

These working materials are part of the toolkit

Climate beyond Classism

transformative educational resources
on classism in the context of the
environmental and climate crisis

Climate Protection & Class Struggle

Group work on initiatives that build alliances against
classism & the climate crisis

What:

- Example Cards for Alliances on the topic of Climate and Classism
- Detailed Descriptions/Interviews with 3 alliances

Date: 04/2026



Co-funded by
the European Union

Wir fahren zusammen



Initiative & Goals: “*Wir fahren Zusammen*” (“We Ride Together”) is a nationwide alliance in Germany between public transport workers, their union ver.di, and the climate justice movement. The alliance now exists in over 70 locations across the country. Its goal is to improve working conditions and wages for bus and train drivers while simultaneously expanding public transport as part of a just and climate-friendly mobility transition. The alliance demonstrates that climate protection and social justice can go hand in hand.

Activities:

- Strikes and protest actions in public transport
- Joint demonstrations
- Nationwide organizing, networking and public relations
- Demand for 100 billion euros to expand bus and rail services by 2030

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and Social Justice: The alliance makes it clear: climate protection in the transport sector is only possible if the people who operate buses and trains have decent working conditions. People with low incomes especially depend on affordable public transport. Expanding bus and rail services without fair wages leads to staff shortages and poor service quality – a just mobility transition therefore requires fair working conditions.

Strategies: Strengthen alliances between trade unions and the climate movement; Use strikes as a lever for change; Highlight workers as experts on public transport; Organize joint campaigns with passengers and climate activists

Die Armutskonferenz



Initiative & Goals: The *Armutskonferenz* (Austrian Conference on Poverty) is a network of over 40 social organizations, educational institutions, and research bodies in Austria. Since 1995, it has been committed to improving the living conditions of people affected by poverty and developing strategies to combat social exclusion. The network brings together people with lived poverty experience and experts to jointly advocate for social justice — increasingly also in the context of the climate and environmental crisis.

Activities:

- Political advocacy and public awareness work on poverty and social exclusion
- Organizing conferences and workshops (e.g., “*It’s Burning! Fight Poverty, Save the Climate*”)
- Developing policy recommendations and position papers
- Collaborating with people affected by poverty on projects and demands of the network

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and Social Justice: The *Armutskonferenz* highlights that people with low incomes contribute the least to the climate crisis but are most affected by its consequences. The initiative therefore calls for climate policies that are socially just and for an ecological transformation that leaves no one behind. It advocates for structural conditions that make resource-conserving lifestyles accessible to everyone — not just to privileged groups.

Strategies: Involve people with poverty experience as experts; Interlink social justice and climate justice; Build a solidarity-based network of organizations and those affected; Develop political demands for a social and ecological future; Publish books and materials

Machbarschaft



Initiative & Goals: Die *Machbarschaft* (“The Doable Neighborhood”) is a grassroots neighborhood initiative based in Gropiusstadt, Berlin. Together with residents, it develops projects that bring tangible improvements to everyday life — ranging from energy initiatives and food sharing to climate adaptation in the neighborhood. The goal is to make sustainability and solidarity practically tangible in people’s immediate living environments.

Activities:

- Establishing food-sharing and circular economy structures
- Community projects on energy and climate adaptation
- Open assemblies and discussion rounds on environmental and justice-related topics
- Use of methods such as sociocracy and nonviolent communication
- Swap & bulky waste markets
- Community gardens
- Repair cafés

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: Die *Machbarschaft* intentionally focuses on people who are often overlooked by mainstream environmental movements — for example, due to poverty or discrimination. Their approach: climate and environmental protection must be accessible to everyone and bring tangible benefits — such as saving money, improving quality of life, or enabling social participation.

Strategies: Build self-organized local structures; Connect climate issues with everyday concerns in the neighborhood; Create spaces for encounter and low-threshold participation; Strengthen resilience and collective action in disadvantaged urban areas; Shift the narrative from “saving the planet” to co-benefits like saving money, enhancing the neighborhood, and getting to know your neighbors

DeCOALonize



Initiative & Goals: *DeCOALonize* is a coalition of Kenyan activists opposing the construction of a coal-fired power plant in Lamu County. The proposed plant was part of a large-scale infrastructure project funded by foreign investors. *DeCOALonize* fights against environmental destruction and colonial exploitation structures, advocating for a decolonized energy policy centered on the needs of local communities. Their protests were successful — no coal power plant has been built in Kenya since.

