

DIRECT**ACTION**

Industrial Workers of the World

An Injury To One - Is An Injury To All!

IWW SUPPORTS WORKERS CALL FOR BOYCOTT SOLIDARITY WITH DEBENHAMS WORKERS FIGHT!



The Industrial Workers of the World Ireland Branch have continued its support for workers involved in the ongoing Debenhams dispute which last month broke the 200 days barrier signaling one of the countries longest industrial disputes.

As the event was marked with ex-Debenhams workers meeting the government, the IWW held similar actions as members of the IWW Derry branch held another successful protest action at Debenhams in Foyle side outlet in Derry.

A spokesperson spoke to Direct Action following the solidarity action stating "Interaction with Christmas shoppers and passers-by in the street was great. We found that a lot of people are now familiar with what has been happening with former Debenhams workers across the south, and their fight to obtain what is rightfully theirs.

"People are shocked to find that they have yet to receive their

redundancies. They are angry that the way in which Debenhams bosses have treated dedicated members of staff.

"As a union we feel it is essential that the ongoing fight by workers is supported and highlighted far and wide. Workers are determined not to have their rights trampled on.

"They are defiant and confident that their actions will continue until their demands are met. The IWW is here today in an attempt to help spread that message of the former Debenhams workers and to promote their campaign of a BOYCOTT of Debenhams stores and online this Christmas until workers receive their full redundancy payments.

"Similar actions must be happening in other areas to help demand that Debenhams bosses cough up and pay each and every worker what is owed to them."

#boycottdebenhams

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INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH GARMENT WORKERS CONTINUES

As part of an International Day of Action on "Black Friday" members of the Industrial Workers of the World took part in solidarity actions with the former textile workers at Dragon Sweater and against excessive consumerism. The international call was initiated by the FAU Hamburg, IWW Hamburg, and the Working Group Asia of the CIT ICL.

A representative of the IWW Branch commented the international actions "The Industrial Workers of the World IWW endorses the international call made by the CIT-ICL in solidarity with Garment Workers and the #gwttuc in Bangladesh.

"Our members are once again highlighting the devastation caused to textile workers, to their families and wider communities throughout Bangladesh by ruthless companies who distribute to multinationals such as Lidl.

"After months of protests, strikes and standoffs, of which the IWW have taken part in internationally, these companies agreed to a fixed settlement earlier this month but have reneged on these. This in turn has left workers and the communities in which they come from destitute.

"Those two factories belonging to the Dragon Group have been supplying Walmart, Lidl and New Yorker among others. Despite worldwide protests the companies involved didn't take up any responsibility in how these workers have been treated. It is nothing short of a disgrace.

"Our union have initiated several requests along with the Free Workers' Union (FAU) and the International Confederation of Labor (ICL) yet they continue to refuse to issue such a statement condemning the shocking treatment of workers. We demand that these multinationals such as Lidl support the respective labour struggles on the ground. We must stand together in solidarity and emphasise that as consumers and as workers we don't accept exploitation in the factories or in retailing."



UNIONISING ON THE INSIDE

Prisons are a weapon of class warfare. Though their stated aim is to protect the public, the real aim of prisons is to maintain class privileges and inequalities. The Victorians established prisons during the 1800s to deal with the 'social problems' (urban poverty) created by capitalism and industrialisation. Built within inner-city working-class neighbourhoods, Victorian prisons were designed to look like dungeons. Medieval aesthetics sought to strike fear into the hearts of workers and compel them to accept pitiful working and living conditions. Today, prisons are designed to look like friendly clinical settings, yet, their primary function remains the same: to control, regulate and discipline the working class.

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) recognises the importance of working-class solidarity with prisoners and the value of supporting prisoners to organise themselves in order to challenge harmful prison conditions, exploitative prison work conditions, and the role imprisonment plays in reproducing social inequality.

Members of the IWW in the USA created the Incarcerated Workers Organising Committee (IWOC) to liaise with prisoners interested in unionising and building bridges with fellow workers on the outside. IWOC was founded on the basis that the harms prisons do to working class communities can only be combated with the conscious participation of prisoners and solidarity with fellow workers on the outside.

Members of IWW Ireland have established IWOC Ireland in an attempt to actively reach out to prisoners as well as in response to prisoners who have reached out for assistance in unionising. IWOC Ireland is currently actively liaising with prisoners and developing strategies of how best to support them organise a union branch.

IWOC Ireland is soliciting IWW membership applications from prisoners across the island of Ireland who agree with the IWW Constitution and are committed to union organising and mutual aid and solidarity. IWW membership is free for prisoners. Prisoner members are full-fledged members of the IWW and have the same rights and responsibilities of non-prisoner members. The aim is to establish, maintain and develop IWOC branches within prisons across the island of Ireland and developing capacity to mobilise around collective concerns and take direct actions. IWOC Ireland members on the outside will offer solidarity, by providing whatever support is needed by imprisoned members. This will extend from individual letter writing to supporting campaigns for justice.

IWOC Ireland
Online: onebigunion.ie/iwocireland

JOIN THE IWW!

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
Derry: derry@iww.org.uk
Belfast: belfast@iww.org.uk

Cork: cork@iww.org.uk
Galway: galway@iww.org.uk

Email: ireland@iww.org.uk

Online: onebigunion.ie

[facebook.com/iwwireland](https://www.facebook.com/iwwireland)

