



**A BETTER,
FAIRER WAY
DUBLIN 2011**

APRIL 28-MAY 7

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

Workers Memorial Day

International day to remember those who have lost their lives due to work-related injuries or illness. This year the focus is on work-related suicide as job losses and debt put people under enormous pressure.

Speakers include Congress President Jack O'Connor; Ciaran Austin, Console, manager of the 1Life service; Breffni McGuinness, Bereavement Expert and Author; Eamon Devoy, General Secretary, TEEU and Chair of Congress Health and Safety Committee.

**Labour History Museum, Beggars Bush, Dublin
10.30-1pm**

No Booking Required

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Trade Union Rights in Ireland & the EU

Lecture and discussion with Prof Keith Ewing, Kings College London and Congress General Secretary David Begg.

A light lunch will be served.

**TEEU Headquarters, Gardiner Row, Dublin
12.30pm-2.30pm**

**Places limited, booking is required.
Visit www.ictu.ie/mayday or call 01 889 7777.**

SUNDAY MAY 1

**Public Demonstration
Resist Austerity, There is a Better,
Fairer Way!**

Assemble Parnell Square, 11.30am

Organised by the DCTU. All welcome,
Union members urged to participate.
Includes special Youth Protest on Jobs.

TUESDAY MAY 3

Is There a Fair Resolution to the EU Debt Crisis?

Talk and discussion with John Monks, General Secretary of the ETUC and David Begg, General Secretary of Congress.

A light lunch will be served.

**INTO Headquarters, 35 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.
12.30pm-2.30pm**

**Places limited, booking is required.
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WEDNESDAY MAY 4

The EU Competitiveness Pact and the Attack on Wages

Talk and discussion with Ronald Janssen, ETUC and David Begg, General Secretary, Congress

A light lunch will be served.

**IBOA House, Stephens Street Upper, Dublin 8.
12.30pm-2.30pm**

**Places limited, booking is required.
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MAY 5-7

**The Larkin Hedge School
A lively festival of music, song, poetry,
dance and literature hosted by the Clé Club
over three days and three venues.**

Only €20 for a Festival Pass.

May 5: Flowing Tide, Abbey St, 8pm: Writers in Song – Barry Gleeson celebrates Dublin, UNESCO City of Literature.

May 6: Teachers' Club, Parnell Square, 7pm: Official opening by Michael D Higgins. Launch of iconic CD Jig Away The Donkey with Gerry O'Connor, Martin Quinn and Gabriel McArdle, followed by an evening in the company of poet Gerry Smyth and, afterwards, Niamh Parsons and fiends from the Góilín Singers Club.

May 7: Liberty Hall Centre for the Performing Arts: Full day programme beginning at 11am, featuring lunchtime concert with Tommy Sands ending with The Liberty Session: The Peoples' College Choir and the famed McConnell Brothers join Gerry O'Connor, Peter Browne, Karen McDermott, Stefan Galt, Áine Murphy and Brendan Creanor in bringing the curtain down on our extended May Day celebrations.

**For more information visit
www.ictu.ie/mayday**



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THE HISTORY OF MAY DAY

May Day is International Workers' Day or Labour Day and celebrates the social and economic achievements of the Labour movement.

May Day originated in the late 19th Century, with the demands of the American trade union movement for an eight hour working day. The Federation of Organised Trades & Labor Unions made the demand in 1884 and declared that, if it was not conceded legally by 1886, they would call a general strike. The demand was not conceded and the period saw many bloody battles between capital and labour on the issue.

In 1889 a call was made by trade unions for an international day of strikes to take place worldwide on May 1, 1900 in pursuit of the 8 hour day. A May Day meeting was held in Dublin in 1890. It was organised by the Gas Workers Union – who had won the 8 hour day – and was supported mainly by dockers and railway workers.

May Day events were organised as part of the Irish general strike of 1918 against conscription to the British army.

One of the biggest May Day gatherings took place in Dublin in 1979 when 50,000 marched. This event was linked to the tax marches of 1979 and 1980. Following demands from the Dublin Council of Trade Unions in 1994 the first Monday in May was declared a public holiday.

May Day is of particular importance this year. The global crisis of capitalism is affecting workers in every land, through unemployment, reduced living standards and cuts in education and health services. The rich expect the poor to pay for the crisis. The social and economic achievements of our movement are under threat. There is a real danger that workers in the developed world will be faced with the poverty known to previous generations. Organised labour must organise to defend our achievements.

Workers' and trade union power stems from increased numbers, more efficient organisation and clear decisive policies. This year, hands across the world, united internationally, we have a greater chance to build a future that recognises the dignity and worth of working people rather than the greed of exploiters.