

WORKER JUSTICE

What does the Bible say?

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages. **(Jeremiah 22:13)**



You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land. **(Deuteronomy 24:14)**

Listen! The wages of laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. **(James 5:4)**

What does the United Methodist Church say?

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress. **(¶164 Our Social Creed)**



In response to the increasing globalization of the economic system, the widening disparity between rich and poor, and attempts to deprive workers of their fundamental rights, the church reaffirms its position in support of workers and their right to organize. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #2211, Rights of Workers)**

The United Methodist Church supports the conventions of the International Labor Organizations that advance safety in the workplace; freedom from bonded or forced labor; the elimination of discrimination in respect to employment and occupation; effective abolition of child labor; fair compensation; just supervision; and the right of collective action for employees in all nations. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #2211, Rights of Workers)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

WORKER JUSTICE

What do the facts say?



- There are 168 million child laborers worldwide and 21 million people coerced into forced labor.¹
- Globally, 59% of work is paid, while 41% of work, mostly inside the home, is unpaid. While the men's share of paid work is nearly twice that of women, women perform three times as much unpaid work as men.²
- According to the International Labor Organization, there are 150.3 million migrant workers worldwide.
- Over 800 million working poor live on less than \$2 (US dollar equivalent) per day.³
- In the United States, chief executives of major companies make over 300 times that of their average worker, a six-fold increase from 1980.⁴
- Among the most developed economies, the average percentage of workers belonging to a union is 16.7%, down from 34% in 1980.⁵

^{1, 2, 3} United Nations Development Programme, ⁴ AFL-CIO, Wall Street Journal, ⁵ OECD

What do you say?



Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Find out** if your local church has adopted a living wage model for its entire staff.
- **Learn more** about active campaigns through our partners at National Farm Worker Ministry (nfwm.org).
- **Support** companies that pay workers a living wage and respect their voice in the workplace. Purchase fairly traded products through cooperatives such as Equal Exchange (equalexchange.coop) and find out how consumers and shareholders are advocating for human rights through the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (iccr.org).
- **Advocate** for workers' rights and fair pay. Support worker-led initiatives to increase minimum wage laws, pass living wage initiatives, and protect the right to organize and bargain collectively.

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