

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)
is a direct democratic, internationalist union.

*The working class and the employing class have nothing in common.
There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among
millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing
class, have all the good things in life.*

*Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's
work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword,
"Abolition of the wage system."*



iww-brisbane@lists.riseup.net

www.iwww.org

www.iww.org.au

iwoc.noblogs.org/

BRISBANE BRANCH

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS of the WORLD



**IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE
PRISONERS STRIKE USA**

9TH Sept, 2016

Prisoners in the USA have organised and called a General Strike on 9th Sept, 2016. They are striking specifically for the right to form a Union to resist the exploitation and slave labour conditions imposed on them by private corporations. This includes the privately owned prisons they are kept in, which provide abusive and inhumane living conditions, encourage overcrowding and profiteer from public money.

The action is organised by a coalition of groups, including the I.W.W. which has numerous prisoners as members. - supportprisonerresistance.noblogs.org/

Brisbane I.W.W. wants to send the organisers and participants a message of solidarity. That their struggle is seen and supported by us, and we will share information of their struggle. *"An injury to one, is an injury to all"*.

Prison labour in the USA, and now also Queensland, is used by private enterprise to drive down wage costs and increase private profits. In Queensland prisoners are paid about \$4.70/day and used in a variety of private industries including baking, commercial laundry, abattoirs, furniture, welding, component assembly, and agricultural labour, among others. This information is hard to get out of the Qld government.

There is a difference between administrating justice and social reparations, and exploiting the vulnerable and powerless for private profit.

"Prisoners have no power to resist being employed as scab labour," said Thompson.

"Rather than resent the prisoners, the idea would be to support prison labour workers' right to resist work."

<https://talkpoverty.org/2016/07/11/next-step-organized-labor-people-prison/>

'The Prison Industrial Complex describes the overlapping interests of government and industry that use surveillance, policing, and imprisonment as solutions to what actually are economic, social and political problems.' – *Don't Forget Those on the Inside – Brisbane Solidarity Network*

One of these political/economic issues is that of colonialism. It is no accident that in Australia, aboriginals are overrepresented in the prison population; it is no accident that 'Black' Americans and Hispanics are overrepresented in the USA prison population. So slavery is allowed to continue behind the fences. Prisons are the last colony in this respect, the "wasted resource" of the national economy. *Kenneth Clarke – UK politician and director on the Boards of various Corporations.*

In societies that invest in free public health, housing and education, you generally find significantly lower rates of crime. Imprisonment rates have increased by 10% in Australia since 2003. Aboriginal prison populations have also increased. However all rates of violent crime have generally been declining or generally static from 2003 to 2013.

(www.aic.gov.au/statistics/violent%20crime.html)

Related Reading:

<https://itsgoingdown.org/organizing-prisoner-class-interview-iwoc/>

<https://www.maskmagazine.com/the-toxic-issue/struggle/national-prison-strike-on-attica-anniversary>

<https://thinkprogress.org/enough-is-enough-prisoners-across-the-country-band-together-to-end-slavery-for-good-32b03c4d133d>