



Michigan Coalition for Human Rights

## WE SUPPORT UAW WORKERS ON STRIKE AGAINST GM

The Michigan Coalition for Human Rights gives its full support to the UAW and its 46,000 members who are walking the picket lines in a fight to win a just and equitable contract with General Motors. Coalition members, including UAW members & retirees and social justice activists, are participating in - and galvanizing material and moral support for - this workers' struggle for better working and living standards.

Since the 2009 bailout by both the Canadian and U.S. governments, General Motors has taken advantage of the sacrifices forced on GM workers in both countries by extracting billions of dollars of profits for the bankers, investors and corporate executives. **The workers are rightfully demanding substantial pay increases to reflect the rise in productivity** – which used to be incorporated in national agreements by the Annual Improvement Factor. This strike is about reducing the disparity evidenced by GM CEO Mary Barra's earnings that are 280 times what the line workers earn!

**A principal demand of the workers is an end to the demoralizing stratification of the work force in multi-tier classifications**, in-progression vs. legacy workers, permanent vs. temporary, direct employees vs. third party contract labor. We support the demand, "Everyone Tier One!" which is consistent with the universally recognized Human Right of Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Despite the workers' sacrifices and hard work over the past dozen years, GM saw fit to "un-allocate" product at 4 U.S. plants (and 1 in Canada, and 2 overseas) – two in our immediate communities of Detroit and Warren - with potentially devastating consequences. **We support the call for new "green" product and new jobs at each of the facilities, in line with our pressing need to combat the growing climate crisis.**

GM showed its hand when it shut down without notice access to contractually guaranteed health care of its striking employees, exposing the CEO's hypocrisy where she promises to *"always act with integrity, take accountability for results, and do the right thing, even when the right thing is hard to do."* There was such an outcry that GM was forced to reverse its callous decision!



The MCHR recognizes that the battle by striking GM workers is part of a broader fight by GM workers around the world. That's why the MCHR has been in the forefront of solidarity with GM workers in Colombia, who have been fighting GM's inhumane practices of firing workers who suffer injuries on the job, without compensation. The Colombians are joined by other GM workers in South Korea, Brazil, Mexico, and India who are all currently fighting in defense of their rights. Their victories will strengthen the fight by GM strikers here, as will the fight here strengthen the struggles overseas.

**Michigan Coalition for Human Rights promotes awareness of, commitment to and advocacy for human rights and the environmental rights of planet Earth through education, community organization and action. MCHR opposes forces that suppress human dignity, freedom and justice — locally and around the world. [support@mchr.org](mailto:support@mchr.org) Phone: 313 579-9071**