



Workers Party of Ireland highlights dangers of Mandatory Tracing Technology

Capitalism never wastes a crisis and many bourgeois states are already proposing the mandatory use of a technology that stores and analyses location data and contacts and which represents a potential threat to those revolutionary forces seeking social and political change.

While it is vitally important to safe-guard the lives and health of workers and citizens in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic these states are prepared to use such technology to extend their surveillance of citizens, particularly those involved in the process of seeking a revolutionary transformation of the social system in which we live. The involvement of state security agencies under capitalism in covert surveillance to disrupt and undermine opposition to the dominant political and social order is well recognised. Significant data flows between state agencies and private corporations pose a serious threat to workers' struggles. The proliferation of surveillance and the various techniques utilised by state agencies in collaboration with the monopolies is a major cause for concern. The surveillance capabilities of the so-called "Five Eyes" which intercept civilian telecommunications to collect mass surveillance data exists to preserve the power of these states and the monopolies.

Many political forces in Ireland and Britain have rushed to promote such far-reaching incursions into the lives of citizens through the compulsory collection and processing of individual location data from mobile phones with little or no regard for the potential consequences and without any sustainable evidence as to how potentially inaccurate or incomplete data could achieve any beneficial effect or without a proper consideration of alternative measures to limit the spread of the virus. Many of these forces have either failed to recognise the dangers or are complicit in the surveillance agenda.

The compulsory adoption of what are essentially "electronic tags" represents a serious threat to rights and liberties hard won by the working class and poses a potential weapon for the suppression of workers' political activism and social protest by the working class in pursuit of demands to meet contemporary social

and economic needs and to fundamentally change the society in which we live through its anti-capitalist and anti-monopoly struggles.

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