

What we stand for

Work & Income

1. Decent jobs for all – end unemployment through a massive public works programme of socially-useful jobs including the building of houses, roads, schools and hospitals; struggle for a living wage of R12 500 per month for all full-time workers; end labour broking and make all contract workers permanent
2. For a 30 hour working week and the sharing out of work with no loss of pay to address unemployment, improve workers' quality of life and lay the basis for workers' control of the economy
3. For a basic income grant of R8 000 for all those not in work – unemployed, pensioners, disabled and struggle veterans

Service delivery

4. For free, sufficient and accessible public services for all; stop cut-offs and evictions
5. End homelessness with a mass public works programme to build decent homes for all those in need, roads and free, accessible and sufficient electricity, water, sanitation and social services for all
6. For publicly funded, free, accessible and high quality education for all from nursery to university; cancel student debt and end financial and academic exclusions
7. For publicly funded and free, accessible and high quality health care for all run under the democratic control of patients, communities and health workers; nationalise the private health providers, insurers and pharmaceutical companies
8. For an affordable, efficient and integrated public transport system; scrap e-tolls
9. For a mass public waste recycling programme linked to creating sustainable and quality jobs

Economy

10. Nationalise under democratic working class and community control the banks, the mines, the commercial farms, the big factories and big businesses.
11. A publicly owned and democratically planned socialist economy to meet the needs of all and not the profits of the capitalists.

The Land

12. Nationalise the 36 000 commercial farms that control 95% of agricultural land; support and debt cancellation for small and subsistence farmers
13. Democratically elected community committees to determine the use of non-agricultural land – home-owner occupiers and small business premises exempt
14. Rapid re-direction of energy generation toward renewable sources; redirection of polluting industries and agriculture with retraining and guaranteed jobs for all workers; no fracking or new nuclear or coal-fired power generation

Fighting for rights

15. End the racist legacy of apartheid by ending the real capitalist economic foundations upon which racism rests. Transfer genuine economic and political power to the predominantly black working class majority through nationalisation under working class control. No to the ANC's elitist capitalist Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) policies.
16. Joint struggle against xenophobia and racism; trade unions must organise immigrant workers
17. Women and men fight together against gender-based violence and rape and for gender equality in every sphere of society, including equal pay for equal work, access to jobs, housing, free pre-school for all to give women genuine freedom to end abusive relationships
18. United struggle and solidarity to end hate crimes against LGBTI people

United struggle for socialism

19. Campaign for democratic worker-controlled trade unions; Cosatu out of the Tripartite Alliance; for Cosatu, Nactu and independent unions to campaign for the creation of a united mass working class party
20. Build the Socialist Youth Movement as part of the struggle to create a mass, revolutionary movement of working class youth and students
21. Unite and coordinate the service delivery protests under one banner with a common programme of demands; build a nationwide socialist civic movement
22. Build the Workers and Socialist Party as a step toward the creation of a mass working class party on a socialist programme
23. For a working class state and a socialist government based on democratic working class and community committee
24. For a socialist SA, a socialist Africa and a socialist world



Introduction for new members



What kind of party is WASP?

WASP's starting point is our revolutionary socialist programme. We are united by the simple idea that the working class must organise and struggle for a socialist society. A socialist society is one where the wealth of society is owned and controlled by the working class. Upon that basis we can raise living standards for all, end unemployment and develop education and culture. Agreement with that basic idea is why we have organised together in a party and why you have decided to join us.

It is our socialist programme, based upon the ideas of Marxism, which makes us different from all the other political parties. We do not want to manage the capitalist system as the ANC, DA and EFF do. We want to **change** the system. In WASP we can repeat with full confidence what Karl Marx said 150 years ago in The Communist Manifesto – we have no interests separate and apart from the working class as whole. The members of WASP are not looking for personal fame, fortunes, or political careers. If you have entered our ranks for these things, then we will show you the exit. We are forging WASP as a tool of struggle, which in the hands of a mass working class membership can create a socialist society.

Our organising principle of democratic centralism is designed to create such a revolutionary tool. We are a democratic party that allows full debate and discussion within the structures of the party. But we do this not as an end in itself but to achieve the highest degree of political clarity possible for unity of action in the class struggle. We believe in leadership, but we do not believe in messiahs or building personality cults. At every level of the party ours is a principle of **collective leadership**. We believe that socialism is international or it is nothing.

WASP is the South African section of the **Committee for a Workers International (CWI)** organised in more than 40 countries on every continent.

WASP and its predecessor organisations have a proud history in South Africa stretching back to the 1970s. In just the past few years we played a leading role in the mineworkers' strikes that took place immediately after the Marikana massacre. We have led mass struggles of street traders, communities and students. Most recently we initiated and led the #OutsourcingMustFall movement on many campuses and in many cities. At every stage of the class struggle we have raised a sign-post for the working class in the direction of their political independence, supporting every genuine effort toward the creation of a mass workers' party with a socialist programme as a step toward the creation of the mass revolutionary party necessary to overthrow the capitalist system. WASP is an embryo of a future mass revolutionary party.

What does being a cadre member require?

1. Political education. To be effective in the class struggle you must be confident to explain our ideas to people. In WASP we believe that workers and young people can not only equal but surpass the understanding held by any capitalist politician, entrepreneur or religious preacher about society. **Cadre members have a responsibility to develop their political understanding by reading, discussing with other members and taking part in the party's political education programme.**

2. Participate in your branch. The branch is the basic unit of the party and the foundation of democratic centralism. The branch is the main arena within the party for democratic discussion and the principle unit to implement the decisions arrived at. Therefore the branch is the main point of interaction between the party and the working class. **As a minimum all cadre members should regularly attend their local branch meeting. If there is no branch in your area the national office will assist you to build one.**

3. Recruit to the party. This is usually via their branch's work but in our day-to-day lives every cadre member should always be keeping an eye out for potential recruits. But we are not talking about the capitalist political parties' crude 'politiking' methods of bribing people to vote for us with a free t-shirt. This sort of recruitment is meaningless. Our recruitment is based on discussion and agreement with ideas and activity and solidarity in the class struggle. This sort of recruitment is vital to build the cadre that can lead the socialist revolution. **It is the responsibility of every member to actively take part in recruitment to the party.**

4. Sell Izwi Labasebenzi. WASP produces a regular newspaper as one way of spreading our ideas amongst the working class. **All cadre members should read it, write for it and sell it.**

5. Pay a monthly subscription. Finance is a fundamental **political** question for a revolutionary party. A revolutionary party must be financially independent from capitalist society to protect its programme from being watered-down by 'funders'. Our finances are based on the cents and the Rands of the working class – our members. Every cadre member must pay a monthly subscription (sub) to the party upon the principle of equality of sacrifice. A student or unemployed person paying R20 per month is as politically significant as a well-paid worker paying R500 per month. **You must agree an amount and pay your first sub before you can be counted as a cadre member.**