

DIRECT

Industrial Workers of the World

ACTION

An Injury To One - Is An Injury To All!

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY: MAY DAY! MAY DAY!



**ON THE STREETS:
WOBBLIES AT THE GPO CONFRONTING HATE**

Among all the unions that exist today the IWW has a unique connection to its origins. On the 1st of May 1886 Lucy and Albert Parsons led a march through the streets of Chicago to demand the eight hour working day. This formed part of a wider struggle including strikes and rallies that had been met by repressive violence, including workers being shot and killed by police. A rally followed on the 4th of May condemning the killings by police. This day would become known as the 'Haymarket Affair'.

Police tried to disperse the rally, a bomb was thrown and the police responded by indiscriminately shooting into the crowd, killing seven more workers. Despite neither of the Parsons being present for these events and plenty of testimony to prove his innocence, Albert was arrested and hanged alongside four other (almost certainly innocent) labour leaders. On the day of the hanging, Lucy and her children were stripped and thrown naked into a jail cell and released only after her husband was dead.

These events are still commemorated around the world on the 1st of May, or May Day, in celebration of the struggles of the international working class. We take this opportunity each year to reflect on the struggles against what seemed like insurmountable hardship and violence that won all the good things that we take for granted today.

Lucy Parsons was a founding member of the IWW in 1905 and continued to agitate for a better world throughout her life. Like Lucy Parsons, we cannot give up the struggle and hope for our emancipation today either, no matter how cruel and unfair the world may seem. We must do all we can to build the IWW into a union of workers who stand up for each other and for all of those facing exploitation and oppression.

This May Day we may feel very far from these goals and find it hard to celebrate. On the 1st of May there will be council elections in the UK and the outlook seems bleak, with the far-right Reform UK predicted to win many seats. Fascism and authoritarianism advance across the world with capitalism, patriarchy and the failings of neo-liberal democracies driving this. Genocide is being committed before our eyes in Palestine while those in power profit on every dead child.

The planet races towards ecological collapse, the warnings of scientists and the demands of the youth for a liveable planet now cast aside by global systems too greedy to change. The rights of women, especially trans and intersex women, have been betrayed by a recent Supreme Court ruling, made by old white men who seek to force women's identity into a binary that serves the interests of male domination. These binary relationships have nothing to do with science or protecting people and everything to do with asserting control over people's bodies and labour, enforcing power relationships.

Man > Woman, Owner > Worker, Master > Slave

We cannot overcome any power relationship like this without freeing ourselves fully from the binary dynamic that has imposed itself upon us all through a dominant culture.

So all of this is to say that even in the face of cruelty and injustice, just like Lucy Parsons we need to have courage, solidarity and hope. The struggle that the Haymarket Martyrs gave their lives for must still be fought today. It is a struggle that starts simply enough, by building connections with our fellow workers. Each new IWW member is a little victory for hope that we should celebrate. So, this May Day, march and shout and remember and celebrate and build hope, one worker at a time.

That's the challenge.

This May Day, whatever else you do, invite one colleague, friend or family member to join the IWW and together let's make a new world from the shell of the old.

An injury to one is an injury to all!

ONEBIGUNION.IE



IWW Take part in Anti-racist Protests

Members of the Industrial Workers of the World in Dublin along with other trade union and community activists gathered at the GPO, (Saturday), to condemn and oppose the ongoing campaign of hate against migrant workers.

Several hundred antifascists and anti-racist activists gathered at the GPO on O'Connell

Street to stand together against racism, against the far right. A member of the IWW spoke during that action to state that "The message was loud and clear, that our struggle is for justice and equality for all the people, and a greater need for all of us to take a stand against bigotry and hate. Our union motto is an injury to one is an injury to all.

"From its initial arrival, as a fighting union 120 years ago this year, we have taken that message to the shop floors of factories and fields, to the streets and to our very homes. We will not stand by and allow our class be divided and will stand against hatred and division in all its disguises. No matter what flag these so-called 'patriots' decide to fly."

Similar events took place in both Derry and Belfast with participation from members of the IWW as well as other members of the labour movement.

A spokesperson for the IWW Belfast commented following a rally outside Belfast City Hall who noted: "Again Belfast shows that we will not tolerate the racist agenda of division. Workers have come onto the streets to actively call out these racist gatherings for what they really are.

"At a time when workers are actively unionising in their workplaces, in the community or on the streets, fighting back against the bosses and the politicians attempts to attack what little rights we have left. We must always remain vigilant to tackle racism, just like sectarianism, which is the enemy of labour.

"Wherever it attempts to raise its filthy agenda, workers must mobilise to beat it back into whatever hole it crawls out of. Belfast and Derry have successfully done just that, time and time again. We cannot allow the division our class or allow it to have the oxygen it craves. We are for working class unity and the abolition of the wage system!"

IWW Belfast

IWW ORGANISER TRAINING 101

MEMBERS CAN NOW REGISTER FOR THE NEXT IWW COURSE!



IN-PERSON TRAINING DELIVERED
IN DUBLIN & DERRY ON THE WEEKEND OF

SAT 24TH & SUN 25TH MAY 2025



**HELP UNIONISE THE FIGHT
IN YOUR WORKPLACE
TODAY!**

IWW

IRELAND

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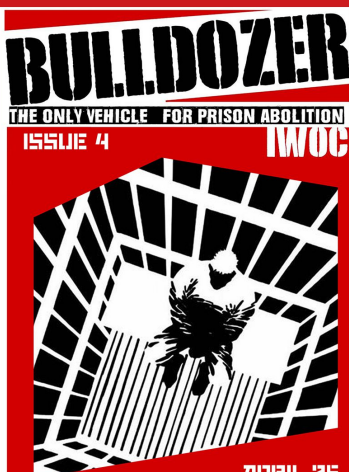
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

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BULLDOZER

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ISSUE 4 IWOC

APRIL 25

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31 MAY 2025

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