

Alternativa Libertaria

ONLINE NEWS SHEET OF THE FEDERAZIONE DEI COMUNISTI ANARCHICI

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Resistance and Class Struggle

The Resistance was not just the 1943-45 Italian Resistance. It was the long struggle against Fascism and Nazism which involved millions of people. Fascism and Nazism were the face of the "preventive counter-revolution" (as Luigi Fabbri described it in 1922) which was designed to crush the mass anti-capitalist movements which had blossomed in the post-War years, giving rise to that long battle which the anarchists of the time were already calling "class war". The most authoritarian regimes are always at the service of economic forces who want to wage war on the workers' struggles for emancipation. They are one of the tools of the capitalist domination. This was something that those who fought in the Resistance knew, as they united in the struggle.

The Anarchist Communists do not forget all those who struggled against the terrible Fascist and Nazi dictatorships. In these days when the 60th anniversary of the Liberation is being celebrated, we remember those fighters who died, those men and women who were moved by a libertarian spirit to involve themselves both in armed and unarmed resistance, to fight for the real Liberation of Italy and Europe from Nazi-Fascism. The Liberation of Italy was the work of the people, who rebelled against the nazi-Fascist domination. But they were prevented from taking it to its full extent, and bringing about a complete change in society, by the occupying forces, by the political allies of those forces and by the "democratic", compromising policies of the Communist Party.

Today, while we remember the struggles of the past century against the forces of reaction, which the Resistance was an important part of, we are once again witnessing the rebirth of Nazi and Fascist groups. Hidden behind their suits lies a desire to fight against all those who are inspired by the values of the Resistance. They go so far even as to equate the partisans with the "repubblicani" (the fascist soldiers in Nazi-occupied Italy). The dead cannot speak, →



Anarchism and Religious Freedom

Anarchism advocates the defence of individual liberties, first and foremost the freedom from need and the freedom of thought. So they cannot but defend the religious freedom of the individual. Every man or woman who remains bound by religious ties creates a problem for the whole community. It is one which cannot be solved through an authoritarian act, but only by making an effort to create the conditions which make it necessary in the first place for someone to bind themselves in this way. Having done this, at least partly, there are still margins of individual freedom which mean it is impossible to forbid someone from believing in any religion. The only limit on this freedom of belief can be the freedom of others. In a society which is composed of free and equal members, the defence of individual religious freedom cannot be subject to different rules than those which defend other freedoms. For anarchism, there are and there can be no particular rights regarding the defence of personal religious feeling, other than those which exist anyway within a society that assures the maximum freedom possible. For anarchism, any form of particular arrangement or "concordat", any differentiation of status for religious reasons, would be unthinkable and this places anarchism firmly in contrast with any form of theocratic management of society.

This conception of personal religious freedom is part and parcel of a project for the construction of a new system of values which is in constant evolution, which can always be improved, which is always ready for dialectic confrontation and for the creation of better living conditions for all within the framework of solidarity and equality on a worldwide level.

Anarchism contains the awareness that the path towards an anarchist society is a continuous approximation, a tendential process which is characterized by a dialectic between men and women, both as individuals and as in their associations.

With regard to its action, anarchism keeps account of the needs and requirements which arise from society, but in order to be able to do this, free from any conditioning due to a failure to meet the material needs and from the power which derives from the possession of the means of production, it forges the revolutionary act of suppressing private property and the introduction of a revolutionary political process, as both a beginning and end point of the process of transformation, nourished and supported by the constant growth of the class struggle.

[5th Congress of the FdCA - Florence, 1997]

On Law No 40

The whole affair of the Referendum for the partial repeal of Law No.40/2004 regarding Medically Assisted Procreation (MAP) has been a disaster from the very start.

Now, Italy's constitutional court has decided, as we feared, that Italians are not to be given the chance to totally repeal this prohibitionist, fundamentalist law which is aimed at stopping women from making decisions about their own bodies and at setting limits to the principle of female self-determination.