Activities:

- Awareness campaigns on the impacts of coal mining and usage
- Street protests, social media campaigns, and petitions
- Legal action and political dialogue, including with investors
- International networking with environmental and human rights groups

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: *DeCOALonize* highlights how environmental destruction in the Global South often primarily serves the profit interests of international corporations. The initiative resists the outsourcing of dirty industries to Kenya and calls for a just, decentralized, and community-led energy policy. For *DeCOALonize*, environmental justice is inseparable from decolonization and poverty eradication.

Strategies: Empowerment of affected local communities; Use of legal, media, and civil society tools; Connecting climate justice with an anti-colonial perspective; Applying pressure on international banks and investors

Green Bans



Initiative & Goals: The Green Bans were a movement of construction workers in Sydney during the 1970s. They refused to work on projects that caused environmental destruction or social displacement — such as the demolition of green spaces or affordable housing for luxury developments. As one of the first movements worldwide, they linked union struggles with environmental and urban development issues.

Activities:

- Blockades and refusal to work on harmful construction sites
- Solidarity with local tenants and environmental initiatives
- Demanding a say in urban planning processes
- Building a network between unions, residents, and activists

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: The Green Bans demonstrated early on that environmental policy must not come at the expense of poorer communities. They argued that construction workers have the right to refuse labor that harms people or nature. In doing so, they connected class solidarity with ecological responsibility — serving as a model for today's alliances between trade unions and climate movements.

Strategies: Direct refusal to work on socially or ecologically harmful projects; Connecting political struggles with practical labor action; Union organizing and political education; Building broad, grassroots alliances with neighborhood initiatives

Klimaschutz & Klassenkampf



Initiative & Goals: *Klimaschutz & Klassenkampf* (“Climate Protection & Class Struggle”) is a campaign initiated by climate activists and workers opposing the closure of the Bosch factory in Munich. The factory was set to be closed under the pretext of transitioning to electromobility, while Bosch simultaneously planned new facilities abroad. Instead of outsourcing, the initiative called for preserving jobs and converting production to climate-friendly products. Although the factory was not operating at a loss, it failed to meet Bosch's profit expectations. Despite the protests, production will be relocated to other sites by the end of 2027. However, negotiations secured socially responsible job reductions and the continuation of the site as a development center.

Activities:

- Joint petitions by employees and climate activists
- Public actions and demonstrations at the factory gates
- Collaboration with the works council, trade unions, and climate groups
- Demands for ecological transformation of the production site
- Skillshares on cooperation and alliance-building

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: The initiative highlights how large corporations often use the climate crisis as a pretext for offshoring and layoffs — even though climate-friendly alternatives exist. Instead of pitting workers against climate protection, the campaign promotes collaboration and joint struggles for decent work and sustainable production.

Strategies: Building alliances between the climate movement and industrial workers; Cooperating with works councils and unions; Strengthening the visibility of workers in public discourse; Linking job security struggles with demands for ecological transformation

Iron & Earth



Initiative & Goals: *Iron & Earth* is a worker-led organization in Canada advocating for a socially just and climate-friendly transformation of the energy sector. Founded in 2016 by fossil fuel industry workers following an oil price crash, the initiative aims to empower fossil industry workers and Indigenous communities to actively shape the transition to renewable energy. Iron & Earth's vision is for fossil fuel workers and Indigenous peoples to play a leading role in building the policies and infrastructure needed to meet global climate goals. The organization acknowledges the links between colonialism and climate change and supports a just transition guided by Indigenous land stewardship.

Activities:

- Training programs for climate-friendly jobs
- Support for career transitions into the renewable energy sector
- Establishing local chapters and organizing community events
- Political campaigns advocating for a just energy transition

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: *Iron & Earth* demonstrates and explores how the energy transition can be shaped by the very people who have been working in the fossil energy sector — often in Indigenous regions. The initiative calls for a transition that leaves no one behind, combats poverty, and strengthens climate justice. Indigenous rights and the repair of the relationship with nature are central to this vision.

