

Joint Statement on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA)



Today we wish to extend fraternal greetings from the Asia-Pacific Regional Offices of four global union federations the Building and Woodworkers' International, IndustriAll, the International Transport Workers Federation, and the International Union of Foodworkers to our brothers and sisters in New Zealand, who act in resistance to the signing of the TPPA. We also wish to commend our affiliate, FIRST Union, who for over six years now has been at the forefront of the campaign to stop the TPPA.

Together, unions affiliated to our organisations represent 7.74 million workers in the Asia-Pacific region alone, and each organisation has a strong mandate from those unions to support your actions here today.

Our organisations oppose the TPPA. In particular, we express our strong opposition to:

- the secretive negotiation process, whereby unions and other civil society organisations have been shut out of consultation, while multinational corporations have enjoyed privileged access;
- the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provisions, which give multinational corporations the ability to seek million or billion dollar damages from states in supra-national courts where laws or policies affect their profitability. In other similar agreements these provisions have been used to attack employment and health and safety laws, public health measures, environmental and financial regulations, and other public policies;
- Provisions covering intellectual property, which will undermine access to essential medicines and access to copyrighted material (meaning increased costs to public services such as libraries), as well as giving corporations new rights to patent seeds;
- Rules that constrain the operation of state-owned enterprises and accelerate the processes of corporatisation and privatisation;
- The extremely weak chapters on labour and the environment, which fails to provide civil society organisations with adequate countermeasures to address issues and thereby incentivising environmental or labour exploitation.

We applaud you for attending today's action. In spite of increasing surveillance on political activists, an extremely sophisticated government propaganda campaign, and the world's most well-resourced corporate interests pulling out every trick in the book to try and keep you quiet, you've come out to stand tall, and to say "TPPA No Way!"

We wish to add our voices to that call, and to join your struggle to stop the TPPA.

Over the coming months we will work actively with our affiliated unions in TPPA countries to educate their membership on the threat this agreement poses to working people, and to organise opposition to the ratification and implementation of this agreement.

Kia Kaha Aotearoa! TPPA No Way!