India: General Strike on 28 February 2012

Thursday 1 March 2012, by NTUI (Date first published: 25 February 2012).

The New Trade Union Initiative will join and support the joint trade union call for a countrywide General Strike on 28 February, 2012. This joint trade union action is a step towards a united struggle against the anti-working people policies of the government. NTUI calls on all its affiliates to participate in the 28 February General Strike and deepen the unity of workers at all levels, in the preparation and agitation for this strike.

Strikes are critical to building and consolidating the working class identity, and such a countrywide working class action is a strong weapon to force the retreat of the government from its anti-working people policies. NTUI affiliates will take organizational initiatives to ensure that unions outside the fold of Central Trade Unions are also brought into this joint action. In this context, our tactics for unity should be forged at the local level: in industrial areas and towns with working class concentration. Our effort would be to build joint action committees to deepen the participation, solidarity and confidence of new unions and, thereby, bring new layers of the working class within strike action.

NTUI has consistently demanded equal wage for equal work, strict implementation of the eight hour work day and universal social security in order to articulate comprehensively the interests of working people as a whole. The NTUI welcomes the inclusion of demands of equal pay for equal work for contract workers and will continue to strive for the inclusion of the demands of all sectors of the working class, while also supporting the ten demands formulated by the Central trade unions in their call and agitation for the strike.

The New Trade Union Initiative (NTUI)