Strategies: Empowerment of workers and Indigenous communities; Development of education and training opportunities; Creating a socially and ecologically just energy transition; Collaboration with policymakers, industry, and civil society

Stay Grounded – Just Transition



Initiative & Goals: *Stay Grounded* is an international network of over 170 organizations advocating for a climate-just and socially fair reduction of air traffic. A central focus is the concept of a Just Transition — a fair shift for workers in the aviation industry. In collaboration with trade unions, including the British union PCS, the network developed a comprehensive position paper in 2021 outlining specific demands for a socio-ecological transformation of mobility.

Activities:

- Collaboration with trade unions to develop the “Just Transition in Aviation” position paper with demands addressed to policymakers and industry
- Development of alternatives to aviation, such as rail transport and night trains
- Creation of local, national, and transnational funds for retraining, livelihood security, and social protection of workers

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: *Stay Grounded* emphasizes that a climate-just transformation of mobility is only possible if it ensures social security for workers. The position paper calls, among other things, for an end to aviation subsidies, retraining for workers, repurposing of infrastructure, and a broad social transformation that reduces inequality and creates new climate-friendly jobs.

Strategies: Building alliances between climate activists, trade unions, and affected communities; formulating concrete demands to policymakers and industries for a just mobility transition; promoting sustainable jobs in rail transport and infrastructure; developing financing models and funds for social protection

Gewerkschafter*innen für Klimaschutz



Initiative & Goals: The initiative *Gewerkschafter*innen für Klimaschutz* (“Trade Unionists for Climate Protection”) is a network of union members advocating for a socially just transition toward a sustainable economy. They emphasize the need to protect jobs while advancing climate action. The group sees itself as a bridge between trade unions and the climate movement, promoting a transformation that is both ecologically and socially just.

Activities:

- Participating in climate justice demonstrations, such as the protest against the eviction of Lützerath village in January 2023
- Supporting worker-led initiatives, such as acquiring cooperative shares in the former GKN factory in Florence to promote sustainable production
- Publishing flyers and statements linking labor rights and climate protection
- Organizing workshops and discussions on a just socio-ecological transition

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: The initiative highlights that phasing out environmentally harmful industries must not come at the expense of workers. It calls for a just transition that creates new sustainable jobs while securing existing ones. The message is clear: climate action and social justice must go hand in hand to gain broad public support and legitimacy.

Strategies: Promotion of dialogue between trade unions and climate movements; development of concepts for a socially just economic transition; support for projects that combine sustainable production with decent working conditions; raising awareness among union members on climate issues.

Working Class Climate Alliance (WCCA)



Initiative & Goals: The *Working Class Climate Alliance* (WCCA) is a global grassroots network based in the United Kingdom that defines itself as an environmental movement for and by the working class. Founded in 2023 in response to the exclusion of workers from mainstream environmental movements and professional climate organizations, the WCCA has members in 25 countries across the Global North and South. It aims to increase the presence of working-class people in environmental movements and the professional climate sector. The alliance emphasizes the need to connect climate justice with social struggles and to include working-class voices in decision-making processes.

Activities:

- Building a global network of workers, grassroots movements, and organizations
- Campaigning at local, national, and international levels
- Providing resources and training to empower workers on environmental issues
- Collaborating with trade unions, NGOs, and academic institutions to promote climate justice
- Education, organizing, and public outreach

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: The WCCA highlights that the working class is often most affected by the impacts of climate change but remains underrepresented in environmental movements. It advocates for climate action that includes social justice and ensures the needs and perspectives of working-class communities are addressed.

Strategies: Raising awareness of classism within the climate movement; creating platforms for exchange between workers and environmental activists; supporting initiatives that pursue both ecological and social goals; advocating for political measures that ensure a just transition to a sustainable economy

Insorgiamo



Initiative & Goals: *Insorgiamo* (Italian for “Let’s Rise Up”) is a movement that emerged from the resistance of workers at the former GKN auto parts factory in Florence. In July 2021, the factory was abruptly shut down — employees were dismissed via email. Instead of accepting the closure, the workers organized, occupied the factory, and developed plans for self-managed, ecological production. Their goal: to transform the factory into a cooperative that produces environmentally meaningful and socially useful goods — such as cargo bikes or solar equipment.

