

Open letter to the SWP

Posted on January 26, 2013

This letter has been sent to the Central Committee of the Socialist Workers Party and other party members.

The ongoing crisis in the Socialist Workers' Party – precipitated by the handling of rape allegations against a senior party member – has raised fundamental questions about democracy, power and sexism in the organisations and culture of the left. We believe that the way in which the central committee of the SWP has handled the situation, and its lack of a reasonable response to the legitimate protests voiced by many of its own members, as well as others on the left, point to issues that cannot simply be swept under the rug.

We have all previously participated in events and initiatives promoted by the SWP, including the annual Marxism festival, or written for its publications. We continue to value the commitment and work of many SWP members as trades unionists, activists and comrades. Nonetheless, we can no longer in good conscience participate in SWP publications and platforms until the party recognises and seriously addresses the legitimate criticisms of its handling of this case and the ensuing crisis.

Greg Albo, Abbie Bakan, Jairus Banaji, Gail Day,
Steve Edwards, Nadine El-Enany, Phil Gasper,
Peter Hallward, Adam Hanieh, Owen Hatherley,
Paul Kellogg, Brian Kelly, Conor Kostick, Robert Knox,
David McNally, Adam Morton, Kevin Murphy, Ilan Pappé,
Laurie Penny, Charles Post, Nina Power, Gregory Schwartz,
Peter Thomas, Alberto Toscano, Daniel Trilling,
Thomas Walpole, Jeffery Webber, Rafeef Ziadah