

# Starting a process to develop theoretical and strategic clarity

*Motion passed at the February 2023 All Member Assembly.*

The situation in Britain and the world seems to be one of resurgent worker activity in the face of the cost of living crisis and recession. The last year has seen a dizzying amount of industrial activity, a welcome change from recent years. However, both within the worker movement, various social movements, and the wider left there is a clear lack of strategic and theoretical insight into what our current conjuncture is, and what a path to revolution might look like. Whether it's the environmental splinter groups which have emerged out of XR, debating pipelines and Van Goghs, or the battles over democracy and escalation in the various ongoing industrial disputes, there are many *takes* and far fewer analyses and plans.

Similarly, in rs21, with 3 paid staff and a growing membership, a return to pre-pandemic branch activity, and a number of publications from members, there is a certain level of health to the project. However, the task on the tin, as it were - to develop a revolutionary socialist politics sufficient for the current conjuncture - is still in need of urgent development. Many points of political consensus in the organisation are often undiscussed and undeveloped, with assumptions made by members that there is consensus on pressing issues that actually need further discussing and developing.

It is common to come across the question, 'rs21, what is that?' and 'rs21, what do you do?' To be able to answer these questions properly, for new individuals to find, join, and understand the organisation, and to develop strategic plans for branch and British-wide activity, an analysis of the conjuncture, how socialists are going to organise to act, and what rs21's role is in that process should be developed.

Such a process cannot be left to the side, otherwise we risk a slow drift into indecision and eclecticism. At the same time, the history of the left is full of sects attempting to develop lines on everything to the point of self-destruction. What is needed is an intentional and ongoing process, with a clear intended outcome, for the purposes of identifying both points of unity that rs21 can build around, as well as points of disunity that allow us to collectively develop socialist thought and practice through critique, debate, and discussion. An aspiration to develop a programmatic or perspective document, which can act as a point of unity, whilst allowing a full flourishing of theoretical insight.

## **This motion proposes the following:**

That following the February 2023 AMA rs21 launches a programme working group, open to any members to join.

That this working group will organise:

- A series of member-only discussion meetings on several aspects of rs21's politics
- An all member consultation form where members will highlight key aspects of rs21's politics, what they consider important in contemporary politics, and what they see as areas needing analysis.

- This working group will then draft a perspectives document based on the above, to be subject to a vote in either of the two AMAs following the February AMA. If approved, to form a central part of the 'about us' section of the site.
- This working group will further draft an internal report reflecting on this process, proposing further ways to continue political education and development, and proposals for how this should feed into branch and national strategy. This report should similarly reflect on how rs21s organisational practices can be developed in line with reflections from the process.

This AMA mandates the working group - in conjunction with the paid workers and regularly reporting to the SG - to facilitate this process of political development and clarification by rolling it out across all the organisation's internal networks and making a concerted effort to feed this back through the internal and external publications of rs21. One of the ultimate aims of a process such as this, would be the increased participation and engagement of rs21's membership.

