

## **ACTIVITIES OF PRIAMA AKCIA IN 2018-2019**

Quite a busy period is behind us. Again, we organized workplace conflicts, were present at public actions and showed solidarity to IWA sections as well as social movements in France and Chile. We restarted public “open meetings” with our union and informed about workers’ struggles on our website and Facebook page.

### **PRIAMA AKCIA CONFLICTS**

#### **Conflict Related to Unpaid Wages**

In January 2018, we started a conflict related to unpaid wages together with a former worker against a café in Senec, a town near Bratislava. Within two months we organized two protest actions and planned more, but the worker suddenly decided to resolve the situation with the boss on her own (unsuccessfully, in the end), so we stopped participating in the conflict.

More info about the conflict in English:

<https://priamaakcia.sk/Support-Priama-akcia-in-the-conflict-with-cafe-Space-Mania.html>



## Conflict Related to Unpaid Wages and Wage Compensation

In February 2019, we had a quick win in a conflict with a vegan bistro in Bratislava that owed wages and wage compensation to a former worker. Only 19 days after we collectively delivered the demand letter and literally hours before starting an open conflict, more than 500 euro was paid. It was the first time we won before entering the public stage of the conflict. We described lessons learned from this conflict in three articles afterwards.

More info about the conflict in English:

<https://priamaakcia.sk/Support-Priama-akcia-in-the-conflict-with-cafe-Space-Mania.html>



Besides our involvement in conflicts, we also **helped a few other workers** with their problems in the workplace, although eventually they decided not to start a conflict with their bosses.

Currently, we are **working on a publication summarizing all our conflicts** so far including comparison and analysis of those that were in the hospitality sector.

## SOLIDARITY ACTIVITIES

### ZSP Struggle Against Polish Post Office

In March 2018, we responded to an appeal of ZSP and visited the Polish Embassy in Bratislava to deliver a protest letter during the week of solidarity actions with workers of the Polish Post Office. The workers have been fighting for higher wages with the support of ZSP for two years already.



## **CNT-E Conflict with Residence Mirador Roda de Bara Because of Anti-union Practices**

In May 2018, we sent an e-mail to the company in protest against anti-union practices directed against a member of CNT-Tarragona.

## **CNT-F Appeal to Support Yellow Vests Movement**

On 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019, we responded to CNT-F appeal and delivered a protest letter to the French Embassy in Bratislava demanding release of imprisoned activists from the Yellow Vests movement.

Info in English:

<https://www.priamaakcia.sk/Gilets-Jaunes-strike-on-5th-February-solidarity-action-in-Bratislava.html>



## **CNT-E Conflict Over Unpaid Wages**

In July 2019, we reacted to an appeal of CNT-E and e-mailed a protest letter to a person who owed wages to their comrade.

## Participation in the Climate Strikes

On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019, we participated in the Climate Strike demonstration in Bratislava as part of the “dark green” bloc. We published our statement on climate strike and climate crisis, pointing out that the root cause is the production for profit. We also put forward the idea that the working class movement faces a challenge to find ways to fight the climate change.

Info in English:

<https://www.priamaakcia.sk/Statement-of-Priama-Akcia-Union-Regarding-Climate-Strike.html>

<https://www.priamaakcia.sk/Photo-Report-From-the-Climate-Strike-in-Bratislava-20-9-2019-.html>



We participated in the climate strike also on 29<sup>th</sup> November and pointed out that climate crisis is inevitably related to capitalism and social struggle. Again, we took the opportunity to promote ideas that are related to working class movement and published an article about 7500 education workers who organized a real climate strike on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Quebec (<https://labornotes.org/2019/10/how-seven-thousand-quebec-workers-went-strike-against-climate-change>).



## Solidarity with Protesters in Chile

Upon request from Proyecto Educativo Libertario (PEL) from Santiago, we recorded a solidarity videomessage for comrades in Chile. It was done in Bratislava on 29<sup>th</sup> November during the Climate Strike.

The video was edited by PEL comrade and can be found with text in English and Spanish here: <https://www.facebook.com/proyectoeducativolibertario/videos/456853341900207/>



## Support for Prosecuted Antifascist Activist

In December, we financially supported an activist from Bratislava who is prosecuted for intentional damage to property (throwing a smoke bomb in front of the Turkish Embassy in Bratislava) in 2018.

The smoke was symbolic and was related to the smoke over the cities after attacks of the Turkish army in Northern Syria.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Interview for the German Broadcast of Slovak Radio

In January 2018, we gave a short interview about our activities for Radio Slowakei International (part of the national radio service).

