The American government, Internet companies and capitalist states around the world are engaged in an aggressive campaign to censor the Internet, under the guise of combating “fake news” and “Russian meddling.” The real aim is to suppress and criminalize the growth of opposition in the working class to austerity, war and social inequality.

On Saturday, April 22, the World Socialist Web Site, Socialist Equality Party (SEP) and the International Youth and Students for Social Equality (IYSSE) are holding a public conference in Detroit, Michigan to mobilize the working class against Internet censorship.

The first three months of 2018 have seen an immense intensification of social tensions and an escalation of class conflict around the world. In the United States, the West Virginia teachers strike is being followed by demands from teachers in other cities and states for strike action. Frontier telecommunications workers in West Virginia and Virginia are on strike. In the UK, 40,000 lectures have walked off the job. Protests and strikes have erupted in Kenya, Argentina, Germany, France, Iran, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and many other countries.

In the capitalist media, there are worried comments about the role of social media in allowing workers to organize independently of the corporatist trade unions. There are increasingly explicit calls for the suppression of “radicalizing” and “divisive” views. Google’s move last April to manipulate its search results to blacklist left-wing, socialist and antiwar sites has been followed by changes to Facebook’s news feed aimed at prioritizing “authoritative content” and similar acts of censorship by YouTube, Twitter and other social media companies.

The World Socialist Web Site has been a principal target of the government and corporate censors. As it marks the 20th anniversary of continual daily publication, the WSWS is leading the fight against the greatest attack on free speech since the Second World War. The defense of Internet freedom must be connected to a struggle to organize and mobilize the entire working class against social inequality, war and the capitalist system.

We call on all our readers and supporters to attend public meetings being held throughout the US and to make plans to attend the April 22 conference.

Meeting Details:
Sunday, April 22, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Student Center Ballroom
5221 Gullen Mall
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan

To contact the WSWS and the Socialist Equality Party visit:

http://www.wsws.org