Activities:

- Occupation of the factory and establishment of democratic structures
- Development of an alternative production plan (cargo bikes, solar technology)
- Organizing solidarity campaigns and crowdfunding efforts
- Hosting cultural and educational events (e.g. *Festival di Letteratura Working Class*)
- Building strong alliances with social movements, climate initiatives, and trade unions

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: *Insorgiamo* demonstrates that industrial restructuring can be both ecologically sustainable and socially just. By producing environmentally friendly transport solutions under democratic worker control, the initiative combines climate protection with the fight against precarious labor and for economic self-determination.

Strategies: Self-organization of workers and creation of democratic structures; development of a socially and ecologically just mode of production; building alliances with climate and social movements; fostering grassroots solidarity; connecting labor struggles with climate action; establishing a cooperative as an alternative to capitalist production

La via Campesina



Initiative & Goals: *La Via Campesina* is an international network of over 200 peasant organizations in more than 80 countries. Founded in 1993, it represents small-scale farmers, agricultural workers, Indigenous peoples, and migrants around the world. Its core goal is food sovereignty: the right of all people to define their own food systems — independent of agribusiness corporations and globalized markets.

Activities:

- Fighting against land grabbing, industrial agriculture, and agribusiness corporations
- Promoting agroecology and peasant knowledge
- Political advocacy at the UN and international conferences
- Building solidarity networks and engaging in education work
- Empowering marginalized smallholder farmers

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: *La Via Campesina* emphasizes that climate protection begins in the fields — not through industrial “green economy” approaches, but through small-scale, peasant agriculture. The movement fights global injustice, exploitation, and colonialism while promoting agroecological practices that protect the climate and strengthen local communities. It advocates for the rights and fair compensation of precarious small-scale farmers worldwide.

Strategies: Food sovereignty as an alternative to capitalist globalization; protection of peasant knowledge and rights; building international movements against exploitation and environmental destruction; political advocacy in global food and climate policy; intersectional approaches to justice and sustainability

The Leap



Initiative & Goals: *The Leap* is a Canadian initiative advocating for a radical socio-ecological transformation. Emerging from the 2015 “Leap Manifesto,” the movement connects demands for climate action with social rights, economic justice, and Indigenous struggles. Its vision is a “People’s Bailout” — a transformation that benefits not the wealthy, but those most in need.

Activities:

- Developing visions and strategies for a just society
- Supporting grassroots organizations and community-led projects
- Political education and publishing on climate justice
- Participating in campaigns related to the Green New Deal and Just Transition

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: *The Leap* critiques the tendency of many “green” transitions to ignore social justice. They argue that just climate policies must address poverty, respect Indigenous rights, and create new ways of living and organizing the economy. Their vision includes decentralized, democratic infrastructure and solidarity-based economies.

Strategies: Linking climate activism with movements against racism, poverty, and exploitation; strengthening local, self-determined alternatives; developing radical political demands for a just transformation; storytelling and education to inspire utopias and future visions

Mujeres Amazónicas



Initiative & Goals: *Mujeres Amazónicas* is a collective of Indigenous women from the Ecuadorian Amazon fighting to protect their ancestral lands from oil extraction, mining, and deforestation. Founded in 2013, the movement brings together more than 100 women from various Indigenous nations, including the Waorani, Kichwa, Achuar, and Shuar. Their goal is to stop extractive projects in the rainforest and to defend Indigenous rights, biodiversity, and the right to a dignified life for future generations.

Activities:

- Organizing peaceful marches and occupations (e.g. the 2018 march to Quito)
- Legal advocacy and petitions to the Ecuadorian government
- Community assemblies and education in Indigenous territories
- Storytelling, media campaigns, and international solidarity work
- Creating alliances with feminist, environmental, and Indigenous movements

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: *Mujeres Amazónicas* demonstrate that the defense of the rainforest is inseparable from Indigenous self-determination, gender justice, and the fight against colonial exploitation. Their activism shows how climate change and environmental destruction directly threaten marginalized communities. They advocate for models of care, reciprocity, and territorial integrity rooted in Indigenous cosmologies — not capitalist extraction.

