FEDERATION OF

SOCIALIST SOCIETIES

NATIONAL CONFERENCE



ŌTEPOTI
DUNEDIN
NOVEMBER 13&14

2026

FRIDAY		
17:00–18:30	AGE CONCERN	ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN CRISIS: UNION LEADERS SPEAK
18:45–12:50	MAGGIES	CONFERENCE SOCIAL AND COMMONWEAL 10 CELEBRATION
SATURDAY		
10:30–10:45	AGE CONCERN	DOORS OPEN
10:45–11:30		CONFERENCE WELCOME
11:30–13:00	LUNCH BREAK (SELF-CATERED)	
13:00–14:15	AGE CONCERN	PARTY GAMES: LEFT ELECTORALISM IN AOTEAROA
14:30–15:45		RADICAL REPOSITORIES: ARCHIVING SOCIALIST HISTORIES
15:45–16:15		AFTERNOON TEA (CATERED)
16:15–17:30		AXIS OF SOLIDARITY: IRAN, SOUTH AFRICA, AND PALESTINE
17:30–19:00	DINNER (SELF-CATERED)	
19:00–20:30	ARCHWAY 4 LECTURE THEATRE	INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE: BUILDING SOCIALISM IN THE WRECKAGE
20:45–	MAGGIES	CONFERENCE AFTERPARTY

Contacts

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Childcare

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Childcare Provisions

The main venue for this Conference, Aged Concern Otago, is whānau friendly. Children are welcome to attend the various sessions, and there will be a separate space set up for parents and children to use as required, with some activities, books, and toys and a member of the Conference organising committee on hand.

Children are also welcome to attend the sessions at Maggie's and the University of Otago. However, those at Maggie's may not be suitable for everyone.

Friday

Essential Services in Crisis: Union Leaders Speak

Maeve Lonie, Simon Edmunds, Rebecca Hauck & S'bu Zikode

While the decay of public infrastructure in South Africa is notorious, New Zealand's recent experience varies only in degree, not in kind. Union leaders Maeve Lonie of the Post Primary Teachers' Association, Simon Edmunds of Unite Union and the Postal Workers' Union, and Rebecca Hauck of the Rail and Maritime Transport Union will join our keynote speaker from South Africa S'bu Zikode to talk about the crisis in our social services and what it means for our political culture.

Public sector unions still have mass membership and some bargaining power, yet nevertheless are we not being killed by a thousand cuts?

Saturday

Party Games: Left Electoralism in Aotearoa

Teanau Tuiono, Anna Knight & Ben Rosamund

The Federation of Socialist Societies does not have a party line on elections, not least because the Federation is not a party! Nevertheless, although our members hail from many different political perspectives, we all agree that the aim is to bring the working class to power. In what is sure to be a stimulating debate, the Green Party's Teanau Tuiono (Atiu – Ngati Ingatu, Ngati Toki, Ngati Paerangi, Te Uriroroi, Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Takoto), Labour's Ben Rosamund, and the Alliance Party's Anna Knight will explain why they are right and the others are wrong. Hopefully it will be a good old-fashioned rumble.

Radical Repositories: Archiving Socialist Histories

Sam Hope

Why archive? Despite a seemingly limitless ability to store data and records today, the historical record is not safe in the age of algorithms and AI-generated slop. The public institutions that once served as storehouses of memory are being gradually dismantled—and, in any case, they never fully held the memory of the cause of labour. This workshop explores history, memory, and why archives matter for socialism and socialists. We will reflect on the archival legacy of Tyler West, whose writing and Radical Aotearoa Digital Archive (RADAR) project set a course to not only preserve but critically engage with archives of the radical left in Aotearoa. Led by Canterbury Socialist Society executive member and digital archivist Sam Hope, this workshop will provide practical tools and aims to build capacity in the Federation to establish our own radical repositories, with a view to carrying forward Tyler's legacy.

Axis of Solidarity: Iran, South Africa, and Palestine

Rinad Tamimi, Mahdis Azarmandi & S'bu Zikode

New Zealanders are rightly proud of the solidarity we showed with the struggle against Apartheid. Through protests and street battles against the Springbok Tour in 1981, New Zealanders simultaneously confronted racism at home while sending a message to segregationists abroad. Fast forward to today, the United States and its lackeys in the region are waging a war of aggression against Iran, while Israel is perpetrating a genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza. Once again, international solidarity is playing an important role in the struggle against these injustices. For instance, South Africa's ANC is honouring its debt to the global movement by leading the case against Israel for the crime of genocide at the International Court of Justice. This panel of activists and scholars, Rinad Tamimi, Dr. Mahdis Azarmandi, and S'bu Zikode, will discuss the enduring relevance of international solidarity in organising the global working class.

International Keynote: Building Socialism in the Wreckage

S'bu Zikode

We are living through a period of massive contradictions: our economy has never been so productive, yet basic measures of human wellbeing show across-the-board declines; mass migration exists alongside racist nationalism; misogyny rises in a time of official gender equality. And the basic contradiction, that many starve so a few may feast, is worse than ever in human history.

In South Africa's slums, amidst poverty and relentless assaults by landlords, gangsters, and crooked developers and politicians, the democratic shack dwellers' movement Abahlali baseMjondolo has emerged as the largest post-Apartheid social movement. At the heart of Abahlali baseMjondolo's organizing is the demand for dignity. Built on a foundation of ubuntu, the goal of Abahlali baseMjondolo is a democratic socialism built from below. In this keynote address, we will learn more about the Abahlali baseMjondolo project from one of the group's founding members, S'bu Zikode.

A	**Maggies**	42 Stuart Street
B	**Age Concern Otago**	26 Bath Street
C	**Archway 4 Lecture Theatre**	Archway Building—290 Leith Walk

