

PRESS RELEASE

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CALL GOES OUT TO FIND THE CHOMSKY OF THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION

Left Book Club crowdfunder to launch on Wednesday October 19th 2016

THE SEARCH is on for the next generation of progressive activist authors and intellectuals who can provide a voice to the growing movement for social change.

The Left Book Club (LBC) is expanding, actively seeking new voices and young writers engaged in activism to publish books under its imprint with Pluto Press, and to contribute articles and essays to its new website. It can guarantee hundreds of sales to its growing subscriber base.

Noam Chomsky, among the most influential and well known radical authors of his generation, has lent his voice to support a new crowdfunding campaign to help LBC promote its authors and find unpublished voices via a new digital platform.

In the crowdfunder video, to be launched on October 19th, Chomsky says the Left Book Club is vital for "laying the groundwork for effective practice... I'd like to urge all of you to join in these very promising and critically important efforts."

The LBC is keen to speak to aspiring writers from all branches of the left and progressive movements, and those involved in activism and struggle. The Club is also today launching a one-off crowdfunder with the aim of raising £25,000.

Neil Faulkner, LBC Director, said: "We want to publish books from new authors about world-changing ideas.

"We will create a network of reading groups to debate them and a digital hub to sustain and broaden that debate. This is our contribution to the struggle against exploitation, oppression, war, and climate catastrophe."

The LBC is a non-aligned, not-for-profit collective of activists, writers, booksellers and trade unionists launched in November 2015. It is raising money to relaunch its website as the hub for new radical authors and their future readers.

The aim is to establish reading groups in cities, towns and rural communities across Britain where people can engage in the ideas and arguments being formed as part of the latest explosion in interest in left-wing ideas.

The club has already won the support of **Jeremy Corbyn**, who said of LBC, "The relaunch of the Left Book Club is a terrific and timely idea, and will give intellectual

ballast to the wave of political change sweeping Britain and beyond, encouraging informed and compassionate debate". However, LBC remains independent of any political party.

Hank Roberts, LBC Chair, said: "The Left Book Club is about empowerment and political engagement. Our focus is on books and, therefore, on ideas. We want to talk about important topics ignored by the mainstream media."

The original Left Book Club was established in 1936 by Victor Gollancz and quickly became an influential literary and social movement, credited with helping the Labour Party win its landslide victory in 1945.

Anna Minton, LBC Director, added: "In this time of social upheaval and disorientation, we believe that publishing and discussing great radical books are vital for progressive politics in Britain."

"It's time to take the project to the next level: We want to create a new digital space for progressive ideas.

"We want to create excellent digital content around our books' themes. The new website will have interviews, debates, articles, podcasts and other live events, plus exclusive features for subscribers.

"We'll find the next generation of progressive writers by open calls for themed articles plus an annual essay competition for previously unpublished commentators. Our new content will appear on our revamped website, and we'll be hiring a full-time digital editor."

The club has three fantastic titles coming out in the coming months: *Here We Stand: Women Changing The World* edited by Helena Earnshaw & Angharad Penrhyn Jones, *A People's History of the Russian Revolution* by Neil Faulkner, and *Sound System: The Political Power of Music* by Dave Randall.

The crowdfunder will be running for a month from October 19th at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/leftbookclub and will feature a range of eclectic rewards ranging from badges and bags to protest banners, artwork from Ralph Steadman, Jeremy Deller, Peter Kennard and others, and book proposal feedback from a Senior Commissioning Editor at Pluto Press.

The crowdfunder is run on the Left Book Club's behalf by www.bookjaw.com. Find out more at www.leftbookclub.com.

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