



Australia Asia Worker Links

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1 May 2008

Since 1886 workers march on May Day, in commemoration of the Haymarket Martyrs in Chicago who were fighting for the 8 hour day. Today we are still fighting.

In order to oppose the global race to the bottom in wages and conditions workers need to coordinate international industrial action and solidarity actions.

Workers face common problems: We need proper wages; we all need safe workplaces: the same hazards kill and injure workers, no matter where we are.

Capital tries to create divisions among workers using racism and sexism. Capitalists try to use migrant workers to reduce wages and conditions at the same time. The labour movement must develop a united international response to the capitalist offensive. For this, it is necessary to organise all workers, including migrant workers and refugees, and those who are classified as illegal immigrants.

International solidarity has to be aimed at winning disputes, not simply at protesting injustice.

We propose a Global Labour Movement Charter

- The right to work
- The right to organise as a union and take collective action including industrial action and participate in solidarity actions
- The right to work that is without risk to health or safety, including the right to organise for the prevention of accidents and diseases, for workers' rights to compensation and rehabilitation
- A global minimum wage for each industry, based on purchasing power
- A set of minimum conditions that define decent work, including appropriate hours of work and paid vacation
- Permanent residence with full employment rights and the right to organise, for all refugees and all migrant workers in all countries
- Full rights for women workers
- Indigenous workers' rights & Land Rights for Indigenous communities

Our strategy is international industrial action and solidarity

We need to continue building links between genuine unions in the Asia Pacific region and globally. Workers in the same company or industry in all countries need to provide support to their fellow workers who are taking industrial action. This will help us to win disputes. Together we have power.

On May Day we remember those who died in struggle
On May Day we remember what still has to be done

workers change the world

Send your May Day solidarity message to aawl@aawl.org.au and we will read it at this public event:

May Day Messages from Around the World

Thursday 1 May at 5 pm - 8 Hour Day Monument - Corner Russel & Victoria Streets Carlton South, Melbourne, Australia
Information: Jiselle Hanna 0411 054 859 - Do you want aawl news by email or on your website? <http://subscribe.aawl.org.au>



aawl meetings

Tuesday 6 May 08
Tuesday 3 June
Tuesday 1 July
Tuesday 5 August
Tuesday 2 September

Our public meetings
are at 6 pm in the
Evatt Room Trades Hall
54 Victoria Street
Carlton South

radio

Asia Pacific Currents is our radio programme that can be heard every Saturday morning at 9:00 am on Melbourne Community Radio 3CR - 855 AM

Listen to 3CR on the web at: <http://radio.aawl.org.au>

email news

Subscribe to AAWL news by email, or receive news directly to your website, blog or news reader
Go to: <http://subscribe.aawl.org.au>

join aawl

Membership: \$50 solidarity / \$30 full / \$10 concession

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Tel: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

struggle song

Workers across the world united
Stand up for justice & what's ours
With my comrades beside me
See the power of our class

Dare to fight ! Dare to win !
March together arm in arm
With my comrades beside me
See the power of our class

Workers across the world united
Stand up for justice & what's ours
Are we Union? Yes we are
See the power of our class

Dare to fight ! Dare to win !
March together arm in arm
With my comrades beside me
See the power of our class

Dare to fight ! Dare to win !
March together arm in arm
With my comrades beside me
See the power of our class

Workers across the world united
Stand up for justice & what's ours
Are we many? Yes we are
See the power of our class

Dare to fight ! Dare to win !
March together arm in arm
With my comrades beside me
See the power of our class

With my comrades beside me
See the power of our class

the story of the struggle song

On 17 May 1980 martial law was declared in South Korea. In the industrial city of Kwan-ju protests continued for nine days. The government sent in troops. More than 2000 workers were killed. The Struggle Song was written to commemorate this massacre. Korean unions have said that the Struggle Song belongs to all workers. They ask all unions in the Asia Pacific region to sing it. Already Korean, Indonesian, Taiwanese and Thai workers sing versions of this song. This is the Australian version

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