Trade Unions

Trade unions are groups formed by employees to protect and extend their rights. They work on the principle that if people work together they can achieve more than they can alone. Employer and trade union rights vary between territories.

In 2004 there were 404 million trade union members. A third of trade union members live in China. Also home to high number of unionised workers were the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, and Brazil.

The Ukraine has very high rates of union membership: 45% of all people are members. As most children and most elderly people do not work, this figure suggests that the large majority of workers there are unionised.

 Territory size shows the proportion of all people who are members of trade unions, who live there.

“...We are fighting for the right of the working people to association and for the dignity of human labour."  

Lech Walesa, 1983