

WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY



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Public Solution against the Pandemic!



The ongoing healthcare crisis is a serious emergency. However, this crisis is not only caused by the virus but also it is caused by neoliberal healthcare policies. For decades, public health has been slaughtered everywhere, to pay off debt to banks, to finance large corporations, and to slash taxes on the capitalists' profits.

Now, to make matters worse, the same capitalist interests responsible for this disaster, panicked by the threat of recession, attempts to make the workers pay the price—new layoffs, expulsion of precarious workers. The truth is that capitalism has failed and it cannot be reformed. A completely new economic organization is needed, in which workers, not large shareholders, are in charge. In which the economy responds to everyone's need, not to the profit of a few. We, as usual, in these extraordinary

days will continue to be the defender of the workers and the voice of their demands. We do not trust their healthcare system based on free market rules and superstitions, and we should not. Especially, we must detect the people's needs on getting the real information and protection and then we must satisfy these needs. For these reasons, it is a necessity to create a solidarity network to organize the actions to satisfy people's needs, and to stand with the people against AKP and the pandemic.

Turkey reported its first case related to the coronavirus pandemic on 10th March, and as of 27th March 5698 people tested positive for Covid-19 virus and 92 people died.

We are publishing the statement of our party against this pandemic below:



TIP urges:



"The pandemic's outcome should be paid for by capitalists, not workers!"

After one case has been officially confirmed, it become clear that the country is under corona virus threat. Since the announcement of Health Minister, the measures that can be taken by the citizens have been declared. However, against this serious pandemic individual attempts are not enough. All the state authorities must take the measures below immediately:

- 1) The medicines used by the citizens who are over 60 years old, by the ones who have chronic diseases, those who are at the highest risk group against coronavirus, shall be delivered free of charge and to their homes.
- 2) It is known that the disease spreads at an exponential rate and has an incubation period of 14 days. Therefore, at least two weeks of administrative paid leave should be given to all workers working in crowded environments.
- 3) The most vulnerable group of people to the corona virus are healthcare workers who are in constant contact with patients. All necessary medicines, materials and equipment should be provided in order to protect health workers from disease and to provide health services to citizens in the best way, and job rotations should be rearranged so that health workers are not negatively affected by overcrowding
- 4) All public service institutions should be equipped with disinfectant materials. Black market, corruption and profiteering should be prevented in disinfectant and protective basic materials, and these materials should be provided to the public free of charge.
- 5) Access to electricity, natural gas and water should be provided free of charge. The citizens who have been cut off those services due to their previous debts should get immediate access in order to assure their personal hygiene.
- 6) The economic burden created by the outbreak should be met by the state, not by the workers. This burden should not be put on the people's back with additional taxes.
- 7) The only way to protect public health against situations like diseases, epidemics, etc. that occur today and may occur in the future, is to abandon capitalism. We call on all our citizens to raise the social health struggle for the public good.

This enormous threat against the public health that we have been facing can only be dwindled and eliminated only by the steps that will be taken by the authorities by considering the scientific warnings and not by hiding the facts about the pandemic. We are calling all the people to rise the public healthcare struggle.

Remove the drive for profits from health care!

The pandemic's outcome should be paid for by capitalists, not workers!

Workers' Party of Turkey



TİP CHAIRPERSON AND MP ERKAN BAŞ'S SPEECH ON GOVERNMENT'S SO-CALLED "MEASURES ON ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19"

Our current topic is coronavirus pandemic.

So far, every aspect of the outbreak we have faced has been discussed, but there is something not mentioned here:

Health of the people, working people.

Today I came to the rostrum again to explain the real problems of the people and to say the words that the government does not want to hear.

There is a litany, everyone keeps repeating it:

The virus does not distinguish rich-poor, boss-worker. True...

The virus does not, but the government does.

Some are able to protect themselves in the face of the danger of the coronavirus pandemic, while others are left helpless and lonely.

The rich have an easy access to all kinds of opportunities, while the poor people are thrown in front of the virus as bait.

We listened to statements from the government on the number of cases and some measures.

The same thing has always been said... Let everyone stay at home!

But who is this "everyone"?

You stay at home and order products online. But who prepares those products? Who brings them your home?

Workers working in the cash registers, aisles and warehouses of the markets are not "everyone"?

The epidemic will be overcome with hygiene, yes. However, who collects your garbage?

Who stands at the tolls of the banks?

From the first hours of March 11, when you announced the first case, the workers have been filled to the shuttles, got on buses and metro before the sun rose.

The President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who has not left the Palace for a long time, says to the public, "If you are not required, do not leave the house."

Since you don't have to work, you think it's an arbitrary and fancy choice to leave the house.

Do you realize that millions of people will starve if they don't leave home and go to work?

But you are doing very well to the troubles of big capital groups.

The coronavirus summit was held yesterday.

Well, what was the result of the meeting, where all boss organizations attended and no single workers' union attended?

Credits, incentives, support to the bosses.

And patience, praying, disinfectant to the workers.

What did Erdogan say to the boss? "You are pleasant."

The bosses are pleasant but the workers are suffering.

The healthcare workers cannot find gloves and mask.

