

UNION SOLIDARITY WE STAND TOGETHER!

Union Solidarity aims to build a mass based united front campaign on the ground to defeat the repressive IR laws.

Union Solidarity is a wide network of affiliated community and welfare organisations and unions with the single aim of building a broad people's movement to beat back attacks on workers, unions and communities.

Union Solidarity affiliates are drawn from unions, workers and grass roots community organisations.

Union Solidarity works as a collective. The core of Union Solidarity work and strength lies in building mass campaigns in the community and workplaces.

WE ARE HELPING UNIONS AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE ORGANISATION OF:

- Public meetings to express our communities' concerns
- Local branches across Melbourne's suburbs and Victoria's regions
- Fundraising
- Letterboxing local areas
- Building support for workers and unions in our communities
- Providing resources such as food and shelter for picket lines
- Acting as one active link to unions, the Victorian Trades Hall Council and the ACTU for our local communities.

UNIONS PROTECTING FAMILY LIVING STANDARDS

"...under attack from the IR laws and Welfare to Work legislation."

Union Solidarity supports and promotes activities that strengthen unity

Union Solidarity builds wide support for workers, unions and communities under attack from the IR laws.

Union Solidarity members' and affiliates' main priorities are in organising and mobilising united front mass based activities and campaigns in their own communities, workplaces and unions.

How can I get involved?

Register as a contact
We aim to build a supporter network that can be called at short notice to attend picket lines and community assemblies. To be part of future actions go to our website and click **contact list**.

Getting involved in a local branch
Simply phone a network contact nearest you. More details on website.

Assisting picketlines & community assemblies by:
fundraising
letter writing
logistical support
organise information meetings
printing & photocopying
joining SMS action list
Writing for the website



NETWORK

MELBOURNE CENTRAL UNION SOLIDARITY
Dave: 0412 484 094

DANDENONG UNION SOLIDARITY
Maree: 0417 553 869

MORELAND UNION & COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY
James: 0405 309 283

BANYULE WORKER'S RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN
Gary: 0415 103 375

EASTERN COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP
Gary: 0415 103 375

SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY
Pablo: 0409 513 332

COMMUNITY SECTOR UNION SOLIDARITY
Tash: 9342 3477

GEELONG COMMUNITY & UNION SOLIDARITY
John: 0414 289 584

WESTERN SUBURBS COMMUNITY & UNIONS COALITION
Shirley: 0417 456 001

DAREBIN WORKERS RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE
Joe: 0402 679 201

NORTHERN COMMUNITIES & UNION SOLIDARITY
Wayne: 0438 403 326

YARRA COMMUNITY & UNION SOLIDARITY
Lynda: 0408 588 586

NOW'S THE TIME FOR A UNITED FIGHTBACK!

www.unionsolidarity.org
nothing to lose, everything to gain!



THEY ARE WILLING TO TRY TO DESTROY OUR UNIONS TO CLAW IT BACK.

They don't mind if unions exist as service organisations, as long as they don't organise their members industrially.

THAT'S WHY THE COALITION INTRODUCED WORKCHOICES LEGISLATION TO:

- Remove conditions in awards such as redundancy pay, penalty rates, long service leave.
- Criminalise normal union activities.
- Make it easier for employers to impose Australian Workplace Agreements (individual contracts) on workers.
- End pattern or industry-wide bargaining.
- Restrict the democratic right of workers to have their unions visit them in their workplaces more than twice a year.
- Remove unfair dismissal protection for workers.
- Remove redundancy payment rights for workers in small businesses.
- Specifically attack construction industry unions and leave construction workers with less rights than other workers.

Workers got where we are by organising together in unions.

The coalition introduced Workchoices, but there's no guarantee that they can get away with their anti-worker plans on the job.

ANTI-UNION LAWS CAN BE STOPPED

Faced with a political crisis and massive public opposition, a government can be forced to back off. The Liberal Party controlled the senate before, in 1976-1983 and couldn't implement all its anti-union laws. In 1998, the federal government thought it could destroy the Maritime Union of Australia. The MUA wasn't saved by the courts or by the senate. The battle was fought and won on the wharves, with mass pickets defying the laws and keeping the dock gates closed to containers handled by scabs. There were mass demonstrations including one of 100,000 in Melbourne. Wherever Coalition MPs went, they were met with

protests. Some workers took spontaneous strike action. The government backed off. Solidarity won. Now we need to do it again. In 1968, the union movement responded with massive strikes and public protests when Tramways union leader Clarrie O'Shea was jailed. The extent of the protests meant that O'Shea was released from jail and the law which sent him to jail wasn't used again. Some say that the union movement is too weak to respond now. But opinion polls over the past eight years have consistently shown that the majority of workers would like to join a union.

Thousands of workers have joined unions in the past year. The huge turnouts at the Your Rights At Work rallies prove there is still plenty of fight left in the union movement. Also recent disputes in Melbourne have shown that when workers and the community stand together it is possible to defy the IR laws and reach a successful settlement.

IF UNIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS MOBILISE, IT IS POSSIBLE TO STOP THE GOVERNMENT FROM USING ITS ANTI-UNION LAWS. AND IT IS POSSIBLE TO STOP SOME OF THE OTHER ATTACKS THE GOVERNMENT HAS PLANNED FOR WORKING PEOPLE. WE HAVE TO ORGANISE NOW TO STOP THIS INJUSTICE.

WHAT CAN I DO?



- If you are not in a union, join one today. Ring Victorian Trades Hall Council or visit www.vthc.org.au
- If you are a union member, contact your delegate or organiser and find out what your union is doing to oppose the anti-union laws.
- Organise a meeting with your workmates to discuss the attacks.
- Hand around copies of this leaflet. Visit our website www.unionsolidarity.org
- Volunteer to be part of a phone tree for picket line solidarity.
- Get involved with the Union Solidarity Group – see over for contact numbers.
- Join in the *Your Rights at Work* campaign go to www.rightsatwork.com.au
- Find out about the harsh Welfare to Work legislation go to www.welfaretowork.org.au