

What Anarchists Want

You can search all you want but you won't find any gods to govern you. The only people you will find are ordinary, fallible, human beings just like you and me. The unfortunate truth is there is no one on this earth who knows and understands all the worlds problems, yet alone is able to solve them. But, it is possible for me to understand my problems, and it is possible for me to solve them. Likewise, I am sure, you can understand your problems and solve them. And together we can solve our common problems.

Instead everywhere you look people are being told what to do by some 'authority'. Everywhere you look people are being bossed around. Instead of a world of equals, we have a world based on hierarchy.

Anarchists want to change this. We want to break down hierarchy and abolish all authority. We want to get rid of bosses in the sphere of production by abolishing the monopoly that capitalists have on humanity's means of sustenance. And we want to abolish the political institutions that institutionalise authoritarian social relationships and protect that monopoly of the capitalists. We turn the earth and it's produce into a global commons—a resource for all. We want to replace authority with liberty and competition with solidarity and mutual aid.

We want a world with No Masters.

NO MASTERS

For direct democracy and economic equality in the community and workplace. So we all can have control of the decisions affecting our lives. For Anarchism.

Listen 'Student'!

I am working class. I know it sounds funny being said today, in the modern day when, sure, 'aren't we all middle class?' But, the truth is, as 'middle class' as I may be, I am still, unfortunately, working class. I own nothing bar a bunch of books, a load of CDs, two guitars, a few bits of clothing and now, because some bastard stole the handle bars, I own a part of a bike. Oh, and I have a few hundred quid in the Credit Union. And, err, that's it. I don't own a factory, a farm or a shop. I don't own any capital and I own no property. And I'm pretty damn sure I won't be inheriting any.

But, to be fair, I don't go hungry. I don't freeze from lack of clothing. I don't work 'down the mines'. I don't work in any 'dark satanic mills'. Christ, during the academic year, I don't even work, but instead live off my parents. I don't have a thick 'working class' Dublin accent. I don't come from a Council estate. I'm not what the State would call 'disadvantaged', but does that make me ruling class? No.

Does that give me any clout with the governments of the world? No. Does that mean that I have any control over any one else's life bar mine? No. Does that mean that I am in real control over my life? Can I decide how I live it? No! Does it mean that I will not have to work day in day out for the rest of my life to earn a wage, so as to live? No! Does it mean that I am guaranteed a certain standard of living for the rest of my life? No!! Does it mean that I am guaranteed a job? No!!! Does it mean that I won't need a job? Most certainly not!!!!

For the rest of my life I will have to work for somebody else, selling them my ability to work, selling them my energy, so as they make a profit out of me, and so as that I can live. I say live with reservation, can I really call the life ahead of me 'living'?

If I get sick, the hospitals are to full to take me. When I'm old and un-profitably, society will ignore me. When I'm profitable and working, my boss will always try to make me work harder and longer. No matter how profitable I am, I will never be profitable enough. And, no matter how many hours I work, I'll have to commute across Dublin for a few more. And that's if I'm lucky, if I'm lucky enough to be able to get work in Dublin, if I'm lucky enough not to need to emigrate.

And all the while, all around the world there will be wars, all for profit, property, the State and Empire. And all around me people will be dying from the pollution in the air, the waste in the water, the pesticides in the vegetables we eat and the hormones in the meat. All there because, it isn't un-profitable to pollute and because, it is to cheapen our food in every sense of the word. The police will continue to suppress dissent, using whatever means necessary. The media will remain under the control of a few rich and powerful individuals.

I DIDN'T GO TO WORK TODAY...



...I DON'T THINK I'LL GO TOMORROW

The government will still do absolutely whatever is necessary to bring in the jobs.

We will not have a sustainable transportation system.

Hundreds will die every year on our roads, while roughly twice as many will take their own lives because the can't stick it. Drugs will still be ravaging our country and young people will have as little hope as the do today, locked up from playschool till we graduate in a variety of 'educational' institutes. Kept out of view and under control. Learning to obey, to be subservient, to do menial and pointless tasks without objecting, or to put it differently, 'developing a work ethic, and a respect for authority'.

And yet according to the media, the government and capitalist ideologues, all the above, this is my system, this is my society and this is my life, and I'm in control over it, I make all the decisions! According to them, this profit based system works for me!! Well, guess what it doesn't. And, no matter how 'middle class' I may be, I don't earn profit, I never had and never will. Why because I don't own any capital. So how the fuck is a profit-based social-system supposed to work for me? How can capitalism work for me when I have no fucking capital?

