



## TESCO WORKERS IN POLAND STRIKE SUPPORT THEIR STRUGGLE AND FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS HERE!

Tesco workers in Poland, in Czestochowa and Tychy, have been forced into taking strike action against management because of the poor way that they have been treated, including no pay rise for nine years, and an hourly wage of around £1. Through their trade union branch, the workers decided that a collective refusal to work was the only way that they could make the bosses listen to their demands. They urgently need support and solidarity from other workers; there are details at the bottom of this leaflet of how you can contact them.

But it is not only workers in Poland who are getting a raw deal. We spoke to Nick, a retail worker at a store owned by Tesco.

"Tesco made £2.7bn in profit last year. One in eight pounds spent in all British shops is spent in Tesco. The company drives down the income of farmers both in Britain and overseas by cutting the prices at which their products are sold. This allows Tesco to sell

some products for less in their stores. Does the worker see any improvements because of this? Certainly not in its British stores, shop workers at my store, owned by Tesco, get £5.80 an hour! To put this into context, in 2005 Tesco Chief Executive Terry Leahy was paid just short of £4,000,000. I work 32 hours a week and would have to work for over 400 years to get what he's on. Understandably workers are angry at this grotesque inequality.

And so, it would seem, are workers in Tesco stores in Poland. A Guardian article reveals how workers in their Czestochowa store have not received a pay rise for nine years! They are paid about £165 for a 170-hour month, and have begun to realise that the race to the bottom can only be stopped by standing up for themselves and taking strike action. Their union, the Work Confederation, has discussed with other trade unions in Poland about co-ordinating their campaign, and seeks support from unionised Tesco workers in Britain.

International Socialist Resistance



socialist youth organisation

retail & distribution  
**Activist**  
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As a low-paid Tesco worker myself, I fully support their struggle for better pay. As inflation runs rampant, particularly the price of food and fuel, we are seeing how wages for workers are falling behind. This means increased hardship for millions of people, a pattern which is reflected across the world. The example of these workers in fighting back shows how bold confident leadership can attract some of the most exploited people to the trade union movement. There are hundreds of thousands of workers from Poland and elsewhere in Britain who get paid peanuts. British and migrant workers should stand together and fight for better pay here too. We must realise that together, workers have the power to change the world. If we are united and organised in the workplace, we are strong, and nothing can stop us."

A victory for Polish Tesco workers would show the importance of organising, and not allowing the employers to get away with giving us poor terms and conditions. Support and solidarity messages will inspire the Polish workers, but also we should begin to organise here in a serious way, for an international fight back against the fat cats who run Tesco and other multinationals.

Usdaw is the union which organises Tesco workers. If you are not already a member, then you should join and get involved. However, it's also important for unions to have a fighting leadership. The activist is a newsletter for shop workers which puts forward a serious strategy for better conditions for workers. Email [shopworker@socialistparty.org.uk](mailto:shopworker@socialistparty.org.uk) for more info.

For more information contact ISR:

[www.anticapitalism.org.uk](http://www.anticapitalism.org.uk) / 02085587947 / PO BOX 858, London, E11 1YG

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We need to be organised and fighting back against low pay and crap conditions at work. A determined struggle can win victories. Struggles in the past won not only better conditions at work, but also better housing, education, the NHS and other big improvements. But now this government is trying to take them away, and increase the gains of big business. This system is run (or misrun) by big businessmen and politicians in the interests of profit. It is the fault of the capitalist system that we have seen a running down of the above services, face cuts in our conditions at work, see continued death and destruction in Iraq and no decisive action over the massive problems in the environment. International Socialist Resistance is a socialist organisation for young people which seeks to organise in workplaces and communities across the world to struggle to improve working and living conditions. We think that millions of people across Britain and the world are ripped off and cheated by a tiny minority who get rich off all our backs. We think it's important to remember in the 21st century what Karl Marx, a revolutionary socialist, said in the 19th century: "workers of the world unite!" We want to make this a reality. We seek support for Polish Tesco workers in this dispute, because their victory will be our victory, and will bring us a step closer in our fight for a socialist society run in the interests of working people.

Send solidarity messages to strikers in Poland via: [poldek@mdnet.pl](mailto:poldek@mdnet.pl) & [bzietek@wzz.org.pl](mailto:bzietek@wzz.org.pl)

Email letters of protest to Tesco UK: [customer.service@tesco.co.uk](mailto:customer.service@tesco.co.uk)

I would like to join International Socialist Resistance

I would like to subscribe to the Activist, and get involved in the Socialist Party in Usdaw

Name.....

Address.....Post code.....

Phone number.....

Email address.....

Please return to: PO BOX 858, London, E11 1YG