

EVERY HOUR COUNTS
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We have to work less

**Why it's not enough
to defend the 8-hour work day
and why we will not
rely on political parties**

Every hour counts!

Together, we are taking action for more leisure! Fighting back on the planned attack on the 8-hour work day is a start. But it is far from the goal: We need to work less overall!

The authorities on the other hand have the opposite in mind: “We need to work more and especially more efficiently in this country again” said Friedrich Merz, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. This complaint immediately found its way into declared government policy via the coalition agreement between CDU, CSU and SPD: In April 2025 these parties agreed to replace the 8-hour work day with a maximum amount of work hours per week.

But it's not just these two parties that are the problem - no party will ever represent our interests: The interests of the workers, that is.



We are convinced that even if another party came to power, we could still not rely on it to implement any fundamental improvements (no matter how left-wing it claims to be). The very organizational structure of a political party reflects its acceptance of the current power relations. Promising reforms for the workers rather than fighting together for change is part of the problem. No matter how noble an election promise may be: Sooner or later it will be cast aside for „Realpolitik“ and compromises with the owners of capital. Let alone that fundamental criticism of the capitalist state is not even up for “democratic debate” in the first place.

Last, but most certainly not least: no one talks about social progress anymore. The mere combination of words has an outright strange sound to it nowadays. In 1918, the 8-hour day was real, tangible social progress for millions of workers. Even the weekend/40-hour week (1965) and the 35-hour week (which was fought for in the 1990s) continued in this vein.

We, as the Freie Arbeiter*innen-Union, the Free Workers' Union, strongly oppose the gradual deterioration of our living conditions and are setting higher goals. To achieve these goals, we must organize.

Less work is good. It opens up opportunities for recreation, care work, education and of course: political organization. It is healthy, improves happiness and has an invigorating effect. In addition, working less also conserves resources and is better for the environment. There is no need for further justification for wanting to work less. Rather, it is those demanding more work who need to justify themselves. The offer that the capitalist class and its allies are proposing in this regard is outrageous and should be rejected outright.

The campaign coordinators welcome press inquiries as well as requests to participate, ideas, or suggestions at:
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