

global picketline



We need a global picketline

This is a workshop on coordinating international industrial action and solidarity to support workers in disputes.

This workshop was first presented at Victorian Trades Hall Council in Melbourne Australia on 1 August 2013

Australia Asia Worker Links - Workers change the world

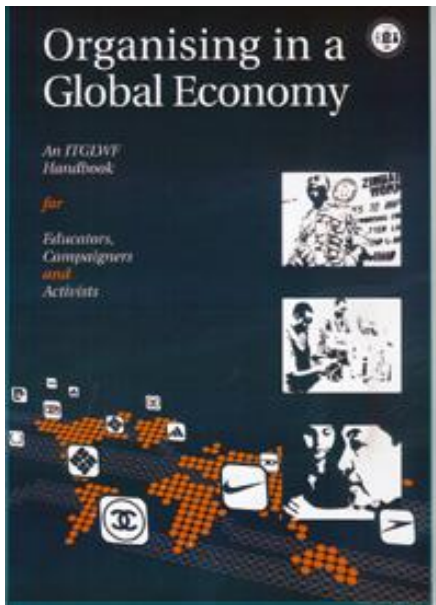


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Workshop outline:
Race to the bottom
Global picketline
What we've done
What we want to do

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- The economy is global
- New communication and transport technologies have integrated the economy globally
- There are global structures and global systems
- Countries and companies that don't engage with the global economy are left behind
- Engaging with the global economy means competing globally

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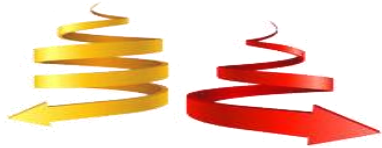
Companies compete globally

- by reducing costs
- and increasing productivity
- to increase profits

This is the race to the bottom



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Companies

- shift production to lower wage countries
- use contracting out and casualisation
- try to keep workers unorganised
- keep pushing workers for more production
- cut costs like safety and time off
- import temporary migrant workers on precarious contracts

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- All companies are forced to be in the race to the bottom
- All companies act like this to be globally competitive
- So all workers face the same pressures everywhere

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Workers everywhere have the same demands

- **The right to organise unions and take collective action including industrial action and solidarity actions**
- **The right of all workers to organise collectively without being subjected to violence, intimidation or legal harassment**
- **Secure employment**
- **Health & Safety at work, compensation, rehabilitation**
- **A living wage for all workers in all industries**
- **Decent work, with appropriate hours of work proposed by workers, paid leave and paid holidays**

from global labour movement charter 2010

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Workers everywhere have the same demands

- **Full rights for women workers**
- **Indigenous workers' rights & Land Rights**
- **Permanent residence with full employment rights for all refugees and all migrant workers in all countries**
- **No child labour**
- **Education, housing, health and childcare provisions**
- **Social security and adequate welfare benefits**

from global labour movement charter 2010



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- Companies are organising globally
- So workers need to organise globally too
- Which are the best ways to do this?

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Building international solidarity

We can increase the impact of our solidarity:

1. Solidarity messages
2. Connect the struggles
3. Joint action

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the best joint action is international industrial action and solidarity to

- create global campaigns
- help workers win disputes
- increase global standards

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Our strategy is to target industries and find companies which are

- multinationals with production and sales in many countries
- strongly anti-union
- despite their anti-union stance, they are unionised, with genuine unions in multiple locations



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Our strategy is to develop a dispute map to support workers internationally . The dispute map shows:

- Company locations
- Strategic points in production and distribution
- Where the union is strong
- Where there are other unions who can provide solidarity



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Example: Airline industry campaign 2011-13

- Global days of action
- Coordinated leafleting actions
- To support unions at
 - Philippine Airlines
 - Turkish Airlines
 - Qantas



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our campaign structure is:

- coordinator
- liaison officers
- researchers
- union affiliates
- union delegates
- solidarity partners



we call this:

- the right people around the table

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The right people around the table are workers in the genuine unions involved in the dispute

- they discuss possible solidarity campaigns with other workers in genuine unions in the same company or the same industry
- they are well placed to be very effective in the dispute

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our method of campaign coordination:

- solidarity messages
- emails to connect struggles
- solidarity visits
- skype meetings to build joint actions

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What next ?



Global industries are in struggle

- airlines, transport & logistics
- car factories
- mines
- construction
- food industry

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Workers have global union federations:

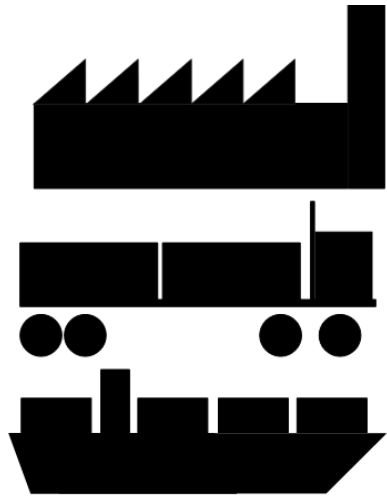
- airlines – ITF
- car factories – Industrial
- mines – Industrial
- construction – BWI
- food industry – IUF

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international solidarity against austerity & division

- build the global picketline
- connect the struggles worldwide to win



workers change the world