

Whose interests should unions serve?

Like any organization that intends to last longer than a few minutes, labor unions need to choose priorities among many goals and interests.

For unions, these choices include deciding how to serve the present and long-term interests of:

- current members
- potential members
- working people in your local area
- working people worldwide
- allies and potential allies, locally and worldwide

Here "interests" means interests broadly, not merely pay and working conditions. Interests may include having good neighborhoods and a healthy planet in which to live. They may include having a society that values and respects everyone.

While in principle no conflict exists among these interests, in practice our limited resources and limited imaginations often present us with choices.

Because we have a wide variety of interests among members, we need wide discussion of our union's priorities and how to do our union's work in ways that maximize our effectiveness. We need thorough discussion and debate to help us choose in ways that can get maximum support. Union leaders (both official and unofficial leaders) should give high priority to helping such discussions happen.



Whose interests should unions serve?

Like any organization that intends to last longer than a few minutes, labor unions need to choose priorities among many goals and interests.

For unions, these choices include deciding how to serve the present and long-term interests of:

- current members
- potential members
- working people in your local area
- working people worldwide
- allies and potential allies, locally and worldwide

Here "interests" means interests broadly, not merely pay and working conditions. Interests may include having good neighborhoods and a healthy planet in which to live. They may include having a society that values and respects everyone.

While in principle no conflict exists among these interests, in practice our limited resources and limited imaginations often present us with choices.

Because we have a wide variety of interests among members, we need wide discussion of our union's priorities and how to do our union's work in ways that maximize our effectiveness. We need thorough discussion and debate to help us choose in ways that can get maximum support. Union leaders (both official and unofficial leaders) should give high priority to helping such discussions happen.

