

socialist
★ youth

No Sweat!

Gap is guilty of profiteering from the scandalous use of child labour to make the products it sells locally.

As well as that, at a local level it refuses to recognise trade unions. Meanwhile, Gap boss Millard Drexler made more than \$24,000 an hour in 1998. According to USA Today, he is one of the highest paid bosses in the world, having made \$47.1 million in 1998.

This is the real face of global capitalism.

Global capitalism has massively increased exploitation of workers and youth through the world in order to make obscene amounts of money. Many of the high street shops and brands sold locally have been the most ruthless in profiting from making peoples lives a living hell.

Hundreds of young women in El Salvador, some underage, work long hours sewing shirts for such U.S. multi-nationals as The Gap, Liz Claiborne, J.C. Penney and Eddie Bauer. They are paid less than 60 cents an hour (almost 75 cents counting benefits) - not enough to meet minimum living costs, even in El Salvador. In 1993 workers attempted to unionize. Mandarin (company subsidised by US government) responded by firing the union leadership and locking out the workforce. Workers were beaten by the free trade zone's

security force, led by a former colonel in the Salvadoran army. Gap continues to pay children a few dollars a day in slave like conditions.

Our local call-centre industry has also been described as 'dark satanic mills' because of the sweatshop conditions workers find themselves in. Suffering from unreal targets, repetitive stress injury, acoustic shock, upper limb disorders and sight problems many workers can not cope with the inhumane conditions that the bosses impose.

Socialist Alternative

The continuation of capitalism can only provide poverty and misery for the vast majority of people. Now more than ever there is a need to build a socialist movement, which is based on the working class and youth, to challenge global capitalism and fight for a democratic socialist world where peoples needs would come before profit for a few.

A democratic socialist society would be able to use the huge wealth in society to rid the world of poverty and misery by planning the economy to peoples needs. Socialist Youth and the Socialist Party are campaigning on many issues in the interests of workers and youth to build that alternative to the anarchy of capitalism

Socialist Youth has been campaigning for young workers to be included in the minimum wage legislation for the past few months. Employers are exploiting young workers by paying as little as £1.50 an hour! They then get rid of us as soon as we reach 18 or 21 when the minimum wage kicks in. We are picketing those employers paying 3rd World wages to young staff to force them to increase the scandalously low wages.

But it is important to win the support of workers themselves. Barging into shops in protest **without properly explaining** the issues with the workforce can lead to alienation and can turn workers away from the campaign.

Get organised

Dunnes Stores workers who took action against the company doing business with apartheid South African big business, showed how an organised workforce can force a company to change its policy of dealing with companies breaching workers rights. Gap is an anti-union company. There needs to be a campaign to organise Gap workers in the unions. Socialist Youth is campaigning to organise young workers in unions to fight for a better deal. If you're a young low paid worker- get in touch.

Socialist Youth - The new fighting youth movement

Socialist Youth is the new youth wing of the Socialist Party. It is open to all young people to join who wish to build a strong young socialist movement to challenge the corrupt capitalist system. Socialist Youth is a campaigning organisation, fighting on issues like against tuition fees and against low pay. None of the mainstream political parties offer anything to young people- just sectarianism, poverty and exploitation. If you are sick of sectarian politics and want to fight for a socialist future, Join Socialist Youth by filling in the form below and **get active!**

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"Tomorrow belongs to those who prepare today" **Malcolm X**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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