

**The Louisville Workers Brigade** is an association of working people dedicated to educating, supporting, and uniting working class forces in the Louisville community. We organize with union and non-union workers alike.

The Brigade **educates** workers by organizing regular Educational Presentations which focus on Labor and Working Class history and issues and by producing easy-to-read literature for working people.

The Brigade **supports** workers through aid during strikes, by platforming workplace grievances, by providing counsel to workers exploring options for organizing their workplaces, and through organizing solidarity actions for workers in need.

Lastly, the Brigade **unites** workers by breaking down the divisions which the owning class has used to divide workers against each other and by organizing regular Community Socials where working people can meet other workers in the community and can begin to build ties of solidarity with one another.

The Brigade proudly continues the legacy of **Class Struggle Unionism** which understands that our present economic system is designed for the minority owning class to become unbelievably wealthy off of the labor of the majority Working Class. We reject the false notion of "peaceful coexistence" between these two rival classes whose interests are diametrically opposed to one another. Instead, we seek to heighten this class conflict by empowering workers to secure economic, political, social, and cultural power for themselves through struggle.



**To Educate.  
To Support.  
To Unite.**

[www.louworkersbrigade.org](http://www.louworkersbrigade.org)

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## **Black Liberation & the Working Class**



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***“We’re going to fight racism,  
not with racism, but we’re  
going to fight with solidarity!”***

**-Fred Hampton**



The struggle for Black Liberation is intricately and inseparably tied with the broader class struggle. The working class can never be truly liberated until all sections of our diverse class are freed from the chains of oppression. The work of organizers—be they political, labor, or community organizers—is to link these interconnected struggles in the consciousnesses of all working and oppressed people and to create a program of liberation that encompasses all those suffering under our present economic ordering.

It is no secret that Black Americans are overrepresented within the most hazardous and underpaid jobs in the country, with few to no protections or benefits. Coupled with the racial policing, overcharging, over-sentencing, and parole denials of people of color within our criminal (in)justice system, Blacks represent not only one of the most highly oppressed segments of the American working class, but also one of the most highly exploited segments.



Throughout American history, however, the Black community has found allies in organized labor, particularly within the unions adhering to a class struggle approach to organizing. The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), founded in 1905, for instance, unapologetically opened their union to all workers, regardless of race. Later on, and here in Louisville, Blacks were welcomed by the United Farm Equipment Workers of America (FE) Local 236, who promoted and built rigorous interracial solidarity, demanding that all union members at the International Harvester plant here in town view each other as brethren in the fight for better working conditions. This hyper-focus on interracial solidarity strengthened the union in the face of severe owning class attacks, allowing the FE to achieve better working conditions, pay, and brotherhood for the united Black and white workers. The legacy of the United Packinghouse Workers of America (UPWA) follows a similar course, cultivating a strong social unionism among Black and white workers in the stockyards of Chicago.



Since the time of the IWW, the FE, and the UPWA, the struggle for Black liberation has grown more dire in many respects, as the gains of the labor movement and their allies have been repealed or eroded away. Despite this, the modern-day fight for Black empowerment and liberation is still alive and kicking. With each passing day, more and more working people realize that in order to abolish the

system of exploitation, oppression, and brutalization that the owning class perpetuates, all workers of all backgrounds and identities must stand united. We must forge unbreakable ties of solidarity built on the shared attunement to the particular struggles of all sections of the working class.



The Louisville Workers Brigade strives to honor the legacy of great Black liberation organizers, activists, and revolutionaries who have come before us—including John Brown, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois, Harry Haywood, Fred Hampton, and many others. The Brigade believes the struggle for the liberation of the working class must always be tied with the liberation of oppressed peoples—be they women, Queer folk, people of color, immigrants, or those under assault by imperialism. Together, as a unified class, we can overthrow the brutal and tyrannical rule of our exploiters and oppressors, paving the way for a new world where the plagues of exploitation and oppression are finally abolished.

*Power, Liberation, and Peace to the Black community and to all working and oppressed people!*

*-The Louisville Workers Brigade*

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