

Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions of the city of Belgrade

May 1st International Labour Day and a day marking workers solidarity is marked as a workers memorial day for the ten thousands of workers in Chicago who went on general strike on May 1, 1886 and started fighting for workers rights demanding eight-hour working time and better working conditions.

Every year we mark this holiday by organizing various manifestations, gatherings at squares, protests walks and reveilles.

We were sending messages by saying we won't give up basic principles of trade unionism and fight for a better and more decent life. We were demanding higher salaries, employees' rights, better working conditions, genuine social dialogue and respect of trade union upon passing laws and regulations which need to be a lot more in the interest of employees, not the employers.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic and introduction of the state of emergency, this May 1 will be marked without traditional gatherings.

WE STAY AT HOME AND SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

Now, when we are fighting fiercely against corona virus, understanding that first and foremost we need to appreciate the value of human life and health, **we will be stronger, more resolute and in greater solidarity** than ever so that we could keep them. We will use all resources available to obtain more just and better life, protect and increase employees' rights, secure work places, increase salaries and provide for safer working conditions.

Long Live May 1st- International Labour Day!

We give thanks to all employees in health institutions, who unselfishly risk their lives to save others. To all employees our members in pharmacies, commerce, public utility system, agriculture and food production industry, chemistry, media and in all other professions, who work day and night to contribute to normal functioning of our lives, showing this way that also today in the fight against COVID-19 the most powerful weapon is SOLIDARITY.

We give support to competent institutions of the system and insist on taking more efficient measures in order to protect employees' rights and their social-financial position, preserve jobs and safer working conditions. So that employees and their work could be truly valued and thousands of young professionals would stay and plan their future here, not abroad.

"Social dialogue and collective bargaining are the best way to solve problems and achieve goals!"