

WORKERS UNITED

for secure jobs, better wages and equal rights for all



The First of May : AN INTERNATIONAL FIGHTING DAY FOR ALL WORKERS

On 1 May 1886 in the USA, the trade-unions organised a general strike to push for the eight-hour working day. To curb the working-class's growing strength, repression was particularly harsh: at the McCormick factory in Chicago three workers were shot by the police, and five others were sentenced to death and hanged!

In 1889 labour organisations from around the world gathered in Paris to oppose their united force to the bosses, who were already masters in the art of exploiting workers across borders. They chose that date, the First of May, as an international fighting day: an occasion to proclaim, in each and every country, that labourers the world over have the same enemies and the same class interests. The common aim was the eight-hour day.

***May Days were sometimes bloody, they are often repressed,
but since 1890 they have become and remained a fighting tradition on every continent.***

**Today, the First of May keeps on uniting workers from all countries,
showing their determination to impose their common interests on the exploiting class.**

It is a fact that everywhere in the world, governments and bosses are taking advantage of the crisis and of the high level of unemployment to aggravate exploitation.

They do so by making the working day longer and more intense, by cutting wages, by turning more and more of us into casual workers.

To oblige us to put up with those degradations, our exploiters do everything they can to "divide and rule", to exacerbate competition between workers through the multiplication of different statuses inside the same workplace: some of us are employed directly by STX, others by sub-contractors, others by temporary work agencies, others are said to be "detached".

The point of those divisions is to weaken us. And in their attempt to oppose the workers to each other, the bosses are supported by the far-right demagogues who blame foreign workers for the high level of joblessness existing right now in France.

All over Europe, mass unemployment weighs heavily on the working-class. The people to blame for that are no one but the capitalists who own the big corporations, and their greed for profits.

**The First of May is an opportunity to affirm that the exploiters can be resisted by
international class solidarity, that the workers can be united in that fight
whatever their colour of skin or official national identity.**

**For jobs, for pay,
LET US ALL DEMONSTRATE TOGETHER
ON THE FIRST OF MAY!**

**10 a.m., St Nazaire,
Place de l'Amérique Latine, esplanade du Ruban Bleu**

ANGLAIS

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**Because division is a poison that makes us weaker and
because what brings us together makes us stronger,
this leaflet is for all the workers on the site.
It is available in 10 languages.**

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