

DIRECT**ACTION**

Industrial Workers of the World

An Injury To One - Is An Injury To All!

Building A Revolutionary Union in Ireland

The IWW is a revolutionary global union, fighting for better conditions today and economic democracy tomorrow. By training our members in powerful organising methods, direct action and direct democracy, we put power in the hands of workers.

We believe that ordinary people are best placed to lead and create change, both at work and in society. We put our members in charge, training each and every one to build and lead their workplace unions, organise their own campaigns and take the action that wins.

We're an active and fighting union. We know solidarity is strength, and we prove it by looking after each other. We provide advice and representation when you have problems at work, but we're much more than that.

We're not just here to provide a service; we're here to build a movement, winning bigger and better victories for working people as our movement grows in strength and confidence.

Originally formed in 1905, the IWW has a rich and proud history, organising workers into revolutionary 'industrial unions' along the supply chain of their industry. This form of union organisation provides workers with the maximum clout in any dispute with employers.

When workers in one section of an industry have an issue, their fellow workers along the supply chain can take action to support them, having maximum impact on the running of that industry and hitting the employer where it hurts. This is the basis of our slogan, "an injury to one is an injury to all".

This is how we can defend and improve our pay, terms and conditions of employment. This is how we can build a better future. Political democracy is (at least) severely limited without democracy within the economy, within industry. The production and distribution of goods and services is the real power that shapes our society.

In the hands of the few – our employers – this power benefits the few. In the hands of all working people it could benefit everyone.

Who else but us, the working class, who can produce and distribute all the world's goods and services. We make the world turn yet see little of the wealth and make few of the decisions.

Organised into industrial unions, linked together into one big movement, we could take possession of our industries and run them democratically for the good of all.

Your union is your future!

THE FOUNDING PREAMBLE OF THE IWW

The Preamble is the founding document and statement of principles and visions for the IWW. It has not changed considerably since the union's founding conference in Chicago, 1905.

It is a powerful statement of intent which pulls no punches and refuses the compromises and 'partnership' attitudes of most contemporary unions. In the context of intensifying employer and government crackdowns on our hard-won pay and conditions, the Preamble resonates as strongly in the contemporary period as it did when it was first written:

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organise as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organisation formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organised, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism has been overthrown. By organising industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

MONTH OF SOLIDARITY WITH GWTUC

The IWW in Ireland helped initiate a series of solidarity pickets at Lidl stores across the country and internationally with the International Confederation of Labour (ICL-CIT) from Saturday 15th August to 15th September. An international effort was made to raise awareness of the treatment of garment workers who create some of the clothing sold here. Throughout the month our members have picketed Lidl stores in Derry, Galway, Dublin, Belfast and Newry as part of a month long series of international actions.

The IWW wrote to Lidl to formally highlight that their supplier, Dragon Group, had illegally terminated the contracts of almost 6000 workers, mostly at their Dragon Sweater factory in Dhaka.

Despite attempted negotiations and protests since March, the workers are left struggling to obtain their overdue wages as well as bonus and compensation payments. We have also been informed by GWTUC that the Dragon Group factory is simply relocating while citing economic slowdown and losses due to the Covid-19 as reason for closure.

The IWW firmly believes that no company should be allowed to leave workers in their supply chain open to exploitation and that customers want to make informed choices regarding the provenance of their purchases.

We recognise how the rights and conditions for workers in one country affect those elsewhere and in the interests of international working class solidarity we intend to make public and amplify the demands of the GWTUC members and Garment workers.

DEBENHAMS WORKERS OCCUPATIONS!

Solidarity action at Debenhams store in Foyleside Shopping Centre in Derry following on from the occupation of stores in Cork, Tralee and Dublin by former staff members. A spokesperson for the IWW in Derry said that "We had a great response from those passing, a lot of good conversations. Still a lot of people unaware of how Debenhams workers have been treated but expressing support.

"For ourselves in the IWW, it is vital that workers hear and know about direct action by other workers who aren't prepared to set back and be taken advantage of by cruel bosses such as the Debenhams group. Workers have had enough of having their rights being sidelined by some excuse they are using about the current pandemic. It is clear when talking to people here today that workers are being abused.

"Everyone knows that multinational firms from Debenhams to Easons are throwing workers under a bus simply to protect their



IWW members protest at Lidl Store in Belfast City Centre

We invite supporters to join us in highlighting how companies are profiting from the exploitation of our fellow workers in Bangladesh.

You can send additional messages of support and solidarity to the Garment Workers Trade Union Center at: gwtucint@gmail.com

For further information contact:

Email: ireland@iww.org.uk

Website: onebigunion.ie



IWW Solidarity With Debenhams Workers

own interests and profits first. This week Debenhams workers have shown other workers facing the same situation that there are ways in which we can fight back. That is why we are here today, not simply as a gesture of solidarity but to ensure other workers hear about and know that there are ways to stand up and fight back as Debenhams workers have shown."

JOIN THE IWW TODAY!

Don't forget the easiest way to become a member of the IWW in your area is by going online to the link below.

We already have active members in towns and cities across Ireland, both north and south, such as Dublin, Athlone, Cork, Derry, Belfast, Galway, Newry, Dungiven, Clare, Waterford, Donegal, Newcastle, Limerick, Portadown, Kildare and Tralee.

Our membership is wide and varied which so far includes workers in the public sector, construction, students, musicians, administration, artists, community, unemployed and hospitality workers:

www.iww.org.uk/join

IWW CONTACTS IN YOUR AREA

Members in each area meet each month to discuss, support and organise activity locally.

You can contact your closest area organiser at the following email nearest you or online via Facebook or Twitter:

Dublin: dublin@iww.org.uk

Cork: cork@iww.org.uk

Derry: derry@iww.org.uk

Galway: galway@iww.org.uk

Belfast: belfast@iww.org.uk