Strategies: Empowerment of Indigenous women as environmental defenders; grassroots organizing in remote territories; legal and political resistance to extractivism; building alliances across feminist, Indigenous, and environmental struggles; centering spiritual and cultural relationships with nature

MOSOP



Initiative & Goals: The *Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People* (MOSOP) is a grassroots movement founded in 1990 to defend the rights of the Ogoni people in the Niger Delta, Nigeria. The movement emerged in response to decades of environmental destruction and economic marginalization caused by oil extraction, particularly by Shell. MOSOP advocates for environmental justice, Indigenous self-determination, and control over local resources. Its most prominent spokesperson, Ken Saro-Wiwa, was executed by the Nigerian military regime in 1995 — an event that drew international attention to the Ogoni struggle.

Activities:

- Organizing community resistance against oil companies and pollution
- Public campaigns, protest marches, and international advocacy
- Legal action and documentation of environmental damage
- Mobilizing around the Ogoni Bill of Rights
- Education and empowerment programs in Ogoni communities

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: MOSOP exposes how fossil fuel extraction in the Niger Delta is deeply tied to colonial legacies, environmental racism, and economic injustice. The Ogoni people have suffered toxic pollution, loss of livelihoods, and violent repression — without receiving the benefits of the oil wealth extracted from their land. MOSOP calls for reparations, ecological restoration, and energy justice that centers the needs and voices of impacted communities.

Strategies: Community organizing and nonviolent resistance; legal and political advocacy for Indigenous land rights; international solidarity campaigns; challenging corporate and state impunity; linking local environmental struggles with global climate justice movements

Narmada Bachao Andolan



Initiative & Goals: *Narmada Bachao Andolan* (“Save the Narmada Movement”) is one of India’s most well-known environmental justice movements. Founded in the 1980s, it opposes the construction of large dams on the Narmada River — projects that threaten to displace hundreds of thousands of Indigenous Adivasi communities, farmers, and fisherfolk. The movement calls for the protection of local livelihoods, ecological integrity, and democratic participation in development decisions. Its goal is to stop destructive megaprojects and promote people-centered, sustainable alternatives.

Activities:

- Legal action in Indian and international courts
- Peaceful protests, marches, and hunger strikes
- Community organizing in villages along the river
- Public campaigns highlighting forced displacement and ecological destruction
- Networking with global social movements and anti-dam coalitions

Linking climate and environmental protection with class struggle and social justice: NBA shows how large-scale development projects often reproduce colonial and class-based injustices — benefiting corporations and elites while displacing and impoverishing rural, Indigenous, and marginalized communities. The movement criticizes “green” narratives that ignore local rights and calls for environmental policies rooted in justice, participation, and sustainability.

Strategies: Grassroots mobilization in threatened communities; strategic use of legal and media tools; connecting ecological struggles with Indigenous and land rights; promoting decentralized water and energy systems; building alliances with feminist, anti-caste, and anti-globalization movements

The Poverty Conference Austria (dt. Die Armutskonferenz)

1. How would you describe your alliance/your group in a few sentences? What are/were the main goals of your protest/approach?

The Poverty Conference has been active since 1995 as a network of over 40 social organisations as well as educational and research institutions. It addresses measures against poverty and social exclusion in Austria. Together with people affected by poverty, it is committed to improving their living situation. The social organisations united in the Poverty Conference advise, support and accompany over 500,000 people a year.

2. How do you combine climate and environmental protection with anti-classism and social justice?

People experiencing poverty are far more affected by climate change and environmental damage than higher-income groups, although they contribute less to these negative developments. The Poverty Conference therefore (in addition to social justice and anticlassism) also deals with climate and environmental protection issues.

Two project examples:

1. In the project 'Enough of everything, not too much of anything', we dedicate ourselves together with ÖKOBÜRO - Alliance of the Environmental Movement to the question of how a good life for all is possible within planetary boundaries. It was important to us to move discussions about resource conservation and climate protection from the individual decision-making level (e.g. the purchasing decisions of individuals) and to focus more on political responsibility for creating climate-friendly, resource-conserving structures for a future worth living. Based on workshops and a conference, a 10-point plan for a socially and ecologically just resource and energy consumption was created and presented to political decisionmakers.

