



Program of the Communist Party of Iran

Capitalism, as a system of production for human livelihood and sustenance, and as the domain of growth and development of human society, has extended its control over the entire world. During its global expansion and through internal transformations of Iranian society, over a decades-long process of growth and evolution, it gradually brought all productive, social, political, and cultural spheres of this society under its dominance as well. Thus, a society that was essentially agricultural, with a population largely residing in villages, gave way to a predominantly urban society, in which most of its needs are met in cities and through mechanized and factory-based production.

The reforms of the 1960s, implemented under the rule of the Shah in Iran in a conservative and top-down manner, were among similar plans and measures carried out during the same period in other parts of the world, guided by imperialist capitalism and in response to the needs of global capital, as well as the acute political, economic, and social requirements of those societies.

These reforms ultimately, through the legal abolition of the feudal system, prepared the ground for the further expansion of the domestic market and the capitalist transformation of production. Millions of “freed” landless peasants migrated to cities in search of work, and alongside this, the working population employed in industrial production increased several times. This process transformed the face of society within a decade and consolidated the dominance of capitalism over various aspects of productive, economic, social, cultural, and political life.

Oil revenues accelerated the disintegration of feudal relations and the expansion of capitalist relations, thus integrating Iranian society more deeply into the cycle of global capitalist relations. Oil income not only compensated landlords and aristocrats for the disintegration of the old social structure but also financed innovation and the expansion of a modern state. Oil revenues enabled the state, while safeguarding the interests of the ruling class, to take control of key sectors of the country’s economy and, by absorbing a large portion of the labor force into state



offices and enterprises, to become the largest employer, a role that continues to this day.

The abolition of feudalism legally removed all social and economic restrictions on the supply of labor, and the flourishing domestic market created favorable conditions for the exploitation of “free” workers. Thus, based on the reforms of the 1960s, labor power increasingly entered the expanding capitalist market of Iran as a commodity.

The growth of capitalism in Iran shattered many old customs, traditions, and patterns of life, as well as the worn-out structure of the old society, and introduced knowledge and technology into various spheres of social life. However, this profound social transformation not only failed to reduce class disparities in Iranian society or alleviate human suffering, but instead intensified hardships and deepened the gap between the rich and the poor.

With rising living costs, increasing unemployment, and declining real wages in the mid-1970s, the living conditions of the working class deteriorated further, and workers’ struggles in major industrial and production centers intensified to defend their livelihoods and improve their living conditions.

The masses of workers uprooted from villages sought shelter on the outskirts of cities, and the number of these marginalized populations surrounding major cities steadily increased. These people lived in extreme poverty while witnessing the luxury and extravagant lifestyles of the wealthy classes. While they provided a vast source of cheap labor for Iranian capitalism, they also became new centers of protest against the state, with their own demands and grievances.

The expansion of state bureaucracy, increased police intervention in people’s lives, the dominance of security apparatuses, repression of any protest, strike, or voice of freedom and justice, strict censorship, denial of freedom of expression, and prohibition of any independent political or trade activity filled the cup of public patience to the brim and increasingly created conditions for an explosion of popular anger.

On such grounds, a state that had itself been the source and executive of many cultural and social transformations of the contemporary era saw its political legitimacy and social acceptance questioned by these very transformations. As this process continued, the masses rose up with the



hope of gaining freedom and ending their suffering and deprivation. The waves of revolution spread across Iran, and the monarchical dictatorship was overthrown.

However, this revolution expanded under conditions where mass workers' organizations did not exist, a strong socialist current was absent from Iran's political scene, and existing left organizations failed to play an independent role in organizing workers and the masses, as well as in the political arena. Some of them even followed reactionary religious forces. The liberal bourgeoisie, fearing the deepening of the revolution, aligned itself with this current within the general movement. Under such circumstances, the Shiite clergy and the Islamic Republic became the alternative for imperialist powers and the Iranian bourgeoisie to save capitalism from revolutionary crisis. The Islamic Republic became the shield of Iranian capitalism against the revolution and an instrument for preserving this system in times of crisis. This regime came to power to re-establish conditions for capital accumulation under the banner of Islamic governance, while also maintaining Iran, within the framework of Western imperialist strategy, as a barrier against the expansion of the former Soviet Union's influence in the region.

