



MAY DAY IS OURS!

On 1st May every year workers all over the world come together to celebrate May Day. We remember defeats, but we celebrate our victories. Everywhere we know about bad conditions in our factories and communities; we all know about attacks from the bosses and the government; we all need unity and solidarity to take our struggle forward to a new society.

In 1985 workers in COSATU said "May Day belongs to us!" Hundreds and thousands of workers won May Day as a paid holiday. Through COSATU we built the unity and the strength to reject the "Labour Day" that Botha offered us, and to claim 1st May as our own.



MAY DAY BELONGS TO THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD!



Over 100 years ago workers said: no more exploitation from the bosses! We demand a 8-hour working day! This was the beginning of May Day. On 1st May 1886, 550,000 workers in America went on strike for an 8-hour day. They won a big victory.

Today in South Africa we are also fighting exploitation by the bosses. We are demanding a living wage and a 40-hour week!

Less hours, more jobs!



We also know about attacks from the bosses and the government. During the big May Day strike in America in 1886, the police killed six workers and four of their leaders were later hanged.

Today the Botha government is using the State of Emergency and new Labour laws to attack workers and our communities. When we meet on May Day, we speak with the voice of working class solidarity and unity. We strengthen our organisations to defend ourselves.



Part of the May Day march in New York, America in 1987

March for the May Day march in England in 1982

MAY DAY BELONGS TO THE WORKERS OF SOUTH AFRICA!

Workers in South Africa have been celebrating May Day for over 80 years. Today on May Day we unite around our shared demands, like: A living wage for all! Jobs for all! Decent housing for all! Today Youth, Unemployed, Student, Workers and Civic organisations join the Unions to celebrate May Day. May Day is a symbol of the leadership of the working class in our united struggle for democracy and freedom.

May Day is ours. It is a day which belongs to the workers of South Africa. It is a day which belongs to the workers of the world. It is a day which we share with all our allies in the struggle against oppression and exploitation.



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May Day parade in the Soviet Union



Worker with flag at May Day parade from Chile



Workers of the Japanese unions organised their part in the 1982 May Day parade in Nagoya



May Day poster from Italy



May Day march in Madrid, Spain