2. The 13th Austrian Poverty Conference took place under the title "It's burning! Fighting poverty, saving the climate". Together with 400 participants, measures and strategies were discussed that bring together the climate crisis and social crises. Theoretical contributions were combined with practical insights and the views of people experiencing poverty. Burning issues such as democracy, housing and energy, distribution policy, education, environmental and climate justice were thematised. This conference also gave rise to the book 'Es brennt', which covers the socio-ecological problems of climate change on over 200 pages and outlines possible solutions.

3. What challenges do you face in your work? What do you find enriching about your work?

The specific network structure of the Poverty Conference with over 40 member organisations and the fact that the participants in the network are employed in many different organisations and that some of them work on a voluntary basis. Challenges include, for example questions of time resources, fluctuation of participants, but also different organisational cultures that come together here. The Poverty Conference has been organised according to the principles of sociocracy, which means a better distribution of responsibilities and the greater involvement of people with experience of poverty into the organisation. This system has proved its worth and strengthened the equal involvement of members with experience of poverty from the 'Becoming Visible' platform. The result is solidarity in the network, joint decision-making. The intensive involvement of people with experience of poverty are a great enrichment for our work and can also be seen as a model for other organisations.

4. Where do you see potential for change in society?

The Poverty Conference uses various strategies and approaches to promote change in society. As a network, cooperation across regions, organisational boundaries and thematic expertise is of particular importance. In addition, specific projects and activities not only increase the motivation and visibility of those involved, they also raise public awareness of important issues. In addition to these individual initiatives, however, change always requires continuous, strategic political work in order to achieve long-term social improvements. It is important to work together with people from different contexts and with different perspectives. It is important for the Poverty

Conference to give people experiencing poverty a central role as experts on the reality of their lives and to involve them in both public relations and political work.

5. What would you like to tell other activists?

Solidarity and cooperation across organisational boundaries and thematic expertise is crucial. Create alliances and don't shy away from contributing your expertise and motivation to established organisations, even as young people. This will allow you to utilise existing networks and experience and potentially achieve even greater success. Especially if you want to campaign for social justice, it is important to involve the people you want to campaign for in your work from the very beginning, to give their perspectives a central role in your actions and, if necessary, not to shy away from rethinking your usual approaches.

Insorgiamo

1. How would you describe your alliance/your group in a few sentences? What are/were the main goals of your protest/approach?

former GKN plant in Florence. They were to be fired overnight on 9 July 2021, the plant closed and relocated to Eastern Europe for cheaper labour. However, the employees resisted the redundancies and joined forces with the climate movement in Italy to fight for a future of solidarity and climate justice. Together, they developed the vision of cooperatively producing cargo bikes and photovoltaic modules in the former car parts factory. For over 2.5 years, they have been fighting together against deindustrialisation and for a perspective for the employees and the region, but also for the fight against the climate catastrophe. With the scope of their struggle, they are unique in Europe so far, we are trying to spread their struggle and do everything in our power to help them win the fight and thus create a shining example of successful cooperation between the climate and labour movements in Europe. Because everyone involved firmly believes that we can only solve both the ecological and the social crisis together and collectively.

2. How do you combine climate and environmental protection with anti-classism and social justice?

The fight for the future of the plant was planned from the start as a joint struggle with the climate movement. It is about how workers can strengthen each other and empower themselves in order to build an effective counter-power against the power of capital. The practical experience from Florence shows that it is in particular the broad alliance work that enables the collective to withstand the permanent attacks on their factory to this day. Even before the fight for their factory, the colleagues supported many struggles in their region. Be it strikes by refugees who were exploited under inhumane conditions in Italy and did not even receive the applicable minimum wage, or social struggles for freedom, or the climate strikes of Fridays For Future. The Collettivo di Fabbrica was involved. The resulting practical experiences of solidarity in the joint struggle for social justice also contributed to the fact that support from civil society for the Collettivo's struggle was so extensive from the very beginning. The message is clear. Only together will we be able to achieve a better future, only together, united in struggle, will we have the necessary strength to oppose the arbitrariness of the capitalists and to democratically shape a climate-just transformation together.