All I have is my ability to work, which I have to sell for a wage, to, err, well, live!!! And yet, according to the world's capitalist ideologues, I'm not working class; I'm 'middle class'. Well fuck the middle class; I'm not going to be in the middle of anything. I know where my interests lie, and that's with people like me, us people who in order to live have to sacrifice our productive capacities upon the alter of profit, allowing our very life to be devoured by our bosses.

I'm working class, and my interests are, always and everywhere, with the working class.

Ois—Trinity Anarchists

Housing For Profit

Its that time of year again, when a vast majority of students realise one simple thing: we are being ripped off by our landlords. You've probably couch surfed for weeks, or ran around trying to open accounts in what ever bank it is that will extend an immediate over draft. Whatever you've done, you can be sure you'll be fucked over once a month for the coming year for a substantial amount of cash. And it feels like plain fucking legalised robbery. If you are lucky enough to receive the pathetic grant, you'll realise that with average rents well over €350 and spiralling, the state is leaving you ripped off. The options facing you are living at home and commuting long distances. Skipping classes and working long hours to pay rent. Or simply living in over crowded and cramped gaffs in the 'student land' of Rathmines or the like. None of these options are pleasant, and nothing is more distasteful than the accommodation crisis so many of us are forced into because we don't have access to the cash to by pass it.

One thing is certain, this crisis is artificial, the resources are there, its an issue of how they are being used. We are being held to ransom for higher rents, at the threat of having no where to stay, landlords inflate rents on their own personal whims. Buildings through out the city are left derelict as developers take advantage of the fact that property prices have risen a staggering 166% over the past six years, while your usual bank interest rate is around 6% for investment. The state which has long since defended the interests of these cartels, refuses to move against the derelicts and only a tiny percentage of them are forced to pay the 3% tax the law prescribes.

Why should we expect any different, senior council officials have acted as paid advisors/ facilitators to property hoarders for years. Lest anybody should question the link between house builders and Fianna Fail, the names of Burke, Lawlor and Reilly are clear examples of the corruption involved. Ray Burke received over £1 million from a single builder alone. Liam Lawlor, acting as an extremely well paid agent for various builders, distributed massive amounts of cash to corrupt politicians and council officials in return for the re-zoning of designated tracts of land owned by his paymasters. Paddy Reilly, a former election agent of Bertie Ahern, was involved in the cheap purchase of a large number of premises in central Dublin and renovated them for resale.

The recent revelation that over 20 people named in the Ansbacher fraud were builders and developers should come as no surprise. Neither should the fact that while the state provided 6,133 social houses last year, 62,686 private ones went up. So before its even finalised the state have broken the last bout of social partnership. A telling indictment of who it really benefits. Any attempt to reach similar agreements with authorities ends up in similar farce. Where as UCD have promised to build more student accommodation for years, they haven't bothered and just let the issue slide. Instead they are happy to do land swaps with developers, and sell off land for private apartment complexes instead of build student housing.

The worst part about it all is how the issue is being dealt with by our representatives. They seem only happy you just redirect us to the same websites we've been scouring for gaffs already.

Attempts to even tackle the issue politically consist of tokenistic stunts at the usual time and place every year, expect tents, posturing and not a whole lot more. These is no real attempt made to challenge the monopolistic behaviour of the landlords, no attempt to link in the fact that more than just students are being fucked over, but anyone who can't afford housing at extortionate rates is.

Last summer a group of young people squatted one of these derelicts, making a home and a social centre in the process of renovating it. The landlord didn't even notice, he had been in South Africa for over a decade, and had forgotten about this four story Georgian building on Leeson St. This happens all over the city: the next time you take the LUAS, have a gawk and see the derelicts fly pat, left abandoned until property prices shoot up. Of course these kids were thrown out by the cops.

The state is there to protect the hoarders, introducing the 2002 Anti-Trespass Act to move travellers off illegal halting sites, but potentially directing it against squatters as well. The core of the issue is how our society sees property, at the moment it is an individual thing. Housing ties into everything else, it is one of those ridiculous situations that our rulers persist in forcing on us. The notion that one class of people have a right to deprive another of a home, for the sake of making money playing the property market. Instead, like education, housing should be treated as social thing not something to be exploited for the private gain of an enriched few.

