

The responsibilities of membership of the RCL

The ultimate goal of communists is the liberation of humanity from all forms of oppression. To achieve that, it is essential to carry out socialist revolutions throughout the world to overthrow the capitalist system. In every land where that system exists, it is sustained by political and ideological means, but also by the centralised machinery of repression of the state.

To defeat this enemy, the working class and all those who have a vested interest in winning socialism need their own centralised vanguard organisation: a communist party. The party's strength lies not only in its powers of organisation, but also in its politics and philosophy, which assist it to analyse the forces within a society, to unite all those who can be united against the main enemy, and to show them the best line of advance.

The RCL exists to build a revolutionary communist party in this country. To join it means to make a commitment to work for the ultimate goals of the world's communists; it is only for this that the League organises, not for any mean and narrow interests, or simply for the sake of staying in existence. Members must be determined to serve the workers and all the oppressed and exploited of the world through their labours. Their discipline as members of an organisation is all the stronger for it being voluntary. League members must promote the line and policies of the organisation by word and deed. They should always try to behave in ways which reflect well upon the organisation, showing consideration and respect for others and being intolerant of racist and sexist attitudes.

Membership of the League entails being active within one of its basic organisations and paying regular dues. It involves abiding by the League's constitution and carrying out its security policies.

According to the League's democratic centralist principles, the highest body in the organisation is the Congress, and, between congresses, the Central Committee. Within the organisation, the minority is subordinate to the majority, the individual to the organisation and the League as a whole to the CC elected at the last Congress. Members at all levels must oppose factionalism.

Members of the League may not be members of other parties or party-building organisations except by decision of the League and in order to carry out its objectives. It is important that League members should work within organisations representing those whose interests lie in overthrowing the capitalist system, including trade unions, national minority and women's organisations, claimants unions and others, both to strengthen them and to further the ultimate objectives to which the League holds. They must discuss the outlines of their activity in these organisations, its political content and the main strategic and tactical issues involved in order to make their activity more effective and also an integral part of the League's work as a whole. In the case of a conflict arising between the policies and objectives of the broader organisation and those of the League, the line of the RCL takes precedence.

Members have a right and a responsibility to take part in the internal democratic life of the organisation, including discussing the development of the League's policies, changes of policy and the implementation of the League's line. They have the right to vote in their branches and in League elections and to stand for election. League organisations are responsible for encouraging the solidarity of members, protecting every member's right to speak out and giving what help they can to members in difficulties to enable them to continue to make their contribution to the organisation's work. They must also organise study to help all members gain a grasp of Marxism-Leninism and of the League's policies.

Working according to the democratic-centralist norms of the League, members take part in collective action to maximise the organisation's effectiveness. Policies cannot advance without being tested through collective practice and summing up, nor can the RCL put forward a clear alternative to other organisations without a common approach being taken by its members. The League does not believe that it should attempt to adopt a position on every issue, but it aims to take a stand on the main questions raised by the struggle for socialism, and members must promote and argue for that stand outside the organisation.

A member should never forget that the cause for which the League fights is the most worthwhile of all to which human beings can dedicate themselves.