

LabourStart is the news and campaigning website of the international trade union movement. We've been around since 1998 and have hosted hundreds of trade union campaigns.

LabourStart

UNIONS ARE GETTING STRONGER

WE'RE ONE OF THE REASONS WHY

LabourStart

<http://www.labourstart.org>

Email us at ericlee@labourstart.org

Your union has already benefitted from our campaigns – even if you’ve never heard of us

- For example, when the United Steel Workers in the USA and Canada wanted to get the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to pressure union-busting mining giant Rio Tinto, they turned to LabourStart for an online campaign. That campaign generated thousands of email messages **and convinced the IOC to meet with unions and hear their concerns.**
- In early 2012, thousands of cleaners in the Netherlands went on strike – and the strike lasted a staggering 105 days. Their union called for LabourStart’s help to create an online campaign to pressure employers to back down. **The workers won huge wage increases and additional benefits** due to their determination – and the support of thousands of fellow trade unionists around the world.
- When the leader of Kosovo’s metal workers union, Hasan Abazi, was jailed in Serbia on his way to a European trade union meeting, his global union federation asked LabourStart to flood the Serb authorities with protest messages. Seventeen days and nearly 8,000 messages later, Abazi **was released.**
- In 2011, locked out workers at a German-owned metal factory in Istanbul were running out of ideas for how to pressure the company to negotiate. They turned to their global union federation, who asked LabourStart to mobilize people around the globe to tell their employer to sit down and negotiate. In the end, **the employer relented and negotiations began.**
- Even when a campaign doesn’t produce the desired results, **it helps build union power.** The Canadian

Union of Postal Workers asked for LabourStart’s help during their bitter 2011 dispute with their employer and the government. As the union told us, the campaign **“buoyed our spirits,** made it clear that for many people back to work legislation is unacceptable, and put pressure on the Minister. Although the back to work legislation was ultimately passed, the help and support from LabourStart **made a difference for CUPW members.”**

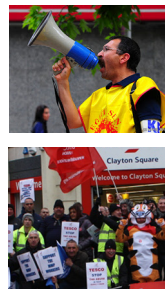
LabourStart charges unions absolutely nothing to do these campaigns.

The campaigns are successful because we have built a network of nearly 100,000 activists on every continent who care about trade union rights – and human rights.

When we help a union with a campaign, we arrange for its translation by volunteers into many languages. A campaign on LabourStart will typically run in English, Spanish, French, Italian, German, Russian, Norwegian, Dutch Japanese, Chinese and Arabic. Recently, we’ve been running campaigns as well in Farsi, Vietnamese, Korean and Hebrew as well.

Our campaigns are promoted by mass mailings to the tens of thousands of activists on our lists, and through our strong online presence on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, UnionBook and of course on the LabourStart website as well. Our campaigns, like our news, are syndicated to hundreds of union websites, reaching a vast audience.

In some cases, we have managed to generate several thousand messages within an hour or two of learning about an issue. We’re calling this “campaigning at the speed of light” – something that was never possible before in the trade union movement.



Unions in many countries, and in particular the global union federations and the International Trade Union Confederation, have come to rely on LabourStart for online campaigning.

But while we provide the service for free, we have costs. The mailing lists alone cost several thousand dollars a year to maintain, as does hosting the campaigns on their own new dedicated (and environmentally-friendly) server in Iceland. We’re going to be renting an office and hiring an intern (who’ll be paid the London living wage). Our annual global solidarity conferences held in the UK, USA, Canada and Turkey in recent years, and coming up in Australia and Germany, are also costly as we try to bring in trade unionists from around the developing world.

That’s why we need trade unions around the world to give generously to LabourStart

We’re hoping to raise US \$50,000 (€40,000, £32,000) by the end of 2012.

Your union can help us – just as we’ve helped you

Together, we can build a powerful global network of activists who can be mobilized at a moment’s notice when your union and your sister unions need our help.

But we can’t do that without your support

Please make your donation by cheque payable to LabourStart Ltd, or by bank transfer, or online securely using PayPal. Full details are here: <http://www.labourstart.org/donate.shtml>. How much to give? Email us and we’ll tell what unions have given that are the same size as your union. Thank you.

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