

FAU Switzerland - What's that?

first of all its the abbreviaton for „Freie Arbeiter*innen Union“, the free workers union. furthermore it is

A UNION: Because this form of organisation covers the political, social and to a certain degree cultural area of Life. Because the Union comes to existence directly through the workers and therefore represents their interests

FIERCE: Because the Interests of the Workers are in complete Opposite of the Capitalists. Because the great social advances have only been achieved by social struggles and mobilisations.

SELF-DETERMINED: Because Decisions should be made by the Base and because we call for self organisation of struggles

SOLIDARITY: Because Hierarchies are opposed to an egalitarian and self organised society.

ANTI-CAPITALIST: Since we are the ones, who produce all the goods and provide all services, they should be geared to the public good and not to the profit of the few. Therefore, we think, that syndicalism has to work on a political project of a more just, egalitarian and free society... this means working on a revolutionary project.

Contact

E-Mail: info@faunion.ch

Homepage: www.faunion.ch

General adress: FAU Switzerland - Syndicate of all professions
Quartiergasse 17
3013 Bern

Postal adress: FAU Bern - Syndicate of all professions
Postfach 2368
3001 Bern

Round table: Every 2nd Tuesday in a month, from
19:30 in the Brasserie Lorraine
Quartiergasse 17, 3013 Bern

Join? write a mail, come to the round table or fill out the form on our homepage.

further informations

www.faunion.ch

The FAU also exists in several cities in Germany, a full List can be found here: www.fau.org

„di schwarzi chatz“ (the black cat)

The FAU also publishes it's own newspaper „di schwarzi chatz“. You can also read it in several pubs and restaurants in Bern or on our homepage. You can subscribe for 30.- CHF per E-Mail (zeitung@faubern.ch), postal (di schwarzi chatz, Postfach 2368, 3001 Bern) or on our homepage. Members get the newspaper for free.

Those who fight can win!



FAU 
The Grassroots Union

The FAU is a small grassroots union without paid functionaries. Therefore we cannot do the same tasks and expenses as the big central unions. But our form of union can offer other major advantages

WHAT THE FAU CAN OFFER

- we take your concerns seriously

We have no financial pressure to win a labour dispute or to win new members. That's why we take your concerns as what they are: your concerns

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- We lend you a hand to help yourself

Since we don't have or want full time functionaries, you have to become active yourself. But we support you with all of our energy and knowledge.

You decide (with us) about what fights to pick

Certain Employee representatives lead working struggles with their own hidden agendas. Even if it is against the interests of the persons concerned. Such a way of „fighting“ is not ours: You choose the strategy with us, and if you dont want to do something, we won't neither.

- diverse strategies

We are open to your Ideas of how to wage a struggle at work. We can offer you experience and Ideas though. As we dont sign General Bargaining Agreements, we are not necessarily subject to a peacy duty. This holds up more options of Struggles.

- Free support

- We support you in ongoing conflicts, even if you didnt pay us anything. But only Members are eligible to financial support

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- We can connect you to labor lawyers

The FAU has contact to different labor lawyers and therefore can offer you competent consultation in matters of labor law.

- international connections

If you are in conflict with an internationally active company, we can spread the fight beyond the Swiss border. All thanks to our international connections.

WHAT THE FAU CANNOT (OR DOES NOT WANT TO) OFFER

- We aren't a legal protection insurance

Due to our limited ressources, we cannot just offer you free legal advice. Members get a negotiable amount of the costs back

- we are not available 24/7

Our members work on voluntary basis besides work or study. Therefore, we are not available around-the-clock. We will react to your concerns as soon as possible, though.

- we do not negotiate in your stead

It's no coincidence that we don't have any functionaries: We don't want them. We are convinced that a functionaries apparatus would take on a life of its own and therefore not represent the interests of the workers anymore. This means you have to get active yourself. If you can't talk to your boss anymore, we will talk to him*her in your stead, though.

- We are not parliamentary lobbyists

Our Experience and the entire history show, that working struggles are hardly successful, if the only means of „struggle“ is calling politicians to action. We feel confident that we workers should take our fate into our own hands.



A PIECE OF ADVICE IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS

- they will overcome you if you're alone

Its always better not to fight on your own: The more of your fellow workers join, the more power you have

- where's the proof?

Especially if your struggle concerns unpaid hours/overtime compensation or the like it's almost always necessary that you documented everything - best do this at home though.

- The Boss ain't always right

There's lots of bosses in lots of companys who circumvene, bend ore openly break labor laws. Don't just accept this, but defend yourself.

- I don't rush myself, im at work not on the run!

If the rush at work becomes unbearable you can come back to several tricks to reduce the speed. You may know them best yourself. Another possibility is work-to-rule: Do only exactly the things which are written in your contract (or in the company's or general safety regulations).