

**I affirm the resolution that a just government ought to recognize an unconditional right of workers to strike.**

V: Morality

**Oxford Languages No date defines just as**

[\[https://www.google.com/search?q=just+definition&oq=just+definition&aqs=chrome.69i59j0i512l5j0i22i30l4.2194j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8 \]](https://www.google.com/search?q=just+definition&oq=just+definition&aqs=chrome.69i59j0i512l5j0i22i30l4.2194j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

based on or behaving according to what is morally right and fair.

**A just government is one that is based upon moral principles. Thus, we must value morality because that is what a just government will value**

VC: Humanitarianism

the beliefs and practices of people who try to help people who are suffering and improve the conditions that they are living in-Oxford Learner's Dictionary, no date( Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English

<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/definition/english/humanitarianism> )

In the context of this value, what is morally right is what helps people who are suffering and improve conditions they are in. Prefer this Criterion to others because it makes sure that we can improve the lives of the most people possible.

**C1: Strikes allow for workers to contest for better humanitarian principles**

**Subpoint A: Strikes allow for workers to fight for better wages**

**Bahn August 2019**

[Kate Bahn is the Director of Labor Market Policy and Interim Chief Economist, Published: 8/29/19, "The once and future role of strikes in ensuring U.S. worker power", Washington Center for Equitable Growth, <https://equitablegrowth.org/the-once-and-future-role-of-strikes-in-ensuring-u-s-worker-power/> 11-104-21, ag]

the "Fight for Fifteen" movement starting in 2012 and "OUR

Walmart" starting in 2010 exemplified labor organizing in new

mediums by conducting worker-led actions against large

corporations that directly employ or control the employment (as in the franchisor-franchisee model) of low-wage workers. The efforts of Fight for Fifteen directly impacted New York state's minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour and has paved the way for a national movement for a higher minimum wage. OUR Walmart led walkouts and Black Friday protests in the years leading up to Walmart's decision to increase wages.

## Subpoint B: Better Working conditions

### Bloom 2021

[Mina Bloom is a Logan Square, Humboldt Park & Avondale reporter, Published: 07/21/2021, "Dill Pickle Food Co-Op Facing Closure Amid Financial Woes And Union Battle, Manager Says", Block Club Chicago, <https://blockclubchicago.org/2021/07/21/dill-pickle-co-op-brink-closing-union-fight-money-problems-logan-square/> 11-06-2021, ag]

Dill Pickle workers went on strike earlier this month, the culmination of a months-long union fight. Fewer than 10 employees walked off the job July 2-3, during a typically busy holiday weekend.

That action cost the already-struggling co-op thousands of dollars, McCarthy said. The general manager said the co-op made around \$8,000 in sales July 2, when it usually makes \$22,000. July 3, the co-op made just \$4,000 in sales, compared to the \$27,000 it typically makes, she said. "How most people live check to check to pay their bills — that's where we're at right now. We don't have any reserve in cash to be able to lose that much in sales ... ever," McCarthy said. But the union fight, which escalated during the pandemic, is just one of many reasons the co-op is facing a "financial reckoning," McCarthy said. The co-op's issues started in 2017 when previous leadership failed to raise enough money to move from its tiny location on Fullerton Avenue to its much larger current location at 2746 N. Milwaukee Ave. McCarthy said they were short around \$150,000. The co-op also took a big hit when a former interim general manager and employee stole \$170,000 in 2019. Meanwhile, Dill Pickle was failing to hit sales projections, McCarthy said. While it saw a spike in sales in the early days of the pandemic, store leaders were also spending a lot of money on protective gear and other measures to keep employees and customers safe, McCarthy said. In the middle of the chaos, the city temporarily shut down the store after it failed a health inspection. The pandemic ultimately has had a negative impact on the store. Sales plummeted as restaurants and bars reopened, McCarthy said. When union workers went public with their demands, the already struggling store's reputation suffered, leading to an even larger dip in sales, she said. Now, the co-op is struggling to pay its vendors, even after laying off 11 employees in May. The co-op employs less than 40 people, down from about 65 last spring. The co-op stocks fruits, vegetables and perishables from local farms and independently run vendors. It also has a deli and a beer and wine section. "The only hope for us to continue to operate is our community," McCarthy said in an email to owners. "Your support — your grocery dollars, owner loans, equity increases — means everything." "We Have So Much Common Ground"

After months of battling, Dill Pickle management and the workers' union reached key agreements last week during a bargaining session both parties described as productive.

