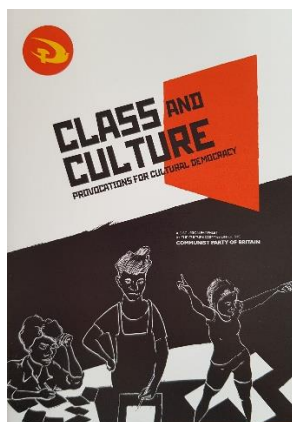


Class and Culture

A discussion pamphlet from the Culture Commission of the CPB



At the recent Party Congress, this pamphlet was distributed to everyone attending Congress and it was agreed to send it electronically to all Party members. In addition, some hard copies have been printed and batches are being sent to all Branches, Districts and Nations.

The pamphlet has been produced by members of the Culture Commission, which is committed to promoting cultural democracy, as set out in **Britain's Road to Socialism**. It consists of a series of brief provocations on various cultural topics which are designed to stimulate discussion, planning, *and above all action*, in local Party branches.

Please include some reference to cultural action in your Branch and District plans. To help with this process a few questions are outlined below, for branches to consider:

1. What do Party members think of the assertions and arguments about the cultural struggle and the promotion of cultural democracy, in the BRS document and in the CC pamphlet?
2. What kind of things do Party members think should be included in local, regional and national plans by the Party to engage with cultural issues?
3. How might Party members locally make effective interventions in cultural struggles locally? There are hundreds of possibilities for engagement with cultural authorities and institutions, and the pamphlet will give members all kinds of food for thought.
4. Here are just a few suggestions for the kind of questions to consider:
 - **Local cultural partnerships** which develop strategies and guide funding: do they address issues of working-class accessibility and

content as consumers, and access, fair pay and progression as workers? How about an intervention with the local councillors responsible for culture?

- **General** – Do we have free access to the full variety of art and cultural experiences?
- **Sport** – how can we make football and other sports more accessible to working people?
- **Museums** – how relevant and attractive are exhibitions to working-class people, and other oppressed and overlooked constituencies?
- **Theatre** – again, how relevant are productions to working-class life and experience? Is there fair access and career progression for aspiring actors, writers, directors etc. from working-class backgrounds?
- **Faith communities** – are there potential allies in local faith communities around the promotion of democracy in churches, mosques, synagogues and temples?
- **Art galleries** – again, are there issues of programming of exhibitions? Is there openness to and encouragement of local artists? Is there application of Fair Work principles in commissioning work?
- **The media** – does programming reflect working-class lives and experiences? Are editorial stances of local newspapers and radio stations appropriate?
- **Music** – is there support for local musicians and fair payment? (Ron, what else?)
- Could the branch directly sponsor or support a cultural experience of some kind, to help rebuild class solidarity?
- Could a Branch member/Education officer take responsibility for culture issues?

5. The Culture Commission would be interested to receive feedback on discussions, plans and activities by Party branches, so that we can develop further detailed useful guidance for Party members. Please email info@culturematters.org.uk

**Ron Brown and Mike Quille, Co-convenors, CPB Culture Commission,
January 2024**