

ULA and its constituent members

I read in a SP member's comments the following on the United Left Alliance:

"On a less significant note, and with all due respect to the many organisations listed in some of the comments above, with the exception of the Workers Party and one or two independents, none of them have any recent record of electoral significance even by the modest standards of the socialist left. They oppose elections in principle (WSM), have never stood in elections (Eirigi), haven't stood in decades (CPI, IRSP, Socialist Democracy) or stand one candidate (ISN). To put it mildly, the viability or otherwise of a left alliance in terms of the next election hardly rests on the participation of these groupings."

The person (I've forgotten his name) who wrote this should research a bit into the broad Left group in France called the "Front de Gauche" (F de G) which is made up of the French CP, the Parti de Gauche (the Left Party) - which was formed after a few Socialist Party members including a Senator and a Deputy left (the SP) at the end of 2008 - and the small Gauche Unitaire (United Left) - formed when a handful of non sectarians split from the NPA which had been set up when the LCR went into voluntary dissolution.

In my humble opinion, and that of a lot of CP members & probably Parti de Gauche members, the small Gauche Unitaire (GU) is the cement of this Broad Left Front which is going into its third electoral campaign in March 2011. The GU of course never had any elected representatives, or maybe one or two of the founder members were local councillors at the time but that's not much given the size of France. The F. de G. also manage to bring other groups (including the NPA) into this broad (real) left alliance in some regions and when they do, the result is very encouraging - from 15 to 20% in some Departements (French administrative division ~ county). It is of course hard work keeping this sort of "Front" together but everyone is needed and the aim is bring in direct members who are none of the constituent political organisations. To do so local F. de G. committees are being set up at the moment ... But that's another story.

What I'm saying is don't underestimate the value of any potential constituent member of your ULA if you are serious about a genuine Broad Left Front. The battle won't be an easy one and everyone will be needed.

While agreeing with the analysis that partition is not a top issue in this upcoming election, I'll take the opportunity of saying that on the long term, that for me it is a vital issue - its part of basic democracy. So any serious Irish Broad Left Front will have to face the issue in the not so long term.

Remember what James Connolly had to say about "Gas and Water Socialists".

Fraternally
Slan go foill