Management agreed to update the co-op's mask policy, implement a new pay scale and continue to offer paid lunches.

## **Subpoint C: Higher wages and better working conditions are humanitarian**

### **Cooper, Mokhiber, and Zipperer 2021**

[David Cooper is director of the Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN), a national network of nearly 60 state- and local-level policy research and advocacy organizations coordinated by the Economic Policy Institute, Zane Mokhiber is a data analyst for EPI, and Ben Zipperer is an economist for EPI, Published: 03/09/2021, "Raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2025 would lift the pay of 32 million workers", Economic Policy Institute <https://www.epi.org/publication/raising-the-federal-minimum-wage-to-15-by-2025-would-lift-the-pay-of-32-million-workers/>, 11-06-21, ag]

Raising the minimum wage to \$15 would help ensure that more low-wage workers are paid enough to cover basic living expenses, i.e., a wage providing a modest yet adequate standard of living.

Strikes promote humanitarianism because they helped improve standards of living through being able to raise wages to \$15. They also improve working conditions. If people are able to have better mask policies, they are more likely to be improving their health, which is improving their standard of living. Thus, the Aff promotes humanitarianism and morality.

C2: Strikes give workers more management over their workplace

The thesis of this argument is that strikes give workers power in their workplace allowing them to gain greater demands.

## **Subpoint A: Employers realize that they need workers through strikes**

### **Labour Notes 2019**

[Labor Notes is a media and organizing project that has been the voice of union activists who want to put the movement back in the labor movement since 1979., Published: 10/31/2019, "Why Strikes Matter", Labor Notes, <https://www.labornotes.org/2019/10/why-strikes-matter>, 11-05-21, ag]

A strike is not just a symbolic protest. It works because [workers] withhold something that the employer needs—its production, its good public image, its profits, and above all its control over [its workers].

As one union slogan has it, “this university works because we do”—or this company, or this city. A strike reveals something that employers would prefer we not notice: they need [workers].

### Subpoint B: This allows for workers to get concessions for something they would not have without a strike

**Press May 2018** [Alex Press is an assistant editor at Jacobin and a freelance writer based in New York., Published: 05/31/2018, “It’s time to acknowledge that strikes work”, Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/posteverything/wp/2018/05/31/its-time-to-acknowledge-that-strikes-work/>, 11-05-21, ag]

But strikes work for a reason. As Chris Brooks, a Labor Notes staff member, put it, workers’ power lies in their ability to withdraw their labor. “The only reason our communities function is because workers show up every day.” Brooks said. But, he added, in the wake of the recent strike wave, “workers are recognizing they have leverage” when they withdraw their labor. The recent successful strikes bear out that argument: In those states where teachers have struck, they’ve won concessions from GOP-dominated legislatures that would never have otherwise been willing to budge.

### Subpoint C: Workers can democratize by creating co-ops as a result of striking

#### Hoyer, Ryder, Adams, Curl, and Olsen 2011

[Mary Hoyer, Liz Ryder, Frank Adams, John Curl, and Deb Groban Olson of the USFWC UnionCo-ops Committee, Published:04/19 /2011, “The Role of Unions in Worker Co-op Development”, Grassroots, Economic Organizing, <https://geo.coop/articles/role-unions-worker-co-op-development>, 11-06-21, ag]]

In 1885, the Solidarity Watch-Case Co-operative, was organized in Brooklyn, New York, by the Knights of Labor (KOL) after a strike against the Brooklyn Watch Company for a shorter work week. It became a thriving business, growing from eight to a hundred and ten workers, and was the first in the industry to give themselves a paid half-holiday on Saturday.

