

Jeremy Corbyn.
Peace and Justice Project and Progressive International

It is a great honor to be invited by the Workers Party (PT) to this impressive Congress and be part of the large group of international delegates observing the political changes in Mexico.

I believe we have all traveled here for three main reasons — the three great crises that menace our world and beset the progressive forces who hope to shape it.

The first is war: the escalating threat of international conflict, and what it means for millions of vulnerable populations from Palestine to Sudan.

The second is inequality: the explosion of wealth inequality between those who jet set across the world and those who can barely afford to pay the heating.

And the third is disempowerment: the ways in which our economies and our politics are designed to make certain people feel invincible, and others worthless in our democratic system.

Each of these crises requires us to work together — from this seminar to the weeks and months ahead — in a global front: a new kind of International that brings together parties and unions and movements across the world.

And this effort — to strengthen a Progressive International — starts here, in Mexico, where we have so much to learn from how Morena and the PT have responded to each one of these global crises.

Huge congratulations to Claudia Scheinbaum on her election as President of Mexico, a huge victory for an agenda to continue reducing poverty and increasing opportunities for all working class communities.

Thanks to Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador for his presidency, and taking 5 million out of poverty and reducing inequality. His daily MAÑANERA is a global legend and succeeded in setting a political agenda everyday rather than allowing hostile media sources to do so.

I was here in 2006 to join the protests following the Presidential election, and again in 2012, and the joy of the great victory in 2018. That victory and that of Claudia is a triumph for the left.

In a world in desperate need of redistribution of power and wealth and environmental sustainability we are beset by war.

43,000 already dead in Gaza Palestine as Israel rains bombs down in contravention of both international law and humanity; and now extends the war to Lebanon with massive destruction of Beireut and huge loss of life.

Do not forget the occupation of the West Bank and the continued settlements taking land and water away from Palestinian farmers. Generations on the West Bank have never known anything but occupation; the refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria were born in forced exile.

In defiance of widespread demands a ceasefire has been refused. Israel now intent on occupying much of Lebanon can only increase the spread of war and involve other countries.

Nethanyahu used his UN speech, a place for peace, to announce more war and destruction.

The huge demonstrations around the world in support of Palestine demand a ceasefire and an end to arms supplies to Israel by the US and European countries, including Britain. Without the supply of planes and bombs Israel could not continue the carnage.

In the UK we are about to hold our fifteenth national demonstration and make renewed demands on the UK Government to halt the supply of weapons and the use of British military bases in Cyprus to further the war aims of Israel.

We need even more demonstrations around the world to try and end the war and also recognise there are brave people in Israel that also oppose the war.

The war in Ukraine is costing thousands of lives of conscripted Ukrainian and Russian soldiers as this war drags on. The invasion of Ukraine was wrong and the war can only end by negotiation led by either the United Nations or a group of political leaders from Africa and Latin America mounting a renewed attempt at peace.

Wars in Sudan and Congo are also costing thousands of lives fuelled by a fatal combination of mineral extraction and sales of arms by American and European manufacturers which fuel the conflicts.

After the General election in 2019 I was determined to ensure the left in Britain had a continued voice within and outside the Labour Party. I joined others in founding the Peace and Justice Project. Our work is promoting and supporting Union struggles, artistic and creative endeavor and international solidarity: Two weeks ago we held our second hybrid International Conference organized by our International Secretary Laura Alvarez. The hybrid event had 25000 participants.

We are part of Progressive International and I serve in its cabinet. One of our coordinators, David Adler, is here at this congress. Three years ago, we worked with and brought together Parties, left movements, social movements from all over the world.

We must all work together.

The Peace and Justice Project has produced a book, *The Monstrous Anger of the Guns*, which exposes the corruption of the arms trade, the destruction it brings and the monumental waste of resources that should be used for environment, health and education needs.

The left are essentially a movement for peace and social and economic justice.

Austerity and neo liberal economics have brought damage to public services, lower taxation for the wealthiest and increased levels of poverty.

Trade Unions are a vital form of working class defense, and advance. Membership must grow, particularly amongst the poorest landless workers in many countries and those employed in the gig economy in urban centers.

The richest and most powerful corporations in the world are becoming stronger and pursuing an agenda against organized labour.

Socialist demands have never been more relevant or necessary than they are now.

Free market economics will not feed hungry children.

Neo liberalism damages the environment.

Above all we need unity of left forces on a global level which is why Progressive International have endorsed the demand for a renewed New International Economic Order which makes these demands for empowerment of the southern countries in the face of global demands from biggest businesses and the very obvious environmental issues faced, especially by the poorest people in the global South.

At a time when racism is rising, especially in Europe and North America as far right parties blame refugees and migrants, who are often victims of war, for the stresses placed on communities by neo liberal economics, the left must speak out. Example migrants want to move to the USA for economic reasons.

Any compromises with the racist right leads to their empowerment. Left parties and working class organizations need to be united and determined in making the case for a world of social justice and peace.

We can only achieve this by working and campaigning together, and above all, supporting each other in wage demands and protection of rights.

Our conference here in Mexico City is an example of the confidence that comes from unity and determination of the vision of the kind of world we can live in, and the hope that comes from people all over the world standing in solidarity.

Thank you for the honour of my invitation; to challenge the crisis the poorest and most vulnerable face we need confidence, unity and inspiration.

Venceremos compañeros y viva México.