Once my own landlord demanded bank receipts off us because he has so much money coming into his accounts from various houses he was failing to keep track of it, and this was in a house where sellotape was used on the windows to keep the dampness out. We are being ripped off and its about bloody time we did something about it.

Usually, we seek the easiest option. When it comes to housing the easiest option is working more hours, or getting into more debt. Individual acts that sort the problems temporarily for ourselves, but allow them, to fester and worsen. We are increasingly being pushed to a situation where these individual solutions are exerting an unprecedented pressure on us. When that happens, we need to realise the political problem that lies at the root of this housing crisis. To be blunt, property is theft and nothing is more outrageous than leaving buildings dormant around the city to make a quick kill on the market when others go homeless.

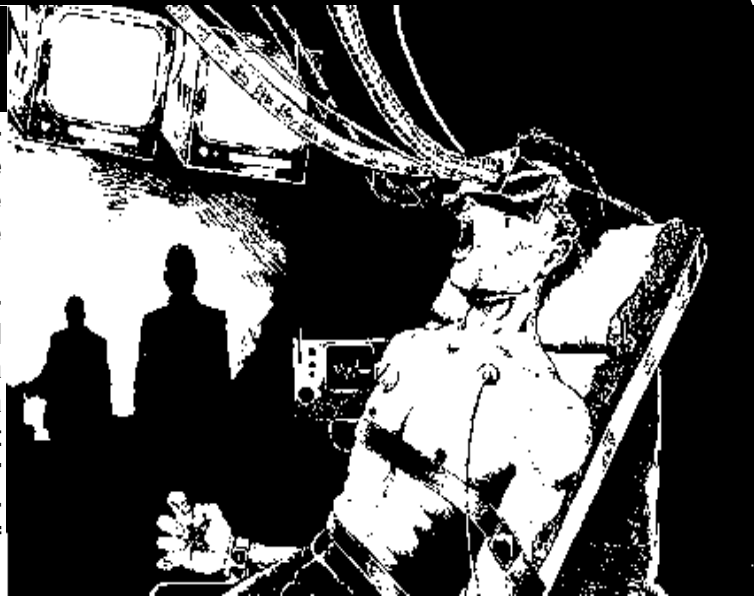
If we want to do something about the housing crisis facing us, we need to start facing it head on. Highlighting the ridiculous nature of it, how buildings lie dormant to jack up rent prices, who's doing this and what we can do to sort it. In three words. Squat the lot.

- another anarchist in UCD



Education & Control

Education is not accessible to all in society. A blatant fact. I challenge anybody who thinks on the contrary to this. The reasons for this inequality are abundant. The main reasons are predominantly due to broader social and economic inequalities created and maintained by the present government. Education in today's society is a privilege when it should be a Right that is constitutionally enshrined. At a time when education is increasingly becoming a commodity to be bought and sold on the market place the government is implementing cutback after cutback in public expenditure on education. At present the Irish government spends a pathetic 2% of its GDP on education, in Sweden 15% is allocated to the education budget.



In 2001 in UCD, Ireland's largest university had just 937 students whose parents were in semi and unskilled jobs. 8,354 students however came from employer and professional backgrounds. Equally the cost of education, between books, food and rent is extraordinarily high. Students on grant aided schemes are more likely to fail to complete the courses chosen. These students are more likely than others to be working more than sixteen hours per week to supplement their inadequate funding. Students with parents from professional backgrounds are more likely to be able to bear the indirect costs of going to college.

Geographically there are schools and districts around Ireland that have generations and generations of people dropping out of secondary school at a very young age. The apparent Celtic Tiger which benefited the sector of society which I earlier mentioned was built on a huge service sector in society. The Government regularly talks of how they have reduced unemployment and how great the economy is, however do you really think Bertie Ahern would be happy if his daughter was part of this great service sector and worked 50 hours a week in Miss Money Penny, or if Charlie McCreevys son worked 40 hours a week for the minimum wage in a software factory in Cookstown Industrial estate. I think not.

The current education system is one of the chief obstacles to intelligence and free thought. It discourages critical thinking and promotes subservience to the ideas and policies that allow inequality to exist in the first place. Despite what television tells you and glossy reports that promote the university as a centre of excellence and learning, university today consists of nothing more than the depositing of uncritical information into the mind of a student. A good student is therefore classified as to how good and how easily they receive this deposit.