The state repression machine was fully restored and developed. Political power was preserved from the revolution; the revolution was suffocated at its inception, and reaction, under the guise of revolution, reinstated repression, suffocation, and terror. The masses were intimidated into silence, and once again the long-standing aspirations for liberation and freedom of working people were dashed. The Islamic regime then used the destructive eight-year Iran-Iraq war as an opportunity to further suppress revolutionary struggles, mobilize all propertied classes behind itself, pursue pan-Islamic goals, and seek regional hegemony, only turning to peace when the threat of a general uprising became real.

In Iran, under the rule of the Islamic Republic, capitalism has further deepened class divisions, and immense wealth has been built upon widespread poverty. The security and welfare of the wealthy classes have been achieved at the cost of insecurity and lack of social protection for the majority of society, namely the workers. Society has now become the arena of confrontation between two main social classes: the vast masses of wage



workers (employed and unemployed) and the capitalists along with the capitalist state. It is now clearer than ever that the working class will be the main force of any future political transformation in contemporary Iran.

The Communist Party of Iran, as a Marxist party, fights to end the political and economic domination of the capitalist class, establish a workers' government, and create a socialist society. A society in which the abolition of exploitation of human by humans and the withering away of the state and all its supporting institutions are realized. Our ultimate goal is to achieve a society where universal freedom and welfare replace oppression, injustice, and deprivation, and where equal opportunities for growth, creativity, and human development are provided; a society in which everyone works according to their ability and receives according to their needs, and where no state stands above society to bind individuals to past systems of exploitation, oppression, superstition, and ignorance.

From our perspective, socialism is not a distant or unknown future; rather, its social and economic foundations already exist within the capitalist system of Iran, and its realization will be made possible through the consciousness, organization, and struggle of the working class. The material resources and wealth of Iranian society, along with international working-class solidarity, will guarantee its sustainability.

Under present conditions, this struggle continues through the overthrow of the Islamic Republic, and the abolition of this system of repression and suffocation constitutes the immediate goal of the workers' revolution. However, as long as capitalism remains, the Communist Party of Iran, while persistently fighting for socialism and a communist society, will not for a moment abandon the struggle for progressive political, economic, social, and cultural reforms to improve the living conditions of workers and to make society more secure and humane. The realization of these demands will simultaneously create favorable conditions for workers' revolution and socialism. Therefore, the Communist Party of Iran fights from now on for the realization of the following demands.



Councils and People's Sovereignty

The experience of the entire world, as well as that of Iran, has clearly shown that parliamentary democracy, behind its hypocritical appearances, has always been a tool to keep workers and the masses practically excluded from meaningful participation in determining their own fate. In our view, the council system is the best and most accessible means for the direct participation of all members of the working class and the masses as lawmakers and executors of laws in governing society. In conditions where technological advances have expanded communication and access to information for all, the council system will further facilitate the direct involvement of workers and the masses in managing society. This system can prevent the establishment of a bureaucratic structure that would again rise above the revolution and the people and turn them into powerless spectators of politics.

Local councils, councils of representatives at all levels, and a national congress of councils, as the highest governing body of the country, will form the structure of political power and provide real opportunities for workers and all people to participate in governing society and determining their political and economic destiny.

Abolition of Bureaucracy Above the People

Direct participation of the people in governing the country; election of all administrative and political officials by the people and their recallability whenever the majority of voters decide.

Those in positions of authority shall receive salaries no higher than those of a skilled worker. Individuals have the right to file complaints against any state official in higher courts.

Judges and other judicial officials shall be elected and subject to recall whenever the majority of voters decide; abolition of all special courts and public trials.



Dissolution of the Army and Other Professional Armed Forces

The army, the Revolutionary Guards, and other repressive organs of the Islamic Republic must be dissolved. Our ultimate goal is the abolition of all professional armed forces. However, as long as such institutions have not been completely eliminated, we demand their control and high command by the national congress of councils and fight for the full democratization of internal relations within the army. We demand the complete non-intervention of the army in domestic affairs and consider it solely a defensive, not offensive, institution.