Those who are happy now that an end has come to the (non-existent) reproductive "Far West" where the unregulated female desire for maternity caused scandal, and who prefer a bad law to no law at all, do not openly say that what they actually want - and which is in effect introduced by this law - is for women to be firmly placed back into a minority position with strict controls over them. Neither do they say that the important thing is the principles that are enshrined in this law, not their actual application - something which is difficult anyway in a Europe without borders where economic possibilities alone make the difference between who will and who won't be affected by this new freedom-killing Italian law.

The first question to be decided by the referendum, and which was presented by only 12 female parliamentarians, seeks the repeal of the article which sets the rights of the woman against the rights of the embryo. A "Yes" vote on this point would avoid a serious conflict between women's rights and the rights of unborn children, blocking what is clearly an attempt at cancelling the effects of Law No.194 [1].

A "Yes" vote for the three other questions to be decided by the referendum, which are supported by the moderate left and the secular elements of the governing coalition together with the medical lobby and pro-genetic research associations, would serve to mitigate the worst effects of this monstrous law, effects which make it truly unmanageable and indigestible. But rather than aiming at the protection of the freedom of choice and the protection of women's health, they seem mostly designed to protect the medical sector and the lobby of pharmacological research by companies who offer commercial health services.

The request for the protection of the physical and mental health of women, who can choose to obtain access to fertility treatment, does not hide the perception that we are faced with hideous blackmail - that of giving up the rights of all women in order to protect the health of some.

We believe, in fact, that even if there is a "Yes" vote on the four questions in the referendum, this law will continue to place limits on personal freedom. By denying access to fertility treatment by anyone other than established heterosexual couples, the law continues to violate the right to health. The World Health Organization has



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MAYDAY AND ANARCHISM



Certificate of Self-Excommunication

I, ex-member of the flock, _____, given the inability of the Pope of the Catholic Church to understand what freedom of conscience and expression is, given that the Church continues to insist that its flock consists of all people baptized as infants, given that the Church uses the ingenuity and goodwill of some of its members in order to maintain its immense hierarchical structure and power with the aid of the worst tricksters (bosses, financiers, nobles, mafiosi, freemasons, dictators, TV presenters, etc.) and that to be considered one of the flock is highly damaging to my image, and given that the Church insists on gathering all to its unwholesome and unholy bosom, declaring its religion to be "superior" to others and all non-believers to be sheep for "fleecing" (or at the very least for converting),

DECLARE: (tick any number of boxes, as appropriate)

that I have said in public that the Pope criticizes capitalism during the run-up to an election, but sings its praises in "Centesimus Annus", placing the Church as a mediator between Capital and the "poor of the earth", and that therefore said Pope is a hypocrite

that I have practised every imaginable form of contraception (physiological, paranormal, hormonal, chemical, mechanical and lorenabobbital) and I consider having children as an optional in the wonderful world of the senses

that I have not practised any form of contraception because I am lesbian or gay, luckily, so I don't have to worry about it

that I have had a test-tube baby and/or I have had a child using frozen sperm

that I have had a free abortion

that I have, on occasion, swallowed the Pill instead of the Host

that I have engaged in sado-masochistic practices and I have practised heterosexual oral sex (and everything else, come to think of it... which I do)

that I have used condoms on my fingers so as not to leave any fingerprints when I was robbing the poor box in my local church

that I have rented a lovely little love-nest without my husband/wife (or my Confessor) knowing about it

that I have blasphemed on innumerable occasions

that I have used the pages of "Osservatore Romano" to cover the windows of the car while I made passionate love to a well-hung immigrant

that I have set up home with a person of the same sex

that with this person I have adopted one of those babies who have escaped the clutches of the Pope

that I pretended to be a priest/nun back in 1982 when it was fashionable to wear black and that I heard the confessions of several elderly people who were a bit deaf

that I once fooled hundreds when I was on holiday in Portugal (not far from Fatima) by posing on a rock pretending to be an apparition of the Madonna

that I am divorced

that I am an ex-priest/nun and all the better for it thank you very much

that I spit in the holy water on the day when Wojtyla said that women were "naturally inclined to be man's companion"

that I have distributed information leaflets against AIDS to the girls of the local Catholic school

that I have distributed information leaflets on free abortions and the day after pill to the girls of the local Catholic school

that I organized a public debate entitled "Why the Pope has no beard and all the leaders of the other religions do".

