

United Students Against Sweatshops Affiliation

SLAC is the first chapter of the national organization, United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS), an international organization with chapters in the US, UK, Mexico and more! USAS is a grassroots organization run entirely by students.



The goal of USAS is to build sustainable power for working people. The term “sweatshop” in the name is defined broadly and considers all struggles against the daily abuses of the global economic system to be a struggle against sweatshops.



Together, we aim to take back our economy!

USAS envisions a world in which society and human relations are organized cooperatively, not competitively. We struggle towards a world in which all people live in freedom from oppression, in which people are valued as whole human beings rather than exploited in a quest for productivity and profits.

THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FRONT LINE

February 2011 marked the month where Governor Scott Walker attempted to strip public sectors of their right to collectively bargain with their employers, disabling the workers from their freedom to association; denying them of basic rights that all humans should have!

But what do we do when our basic rights are under attack? STAND UP, FIGHT BACK! And that's exactly what we did. This government abuse led to the students of SLAC to organize rallies day and night with TAA, AFSCME, and other community members, sleep in the capitol countless times, plan sit-ins, banner dropped, etc.

SLAC didn't wait around for anything. We took action, and you should too!



SLACers in the Capitol, protesting our undemocratic government.



What is SLAC?

The Student Labor Action Coalition is a coalition of students, workers, and labor activists dedicated to:

- Organizing students to engage in labor solidarity activities locally and worldwide.
- Educating students and the community about labor unions and workers' struggles for social justice.
- Training students to be activists and organizers in the labor movement.



SLAC also aims to actively oppose racism, sexism, imperialism, and other forms of oppression while supporting the struggle for social justice for all.

We stand in solidarity with workers worldwide.

Recent Campaigns

Nike

In 2009, Nike cut all orders from factories in Honduras because workers began to organize against the sweatshop conditions and ran off to another third world country where organizing wasn't a problem. Soon after, USAS launched a national campaign against the injustice from Nike on their workers demanding that Nike pay back \$2.5 million in severance pay to the 1,800 workers who were out of a job overnight. During this fight, SLACers had successfully pressured the late Chancellor Martin into cutting Nike's contract if Nike doesn't agree meet the demands of students and workers. Not long after the contract cut, in 2010, Nike agreed to the demands of workers and USAS alike.

Workers' Rights' Consortium (WRC)

The WRC board was a plan implemented by USAS to monitor factory conditions all over the world and has been nationally recognized by universities, corporations, and labor experts. USAS chapters are continuously educating their administrators about the working conditions of factories that they contract with and pressuring them to sign onto the WRC so that our universities are moving towards a ethical purchases in the apparel industry. UW-Madison has long been signed and seats the WRC board as we have been historically, and still are on the front line of this labor movement.



Current Campaigns

Organizing the Locals

With collective bargaining stripped from all of our public sector workers by Governor Scott Walker, SLAC has been on their toes organizing throughout the massive protests and all summer long. At the fore front in organizing students and working hand in hand with the American Federation of County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Teachers' Assistants' Association (TAA), SLAC sees a positive end in sight for students and workers. As long as we stand together, we'll be able to show the power of the people! This semester we'll be organizing and education Wisconsin on their basic rights in the work place.

Do you support your campus unions?

Alta Gracia

SLAC also works to educate our campus about Alta Gracia, a living wage unionized factory in the Dominican Republic. By informing our community about this factory we support the workers and insure that they can support their families while also showing companies that they can provide their workers with decent wages and benefits. This unique factory was created after there was a large outcry from student activists across the country in response to the sweatshop conditions that college apparel is made.

