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May Day Under Lockdown: Virtual World-Wide Rally Will Unite Unions In Solidarity

This year millions of workers who would normally participate in May Day events around the world are under lockdown. But even as the COVID-19 pandemic wreaks havoc, we are experiencing the greatest display of solidarity in human history.

To make it possible for workers and their unions to celebrate their labour and its value, the International Trade Union Confederation and other global unions are collaborating with LabourStart on a **Virtual May Day** event. Using Vimeo and Facebook live-streaming, **Virtual May Day** will allow unions around the world to express their solidarity with each other but especially with those engaged in current struggles for workers' rights.

“This year, of course, workers face unprecedented challenges associated with the COVID-19 crisis,” said LabourStart Editor Eric Lee. “Celebrating May Day with our usual rallies and marches, as we have done for 130 years, is now impossible. But to pass on May Day this year of all years would be a tragedy. We need all the solidarity and strength that we can give each other.

“By moving May Day online LabourStart and the global unions hope to in some small way make it easier for workers around the world to join forces in celebration and determination.”

The LabourStart/Global Unions **Virtual May Day** will start at 07:00 UTC and will run for 12 hours. More details here: <https://www.labourstart.org/mayday>

LabourStart is the global trade union movement's online news and campaigns service. Its network of over 900 volunteers around the world collects hundreds of union news stories each day, in 35 languages. It runs online campaigns for trade unions in defence of workers and labour rights.

The International Trade Union Confederation is the largest global federation of trade unions, representing 207 million workers in 163 countries. The ITUC's primary mission is the promotion and defence of workers' rights and interests, through international cooperation between trade unions, global campaigning and advocacy within the major global institutions.

In addition, the **Virtual May Day** project is being supported by the global union federations, including Building and Woodworkers International, Education International, IndustriALL, the International Federation of Journalists, the International Transport Workers' Federation, the International Union of Foodworkers, Public Services International, and UNI Global Union.

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