

Don't stay on the sidelines!

The General Defense Committee is composed of folks like you, who cannot sit idly by and watch their fellow members of the working class suffer oppression. The GDC is a bottom-up democratic membership organization. Our membership decides what organizing projects we engage in based on the needs of their communities.

We organize to defend the working class against all threats ranging from state repression to the encroaching threat of fascists & white supremacists.

Membership

Membership in the GDC is open to anyone in agreement with the general principles outlined in this pamphlet. You must only agree to abide by the democratically decided rules of the GDC.

Initiation fees are \$5, then membership dues are on a sliding scale as it reads in the GDC Bylaws:

“Quarterly dues shall be set as follows:

\$10 for those with limited income or resources,
\$20 for those with moderate income or resources,
\$40 for those with higher income or resources.

Members in extreme circumstances may pay \$5.”

Members are encouraged to pay for multiple quarters, & voluntary assessment stamps are also available for specific defense campaigns and for day-to-day operations of the GDC.

75% of dues money goes into our Central Fund, reserved only for direct defense work. 25% goes into our General Fund to pay for postage, printing, and other administrative costs.

When you join the GDC, you will receive your membership card (Gray Card), a membership button, and a copy of our bylaws.

To Join the GDC

Fill out the attached form and mail it, with your initiation fees plus your quarterly dues, back to:

General Defense Committee
2101 Hennepin Ave S. Ste. #110
Minneapolis, MN 55405

___ I affirm that I subscribe to the general principles and aims of the IWW and the GDC.

___ I agree to abide by the bylaws and regulations of this organization.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Payment enclosed:

Initiation: _____

Dues: _____

Total: _____

Join the Struggle!

Build the Defense!



Join the General Defense
Committee of the
Industrial Workers
of the World

An Injury To One Is An Injury To All!

gdc.iww.org

The Preamble to the GDC Bylaws:

The capitalist class of bosses, financiers, landlords, and their cops wage relentless and violent class war upon the working class. The General Defense Committee (GDC) is a committee of and supports the revolutionary unionism of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). The GDC's goal is to defend and support the entire working class, divided and under attack by those who wage class war against us. We therefore promote, through organization, action, and outreach, a mass, non-sectarian defense of the class, in order to build a self-organized working class that treats differences as strengths and opportunities to live in solidarity. Community Self Defense means we intend to build our revolutionary community precisely by defending it and the earth on which we live.

Our power as a class will never come from our possession of wealth, but from our ability to organize the class to defend ourselves. We must secure defense against legal attacks, but do not imagine that legal and financial defense alone are sufficient. Any revolutionary union that does not expect oppression from the master class, and organize to meet it, has failed to learn from past waves of repression.

We say defense means organized action taken explicitly to defend members of the class against the different forms of oppression that structure our society. Our membership expects the GDC to be an arena of mutual education through mutual struggle. Exploiters rely upon the fractured unity of the working class. By standing in solidarity across and directly attacking the diverse oppressions of the class, we intend to embody the notion that an injury to one really is an injury to all, and to openly use our defense to build the resilience, strength, and fighting spirit of the working class. Because the class war is not limited to the workplace, our defense of the class cannot be limited to the workplace. Oppressions like racism and sexism structure class oppression and division. Both degrade

the solidarity members of the working class should have for each other, and are predicated on acts of violence within the class, and structures of violence organized by the state. We are against all oppressions. By organizing against the diverse oppressions of the working class, and centering our revolutionary and anti-capitalist foundations, we intend to directly overcome those divisions. Through this struggle we advance the goal of an anti-capitalist revolution by building the size, solidarity, and strength of working class.

The oppressed do not determine the grounds of their liberation; those grounds are chosen by the oppressors, whose warfare upon our class results in exclusion, harm, and death. We intend to meet our oppressors on whatever grounds we must, in order to complete the revolution against the capitalism that accelerates not only our exploitation throughout the world, but our entire world's ecological peril. We reject sterile bureaucratic or legalistic restrictions on the revolutionary demands with which our union and our world is faced, recognizing that our history includes failed attempts to pretend allegiance to the state and capitalism. We make no pretense. We will defend and support each other.

The General Defense Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World demands hope and bravery of its membership, so that we can build and organize the class that is worthy of the revolution that we must make.

Our History & Tradition:

The General Defense Committee is a committee of the Industrial Workers of the World formed in 1917 to provide defense support for IWW members who found themselves battling the "forces of law and order" who sought to prosecute them for no other crime than what they believed!



Since that time, the GDC has evolved to the point where we now organize to defend the working class from all forms of oppression.

We work hand-in-hand with the workplace organizing of the IWW and take our mission to defend the working class beyond the workplace while staying rooted in our anti-capitalist ideals as a committee of the IWW.

The IWW has a long and rich history of fighting oppression on all fronts from opposing the capitalists wars abroad to fighting white supremacists like the KKK and fascists in our communities. In recent years we've evolved further and developed "Community Self Defense" models where the membership organizes to defend the working class from oppression as needed.

It is in the interests of the ruling class to divide the working class. We organize to unite the working class in solidarity against all oppression including racism, sexism, mass-incarceration, and other forms of oppression we can stand in solidarity against.

Welcome to the General Defense Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World!