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**Subject:**

Statements have recently been made regarding the Progressive Labor Party's role in responding to allegations of rape that have been brought up against a comrade. This letter is an initial response to these charges against the PLP's response as a way to correct the misinformation and slander that is being spread online and among activist circles and communities. More importantly, this letter is an attempt to open an honest and transparent dialogue with our members and friends about the allegations and about the PLP's commitment to fighting sexism, patriarchy, and misogyny in our communities.

PLP understands sexual violence and other gender-based forms of violence against women to be one of the worst and most disgusting expressions of capitalist oppression. Sexism is one of the main ways our class is pitted against each other, and sexual violence is far too common. At least 1 in 4 women is raped in her life time, and the PLP knows that, as an organization, we are not impervious to sexist ideas and practices. Sexism, patriarchy, and misogyny affect all of us. It is why we specifically identify the fight against the super-exploitation of women and gender-based forms of oppression as one of the principal tenets of our political struggle. We take the fight against sexism and misogyny very seriously, and it is on this basis that our organization promotes and develops female leaders in the revolutionary fight against capitalism.

In recent weeks, a group of activists has accused the PLP of failing to respond to allegations of rape brought up against a comrade. Nothing is further from the truth. The PLP initiated a process of investigating and addressing the charge that aimed to include the activists who brought the incident to our attention. When the PLP first learned of these allegations, we initiated communication with those who contacted us with their concerns. We took the matter very seriously.

While there was an initial meeting with this group of activists, no follow-up meetings occurred to discuss our approach to dealing with the allegation. The PLP did not prevent further meetings from taking place, as we have been accused of doing. The PLP has continued the process of dealing with the charge of rape and with the comrade.

Despite our attempt to deal with the charge in a principled political manner, a number of activists (many of whom we considered political allies) have continuously and deliberately spread lies and misinformation regarding this very serious matter. We, as an organization, have many political disagreements with other political organizations, but we do not focus our organizing on debating with them. The PLP focuses its energies on organizing and struggling side-by-side with the rank and file of the working-class. We would never expose other activists to fascist State violence to settle our political disagreements.

What is the misinformation being spread and what is the truth?

- “The PLP dismissed the charge of rape against a comrade.” The PLP took the charge of rape very seriously and immediately initiated an internal process to resolve the matter that attempted to involve the individuals raising the charge.
- “The PLP has ‘stonewalled’ and ‘cancelled meetings’ to ‘protect’ a rapist.” The PLP tried several times to schedule meetings to discuss and deal with the allegation of rape. Several

meetings were rescheduled by both sides (not solely by the PLP) in an attempt to guarantee that all individuals could attend. Meetings were not rescheduled to 'protect' or 'stonewall.' In fact, PLP continues to work to address the original charge of rape that was brought to our attention.

- "The PLP defends rape." The claim is clearly sensational and meant to defame the PLP to prevent any serious political discussion or action regarding the issue of sexism, patriarchy, and gender-based violence

These lies and misinformation raise the questions of: what are the motivations behind these actions? Why are they lying and slandering individual activists, as well as resorting to classic anti-communist rhetoric? How is maligning party organizers and the organization conducive to resolving the initial charge?

The PLP commits itself to fighting sexism, patriarchy, and misogyny in every aspect. However, NONE of us are immune to such ideas and behavior. The PLP as an organization must be self-critical and proactive in combatting sexism within our ranks, with our base and in our community, and it must have a strong collective structure to deal with patriarchy and misogyny that holds each individual accountable. This is an ongoing process that we are fully committed to.

Self-critically, we recognize that our interaction with the group of activists that initially brought the incident to our attention did not develop and unfold in a manner that facilitated a politically open and productive process. The PLP and all political activists need to continue to address seriously the issue of sexism and patriarchy within our ranks and in all organizing spaces. The PLP welcomes initiating a dialogue with friends and activists about this specific situation or other aspects of sexism who are serious about and committed to the fight against sexism. Sexism is an international problem in capitalist society and in our organization. It requires conscious vigilance and struggle.

Finally, we ask fellow activists to challenge individuals who are spreading misinformation and intentionally exposing individual activists to fascist State violence. These individuals are behaving as informant-provocateurs who prey on the real struggles of the working-class to destroy activist communities. The PLP and all committed activists know through experience that the police and other agencies of the state monitor social networking sites and the activities of radical organizations. Engaging in and promoting this kind of behavior endangers not only the safety of individual activists, but also puts at risk any revolutionary organizing and movement-building that many of us reading this are a part of. This type of opportunist, provocateur behavior is immensely irresponsible and dangerous and cannot be defended. It needs to cease immediately. Any politically conscious person should know better than engaging in such reckless, unscrupulous, and politically unprincipled actions. This behavior plays into the hands of fascism and State repression of activists. It ends up facilitating the fascist attacks of the State. We call on political activists to question and act against these anti-communist and provocateur practices.

The PLP has nothing to hide and would be the first and most forceful in dealing with any member we found to have committed vile, sexist acts like rape. As far as we are concerned, this matter has not been resolved. We welcome a dialogue with anyone who is honest and serious about confronting sexism and about responding to sexist behavior in a collective, revolutionary manner, including the woman who came to us originally with this matter.

There will be a meeting soon, open to anyone honestly interested in further discussing this matter in a constructive manner. We invite you to join us once again in this struggle.