

Workers World Party Social Media Protocol

For many of us, social media is a regular part of our daily lives. We communicate with people from all over the world, build relationships, and share information. However, it has become so ubiquitous that many of us forget its material nature.

Media like Facebook and Twitter are not only tools we use to communicate with one another and expose the crimes of the capitalism and imperialism, but also tools owned by capitalists and heavily monitored by the state, both of whom are invested in reproducing capitalism and imperialism. These tools are used to glean information about individuals for a number of purposes, including marketing, research and law enforcement.

The United States is a critical component in the greatest death machine to have ever existed in the history of humankind. COINTELPRO has never gone away. These are two facts comrades and candidates should be acutely conscious of when they participate on social media.

Workers World Social Media Protocol can be boiled down to one easy-to-remember rule: **When in doubt, write nothing.**

As revolutionaries in the belly of the beast, we can assume that at some point during our lives we will be under surveillance. Leninist organizations operate with discretion in mind. Therefore, as party cadre we must conduct ourselves with discretion, even on twitter or facebook, even when these mediums do not encourage reflection or deliberate action. **Deviation from this protocol will be treated as a breach of Party discipline and will be reviewed by the newly formed Commission for Party Relations and Party Culture.**

1. Do not engage in racist, misogynist, patriarchal, ableist or abusive behavior online. If you are WWP cadre, you represent the party in all your engagements. A fundamental part of democratic centralism is unity in practice, so do not contradict party line in public spaces or to people outside the party!
2. Don't share internal dynamics or grievances with the party with people outside the party - this includes former members and candidates. Would you be comfortable with everyone finding out the content of your conversation, or for the police to read it?
3. Be critical of your sources and their motivations. If someone anonymously approaches you with gossip about someone in the party, how reliable is this person? How much would you trust this person over the comrade or movement in question?
4. Be aware that when you fight with someone online, this is the same as fighting with each other in front of the police at a rally. What are you going to say in front of cops?
5. If there is a misunderstanding or if you need to say something sensitive, do everything in your power to call or meet with the person instead of responding in text. This not only adds to privacy and discretion, but also lessens the possibility of misunderstanding someone else's tone.
6. When posting photos or strong opinions, think about the possibility of it being captured and taken out of context. Would you be comfortable with your content being aired or published in a hostile way? How about a few years after you post it?
7. Do not publicize personal information about others or tag comrades without their permission. Think about what might happen if this information falls into the hands of the cops, alt-right or employers.
8. Many people are in this movement for life. Think carefully if you want to burn bridges and then be confronted with that person for decades. A snide comment online can make for uncomfortable coalitions or working relationships in the streets.
9. Do not attack statements from non-party members of oppressed groups about how they fight their own oppression. Examples: Straight comrades should not critique an LGBTQ2+ person or their position as 'rainbow capitalism'; white comrades should not lecture comrades of color on how they express themselves with other people of color be they comrades or activists.
10. Do not engage in sectarian attacks or arguments online. Comradely discussions are okay, vitriolic polemics are not.
11. Do not share private, personal communications with other comrades. If it is necessary to do this as part of a grievance procedure, work with the Commission for Party Relations and Culture to figure out a discreet and private way to share the information with those who need to know.
12. When sending emails, ensure you are sending them to the appropriate list. There is no need to send most communications to more than one list.