The chief role of the university is to train you how to be obedient in an unequal, racist, heterosexist, neo liberal, oppressive and alienating society. It is not within the interest of the state, or our new God the free market or its religion consumerism, or the University to have students fighting for real equality. These institutions are bound up in the web of Capitalistic bureaucracy and benefit from the inequality that exists today. They are part of the very structure that allows oppression to take place.

Ask yourself why a politics graduate with a degree in their hand cannot tell you anything about alternative political systems and have never studied outside the realms of parliamentary democracy. Ask yourself why 99% of commerce graduates believe that success depends solely on increased competition in the free market and the growth of the economy regardless of its social and environmental destructiveness is the most important thing in life. Ask yourself why students involved in media are generally more concerned about their portfolio for their career and have little interest in tackling their colleges and our government as it may upset their possibility of rising up the ranks of the state and corporate media empire.

Ask yourself why in a world where there are thousands of academics and students we still live in war and turmoil. With all these educated people why is it that millions still have no access to basic education, healthcare, basic foods and sanitation. Why is this educated community which is alive today not building social change and constructing a planet free from oppression. Why is it that only a tiny minority of these educated people are aware that only 3% of the worlds population go to third level education. The answer is that these people have been trained by the state and free market economics in their universities and are now agents of the state. Every tyrant needs an army of obedient foot soldiers to maintain their position in society. This is a bit harsh, maybe that's the way man is you may say, this is the result of mass uncritical consumption of social Darwinism I say. Man is bad you say, man is also compassionate and rational I say. Things will never change you say, I agree unless education becomes as Paulo Freire says "the practice of freedom."

Education must end its period of hibernation in theory and come out into the light of action and agitation. This is what is often regarded as 'praxis'. The organic intermingling of theory and action. An idea is nothing unless it becomes grounded in material existence. We must act on our ideas. Nothing is inevitable but everything is possible. While we fight against educational disadvantage in society lets also fight for an end to obedient education and promote an education system that puts back into the community what it takes out. If we are in the epicentre of learning lets resist obedience to theory that allows and has created a system of oppression.

I believe in education, real libertarian education that is promoted by many including Paulo Freire should be accessible to all but for this to occur we must abolish how our current education system is run and what is taught. Tackling educational disadvantage is undoubtedly a core principle of social justice. Our government will not tackle educational disadvantage and grant access and opportunity to all because who will work for pennies on our factory floors to keep the wealth of their bosses intact. Despite good efforts the University will not open its borders to the masses of working class men and women eager to learn because it is more economically productive to invest research money into one PhD student to devise new methods of destroying the environment by Genetically Modifying new crops.

This investment is regularly hailed as the knowledge based economy. That is why we as students have a social responsibility to effect change both inside and outside our university. We must link our struggles for broader social change if we are to really be a centre of learning. A true education system is on which encourages peoples full participation in the world. A social awareness and eagerness to act. Do not sit back as a passive student, learn but as you learn act. Active reflection. Reflective action. Agitate and educate so that you can be free. Let this article be nothing more than this, a template for further action.

Aidan— an anarchist in UCD.

May Day Reclaimed In Dublin.

In the weeks leading up to the Irish government's celebration of a Bosses' Europe on Mayday there was a concerted state and media campaign to demonise and criminalise social resistance and opposition to an extended militarised, privatised, Fortress Europe. Dublin Grassroots Network played an important role in laying the groundwork in terms of countering media lies and highlighting the global ravages of capitalism and they should be congratulated for their hard work and effort that in the end worked to their advantage. The local community media network kindly offered their premises to the Indymedia network which kind of acted like a convergence centre for activists coming from abroad in their hundreds and also as a centre for discussions and media related issues.

On arrival on Dublin we were met with immigration officials demanding to see some form of identification - a strange welcome from the state at the figurative head of the new expanded EU. That Friday there was a mass cycle ride and walk through Dublin City centre which kicked off events. The following day saw Mayday kicked off with a series of No Borders events and a real welcoming of immigrants - not the sham of the wining and dining of our oppressive rulers at Farmleigh House.

