

AFRICA MATTERS


amicus
the union


ACTSA
Action for
Southern Africa

It's hundreds of miles away and the sun shines almost the whole year round. Africa might feel like another world, but if you look at the day to day lives of African trade unionists you may be surprised to see they are not too different to your own.

They too struggle to keep their jobs in the face of the privatisation of public services. They too fight for multinational companies to respect their rights and protect their health and safety. They too come into conflict with their governments over labour laws. As is the case the world over, it is women in Africa who do the worst paid and least secure jobs.

But on top of all these familiar struggles African workers are also fighting against problems so vast we find them hard to imagine. Unemployment is criminally high, wages for those in work are very low. Governments often cannot afford to provide even the most basic services. But perhaps the biggest battle of all is against the HIV virus that is devastating entire communities across the continent.

With all that needs to be done in the UK struggling for decent jobs, safe work environments and so on, you may feel you have enough to do without worrying about the problems affecting workers in Africa. But there are many reasons why you should look beyond your own back yard – not least the fact that you could help bring about real change.



In the run up to the G8 and beyond, Amicus together with Actsa – the successor to the Anti-Apartheid Movement – have been campaigning to highlight the problems of globalisation and poverty.



Africa is not naturally poor – it has been made poor. And together we can change that.

Amicus

Amicus is the UK's largest manufacturing, technical and skilled persons' union. With over 1.2m members in the public and private sectors, we are a major industrial force.

Amicus' vision is of a prosperous society in which employers and employees work together to build successful businesses and safe, healthy working environments. All those who contribute to their success receive the rewards, respect and recognition they deserve.

The vision of Amicus is not limited to the United Kingdom. It extends throughout Europe, and we have links with unions and governments across the globe.

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Action for Southern Africa

ACTSA campaigns with the people of Southern Africa as they strive to build a better future.

Working for peace, democracy and development across the region, ACTSA is the successor organisation to the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

ACTSA influences decision-makers in Britain and Europe on policies that affect Southern Africa. It keeps Africa in the spotlight through lobbying, the publication of reports and briefings and media work.

Information, fact sheets and action ideas on all the issues in this guide can be found on ACTSA's website or by contacting the ACTSA office. ACTSA is a democratic organisation. Individual members and affiliated trade unions, union branches and local groups shape our agenda and lead our campaigns.

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