

One of the first recorded acts of international trade union solidarity was in 1889 during the London dock strike, when Australian unions made a donation of £30,000. That support allowed the strikers to outlast management and win a minimum wage of six pence an hour in what is regarded as one of the most important industrial actions in British history. For more see: www.unionhistory.info

A helping hand across the world

This solidarity is continued today by TUC Aid, a registered charity, supported by union members from across the country helping to build and strengthen trade unions in developing countries. TUC Aid recognises that when employment is fair, equal and safe workers have a chance to make a better life for themselves and their families.

The goal is to promote development and self reliance rather than simple charity. TUC Aid works to promote democracy, social justice and long-term development through initiatives involving the active participation of independent trade unions and their members in the developing world.

TUC Aid also provides humanitarian relief for victims of natural disasters and armed conflict. TUC Aid is working to tackle the problem of HIV/AIDS in Uganda and Ghana by training shop stewards to discuss the issue in the workplace. TUC Aid has also helped to rebuild communities devastated by the Tsunami.

By helping workers set up independent trade unions, TUC Aid is promoting the core labour standards of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

- **Freedom of Association and the right to Collective Bargaining**
- **Freedom from forced labour**
- **Freedom from child labour**
- **Freedom from discrimination at work**

These standards help prevent the 'race to the bottom', where unscrupulous employers move from country to country forcing down wages and employee rights as they go.

Current campaigns where you can make a difference.

A small donation can make a big difference.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is suffering from chronic unemployment and hyperinflation which has driven the country into poverty. Hyperinflation above 11.2 million per cent means that prices are increased daily, with the week's groceries more than double the average monthly wage.

The Mugabe regime has also targeted trade union leaders for surveillance, harassment, intimidation and imprisonment. While union members are frequently beaten by pro-Mugabe militia.

The support of TUC Aid will allow the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) to survive to represent working people in the struggle for democracy and for reconstruction.



Palestine

70 per cent of Palestinians live below the poverty line and a third of the workforce is unemployed. The international situation makes it impossible for a normal economy to function. The Palestine

General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) has also suffered attacks by Hamas. The PGFTU need your help to strengthen workers' awareness of their employment rights, help women to organise and play a full part in the unions, as well as build the PGFTU's youth and media departments.



Swaziland

In Swaziland trade unions are leading the struggle to defend workers' rights and promote democracy, under a feudal regime which has imposed the longest lasting state of emergency in Africa. The newly-formed, union-run International Research Academy for Labour and Education (IRALE) will build up the capacity of the country's trade unions to organise and represent their members.

If you would like to make a donation in support of union members in Palestine, Swaziland or Zimbabwe please: go to

www.tuc.org.uk/tucaid

By post: Cheques should be made out to 'TUC Aid' and sent to TUC, European Union and International Relations Department, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3LS.