It's a shame they didn't choke on their own food! During the latter part of the day there were also anti- privatisation actions and the symbolic occupation of a private park - exclusive to the rich and the likes of the O'Reilly brothers and other parasites. Empty properties were occupied and demands of 'Homes not Jails' chanted - highlighting the greater drive towards the incarceration, rather than housing, of working class people by the Dail. By now the crowd of protestors had grown to several thousand despite the threats of state violence and government and media attempts to scare protestors away in the countdown to May Day. The main march to Farmleigh House left the GPO at around 6 p.m. with around 5- 7 thousand people - and yes the police tried to ban the march but failed. Two groups were evident on the march, a group which called for non-confrontation and a Black Bloc made up of those who had no desire to be cauterised into peaceful or violent boxes - who wanted to be free to respond appropriately to any aggression instigated by the state. We gradually walked further and further up the Navan road and came to a halt.

The Black bloc organised into lines and linked arms and then marched up to lines of division chanting "solidarity" and peacefully tried to break through police lines. Suddenly riot cops ran to the front-line and water cannon (borrowed from the PSNI) was turned on protestors. Several peaceful protesters were knocked to the ground and injured, many others were injured by baton wielding cops and some were arrested. A minor scuffle soon broke out and a few stones



were thrown - but this was drop in the ocean compared to the heavy-handed armed thugs let loose by Bertie and his mates. In the days preceding and after the weekend we held a number of solidarity protests outside the gaols in which our fellow activists were held.

Significantly many working class Dubliners, knowing only too well who the real 'mindless hooligans' and 'gangsters' of Europe are, came out in their thousands to join us in celebrating and fighting for an alternative Europe. Meanwhile the leaders and bureaucrats of the trades union movement fled Dublin, cancelling the trade union May Day demonstration 'in case of trouble' with their 'social partners' the bosses.

Overall, we marched with self-respect, dignity, and solidarity with our brothers and sisters across the world in the fight for social justice and the abolition of the chains of bondage in which we are enslaved and exploited. We successfully reclaimed Mayday in an empowering experience of collective direct action and solidarity.

As August Spies one of the Chicago martyrs once said, "The time will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today"

Sean M—Queen's University Anarchists—Organise!

What Type Of Student Politics?

“University politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small”. These are the words of the notorious Henry Kissinger (US secretary of state). Scarily enough this has often been quiet true of students Unions and the politics around them. Personality politics takes over and it can descend into a farce. This year can't and won't be the same. The stakes have now been raised to the highest they've been in decades. The OECD has now said that third level fees should be reintroduced and everyone seems to be treating it as a fait accompli.

Basically the future of education is up for grabs this year. There are frightening prospects at stake here: Privatisation, reintroduction of fees and basic notions of democracy are on table and the student movement could very easily lose. This is one year college politics are important. This year you have a damn right to be vicious if the S.U. isn't doing its job and organising.

Students' Unions like trade unions, were founded to defend and advance the interests of their members against the attacks of the state and college. The college structure is un-democratic and hierarchical, and in contrast our unions are democratic and the officers are accountable, constitutionally at least. The unions are based on the principles of direct democracy, where the mass of membership have final control over what decisions are made, and representatives have to carry out mandates and can be hauled up to account. In this role the union promotes self-management and empowerment among students. However, with a high student turnover, the only permanent force in the unions is elements of the college authorities them-selves.

Taken aside and fed bullshit about their own importance by the college, many union officers end up as apologists for actions taken by the college authorities, instead of standing up to them for their members. The union ends up filling the gaps left by the college and state, putting band-aids over symptoms instead of striking the root cause. For instance, instead of tackling the housing crisis by combating property speculation and fighting for an extension of rent allowance to students, unions play the role of agencies in advertising houses. Where the unions should be fighting on issues, instead it ends up managing them on behalf of the college and state. Often with a leadership who's main priority seems to be keeping things ticking over, rather than acting to empower the membership in fighting for a better life and a better education.

As anarchists we argue for mass based campaigns that involve general participation in making decisions as well as implementing them. This means organising from the grassroots up. Involving students in the decision making process through open non-hierarchical meetings, where anyone can get involved. Instead of expecting them to show up and passively take part in events they have no control over. A union's strength lies in the mass of numbers it contains, not in the limited abilities of individual officers.

One of the greatest tricks the right tries to pull at every union election is to convince us that politics should not come into student unions. What sort of bullshit is that? Everything is political and the issues facing students are loaded with political content and they need a political response. Unfortunately, the student unions are lacking a sense of political purpose. Overall the movement has no clear aims, it is more concerned with making 'bad things go away' than actually identifying what the core problems facing us are and fighting on them. When ever the state plans something dodgy around education, our leaders can be heard criticising it on the radio, and usually that's that. There is no one putting across a clear perspective on what we actually want to see happen in education. The student movement reacts to the state's agenda instead of attempting to set the agenda.



