



TALKING POINTS

U.N. Says Workers Worldwide Have Rights

- Women and men of all countries share the same fundamental rights when they are at work, according to a declaration issued by the United Nations' International Labor Organization (ILO).
- Workers have the right to form a union and bargain collectively, to refuse forced labor, to reject child labor and to work free from discrimination.
- Too often, however, employers violate workers' rights while governments corroborate or look the other way. What's worse—most workers do not know they have any rights at work at all.
- Too often in this country, workers' basic freedoms are ignored—like the freedom to form a union. When employers keep workers from having a voice at work, they violate their employees' fundamental rights—and they lower standards for the whole community. Such behavior is wrong, and it's got to stop.
- That's why the ILO has developed a poster listing these rights in understandable terms and has translated it into several languages. Working with unions, governments and businesses around the world, we are asking employers to post the poster in every workplace, in every country, to let people know they have rights at work.
- Here in the United States we will work to post these posters in every workplace and throughout our communities—on television and in schools, on buses and in places of worship, on the Internet and in community centers. We want to make sure everyone finds out about their rights at work. We also will use this poster to remind employers that workers have these rights.
- We will use the poster to remind governments that trade agreements and laws must defend workers' rights, not just Big Business's interests. Governments must ensure workers' rights are respected every day, in every workplace.