

# DEFEND OUR RIGHT TO PROTEST

**Rally Tuesday 18th February**

**10am**

**Assemble at Trades Hall. March to Parliament.**

The Victorian government is planning to pass new laws to restrict our right to protest, giving police greater powers to move people on, and introducing jail sentences of up to two years for returning to a banned protest or picket.

This is clearly an attack on us as workers. Our power is our ability to meet together, build unions, stop work, and act in solidarity. When we organise we have the power to change things. As unionists, we know that we either go forward together or we go back together.

These laws are designed to stop us taking action to improve our wages and conditions. If we cannot organise, we will be weaker. If we are weaker, it will be easier for the capitalists to make us work harder, for longer hours, for less wages and less job security. We can see the effects of these laws on our brothers and sisters in the rest of Asia.

In South Korea we recently saw massive police repression against striking railway workers; in Cambodia, five garment workers were killed while hundreds were jailed for taking part in a protest; and in India, over a hundred Maruti Suzuki workers have been in jail for over a year for trying to get a wage rise.

Governments want to introduce these laws because it will be easier for big business to make us work. By restricting our ability to organise, they can defeat us. Our defeat means more profits for companies.

**But we are many. We are strong.**

**With unity we can defeat these laws.**

**We can win.**

**WORKERS CHANGE THE WORLD**

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