

# global picketline

## international industrial action & solidarity workshop



AAWL Presentation  
Victorian Trades Hall Council  
Melbourne Australia  
1 August 2013

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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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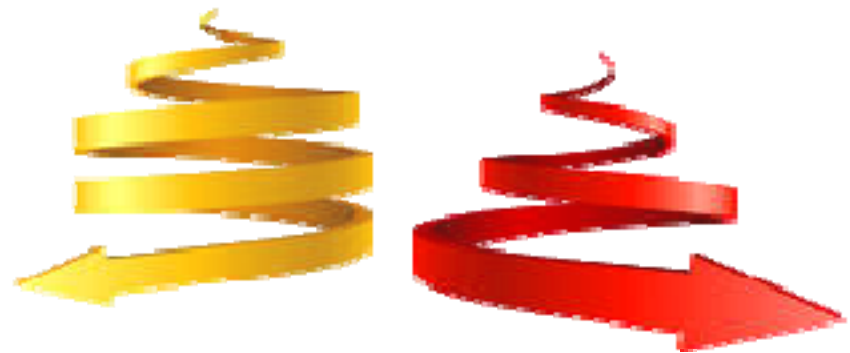
## The economy is global

- 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
- increasing productivity
- to increase profits



- This is the race to the bottom

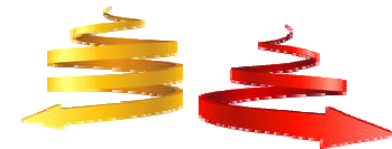


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## Companies

- 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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*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 – Industriall**
- **mines – Industriall**
- **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

