

# Healing our Gente y Tierra by Redefining Labor

## *We Want Your Labor Not Your Lives - Vijay Prashad*

The policies and conditions of the U.S. labor force have continuously created burdens and inequalities in oppressed communities. This includes, but is not limited to, people of color, women, the queer community, campesinas y campesinos, undocumented immigrants, youth, and other marginalized communities. Structured institutionalized forms of oppression have manifested in our homes, lands, and workplaces which have drastically taken a toll on our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. The magnitude of social and economic inequalities has perpetuated enormous disparities and will continue to affect our future generations if action is not taken. It is also important to recognize that our well-being is closely linked to that of our tierra. The key to improving our well-being and that of our tierra will ultimately come through the deconstruction of social and class inequalities in our communities.

As consumers, students, trabajadores, and peoples who contribute and sustain the institutions which in turn exploit us, it is within our derecho to demand civil and human rights. We can look towards our immigration, justice, medical, and educational systems as examples of structures that have exploited our people. Not only will we address our individual well-being but will continue to promote an action towards the betterment of working conditions and injustices created by systems of power. As privileged Raza, we must not separate ourselves from our communities and workers. Struggles of past times must not be taken for granted and we must take this responsibility into our own hands to ensure the conservation of our civil and human rights. It is our responsibility to preserve our land and well-being. Through this resistance we reclaim our different aztlanes, healing and empowering our communities and ourselves.

***En Solidaridad,***

**Pacific Northwest MEChA Region**