

TITLE:

Resolution to leave the Socialist International and initiate a DSA-wide discussion on international work

NAME(S) and LOCAL(S) OF THOSE PROPOSING THE RESOLUTION WHO WILL SERVE AS LEAD**CONTACTS:**

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DO YOU TEXT? YES

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS FOR DSA: *What, if any, limited local and national resources would we devote to this issue or to educational activities? For example, if possible, please how much would this cost and how much staff time to you imagine this proposal taking?*

This resolution would not cost DSA anything, and would allow DSA to raise funds from DSA members on a voluntary basis for another cause in place of paying dues to the Socialist International.

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN TWO DISTINCT SECTIONS:

1) *Statement of Action:*

BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE ACTION MANDATED BY THE RESOLUTION: What organizing and tactics would carry out the resolution (how do we organize around this concern)?

DSA will resolve to end its membership in the Socialist International effective immediately. The National Office will be asked to convey our decision to the appropriate representatives in the Socialist International. YDS will be asked to reconsider its membership in the International Union of Socialist Youth at its next conference.

Furthermore, the National Political Committee will be instructed to begin a DSA-wide conversation on new ways in which DSA could carry out international work on a bilateral basis with other socialist and left parties and organizations as well as relevant social movements. The goal would be to formulate a plan to be submitted to the national convention for approval in 2017. It would be at the discretion of the NPC to determine when it would be best to begin this discussion (probably after the conclusion of the Sanders campaign).

2) *The Rationale:*

STATEMENT OF WHY THIS RESOLUTION IS BEING PROPOSED (MOTIVATION FOR THE RESOLUTION):

Whereas, the member parties of the Socialist International have been thoroughly integrated into the neoliberal order, support austerity regimes, and do not stand for a democratic socialist, anti-capitalist agenda.

And whereas, many of the current and recent member parties of the Socialist International have brought shame on the organization and the principles of socialist internationalism, including the National Democratic Party, the party of the deposed Egyptian autocrat Hosni Mubarak, and the Social Democratic Party of Germany, which has actively supported the imposition of a cruel austerity regime on the people of Greece.

And whereas, the Socialist International primarily exists to provide career politicians with an opportunity for international networking. DSA no longer enjoys any material benefits from its membership in the Socialist International, while our relationship with institutions like the think tank the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (affiliated with the German Left Party) is both materially and ideologically beneficial to us.

And whereas, any money spent by DSA (even if raised from donations) on paying dues to the Socialist International is money that could be better spent on our other priorities.

And whereas, the Socialist International is disintegrating as many of its member parties consider cutting their ties and forming a new Progressive Alliance with the US Democratic Party.

And whereas, DSA needs to have a plan for how to effectively do international socialist work in a way that will both help our organization and help the international socialist movement most effectively. Considering that few to no members of DSA actually support remaining in the Socialist International, this plan could better be developed if our membership in the Socialist International is terminated and the ground is cleared for a fresh conversation about new ways to do international work.

DSA resolves to leave the Socialist International, effective immediately, and to begin an organization-wide discussion which will produce a new plan for international socialist work to be submitted to the 2017 convention for approval.