



political Thought & Workers' Rights



POLITICAL
THOUGHT
AND
WORKERS' RIGHT



POLITICAL THOUGHT AND WORKERS RIGHTS

OBJECTIVE:

To train for struggle and for life. Besides engaging in struggle, the RGEA believes that to build a more just society, we must study.

Political education and knowledge in workers' rights fulfills an important task for the union. In this particular moment it creates the subjective conditions for the union to meet its goals.

We believe that political education and knowledge of workers' rights will help workers, men and women alike take ownership of their history. To enable them to become agents of change with consciousness needed to transform reality and the conditions surrounding them. It will also contribute to awareness rising about the limit of the existing politics and the necessity to join forces and organize to transform our conditions and make it possible for all to have access to a more dignified life.

Rights and dignity at the work place are fundamental human right. However worker's rights continue to be violated everyday.

Millions of people worldwide are facing exploitative working hours, poverty, wages, humiliation and mistreatment at work.

The course also aim at discussing and understanding the history and concept of global workers' rights and the concepts behind the fundamental right of freedom of association and collective bargaining. It will also give an overview of the Mauritian labour laws and its limit in terms of workers' rights.

Topic 1

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THOUGHT

- Ø A brief survey of Major Political Philosophers (classical & modern from Plato to Marx)
- Ø A brief survey of great political ideas and ideologies
- Ø Political concepts; Liberty Justice, Equality, Freedom etc.
- Ø Political systems; Liberalism, conservatism, socialism etc

Topic 2

PROTEST AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

- Ø History of class struggle in the world
- Ø Protest and social movements around the world

Topic 3

EMERGENCE OF NEW PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Case study: (PODEMOS, SYRIZA, REZISTANS & ALTERNATIV, MUVMAN INDEPANDANTIS RODRIGUAI)

- Ø A brief story of progressive social movements and workers organizations in Mauritius and Rodrigues
- Ø Discussion on the development of human potential based on equality, solidarity and sustainability through democratic participatory process.

Topic 4

FEMINISM AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

- Ø The Women's Movement
- Ø Historical account of the activities of women in the movement for liberation.

Topic 5

THE ROLE OF PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL MOVEMENT IN THE QUEST FOR ALTERNATIVES BEYOND THE EXISTING NEOLIBERAL MODEL

- Ø Selected cases of people's solidarity, economies, workers'/Producers' cooperatives and alternative production systems.
- Ø Building new non capitalism alternatives in which human needs and relationships are more important than competition and profit.

Topic 6

WORKERS' RIGHTS IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

- Ø Concept of Global Workers' rights and history of the ILO.
- Ø Introduction to International Labour Standards.

Topic 7

ECONOMIC POLICY, GLOBALISATION AND THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

- Ø Impacts of the hegemony of neoliberal ideology and widespread adoption of neoliberal policies on workers and the labour movement

Topic 8

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

- Ø The legal concept of Freedom of Association under convention 87
- Ø An overview on the current debate on the right to strike.

Topic 9

THE ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS

- Ø How to apply our common knowledge for furthering workers' rights ?

Topic 10

AN OVERVIEW OF THE MAURITIAN LABOUR LAWS

- Ø Employment Relations Act 2008
- Ø The Employment Rights Act 2008
- Ø Critique of the labour laws from a worker's point of view

ANYONE WHO
SAYS THEY ARE NOT
INTERESTED IN POLITICS
IS LIKE A DROWNING MAN
WHO INSISTS HE IS NOT
INTERESTED IN WATER.

MAHATMA GANDHI

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