

NJ DSA Immigrant Justice Working Group Theses

Be it resolved:

That the following draft theses are adopted by the Working Group, as such or in a supplementary form, as our principles, upon which our actions will be guided and further unity with other socialist or workers' organizations can be forged.

1. Socialists recognize that migration is a progressive phenomenon; it directly draws together the working masses of the whole world together. Class-conscious proletarians understand that breaking down national barriers greatly benefits the international working class and is essential for the socialist struggle.
2. Socialists uncompromisingly support the free movement of people, and furthermore support universal voting rights of migrants.
3. Under the capitalist mode of production, there is a particular form of migration whereby the higher wages in "developed" countries and the intentional exportation of destruction by imperialist powers compel or force people to depart their native land for said "developed" states. Immigrant workers are victims of the capitalist system.
4. Capitalists support the border controls and mass deportations as a tactic of terror; to drive down already starvation-level wages to appropriate even more surplus value from their undocumented workers.
5. The two main bourgeois parties in the US, the Republicans and the Democrats, both use racist attacks, populist demagoguery, and hysterical distortions in the media to divide the working class and scapegoat migrants. Nativist appeals are also used as a means for winning electoral campaigns.
6. With the ongoing attacks on immigrants in the US and the surge of anti-migrant campaigns in European countries, we recognize that there has been a global trend of assaults on immigrants. This onslaught has been abetted by the centrist bourgeois parties like the Democrats in the US, Labour in Britain, and the SPD in Germany.
7. Given this global trend, it is clear that the defence of migrants is one of the great struggles against oppression of our time.
8. Socialists must agitate against this anti-immigrant bourgeois propaganda aimed at dividing the working class. Class-conscious workers seek to educate their fellow proletarians on the progressive nature of migration, internationalism, solidarity, and socialism.
9. Borders are racist; they entail deliberate discrimination against people based on nationality, religion, and race.
10. Immigrants do not "steal" jobs, they create them. A multitude of studies have proven this fact.
11. Most migrants are, in one way or another, victims of American imperialism.

12. In addition to imperialism, the ever more devastating effects of climate change, the result of capitalist accumulation, cause displacement from regions in the global south that are bearing the brunt of this catastrophe.
13. Border controls are the *cause* of competition between immigrant workers and domestic-born workers. The so-called “legal/illegal” divide imposed by the ruling class is a tool to keep wages down and workers fractured. The *demand* for unlimited freedom of movement, an essential step towards the eventual abolition of borders, is the socialist answer to this question.
14. Socialists who support any immigration controls, including supposedly “humanitarian” or “anti-racist” ones, are in reality jingoists.
15. A socialist future is unimaginable without the abolition of borders.