Online meeting: After New Zealand's election—Build an international socialist movement!

Socialist Equality Group (New Zealand)
24 November 2026

The Socialist Equality Group (SEG) will hold an online public meeting on Sunday December 6 to discuss the significance of our campaign in the New Zealand election and the way forward for the working class in the fight against austerity and world war.

WHEN: Sunday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m.
Register here to participate online via Zoom.

The SEG stood Tom Petterson as a candidate in the Hutt South electorate. This was the first time the Trotskyist movement stood in a New Zealand election and marked an important step towards building a new party of the working class: the NZ section of the International Committee of the Fourth International, the world Trotskyist movement.

Our meeting will explain why this party must be built, in opposition to every capitalist party and organisation. It will set out the socialist strategy for uniting workers internationally to abolish capitalism, which is plunging the world into war and barbarism.

The November 7 election result reflected mass hostility towards the established parties. More than 1.2 million people, nearly one-third of eligible adults, did not vote. Neither the incumbent National Party nor Labour could declare victory, which represents a crisis for the ruling class. Support for the two parties that have upheld capitalism and suppressed the class struggle for the past century collapsed to less than 59 percent combined.

Whatever unstable coalition government is formed after the remaining votes are counted on November 27, one thing is certain: it will deepen the attacks on workers' jobs, public services and wages, while pouring billions of dollars into the military.

The SEG warned that none of the urgent issues facing workers would be resolved through parliament and that none of the existing parties offered any way forward. All of them—including Labour, the Greens, the Opportunity Party and Te P?ti M?ori—whatever their tactical differences, are committed to defending capitalism by intensifying the exploitation of the working class and integrating New Zealand into US-led imperialist wars against Russia and Iran, and war preparations against China.

Masses of workers and young people will enter into struggle against this agenda, as they are doing across Europe and elsewhere. Tens of thousands of workers in New Zealand have taken part in nationwide strikes. But without a socialist and internationalist perspective and leadership, these struggles have ended and will end in defeat.

Our December 6 meeting will discuss the socialist program that the SEG fought for in the election, including its demands for the expropriation of the banks and big businesses, an end to all military spending, and equal rights for all immigrants.

We will highlight the vast gulf separating the program of Trotskyism from that of the pseudo-left organisations of the affluent middle class, including the International Socialist Organisation and Socialist Aotearoa. These misnamed organisations, which falsely claim to be socialist, seek to chain workers to capitalist parties and the union apparatuses; they campaigned in the election for Labour and the Greens, claiming that these parties could be pushed to enact progressive reforms.

The meeting will also address the need for workers to break the stranglehold of the trade union bureaucracy, which serves to derail strikes and keep workers divided

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in order to push through wage cuts and other attacks. Workers must build new organisations—rank-and-file workplace committees, controlled by workers themselves—to unite with workers across different industries and internationally and carry out a real fight against the capitalist state and the business elite.

We urge workers, students and young people to register to attend our online meeting and take part in this critical discussion.

To contact the WSWS and the Socialist Equality Party visit:

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