3. What challenges do you face in your work? What do you find enriching about your work?

International and internationalist work always faces major challenges. On the one hand, the distance to the struggle of our colleagues, the language barrier, but also the fact that despite the relative closeness within the EU, there are still cultural differences, not only in the way labour disputes are conducted. These are obstacles that often challenge us in our support work. In addition, it has become increasingly difficult for our colleagues to organise international work themselves in recent months. At the moment, they practically lack the strength to do so and they are so busy defending their factory on the ground that there is often no time for international work. What's more, they haven't received a single cent since 1 January 2024, which is an attempt to starve them out by

the long arm. They are neither paid the salary to which they are legally entitled nor support from the state is being paid to them, so the colleagues are understandably preoccupied with their practical day-to-day worries. It is currently not possible for them to visit other European countries and planning events on site is also becoming more difficult by the day. But despite all this, they are not letting it get them down and continue to fight day after day. This resilience in particular is always impressive to see and experience and is a source of hope. And although they do not have the local capacity to organise international work, more and more people from many neighbouring European countries have come together in recent years to help and together we are trying to support our colleagues beyond Italy's borders and make their struggle known. Because what they have created there, the broad civil society support and, above all, the concrete prospect of a democratic conversion is also a guidepost for many colleagues throughout Europe as to how we can organise our struggles in the future. It is clear that there will also be massive changes in the industry here. But these changes are a huge opportunity. The transformation of the fossil fuel industry holds the potential to democratise the economy. In the future, more and more workers will be faced with the question: 'do we let ourselves be shut down or do we take the helm ourselves'. We hope that we can win the exemplary struggle in Florence and thus inspire more and more colleagues to take their future into their own hands.

4. Where do you see potential for change in society?

In our current capitalist democratic society, we have several levers that we all have to set in motion at the same time to bring about the necessary changes. Because those who don't want to change anything, who profit from the status quo, are those who have gathered massive wealth through the exploitation of our livelihoods (and of us) and will do everything they can not to change anything in the future. One lever we have is the sheer mass of people. Large democratic protests have an effect. Not always immediately visible and not automatically, but the more people demand change, the more likely it is that together we can build up the necessary strength to persuade the actors to act in our interests. To achieve this, it is particularly important to bring together broad alliances, including alliances outside our normal partners. Because the broader we are, the more people we will be able to reach. To do this, we don't have to agree on every point, but rather agree on a consensus and then fight for it together. On the other hand, economic power is of course a key means of achieving change. The labour movement has shown in the past that many things that were previously considered unthinkable and unrealisable are possible with enough economic pressure. Be it the 8-hour day, the introduction of holiday leave or sick pay. The necessary restructuring of our economy, an end to the pursuit of more and more profit and consumption of resources and the recognition of planetary boundaries in our actions as humanity as a whole is even greater than the improvements already achieved in the world of work, but past experience shows that much is possible when workers stand together for a common cause.

5. What would you like to tell other activists?

Those who want help and solidarity for their struggles must also be prepared to show solidarity with others beforehand. And this is not about tying your own solidarity to a catalogue of conditions. Because if the climate movement and the labour movement want to build strength together, then it will not be enough to support bus and train passengers. Because if we only support those who are already fighting in our favour, then only those who are already fighting in this direction will take part in our struggles in the future and we will not become more people. The experience of the Collettivo shows that it is precisely the unconditional solidarity with the struggles of workers, refugees and many others in the entire region long before their own struggle that all those who had previously received support from them were immediately ready to support them and fight together with them. With an original workforce of 420 people, they were able to organise demonstrations on the streets in which well over 40,000 people took part, and not just once. It is precisely these atypical alliances and the coming together of actors with different backgrounds that often harbours a potential that cannot even be imagined in advance. As progressive actors in society, we should therefore not hold back our solidarity, but empower others to win their struggles through our support. Perhaps we will inspire them and ensure that they also support our struggles in the future.

Climate activists from „We ride together“ (dt. Wir fahren zusammen)

1. How would you describe your alliance/your group in a few sentences? What are/were the main goals of your protest/approach?

