

Solidarity!

Quotes on the general theme of labor solidarity...

“Your silence will not protect you.” —*Audre Lorde*

“You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man’s freedom. You can only be free if I am free.” —*Clarence Darrow*

“We must indeed all hang together, or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.” —*Benjamin Franklin, July 4, 1776 (Remark to John Hancock at the signing of the Declaration of Independence.)*

“When I rise it will be with the ranks and not from the ranks.” —*Eugene V. Debs*

“We must learn to live together as brothers or we are going to perish together as fools.” —*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

“While there is a lower class, I am in it; while there is a criminal element, I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free.” —*Eugene V. Debs, Founder of the American Railway Union*

“In Unity there is strength. We can move mountains when we’re united and enjoy life —Without unity we are victims. Stay united.” —*Bill Bailey, 1994*

“An injury to one is the concern of all!” —*Knights of Labor slogan*

“It is a great mistake for any class of laborers to isolate itself and thus weaken the bond of brotherhood between those on whom the burdens and hardship of labor (fall). The fortunate ones of the Earth, who are abundant in land and money and know nothing of the anxious care and pinching poverty of the laboring classes, may be indifferent to the appeal to justice at this point, but the laboring classes cannot afford to be indifferent. What labor everywhere wants, what it ought to have, and will someday demand and receive, is an honest day’s pay for an honest day’s work. As the laborer becomes more intelligent he will develop what capital he already possesses —that is the power to organize and combine for its own protection.” —*Frederick Douglass*

“An injury to one is the concern of all.” —*Slogan of The Knights of Labor, circa 1880’s*

“Solidarity is not a matter of sentiment but a fact, cold and impassive as the granite foundations of a skyscraper. If the basic elements, identity of interest, clarity of vision, honesty of intent, and oneness of purpose, or any of these is lacking, all sentimental please for solidarity, and all other efforts to achieve it will be barren of results.” —*Eugene V. Debs*

“The boss don’t listen when one guy squawks/ But he’s gotta listen when the union talks.” —*An old song*



El pueblo unido jamas sera vencido. *The people united will never be defeated.*

A single bracelet does not jingle. *Congo proverb*

United jaws crush the bone —*Kigezi proverb, southwest Uganda*

Cross the river in a crowd and the crocodile won't eat you. —*proverb from Madagascar*

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.

"The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one of uniting all working people of all nations, tongues and kindreds."

—*From the speeches of Abraham Lincoln*

"In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."

—*Martin Niemoeller, German Lutheran Pastor (1892-1984)*

"The basic law of capitalism is you or I, not both you and I."

—*Karl Liebknecht, from a speech delivered in 1907*



Organize!

Quotes on the general theme of organizing...

“It is one of the characteristics of a free and democratic nation that is to have free and independent labor unions.” —*Franklin D. Roosevelt, address before the Teamsters’ Union Convention, Washington, D.C., Sept. 11, 1940*

“Your silence will not protect you.” —*Audre Lorde*

“He who says it cannot be done should get out of the way of the one who is doing it.” —*Chinese Proverb*

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are people who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightening. That struggle might be a moral one; it might be a physical one; it might be both moral and physical, but it must be struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and never will. People might not get all that they work for in this world, but they must certainly work for all they get.” —*Frederick Douglass, Abolitionist*

“Don’t mourn for me — Organize!” —*Joe Hill, Last words spoken before his execution, November 19, 1915*

“Whatever is not forbidden is permitted.” —*Friedrich von Shiller, Wallenstein’s Camp, 1798*

“Don’t agonize. Organize.” —*Florynce Kennedy*

“Heed this cry that comes from the hearts of men. Organize the Unorganized.” —*John L. Lewis, 1935*

“Some things you must always be unable to bear... Injustice and outrage and dishonor and shame. No matter how young you are or how old you have got... Just refuse to bear them.” —*William Faulkner*

“When in doubt tell the truth.” —*Mark Twain, Following the Equator, 1897*

“You have undertaken to cheat me. I won’t sue you, for the law is too slow. I’ll ruin you.” *Cornelius Vanderbilt, Letter to former business associates, 1853.*
[*Laying the theoretical groundwork for non-NLRB elections.*]

“The great appear great to us only because we are on our knees — let us arise!” —
Slogan on newspaper, The Rebel



“With all their faults, trade-unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men that ever existed. They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the race, for the developing of character in man, than any other association of men.” —*Clarence Darrow (1857-1938), U.S. lawyer, writer. The Railroad Trainman (Nov. 1909).*

“Ten thousand times has the labor movement stumbled and bruised itself. We have been enjoined by the courts, assaulted by thugs, charged by the militia, traduced by the press, frowned upon in public opinion, and deceived by politicians. ‘But notwithstanding all this and all these, labor is today the most vital and potential power this planet has ever known, and its historic mission is as certain of ultimate realization as is the setting of the sun.’ —*Eugene V. Debs (1894)*

“The harder they come, the harder they fall.” —*Jimmy Cliff*

“The future depends on what we do in the present.” —*Mahatma Gandhi*

“Organize the unorganized!” —*John L. Lewis*

“If I went to work in a factory, the first thing I’d do would be to join a union.”
Franklin D. Roosevelt

“Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are people who want crops without ploughing the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the roar of its many waters. The struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, or it may be both. But it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand; it never has and it never will.”
—*Frederick Douglass, 1857*

“It is necessary; therefore, it is possible.” —*G.A. Borghese*

“Take it easy — But TAKE it.” —*Pete Seeger and the Almanac Singers*

“Pray for the dead, and fight like hell for the living.” —*Mother Jones*

“I consider it important, indeed urgently necessary, for intellectual workers to get together, both to protect their own economic status and, also generally speaking, to secure their influence in the political field. “ —*Albert Einstein (commenting on why he joined the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO)*

“The mark of a civilized society is that people are fed and clothed and housed.”
—*Madge Micheels-Cyrus*

If we do not change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed.
—*Ancient Chinese proverb*

Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped. —*Vai proverb, Liberia*

If you make yourself a floorcloth, people will wipe their feet on you. —*Creole proverb, British Honduras*



“We need unions to make sure that working people have a legitimate and consistent voice.” —*Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) quoted in Business Week magazine, May 9, 1994*

“Philanthropy is commendable, but it must not cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary.”
—*Martin Luther King, Jr., Strength to Love*

It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. —*Chinese proverb*

“Many strokes overthrow the tallest oaks.” —*John Lyly, Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit (1579)*

“The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict.” —*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

“What good does it do to sit at the counter when you cannot afford a hamburger?”
—*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

“Great discoveries and advances are made by those who don’t follow a beaten path.”
—*Ronald J. Neroda (11-95)*

“The man who fights for his ideals is the man who is alive.”—*Cervantes*

“Whatever you do will seem insignificant, but it is very important that you do it.” —
Gandhi

The alarming development and aggressiveness of great capitalists and corporations, unless checked, will inevitably lead to the pauperization and hopeless degradation of the toiling masses. It is imperative, if we desire to enjoy the full blessings of life, that a check be placed upon unjust accumulation and the power for evil of aggregated wealth. —*Constitution of the Knights of Labor, 1869*

The Labor Movement; the folks who brought you the weekend —*From a bumper sticker, 1995*

“Downsizing” is when your neighbor gets laid off.” —*Anonymous*

