has only served to promote capitalism, and the values and desires of capitalism.

An example given was the countless television shows about home ownership, designing homes, refurbishing homes and so on.

Popular culture has elevated home ownership and the display of



wealth to an almost spiritual level, with expensive homes acting as artistic expression of their deserving owners who made good choices.

For those who live in the so called ‘sink estates’ of Britain the message is clear - you are where you are because you made bad choices.

The left, it was agreed by all present, can not abandon popular culture to the capitalists and establishment figures currently benefiting from that medium. In Dr. Baker’s words we must ‘Learn the language of the capitalists, so that we can use it to curse them’.

We can share the stories of ordinary working people to share the message that a better world is possible and must be created.

One thing I took away from the event was that everyone present agreed that there is reason for a renewed confidence.

We live in challenging and uncertain times but we are being presented with an opportunity.

The realm of popular culture might not be the battlefield we would choose, but it absolutely is one of the battlefields we need to be fighting on.

With the preparations for next year’s May Day starting now, it’s an opportune time to increase our use of culture to fight for the working class.

*(This event was supported by the Community Relations Council).*

**29th November International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.**

**Friday 29 November at 7pm** there will be a Palestine Culture Night in the Teachers’ Club/Club, 36 Parnell Square West, Dublin 1)

**Friday, 29 November 6pm** (Nano Nagle Place, Douglas Street, Cork) Frances Black International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

**Saturday, 30 November, 3pm** (Jigsaw, 10 Belvedere Court, (off Mountjoy Square) Dublin 1), Dublin Film Screening: Budrus (ISM)

**Saturday, 30 November 2pm** (John Roberts Square, Barronstrand St, Waterford) Public Information Stall, IPCS

**Saturday 30 November, 3 p.m.** Celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Eoin O’Duffy’s death and examining the growth of the right in Ireland Speakers from anti-fascist and civil rights groups Pearse Centre (27 Pearse Street), Dublin.

**Saturday 30 November, 2 p.m.** Demystifying Hamlet. Dr Jenny Farrell will give a Marxist analysis of Shakespeare’s tragedy, together with a Q&A session. Crystal Sports Centre (Cork Road). Organised by Shakespeare Today Forum

**Saturday 14 December, 2 p.m.** Public meeting: The left for national unity Speakers: Eugene McCartan, Jim Slevin, Tommy McKeearney Teachers’ Club (36 Parnell Square, West), Dublin. Organised by Left4Unity

## MEDIA REVIEW

# Alice in Wonderland !

WHENEVER I read *Irish News* columnist Jim Gibney on the subject of the European Union I think of someone akin to an Alice in Wonderland character.

His contribution in the *Irish News* 20th November is no exception

As far as he is concerned the Westminster election here is simply about galvanising the vote of those who voted Remain in the 2016 Referendum, hence the fact that the word *remain* appears 15 times in his article.

No reference is made to the social problems that exist here, five people dying in two days of suspected heroin overdoses in Belfast, being one example.

No mention of the health service being in danger of collapse or the school system being in crisis.

Instead Gibney writes of the pro-Remain alliance made up of Sinn Fein, the SDLP, Alliance and Greens.!

Gibney writes that the "Remain lobby" has a number of complementary objectives one of which is to ensure Ireland remains inside the EU" and that there is maximum access to the free movement of people, goods, services and capital across the EU."

In this he is in interesting company; as Anthony Coughlan pointed out in the November edition of the *Irish Democrat* telling us that apart from the Cameron government, who instigated the 2016 referendum, others in favour of remaining in the EU were the bulk of the British Establish-

ment, backed by the City, the CBI and Goldman Sachs et al, and of course most Tory MPs, all by the way for the same reasons as Gibney outlines.

Of course Coughlan is a different kettle of fish to Gibney as he points out in his opening remarks in the paper when he wrote that "the EU treaties are a contract not to have socialism or indeed any meaningful programme that one might call left wing."

He also makes a point that EU law would make Jeremy Corbyn's Labour programme impossible to implement as the capital controls and support for public enterprise that Labour envisages would violate EU law as set out in the EU Treaties.

Next time Corbyn pays a call to west Belfast maybe Jim and his mates can explain to Jeremy why the EU wouldn't let him implement his programme.

Coughlan also writes that for the 40 years from 1973 to 2014 the Republic was a net beneficiary of EU funds because of the way the EU subsidised its farmers.

Irish opinion regarded the EU as the proverbial 'cash cow' but now it has become a net contributor to the EU, "to the tune of one billion this year," and will be expected to pay more when the UK leaves, and as he states, "that will alter Irish perceptions of the EU."

If what Coughlan says is true, and there is no reason to doubt it, it may also alter people's perception in the north of the prospects

of a united Ireland if they are told what scenario the Republic could be facing in relation to the EU.

Gibney goes on to tell us that the outgoing pro-Remain MPs in Foyle, South Down, West Belfast, South Tyrone, Mid Ulster and Newry/Armagh have a proven track record in providing constituencies with first class services and all deserve to be re-elected.

What he doesn't tell us is that all the MPs above are Sinn Fein, none of whom would be attending Westminster anyway.

In wanting to maximise the Remain vote the "alliance" will need to concentrate on west Belfast which recorded the lowest turnout, 48.9 per cent in the 2016 referendum, a fact that would be lost on Gibney.

He also makes reference to the "values" of the EU and the "legal and human rights protections that accompany those values."

We would hope that he is not confusing the European Court of Human Rights in these protections with the actual European Union.

The ECHR is part of the Council of Europe, nothing to do with the EU and actually comprises 44 states as opposed to the 28 of the EU.

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) is the EU organ that makes legal judgements and protects the rights of business, but none of this forms part of the Remainers' narrative.

Protecting and promoting neo-liberal capitalism are the real "values" of the EU.

Gibney concludes with the comment, "Voting Remain guarantees an inclusive and prosperous future for all."

Alice in Wonderland indeed !

*W. Ows*