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Water is a basic human need and therefore ought to be a basic human right. Yet, those who profit from its overuse and abuse are determining the future of one of the earth's most vital resources. A handful of multinational corporations, backed by the World Bank and the European Union, are aggressively taking over the management of public water services around the world, dramatically increasing the price of water to the local residents and profiting from the people's search for solutions to the water crisis.

The corporate agenda is clear water should be treated like any other tradable good, with its use determined by market principles. At the same time, governments are signing away their control over domestic water supplies by participating in trade agreements and institutions that effectively give private corporations unprecedented access to the water of signatory countries.

Irish people have long resisted the introduction of water charges and following a sustained three-year campaign succeeded in abolishing water charges in 1997. Now under the guise of EU imposed austerity water charges of €300 plus per year are being imposed.

Water charges are just the latest burden the Government plans to impose on the Irish people -- after bin charges, the Universal Social Charge and the Property Tax along with wage cuts and welfare cuts of austerity -- all designed to keep the banks and our European paymasters sweet.

The "Our Water is Not for Sale" Forum will bring together activists opposed to charges, environmental and anti-capitalist campaigners from Ireland and Europe as well as leading campaigners from South America to discuss the wider politics of water and privatisation, we will consider how they relate to climate change and other environmental issues, and crucially, we will focus on developing strategies of resistance.



Cochabamba resists water privatisation, 2000.

To Book a place at the Conference email:
brid.smith@dublincity.ie

text **book** to **087 9090166**
or contact

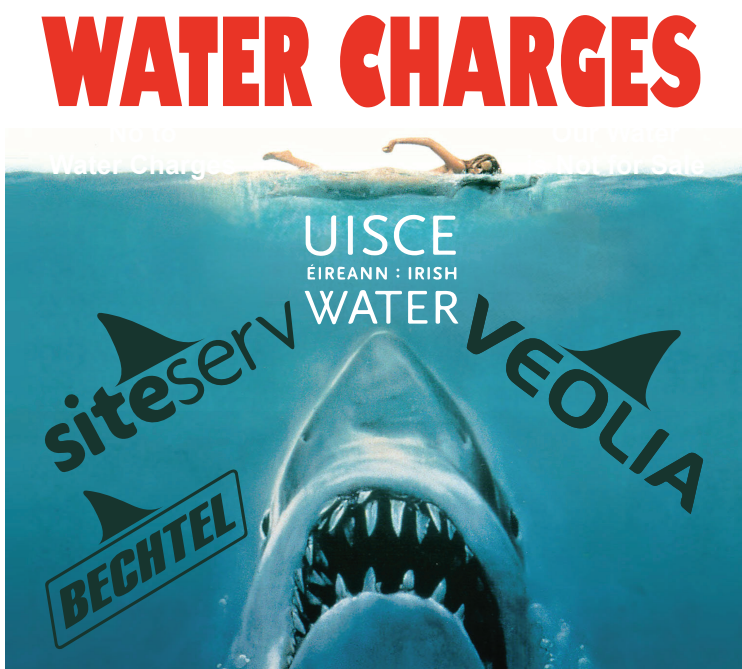
Brid Smith PBP candidate for Europe

People Before Profit

Our Water Is Not for Sale
Public Conference

- Cllr Brid Smith** [People Before Profit Candidate for Europe](#)
Marcela Olivera [Cochabamba, Bolivia](#)
Professor Mike Gonzalez [Venezuela writer & activist](#)
Jimmy Kelly [Unite the Union](#)
Clare Daly [TD for Dublin North](#)
Martin Empson [Campaign Against Climate Change](#)
Leslie Franke & Herdolor Lorenz [Right2Water Campaign](#)
Richard Boyd Barrett [TD for Dún Laoghaire](#)
Tommy Hogan [Anti-Water Charges Campaigner](#)

Saturday April 5TH 10.30-05:00pm
Gresham Hotel, O'Connell Street



Sponsored by: [Unite the Union](#) and [Cllr Brid Smith PBP](#)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Registration 10:00 -10:30

Welcome from Conference Speaker 10:30 -10:45

Cllr. Brid Smith

(People Before Profit Dublin Euro Candidate)

SESSION ONE 10.45 - 12.15

Water as a Human Right – Against Privatisation

SPEAKERS:

Jimmy Kelly (Regional Sec Unite)

Clare Daly TD

Martin Empson (Campaign Against Climate Change)

BREAK 12:15 - 12:30

SESSION TWO 12.30 – 13.45

The Great Water Revolt from South America to Europe.

SPEAKERS:

Marcela Olivera (Participant in the Great Water Revolt in Cochabamba, Bolivia 2000)

Leslie Franke (Right 2 Water Campaign, Europe)

Professor Mike Gonzalez (Venezuela writer & activist)

LUNCH 13:45–14:30

ROUNDTABLE “RESISTANCE” WORKSHOPS 14.30– 15.45

or

FILM SCREENING:

Award winning documentary “How Water Makes Money”. Introduced by the filmmakers Leslie Franke and Herdolor Lorenz.

BREAK 15.45 16:00

SESSION THREE 16:00 17:00

Building the Resistance Today

SPEAKERS:

Cllr Brid Smith (PBP Dublin Euro Candidate)

Richard Boyd Barrett TD

Tommy Hogan (Anti-Water Charges Campaigner)

SPEAKERS



Brid Smith

Councillor Brid Smith from Ballyfermot played a leading role in the campaigns against the Bin Charges and the Property Tax. She is now People Before Profit candidate for Europe in Dublin.



Marcela Olivera

Marcela Olivera, a water commons organizer. After graduating from the Catholic University in Cochabamba, Bolivia, Marcela worked for four years in Cochabamba as the key international liaison for the Coalition for the Defense of Water and Life, the organization that fought and defeated water privatisation in Bolivia. Since 2004 she has been developing and consolidating an inter-American citizens' network on water justice named “Red VIDA” as part of her work at the Water for All Campaign for Food and Water Watch.



Professor Mike Gonzalez

Mike Gonzalez is Emeritus Professor of Latin American Studies from Glasgow university, now living in Venezuela. He has written widely on Latin American history including on Cochabamba, Che Guevara, the Cuban Revolution and a new biography of Hugo Chavez socialist for the 21st Century



Jimmy Kelly

Jimmy Kelly is the Irish Regional Secretary of Unite the Union and has been leading the campaign against austerity and for an investment-based alternative in Northern Ireland and in Republic of Ireland.



Martin Empson

Martin Empson is a leading member of the Campaign Against Climate Change in Britain, and writer on environmental issues including a major recent book, Land and Labour: Marxism, ecology and human history.



Leslie Franke and Herdolor Lorenz

Leslie Franke and Herdolor Lorenz established Kernfilm, a film production company in 1985 in Hamburg Germany. Their recent films include “Blue Gold in the Garden of Eden”, “H2O up for sale” The award winning “Water Makes Money”.

They work with “Right2Water” campaign in Europe.