

# TEN POINTS CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

The ILO Conventions state that the right to strike exists to protect these human rights:

Right to solidarity  
Right to organise



United Nations  
Conventions which  
Australia signed

In 1977 laws were passed outlawing solidarity strikes. They are called the Secondary Boycott laws, part of the Trade Practices Act.



This was part of a global crackdown on the democratic rights of workers to organise and strike to defend each other and our national interests.



This led to the current crisis:

- Privatisation of Australians' assets
- Re-regulation in the interests of big corporations
- Casualisation of our work
- Off-shoring of our jobs for lower wages
- Contracting out for lower wages
- Individual contracts
- Outlawing industrial action in support of community

Authorised, National Right to Strike Campaign  
VICTORIAN TRADES HALL, BOX 93  
54 VICTORIA ST CARLTON SOUTH 3053



The  
right  
to  
strike  
for  
the  
right  
future



We might sell our  
labour, but never  
our children's right  
to a good future



1. All Australian law must comply with the UN's International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions.

2. The ILO Conventions state that the right to withdraw labour underpins our democratic rights.

3. The ILO Conventions state that the right to strike is one of the essential means available to 'seeking solutions to economic and social policy questions and to labour problems of any kind which are of direct concern to workers,' and ensures that working people and their unions can show solidarity with each other and with their communities.

4. Australian law must uphold the ILO Convention to guarantee the rights of unions to negotiate about anything that is deemed to be in their interests. This is the same right that employers already have when they determine the price and conditions of sale for the goods they sell.

5. The ILO Conventions guarantee the right of entry for unions to enter in workplaces. This must be respected by Governments and employers, so that workers can exercise their freedom of association.

6. If unionists had the right to strike in solidarity with one another, we could have stopped privatisations, casualisation and the offshoring of Australian jobs.

7. Australian workers should be equal before the law with employers. When employers use an alternative workforce (scabs), they are using second parties to achieve an industrial outcome. The law is unequal where workers cannot support each other with solidarity actions.

8. The ILO states that the right to strike protects all other human rights. Only unions with the freedom to act, in the same way as employers are free to act, can redress the imbalance of power.

9. Workplace flexibility has gone too far. This has led to casualisation, insecure employment and sham contracting. An unfettered market, not contained by the workers right to strike, reduces conditions and the take home pay of working people.

10. Only through the right to strike will restrictions on their ability to trade freely be lifted on workers, allowing them to operate as freely as employers in the pursuit of their interests within the economy. In this way unions will be able to live out their purpose in the protection and advancement of all working people and their communities.

**AUTHORISED: NATIONAL RIGHT TO STRIKE CAMPAIGN VICTORIAN TRADES HALL**

**BOX 93 54 VICTORIA ST CARLTON SOUTH 3053**