#### **Subpoint D: Link to Humanitarianism**

Having your own self management decreases suffering and improves living conditions because you get to be in control of what conditions you need. In the case of the Brooklyn Cooperative, they were able to improve living conditions by having an extra paid holiday. They could use this time to spend with their families, and still be able to pay for their own expenses with less worry for the cost. Therefore, striking promotes humanitarianism

C3: Striking allows employees to protest issues that affect the public

**The thesis of this argument is that the power that employees can get through striking can be used for them to strike other company policies that are not humanitarian.**

**Subpoint A: Chicago Teachers union strike helped fight for students of color.**

Take the case of the 2012 Chicago Teachers' Union (CTU) strike. Up against the political machinery of Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the Caucus of Rank-and-File Educators (CORE), a reform caucus formed in 2004 by teachers who wanted to move the union left, which had won control of the union in 2010, led the union out on strike. They did so to prevent school closures and education “reform” in the form of privatizations, all of which would've disproportionately affected working-class students of color. Because of their position at the center of their communities, and willingness to fight for those students, not just themselves, they won the public to their side. Eventually, [the mayor] was forced to concede to their demands.

## Subpoint B: Amazon workers have gone on strike to protest companies inaction on climate change

**Ghaffary 2019**

[Shirin Ghaffary is a reporter for Recode. Prior to that, she worked for BuzzFeed News and Elementum, an enterprise software startup, and interned for the Wall Street Journal and TechCrunch. Shirin was raised in Silicon Valley next door to Apple headquarters, and attended UC Berkeley where she was executive news editor of the Daily Californian, the university paper., Published: 09/20/2019, "Here's why the Amazon climate walkout is a big deal", Recode, <https://www.vox.com/recode/2019/9/20/20874497/amazon-climate-change-walkout-google-microsoft-strike-tech-activism>, 11-05-21, ag]

over 1,500 Amazon workers plan to walk out of work to protest their company's environmental impact.

It will be the first time in Amazon's 25-year history that its corporate employees have participated in a walkout demonstration. Employees are calling on Amazon to reduce its carbon footprint as part of a larger, youth-led global climate strike that has planned hundreds of events around the world.

Even ahead of their walkout, protesters have already seen results. On Thursday morning, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos announced in Washington, DC, that the company is making a pact to follow the Paris climate agreement — a cross-country pledge for nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions — and it is also pledging to be carbon neutral by 2040.

But Amazon employees who plan to walk out of work say it's not enough. Organizers told Recode they want to see Amazon set a more aggressive plan for the company to reduce its carbon emissions to zero; they want it to stop selling its cloud services to the oil and gas industry; and they want it to stop donating to politicians who deny climate change's existence. (Bezos said he would "take a hard look" at whether donations are going toward climate-change deniers but made no promises.) Amazon declined to comment directly on the strike.

## Subpoint C: Strikes allow workers to enforce changes that may otherwise never be achieved throughout the government

**Ghaffary 2019**

At a time when many of these workers are feeling doubtful about politicians' ability to pass laws enforcing changes they want to see, they're increasingly calling on their employers to set the ethical standard.

"It goes beyond climate change," one Amazon employee who plans to walk out and who requested anonymity told Recode. "It

demonstrates that, 'Hey, you guys can organize on something together that you feel strongly about that maybe your managers don't like but that you think is the right thing to do.'

“And then you realize in your organization that you have some power. you have some sway, you can push for things. That kind of consciousness hasn't existed in the corporate space a lot, and it's really exciting to see that get some traction.”

### **Subpoint D: Link**

**Striking that helps the public directly goes with improving living conditions. Striking has helped make sure that all students in Chicago have access to school and is trying to hold companies accountable for climate change**

[Nov/Dec Neg Blocks](#)

Since recognizing an unconditional right to strike allows for strikes to occur more often because unions don't have to overcome obstacles to striking, it allows workers to contest for better humanitarian principles, give them even more control of their workplace and more power overall, and thus protest public issues with greater results. Thus, it promotes humanitarianism. Therefore, the value of morality is upheld. For these reasons, I urge you to vote Affirmative