

Donations Appeal



Comrades and friends, by now we all know that the boss/worker relationship has been radically restructured over the past thirty years. Work is increasingly casualised, outsourced and 'externalised', to the point where many workers do not know who their employer is. The result of the restructuring is a highly divided workplace, of permanents, casuals, labour broker workers, contract workers and young 'learners' who serve as an additional source of cheap labour (learnerships, internships, stipend workers, volunteers). Many of the new workers are women, youth and 'undocumented migrants', for want of a better description. The workplace is riddled by tensions across employment status, gender, age and nationalist divides. The only beneficiaries of these divisions are the bosses.

The established trade union movement shows little appetite for the difficult task of organizing the new workers, despite their increasing number and social and political significance. The Casual Workers Advice Office is a first, tentative step towards organizing such workers. The organisation is registered as an NPO (registration number 93222), a bank account has been opened, systems started up and the doors will open in Germiston within weeks. The CWAO has a fulltime co-ordinator and one organizer/paralegal to start with, reporting to the CWAO Management Committee¹.

While the CWAO has been fortunate to attract a small amount of start up funding, the intention has always been to try and keep the initiative as free of donor dependence as possible. The strategy to do so hinges on sympathisers making monthly donations until such time as the workers using the services of the CWAO begin to assume responsibility for its on-going existence, based on their understanding of its role of encouraging organisation among vulnerable workers.

The CWAO requests you to consider making a monthly contribution. Contributions will go directly into the account of the CWAO and all contributors will receive regular financial statements and progress reports on the work of the advice office. If you do commit to a contribution, please provide your name and contact details, preferably an e-mail address, when making your deposit. This will allow us to keep a record of all contributors and to send them regular updates.

Contributions in kind are also welcome. If you have anything that may be of use, please let us know.

Account Name: Casual Workers Advice Office
Bank: Standard Bank
Branch: Eastgate
Branch Code: 18505
Account type: Current Account
Account Number: 28 299 003 6.

For more information please phone Ighsaan on 079 888 222 9 or e-mail to ighsaans@gmail.com

¹ CWAO Management Committee at launch: Ishmael Lesufi, John Appolis, Bridget Kenny, Ighsaan Schroeder (Co-ordinator).