

have various underlying philosophies and views of the world.

**Cultural Freedom** Art is an integral part of daily life. It should not be treated as just a commodity produced by the activity of an elite group. Socialists work to create opportunities for participation in art and cultural activities. We work for the restoration and preservation of the history and culture of working people, women, and oppressed minorities.

**The Personal as Political** Living under domination and struggling against it exact a personal toll. Socialists regard the distortion of personal life and interpersonal relations under capitalism as a political matter. Socialism must ultimately improve life; this cannot be accomplished by demanding that personal lives be sacrificed for the movement. We cherish the right of personal privacy and the enrichment of culture through diversity.

**Electoral Action & Activism** CSP does not divorce electoral politics from other strategies for basic change. However, due to ballot access laws in the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago and for other reasons, the current feasibility of running socialist candidates for office is minimal. As a result, CSP leaves up to its members which candidates to support in lieu of a socialist alternative while it continues to build a socialist movement. CSP recognizes that “politics” is not just “electoral politics” and, as a result, also functions an activist organization. CSP has worked in support of such activities as labor campaigns, anti-war campaigns, prison outreach, policy advocacy, and worker education.

**Democratic Revolution From Below** No oppressed group has ever been liberated except by its own organized efforts to overthrow its oppressors. A society based on radical democracy, with power exercised through people’s organizations, requires a socialist transformation from below. People’s organizations cannot be created by legislation, nor can they spring into being only on the eve of a revolution. They can grow only in the course of popular struggles, especially those of women, labor, and minority groups. CSP works to build these organizations democratically.

### Contact Us

If you agree with these principles, then we encourage you to join the Chicago Socialist Party. Please visit our website or contact us:

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*Illustrations borrowed from our friends' Democratic Socialists of America's "Towards Freedom: Democratic Socialist Theory and Practice."*



## Chicago Socialist Party

The Chicago Socialist Party (CSP) strives to establish a radical democracy that places people’s lives under their own control—a non-racist, classless, feminist, socialist society in which people cooperate at work, at home, and in the community.

Socialism is not mere government ownership, a welfare state, or a repressive bureaucracy. Socialism is a new social and economic order in which workers and consumers control production and community residents control their neighborhoods, homes, and schools. The production of society is used for the benefit of all humanity, not for the private profit of a few. Socialism produces a constantly renewed future by not plundering the resources of the earth.

Radical democracy is the cornerstone not only of our socialism but also of our strategy. Here are the main features of each:

### Socialist Society

**Freedom & Equality** CSP is committed to full freedom of speech, assembly, press, and religion, and to a multi-party system. We are dedicated to the abolition of male supremacy

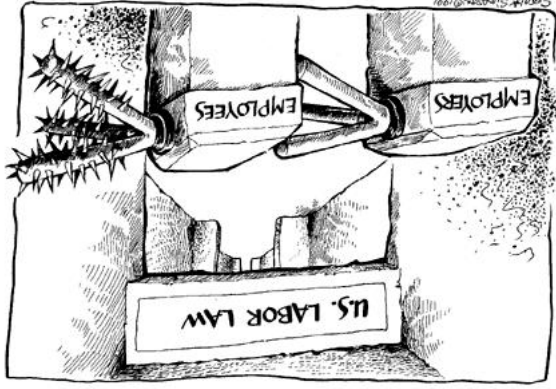
and class society, and to the elimination of all forms of oppression, including those based on race, national origin, age, sexual preferences, and disabling conditions.

**Production For Use, Not For Profit** In a socialist system the people own and control the means of production and distribution through democratically controlled public agencies, cooperatives, or other collective groups. The primary goal of economic activity is to provide the necessities of life, including food, shelter, health care, education, child care, cultural opportunities, and social services.

**Full Employment** Under welfare capitalism, a reserve pool of people is kept undereducated, under-skilled and unemployed, largely along racial and gender lines, to exert pressure on those who are employed and on organized labor. The employed pay for this knife that capitalism holds to their throats by being taxed to fund welfare programs to maintain the unemployed and their children. In this way the working class is divided against itself; those with jobs and those without are separated by resentment and fear. In socialism, full employment is realized for everyone who wants to work.

**Worker & Community Control** In socialist society, power resides in worker-managed and cooperative enterprises. Community-based cooperatives help provide the flexibility and innovation required in a dynamic socialist economy. Workers have the right to form unions freely, and to strike and engage in other forms of job actions. Worker and community control make it possible to combine life

at work, home and in the community into a meaningful whole for adults and children.



**Ecological Harmony** A socialist society carefully plans its way of life and technology to be a harmonious part of our natural environment. This planning takes place on regional, national, and international levels and covers the production of energy, the use of scarce resources, land-use planning, the prevention of pollution and the preservation of wildlife. The cleanup of the contaminated environment and the creation of a nuclear-free world are among the first tasks of a socialist society.

## Socialist Strategy

**Socialist Feminism and Women's Liberation** Socialist feminism is an inclusive way of creating social change. We value synthesis and cooperation rather than conflict and competition. We work against the exploitation and oppression of women who live with lower wages, inferior working conditions and subordination in the home, in society and in

politics. Socialists struggle for the full freedom of women and men to control their own bodies and reproductive systems and to determine their own sexual orientation.

**Liberation of Oppressed People** Bigotry and discrimination help the ruling class divide, exploit, and abuse workers here and in the Third World. CSP works to eliminate prejudice and discrimination in all its forms. We recognize the right of self-defense in the face of attacks; we also support non-violent direct action in combating oppression. We fully support strong and expanded affirmative action programs to help combat the entrenched inertia of a racist and sexist system which profits from discrimination and social division.

**International Solidarity & Peace** People around the world have more in common with each other than with their rulers. We condemn war, preparation for war, and the militaristic culture because they play havoc with people's lives and divert resources from constructive social projects. Militarism also concentrates even greater power in the hands of the few, the powerful and the violent. We align with no nation, but only with working people throughout the world.

**Internal Democracy** Socialism and democracy are one and indivisible. CSP is democratic, with its structure and practices visible and accessible to all members. We reject dogma and promote internal debate. CSP is a "multi-tendency" organization. We orient ourselves around our principles and develop a common program, but our members