

PRIFYSGOL GOMIWNYYDDOL CYMRU COMMUNIST UNIVERSITY OF WALES



organised by
the Welsh Communist Party

28 & 29 November 2025
YMa, 28 Taff St, Pontypridd CF37 4TS

WHAT FUTURE FOR WALES?

Friday 28 November

Doors open for registration.

6.30pm – 7.00pm

Gwyn Alf Williams Memorial lecture

The Welsh Socialist Republican Movement - its history and lessons for today
With Guto Davies - former member of WSRM and currently Pontypridd CPB branch secretary.

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Saturday 29 November

Doors open for registration.

9.30am – 10.15am

Session 1

Would the Republic of Ireland be a model for an independent Wales to follow?
With Fionn Wallace.

10.15am – 11.30am

Session 2

Progressive Federalism or Independence?
With Luke Fletcher MS, Mabli Siriol Jones and Rick Newnham. Chaired by Sian Cartwright.

11.30am – 1.00pm

Lunch

1.00pm – 2.00pm

Session 3

Patriotism, Nationalism and combatting the rise of the far right
With Roger McKenzie and Alex Gordon. Chaired by Laura Picand.

2.00pm – 3.30pm

Guto Davies

Guto Davies is a retired railway worker, branch officer and regional delegate with the RMT Union. Guto is a former founding member of the Welsh Socialist Republican Movement, now a member of the Welsh Communist Party and its Pontypridd branch secretary.

Fionn Wallace

Fionn Wallace is a member of the Communist Party of Ireland, is a political analyst and activist with over a decade of experience working as a political researcher and speechwriter in Dáil Éireann and the European Parliament. Fionn holds a Degree in history and philosophy, and a Masters in philosophy from University College Dublin.

Luke Fletcher

Luke Fletcher has been a Member of the Senedd since 2021, representing the South Wales West region, he is Plaid Cymru's spokesperson on the economy and energy. Luke graduated from Cardiff University with a Masters Degree before going on to become economy and finance researcher for the Plaid Cymru Senedd group. Prior to this, Luke spent nearly five years working in the hospitality sector. Luke sits on the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee and is Chair of several Cross-Party Groups, including those on Apprenticeships, Dementia, Industrial Communities and Co-operatives and Mutuels.

Mabli Siriol Jones

Mabli Siriol Jones is from Cardiff and has worked in the Senedd and as a campaigner for LGBT equality and reform of the asylum system. She was the Chair of Cymdeithas yr Iaith between 2020-2022. Mabli has contributed chapters to books on Welsh politics and society including *The Welsh Way: Essays on Neoliberalism and Devolution*, *Hi/Hon* and *Rhaid i Bopeth Newid*.

Rick Newnham

Rick Newnham is a former Secretary of the Welsh Communist Party and currently lives in mid Wales. Rick was a youth and community worker and more recently a senior lecturer in Cardiff. Rick was a trade union representative for much of his working life and has been an active campaigner against war and against fascism throughout his life. Rick has been an election candidate for the Communist Party on a number of occasions.

Sian Cartwright

Sian worked for the trade union movement most of her adult life, formerly as national education officer at ASLEF and more recently spending 18 years working for the Wales TUC Cymru as national officer with particular responsibility for trade union learning and skills. A native of Cardiff, Sian has been a member of the Communist Party since 1991 holding various roles at Welsh and British levels. She is currently chair of Cardiff Branch.

Roger McKenzie

Roger McKenzie is the international editor of the Morning Star a member of the NUJ National Executive Committee and a long time anti-racist campaigner.

Alex Gordon

Alex Gordon is a member of the CPB Executive and Political Committees. He works as a train driver and was elected National President of the RMT union 2010-12 and 2022-24. Alex is the Chair of the Marx Memorial Library & Workers' School and writes for its journal, *Theory & Struggle* as well as the Morning Star newspaper and *Communist Review*. Alex is an officer of the Stop The War Coalition and Vice-President of CND.

Laura Picand

Laura is the chair of the Welsh Communist Party, is a representative on the CPB Women's Commission and the Swansea & South West Wales CP branch secretary. Laura is also a Unite Community delegate on Swansea Trade Council and treasurer of Swansea CND.