Individual, Political, and Social Rights and Freedoms

1. Universal, equal, direct, and secret suffrage for all individuals over 16 years old, regardless of gender, religion, nationality, ethnicity, or political belief. The right of all individuals over 18 years old to be elected to any representative body.
2. Unconditional political freedoms, freedom to form parties and engage in political activity, freedom of belief and its expression, freedom of speech and press, freedom of assembly, demonstration, strike, sit-in, formation of unions, and any kind of professional or political organization. Ensuring public access to mass media, publications, radio and television networks; abolition of all censorship.
3. Separation of religion from the state; abolition of any privileges or discrimination in state employment and individual rights based on religion or religious position, or belief or non-belief in religion. Abolition of state financial or non-financial support to religious activities and institutions. Removal of religious content and rituals from public schools and educational institutions. No religion shall be recognized as the official religion of the country, religion shall be considered a private matter, and all individuals are free to practice any religion or none.



4. Full equality of legal rights for all individuals regardless of religion, ideology, or political belief. Elimination of any legal discrimination or restrictions based on political beliefs.
5. Freedom to choose occupation and place of residence; legal protection of individuals and their homes, abolition of all laws based on police interference in private life and dissolution of all institutions enforcing such laws. Freedom of travel and residence throughout the country and freedom to travel abroad.
6. Iran is a country that accepts immigrants. Political refugees shall be accepted unconditionally. Any migrant worker or refugee may obtain Iranian citizenship if desired and otherwise shall enjoy full and equal rights with other residents of Iran.
7. Full public oversight of foreign policy; abolition of secret diplomacy, recognition of equal rights of all nations, support for workers', socialist, and freedom movements worldwide.
8. Inclusion of the abolition of the death penalty in the constitution.

Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Equality of Women and Men

The Communist Party of Iran fights for full equality between women and men in all aspects of political, economic, social, and family life, and for this purpose demands the immediate realization of the following:

- **Social and Political Rights**
Women and men must equally enjoy the right to vote and to be elected in all legislative, judicial, and executive bodies at all national and local levels. All laws and regulations restricting women's freedom in clothing, such as compulsory hijab, shall be abolished. Any regulations enforcing gender segregation in public gatherings, schools, universities, public spaces, and transportation shall be abolished. Any gender-based discrimination in education shall be eliminated. Classes at all educational levels must be coeducational. Women have the right to participate in all sports, artistic, and scientific fields and must have access to all facilities in these areas.



Women must be freed from the burden of domestic labor, and their participation in social life must be facilitated. To this end, public service institutions such as nurseries, kindergartens, laundries, etc., should be established in residential areas and provided free of charge.

- **Economic Rights**

Full equality of women and men in employment; equal pay for equal work; equal social insurance. Two days of monthly leave for employed women; prohibition of assigning harmful work to pregnant women. Dismissal of pregnant women under any pretext is prohibited. Refusal to hire pregnant women or women with children is illegal and punishable. Gender specification in job and educational advertisements is prohibited (except in necessary and legally defined cases).

Provision of 16 weeks of maternity leave and one year of childcare leave, to be used by either parent by mutual agreement.

- **Women's Rights in the Family**

Freedom in marriage and choice of spouse. Prohibition of any financial transactions such as bride price, dowry, etc. Recognition of marriage through official state registration; prohibition of temporary marriage and polygamy. Equal rights of women and men in divorce and child custody. Prohibition of marriage under 18 years old. Religious authorities marrying individuals under 18 are considered criminals. Prohibition of sexual relations between individuals over 18 and those under 16.

Women and men must have equal rights and responsibilities toward each other, toward their children, and in all aspects of life. Residence must be determined by mutual agreement. Laws granting only men the right to determine residence must be abolished. Women's right to work and travel must not depend on the husband's permission.

All religious and customary laws reducing punishment for crimes against women under the pretext of "honor" must be abolished.

Severe penalties must be imposed for such crimes. Any inequality in inheritance laws, property division, and guardianship must be



eliminated. Women and men must equally have the right to divorce. The law must recognize separation upon request by either party. Motherhood rights must be recognized independently of marriage. Women with children outside marriage must have full rights, and their children must enjoy full social rights. Private relations between women and men must be respected and protected from interference. State or individual intrusion into private life is strictly prohibited.

