

## Don't stay on the sidelines!

The General Defense Committee is composed of folks like you, who cannot sit idly by and watch their rights and the rights of their incarcerated Fellow Workers eroded by a system designed to protect the status quo instead of the common working woman and man.

That is why the GDC serves a vital purpose, not just within the IWW but for working people everywhere. Committed to the goals and aims of the Union, the GDC is organizing to stand in defense of those who find themselves at odds with the bosses, the police, and the courts because of their commitment to the working class.

## Membership

Membership in the GDC is open to anyone in agreement with the general principles outlined in this pamphlet. You must only agree to abide by the rules of the GDC.

Initiation fees are \$5, then only \$5 per quarter (\$20 yearly). You can join for as little as \$10!

Members and new members are encouraged to pay for multiple quarters, and voluntary assessment stamps are also available for specific defense campaigns and for the day-to-day operations of the GDC.

Meanwhile, almost every penny goes to defense and support work; 75% of dues money goes into our Central Fund, reserved only for direct defense work. 25% goes into our General Fund to pay for postage, printing, and other needs. We have no paid officers, and all work is done by volunteers!

## Privileges

When you join the GDC, you will receive your membership card (Gray Card), a membership button, and a copy of our by-laws.

But the greatest privilege is simply being a part of the struggle...

## To Join the GDC

Fill out the attached form and mail it, with your initiation fee plus your quarterly dues, back to:

IWW GDC  
PO Box 15573  
Pittsburgh, PA 15244

\_\_\_\_ I affirm that I subscribe to the general principles and aims of the IWW and the GDC.

\_\_\_\_ I agree to abide by the by-laws and regulations of this organization.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed:

Initiation: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

# Join the Struggle!

## Build the Defense!



**Join the General Defense Committee  
of the  
Industrial Workers of the World**

**An Injury To One Is An Injury To All!**

[gdc.iww.org](http://gdc.iww.org)

## An Injury To One Is Truly An Injury To All!

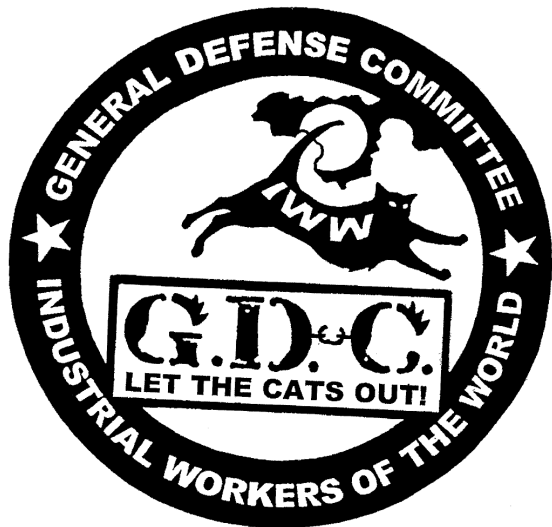
*Years ago I recognized my kinship with all living things, and I made up my mind that I was not one bit better than the meanest on the earth. I said then and I say now, that while there is a lower class, I am in it; while there is a criminal element, I am of it; that while there is a soul in prison, I am not free.*

*-Eugene V. Debs*

The saying, An injury to one is the concern of all, dates back to the earliest days of the labor movement in America when it was adopted by the Knights of Labor. With the birth of the Industrial Workers of the World in 1905, the concept was taken a step further; an injury to one was not simply the *concern* of all, but an *injury* to all.

Thus the IWW, from its inception, has been well aware of the importance of Solidarity with all that share our struggle for a better world.

That struggle continues today, and so too does our need for Solidarity. For only if we are prepared to stand together do we have any chance of standing at all. That is why the General Defense Committee of the IWW was formed: So that we all might stand together.



## FELLOW WORKERS:



WE ARE IN HERE FOR YOU; YOU ARE OUT THERE FOR US

The General Defense Committee of the IWW was first formed in 1917 to provide defense support for IWW members who found themselves battling the “forces of law and order” who sought to prosecute them for no other crime than what they *believed!*

### **We vow, Never Again!**

Since that time, the GDC has evolved to the point where it is now our goal to provide support to any member of the working class who finds themselves in legal trouble due to their involvement in the class struggle.

That is why any member of the IWW or GDC in good standing may petition the GDC for direct aid in their legal defense on charges resulting from picketing, protests, or other acts related to labor and job actions or activist causes. This aid may include bail, bond, help with legal aid, or it may take the form of a grant or no-interest loan.

Members may also rest assured of solidarity from the organization, including statements of support, letter writing, and public education as to the case (or cases) in question.

That is why we go even farther: non-members of the IWW or GDC who find themselves afoul of the law may also expect solidarity from the organization, including motions of support, letter writing, and public education regarding your case or cases.

We take our obligations to one another, and to those who share our aims – wherever they may be – seriously.

## **The Defiant Spirit**

The GDC is not satisfied with simply sitting back and waiting for requests for help...

Nor do we wish to be simply a channel for funding for our Fellow Workers in need...

We want to be active partners in the struggle for a better world.

We want to do more than defend ourselves; we want to fight for change.

We will not sit idly by so long as there is racism or sexism, hate crimes and hate groups.

We will not rest while innocent workers are imprisoned, so long as there are laws that allow for unjust prosecution or any form of legal persecution.

We will not let go so long as hunger and want remain, so long as poverty and misery have not been eradicated.

We will not hide from injustice in any form, or shrink from the politicians and demagogues who try and bring to bare law enforcement, the courts, or politicians against us.

We are united in a Defiant Spirit!

And we need you to join us, for we are only as strong as we are willing to join together and put ourselves on the line for each other.

Do you feel the Defiant Spirit within you as well?