that I have dressed up as an Orthodox priest and married a (gay) Russian couple in the Catholic Cathedral on a Saturday afternoon when no-one was looking

that I have publicly suggested invading St Peter's in order to give the Vatican Treasure to the homeless and the unemployed

that I do volunteer work in hospitals, donate aid to war victims and help my neighbour without asking if the beneficiaries are Catholic or telling them they should be, and without expecting a front-row pew in Heaven

that I have distributed "Wojtyla? No thanks" bumper stickers

that I am a communist (male or female), an anarchist (male or female), an atheist (male or female) a woman (male or female)

that I have been un-baptized and therefore repudiate all initiation rites of all religions and football leagues

that I do Tarot and palm readings and practice black, blue, yellow, pink or red magic simply for fun and to spite the Church

that I once told the priest who came to bless the house at Easter "No thanks, we've already got one" and then shut the door rudely in his fat face

that I have always secretly wanted to smash the Popemobile with a baseball bat

that I once broke into a religious meeting on education waving a banner which read "religion, heroin, children ruin them"

I THEREFORE declare myself to be excommunicated (and probably liable to prosecution) for all time and I do not ask for forgiveness, dialogue or understanding from the hierarchy of the Church which is, in my opinion, boring, arrogant, ambiguously slimy and repressed. Yours unfaithfully: _____

[by the Groucho Marxist Party of Italy and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faithless; published in Italian in the pamphlet "Vilipendio" by Millelire]

but can speak for them. We must stop them from succeeding in this!

And this is something that those who insist on describing themselves as the "left" need to know, too - even though it is often thanks to them that the Fascists are able to open up offices. Just recently, though, the mayor of Pontedera closed down the premises of

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Forza Nuova, for reasons of "public order". The presence of Fascist forces was inadmissible, he stated. But who allowed them in the first place to set themselves up as a party?

In order to defeat the plans of the reaction today, just as in the past, we need to:

* continue the anti-capitalist, internationalist struggle for the unity of the workers, Italian or otherwise, for the respect for personal liberty in all areas, for all people of every social condition or origin;

* struggle together against Fascist-inspired ideology until it is defeated for ever;

* promote a class opposition which accepts no compromise and which demands and practises the values of opposition to the capitalist system, for which men and women have sacrificed themselves;

* become the real heirs of the Resistance, which in practice is the class struggle, in order to realize a world of free and equal people.

On the 25th April 1945, the eyes of the men and women who paraded through the streets were filled with the brutal images of the Nazi and Fascist regimes against which they had so bitterly fought. But in their hearts was a hope that they could see a new and completely different world where economic freedom and the respect for the rights of all would be the basis for a new society.

And their struggle, our struggle, continues.



defined infertility as an illness, but this law contradicts this definition in no uncertain terms and will only result in the impossibility of self-determination by denying the freedom for all women, irrespective of their sexual orientation or family status, to benefit from fertility treatment. Furthermore, the law provides for special records to be kept of all those who are born thanks to this form of treatment, a provision which only serves to provide further serious cause for concern.

The establishment of regulations regarding MAP and genetic research cannot be done through a law imposed by the State, a law which is the fruit of compromises hatched out by priests and doctors. Regulation must be determined on the basis of shared practices developed by those centres which carry out fertility treatment and must guarantee access to all and be secular in its outlook. It must respect the reproductive choices, individual or joint, of every one of us.

As experience in Italy with regard to abortion shows, rules imposed by laws from above with which many disagree are frequently disregarded, even at a heavy personal price, by individuals who rightly believe they should have the power to decide for themselves and for their own lives. While it may be true that, as at other moments in the recent past, women have not been able to express their clear opposition, it by no means follows that they are unaware of the dangers that this law presents, even if its worst aspects are softened somewhat by the referendum.

Therefore, while our immediate action can only be to respond positively to the referendum, in full awareness of the game being played by the institutional politicians with our freedom, we must remember that the final word on the matter must come from agreement from the grassroots, which must question the need for a law which claims to decide our lives for us and which puts a limit on our rights, first and foremost the rights of equality and of the health of women and men.