- **Abortion**

Capitalist society offers only two options to women with unwanted pregnancies: abortion or enduring severe psychological, economic, and social hardship. Poverty, inability to provide for children, barriers to women's participation in social life, and the difficulties faced by single mothers lead many women to seek abortion. When illegal, women resort to unsafe procedures under poor conditions and high cost. Therefore, abortion must be recognized as a right, provided it does not endanger the woman's life and the fetus is under 16 weeks old, and it must not require permission from anyone other than the woman herself.

Abortions must be performed free of charge in hospitals and clinics under medical supervision. Those performing abortions without proper qualifications are criminals.

- **Prostitution**

Prostitution is one of the forms of oppression against women in capitalist society, and combating it is essential for restoring women's dignity. Poverty, lack of social security, restrictions on women's employment, and patriarchal culture contribute to its existence. Religious teachings, as seen in Iran, reinforce patriarchy and contribute to prostitution.

Eliminating prostitution requires addressing all these factors. Additionally, the state must provide economic support, education, and employment opportunities for victims. Intermediaries and organizers of prostitution must be prosecuted and severely punished.



Ending National Oppression and Discrimination Based on Nationality

National oppression is one of the forms of discrimination and denial of rights prevailing in Iran, and it must be decisively ended. Therefore:

We demand equality of rights among nationalities, the abolition of all legal and practical discrimination based on nationality, an end to bureaucratic interference by the central government in people's affairs, the creation of democratic institutions of local governance, and the abolition of an imposed official language. We oppose the creation and incitement of national hatred and hostility.

We believe that the interests of the proletariat's struggle for socialism require unity of action and political cohesion of the working class in Iran, and the Communist Party of Iran strives to ensure the unity of the Iranian working class in all arenas of struggle. Therefore, we recognize the right of all nations residing in Iran to self-determination, that is, their freedom up to complete separation.

At the same time, we support the free and voluntary union of all nations and believe that such a union is in the interest of the working masses.

Public Welfare and Social Insurance

In order to raise the level of culture and public welfare, which in turn will facilitate the joining of other toilers of society to the working-class struggle for liberation, we demand the realization of the following:

1. Adequate unemployment insurance based on the minimum wage for every unemployed person over 18 years old.
2. Provision and guarantee of suitable housing (in terms of space, hygiene, and urban services) for all individuals in the country, and immediate measures in this regard through: confiscation of all lands of land-grabbers and luxurious and surplus properties of the wealthy, surplus government buildings, and implementation of short-term



- housing projects on confiscated lands at state expense, as determined and carried out by democratic popular institutions.
3. Public, free, and adequate healthcare and nationwide medical coverage for all residents of the country, abolition of private medicine.
 4. Free education at all levels for all individuals; compulsory education up to age 16; immediate planning to eradicate illiteracy.
 5. Creation of cultural and welfare facilities in deprived urban and rural areas, such as electricity, telephone, drinking water pipelines, roads, schools, clinics, sports facilities, assembly halls, etc., at state expense.
 6. Establishment of special service institutions to reduce the burden of domestic labor, such as laundry, kindergartens, etc., in residential areas.
 7. Provision of livelihood, security, recreation, and education for children by the state, regardless of family conditions. All children and adolescents under 18 who lack livelihood and family support shall be under state care.
 8. Provision of livelihood and welfare for people with disabilities and creation of conditions for their social participation by the state.
 9. Provision of livelihood and welfare for the elderly in a manner befitting their dignity and respect, by the state.
 10. Abolition of all indirect taxes
 11. Prohibition of marriage of girls and boys under 18 years old, and freedom for all individuals over 18 to form a family by their own will.

Environmental Protection

The Communist Party of Iran considers all mineral resources, rivers, forests, and pastures of the country as public wealth. We demand the protection of natural resources and the environment and the prevention of their misuse. Pollution of natural resources and the air in residential areas must be recognized as a crime and offenders must be punished.