The state and college can easily close it's eyes and ears to the student movement and ignore the union's lobbying. But what they can't afford to do is ignore direct action based tactics, which disrupt the college structure and force them to give into demands. The recent successful UCD library occupations over opening hour cut-backs is an example of this. These sort of actions threaten the college more than anything because they are the ones that involve students alongside staff and give them a taste of their own power. And that is what the college and state are afraid of most of all.

For the past few years, the student movement has been struggling to retain many of the victories of the past such as free fees, if we continue to act defensively we can expect to get no where. Now more than ever we need to be on the offensive, putting forward a vision of education where the participants in education, workers, students and academics have a direct say in the decisions made. After all, regardless of how much we whinge about how we are being treated by the powers that be, in the final analysis, the problem comes down to one of control over within the decision making structures.

Currently our colleges are ran by faceless bureaucrats and un-representative decision making bodies which consistently act against our interests. Most governing authorities, while giving token representation to trade and student unions, are dominated by people appointed by the state. Even then they just act as rubber stampers for various practically anonymous committees running our colleges. Would UCD Governing Authority have made the decision to increase post grad fees by 10% if it was composed of people directly elected by students, workers and academics instead of cronies of business and Fianna Fail? I think not. Why was €1.6m spent on Hugh Brady, the UCD president's house, when the college can't even afford to fund the library for books?

And then, there's the state, and institutions like the OECD, in whose interests do you think they are being run? The OECD recently recommended the re-introduction of fees dressed up in the usual bullshit about social inclusion. But a peek at whose running the show, a former Australian minister of education Dawkins and his track record back home, shows that such changes only benefit the well off. Why has the Irish state being so reluctant to properly fund grants, student accommodation and to tackle the wider inequality in communities which is where educational inequality really begins?

If you're one of the thousands of people who see the reintroduction of fees as the end of your third level education there is no use moaning about it when it happens-get out there and stop it. Go to meetings or even better organise one yourself, go to the protest you organised. Get stuck in because if you don't your about to get royally shafted. Don't forget it was beaten by students just like you two years ago. Those in control of these decisions are making them in the interests of business and the rich, that's quite clear. We need to stop them.

Events

**Shut Down The Arms Fair
Actions Against Repression Conference**
A less than lethal weapons conference is taken place in the Berkley Court on October 20th.

**UCD Indymedia Screening
'Reels Of Resistance.'**
A film screening of documentaries made about the protests which led to the biggest security operations in the history of the state: Mayday and Bush in Shannon. Come along and find out what really happened in a screening hosted by Global Action. 30 September, thr Q, UCD at 5am.

**Irish Education Forum
Building An Alternative Education**
Grassroots activists across the education sectors gather to formulate and plan actions against the way education is being pushed by the state and corporate interests.

Contacts

UCD Anarchist Society

Watch out for posters and events coming up in the college. Email ucdanarchist@yahoo.co.uk for information.

Global Action Society

Non Hierarchical organizing in UCD, against war, neo-liberalism, environmental destruction and for direct action and democracy.. Check out www.gaucd.cjb.net for info on what's on and where, and also to join the email list.

Trinity Anarchist Society

Watch out for posters and events coming up in the college. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/trinityanarchists/> And sign up to the email list for information on what's happening.

Galway Eco Society

Organizing against war and environmental destruction, heavily involved in anti war actions at Shannon. Email room101ucg@yahoo.co.uk

Networks

**Red Ink InfoShop
Anarchist/Radical Book and Zine Store**
4 Upper Fownes St, Temple Bar (Above Flip Clothes Shop.

**Grassroots Network
Non-hierarchical Network**
Network of activists with groups in Dublin, Galway and Cork. Organised the May day anti- EU, no borders weekend. <http://www.geocities.com/eufortress>

**Indymedia Ireland
Irish Branch Of Global Media Collective**
Open publishing website, where everyone is given a voice and encouraged to be the media. THE place to find out what's going on in Irish Activism.

**Residents Against Racism
Against State Racism and Deportations**
Meets on Thursdays at 8pm in the Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square in Dunlin. <http://www.struggle.ws/rar.html>