Wir fahren zusammen is a joint campaign between the climate movement and the trade union for better working conditions in the private bus sector and a socially and ecologically just mobility transition. The alliance partners are the climate groups Fridays for Future Austria and System Change not Climate Change as well as the private bus drivers of the trade union and the Vienna Chamber of Labour. The cooperation was prompted by the analysis that in Austria, as in many other European countries, the mobility transition is currently failing due to poor working conditions in public transport. In Vienna alone, there will be a shortage of 5,000 bus drivers by 2030. In concrete terms, this means that the shift from motorised private transport to buses and trains is currently not succeeding or is being carried out on the backs of public transport employees, who have to transport an increasing number of passengers with fewer staff. *Wir fahren zusammen* is therefore intended to be a concrete proof that ecological and social concerns cannot be played off against each other on the way to a socio-ecological transformation - and thus also represents a solution to the 'jobs vs climate' dilemma.

2. How do you combine climate and environmental protection with anti-classism and social justice?

It is clear to us that the climate crisis is a class issue. The data clearly shows that a privileged minority who own wealth and companies are fuelling the climate crisis at the expense of the working class (e.g. Oxfam study from November 2023: The richest 1% emit more emissions than the poorest 66%). The direct consequences are mainly felt by low-income households whose homes or workplaces are particularly exposed to heat and noise. At the same time, it is workers who suffer the indirect consequences of the climate crisis due to the necessary socio-ecological restructuring of the economy. This includes public transport workers. The working conditions of privately employed bus drivers in Austria are terrible: services lasting up to 15 hours, tight timetables and a lack of break rooms and toilets. This has an impact on drivers' health and their private lives. For us, a socially just approach to the climate crisis means taking the realities and concerns of the working population seriously and including them in the necessary socioecological restructuring of the economy.

3. What challenges do you face in your work? What do you find enriching about your work?

One challenge for us is to develop an anti-racist practice in the campaign. On 1 January 2024, the Austrian federal government placed the profession of bus driver on the shortage occupation list, which makes it easier for people from third countries to migrate for work. With similar business models, private bus companies have succeeded in recent years in building up a strongly migrant workforce, which is difficult to organise due to language barriers, lower wage levels in the countries of origin and racist appropriation by right-wing discourses, which repeatedly leads to divisions in the teams along countries of origin. Our aim is to expose these business models and show who benefits from them: Private entrepreneurs who cut labour costs in this way. As climate activists, we find it extremely rewarding to approach those affected by the climate crisis and its consequences and to work with them instead of just talking about them. The latter has characterised our political practice for too long in recent years and has given the public the impression - fuelled by right-wing agitation - that those directly affected by the climate crisis, from construction workers to bus drivers, are our opponents rather than our allies. Last but not least, we hope to 'get out of the bubble' and change the external image of the climate movement - to popularise it - by working together with workers and trade unions in which they are organised. Furthermore, we also recognise that people in the campaign are not free from racism. For this reason, it is also important to us to dismantle internal racist and sexist structures in the campaign.

4. Where do you see potential for change in society?

We believe that the current social and ecological crises are systemic and are linked to the capitalist economic system, which places the profit of the individual at the centre rather than the needs of the many. We can only change these rules of the game together. The goal of the climate movement must therefore be to organise a struggle with workers against capitalism and exploitation and for a social and ecological world. The needs of workers and the climate movement are not contradictory. Examples such as *Wir fahren zusammen* clearly show the connection. The climate movement is calling for a change in mobility, but this is only possible if the workplace is attractive for people (-> better working conditions). However, cooperation is also possible in sectors that are seemingly unrelated or even contrary to the demands of the climate movement. One example of this would be the cooperation between the climate movement and the labour dispute at the GKN factory in northern Italy. The factory originally produced car parts for luxury cars. In the course of the struggle to save jobs, an ecological transformation also took place. The workers at the factory now want to produce cargo bikes and solar panels. So there needs to be a 'climate turn' in the labour movement, as well as a 'labour turn' in the climate movement.

5. What would you like to tell other activists?

Have the courage! Look for alliances! The climate crisis has also arrived in countries like Austria. See who in your neighbourhood is affected by the consequences of the climate crisis or the socio-ecological transformation and approach these groups. This could be the farmer whose land is being expropriated to build a new motorway or the bus driver who takes you to school every day. There will only be a just and effective transformation if workers fight for it with us. Let's fight with these people for change, not for them.