Minimum Provisions of Labor Law and Workers' Rights

Under conditions where the capitalist system still prevails, ensuring the minimum livelihood and welfare of workers requires submission to exhausting, continuous, and strenuous labor, which wears down their strength and health and deprives them of the opportunity for spiritual growth and the development of political and class consciousness.

Therefore, in order to ensure the material comfort and welfare of workers, to protect the working class from physical and mental degradation, and to increase their capacity in the struggle for final liberation from capitalist exploitation, we demand the realization of the following for all workers:

1. Reduction of the working week to a maximum of 35 hours, establishment of at least two consecutive days off per week, 30 working days of annual leave in addition to official holidays, with full pay and benefits.
2. Determination of an official minimum wage in agreement with nationally elected representatives of workers, based on the cost of living and welfare of a five-member family, and increasing wages in proportion to the rising cost of living and consideration of improving living standards.
3. Determination of wages, benefits, and rest periods during the working day based on the hardship, health risks, and other physical conditions of work, approved by elected representatives of workers.
4. Prohibition of dismissal of workers by employers, and referral of final decisions in all dismissal cases to the vote of the general assembly of workers of the respective unit. Supervision of hiring by elected representatives of workers.
5. Prohibition of all forms of overtime.
6. Prohibition of night work (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.) in all sectors except those where, due to technical reasons or social welfare, night work is unavoidable. Payment of double wages and benefits for night work, and shift allowances for shift work.
7. Prohibition of all forms of wage labor systems (including piecework and contract work) and prohibition of payment of wages in kind or non-cash forms.
8. Prohibition of any fines and wage deductions under any pretext; payment of wages for justified absences, illness and recovery



- periods, time of strikes, and any stoppage of production for various reasons or at the will of the employer.
9. Counting time spent on meals, post-work hygiene, general assemblies, and participation in literacy classes as part of working hours. Provision of transportation costs by the employer.
 10. Guarantees of safety and health in the workplace and reduction of workplace hazards to the minimum possible, independent of profit considerations. Regular medical supervision for work-related risks and diseases at the expense of employers and the state.
 11. Full insurance coverage of workers against damages and losses arising from work, whether occurring inside or outside the workplace “without requiring the worker to prove employer fault” at the expense of employers and the state, as determined and supervised by elected workers’ representatives. Compensation for workers who suffer illness or disability due to workplace accidents and lose their ability to work. Full retirement benefits for such workers; abolition of workers’ insurance payments.
 12. Reduction of the maximum retirement age to 55 years or after 25 years of work, with full retirement benefits paid by the state. Payment of full pensions to dependents of deceased workers. Adjustment of pensions in line with wage increases. Consideration of total years of work across different workplaces in calculating benefits.
 13. Equal wages for women and men for equal work. Equal opportunity in employment regardless of gender, ethnicity, nationality, etc.
 14. Prohibition of assigning heavy work to pregnant women; 16 weeks of maternity leave for working women without deduction of wages and benefits; establishment of two additional days of monthly leave for women with full pay and benefits.
 15. Prohibition of professional work for children and adolescents under 18 years old.
 16. Provision of welfare and cultural facilities in workplaces and residential areas, such as assembly halls, rest areas, dining facilities, sports fields and halls, recreational clubs, nurseries, kindergartens,



clinics, libraries, and adult literacy classes, at the expense of employers and the state.

17. Regulation and enforcement of internal rules of workplaces and economic units with the approval and supervision of elected workers' representatives.
18. Establishment of dispute resolution courts with juries composed of elected workers' representatives to arbitrate disputes between workers and employers. The cost of establishing such courts must be entirely borne by employers.
19. Formation of workers' inspection bodies elected by workers. These bodies will inspect and audit the implementation of the above provisions in all production units and generally in all workplaces (including domestic services).

The Communist Party of Iran persistently struggles to achieve the above reforms in the social life of workers and the oppressed masses. We support every freedom-seeking and justice-oriented struggle against the Islamic Republic and every movement that consistently seeks to eliminate various forms of gender, religious, national, political, economic, social, and cultural discrimination.

The Communist Party of Iran will actively participate in any struggle, social movement, or political institution that partially realizes its declared political objectives and facilitates access of the workers' and socialist movement and forces to the levers of political power in society.