They even don't go home with the concern of protecting their family.

How will the system, which has not been able to protect the health workers that we have entrusted our lives, protect the public?

You have looked at what you will earn from health sector for 20 years!

Congratulations!

Now you can earn a lot of money!

How can we trust the government, which does not include the Turkish Medical Association in its anti-epidemic committee and talks about turning this outbreak into an opportunity?

Why should we trust that a health minister, who has a private hospital?

This country doesn't need you at all.

We will beat this coronavirus despite the government.

First of all, thanks to heroically fighting physicians, nurses and medical staff.

Thanks to millions of workers who disregard their own lives and serve the people.

Thanks to the beautiful people who try to stand in solidarity with each other, who voluntarily undertake the shopping of their elderly neighbor in their block.

Thanks to our young people who are trying to distribute medicines and basic food aid in poor neighborhoods.

The coronavirus pandemic we have been experiencing clearly showed that the capitalist system neglects our health and our right to life.

There is a need for a system in which basic services and rights are not bought and sold, there is not exploitation of the labor.

To survive, my brothers and sisters we need socialism.

I usually end my speech as "long live socialism" at the meetings I have attended for years.

Now I am changing it: Socialism to live!





Women have the say now; we rebel!

Despite the oppression and the restrictions, women took to the streets on 8 March International Worker Women's Day in Turkey, like the rest of the world, to build an equal and free life against reactionism, violence, war and against the practitioners of misogynist policies.

Under the right-wing, authoritarian and misogynist policies of Neoliberalism, discriminative policies towards women increase. Turkey under Erdogan's regime follows this global pattern as well. Women's lives are shaped by the reactionary, fundamentalist and misogynist policies of the AKP power.

Today in Turkey, where femicide, violence, corruption, lawlessness and inequality massively increase, we find ourselves in a period which:

- 1) Women's wages are unequally set compared to men,
- 2) Everything, from what women can wear to how many children they should have, is dictated by Erdogan,
- 3) Abortion is attempted to be effectively banned,
- 4) Religious reactionism attempts to dominate women through public violence. Religious reactionism attempts to dominate women by imposing feudal gender roles,
- 5) Sexual violence towards women and children increases,

6) The bill of the crisis and the burden of the war are on women,

7) Women's participation in social, political and business lives are limited by those in charge.

The women from the Workers Party of Turkey took to the streets on March 8 to speak up against all those oppressions, stating "We rebel, it's our turn to speak!"

We've challenged the government and its system saying:

- You won't lay a hand on our right to alimony!
- You will prohibit violence against women and enforce the Istanbul Convention!
- You will penalize sexual harassment and abuse, not acquit them!
- You will acknowledge our demands of equal pay, keep your hands off our right to unionize!

We have demonstrated once again the importance of organizing, of solidarity, of strengthening our hope and faith, against the injustices we face, and we continue to demonstrate.

From the Chilean women challenging oppression by dancing, to the Argentinian women fighting for their right of abortion, from the women taking to the streets for equal pay, to the Iranian women rebelling by removing their hijab, we salute women who fight to make another world possible.

"On Lenin's 150th birthday" On the actuality of Lenin's thoughts

Considering the 150th birthdate of Lenin, the crucial point in re-assessing his thought in our contemporary political milieu will aim at making a distinction between the general and specific context, where by general we refer to universal and by specific we refer to uniqueness of Russia at the beginning of the previous century. Contrary to what is believed widely, Lenin was an actualist, meaning that he reproduced his main political line in the light of the current events and developments instead of strictly sticking to a pre-determined political course. Lenin's definitions of "propaganda" and "agitation" (and difference in-between) have to be largely re-considered in our day, referring to his actualism, especially referring to current social movements, which might have potential to be transformed into class struggle.

As a consequence of his opinion and standpoint on actualism, Lenin actually broke apart from mainstream European social democracy only with impending war, and not earlier. The dynamics of worker-peasant alliance in Lenin's thoughts shall be traced back to Lenin's opinions on actualism which can be regarded as the backbone of Lenin's strategy that is out of question for many countries today. Within the conceptualization of actualism of Lenin, considering the dynamics that follow the social movements, "consciousness from without" is perhaps more relevant today than in Lenin's time. Lenin's most brilliant contribution is his insistence that working class must have interest in and act as vanguard in all social-political issues even if they are not directly related to the situation of the class itself, which enforces working class politics to be more inclusive in daily politics than have been ever before.

Metin Çulhaoğlu

Member of the Central Committee of TİP



NEWS FROM THE PARTY



“A way out of Socialism: Crossing the threshold, joining the masses” discussion took place in TİP Mersin provincial office with the participation of Central Committee member Can Soyer.

“New face of the urbanized society and the means of struggle” discussion took place in TİP Tekirdağ provincial office with the participation of Central Committee member Ekim Nehir.



Party delegation delivered basic need supplies to the refugees in Pazarkule border after visiting Turkish Medical Association Edirne office.

Chairperson Erkan Baş and Vice chairperson Barış Atay met with citizens in TİP Ankara provincial office and discussed the recent developments in the war situation in Idlib.







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