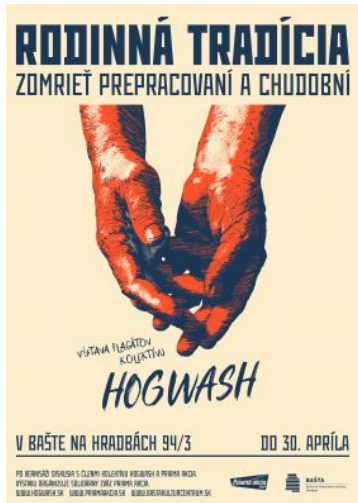
It can be found here:

<http://dersi.rtvs.sk/clanky/gesellschaft-politik/153828/die-organisation-direkte-aktion>.

## Exhibition of Political Posters of Hogwash Art Collective in Bardejov and Bratislava

In March 2018, we organized an exhibition in Bardejov in eastern Slovakia. The posters were created by the political art collective Hogwash and the exhibition was called Family Tradition – To Die Overworked and Poor. Part of the vernissage was also a discussion with the authors.

In their art they cleverly point out that there are other interpretations of the world around us than those of the powerful and the mainstream. They play with symbols, social events and trends and often reflect the theme of power. The exhibition lasted until the end of April.



On the First of May 2019, we organized another Hogwash exhibition in Bratislava called Zyeme čokoľvek (a word play combining words “we will eat anything” with a well-known expensive grocery store called Yeme meaning “from Yeme anything”).

We chose the First of May as the vernissage day intentionally because the meaning of this symbolic day was altered in a way that is a little grotesque now. The exhibition ended on 28<sup>th</sup> August as part of the antifascist festival Povstanie pokračuje (Uprising Continues) and with new posters added under the title Zyeme všetko (“we will eat everything”).



### Let's Grill the Bosses (Socializing Event)

In June 2018, we organized an outdoor relaxation activity in a park in Bratislava aimed at socializing with people supporting our union called Let's Grill the Bosses. We discussed our activities as well as some less serious topics.

The same event was planned for September 2019 but due to bad weather we had to stay indoors. Nonetheless, the discussion was even more productive and contributed to us taking part in the Climate Strikes.

### Meeting with Members of the Wiener Arbeiter\*innen Syndikat (WAS)

In July 2018, we were invited to a benefit party of our sister union WAS from Vienna. We talked about what was new since we last met four years ago and invited the comrades to Bratislava to the antifascist festival Povstanie pokračuje a month later.

Info in English:

<https://www.priamaakcia.sk/Meeting-with-members-of-the-Wiener-Arbeiter-innen-Syndikat-WAS-.html>



### Povstanie Pokračuje Festival

In August 2018 and 2019, we took part in an antifascist street festival celebrating the anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising (resistance against fascism in 1944). We presented our activities and campaign "Problems at work?".



## Presentation at Skapalpes Festival

In September 2018, we were invited to Trebišov, a town in eastern Slovakia, to talk about our union's conflicts at the music festival Skapalpes fest.



## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Open Meetings in Bratislava and Košice

In autumn 2019, we restarted open meetings with our union. In October and November the first two meetings took place and we are planning to continue in 2020. The meetings take place in a community center and the invitations are published in advance.

The meetings are aimed at people who are interested in class approach to discussions and activities in the region. We emphasize that the meetings should bring practical results and it has worked so far (for example, our participation at the Climate Strikes and the solidarity message to Chile were results of debates at the meetings).

The first meeting with the same intention was also organized in December in Košice.



## **(Not)Voting Is Not Enough Campaign**

In reaction to the upcoming parliamentary elections (February 2020) we once again launched our (Not)Voting Is Not Enough campaign in October 2019. Its aim is to spread the idea of self-organization in as many regions as possible. We chose a simple method of stickers and periodical online publishing of short articles related to the topic. The activity will culminate on the election day with another open meeting where we are going to present a new pamphlet about our conflicts so far. At the same time the event will reflect our opinion that organizing in workplaces or communities is more important and effective than debating about who to vote for or indeed if we should vote at all.



## **Nakladateľstvo Bod Zlomu (PA's Publishing House)**

In 2019, we updated our pamphlet about student work. We also supported the release of an EP of the local punk band Železná Kolóna which is called “We Write the History Every Day” (<https://zeleznakolona.bandcamp.com/>).

## **Participation at the SolFed Conference**

In June 2019, we participated at the Solidarity Federation conference in Manchester which was a great opportunity to meet with comrades and see how they progress.

## **Interview for a Leftist Blog Pole**

In September 2019, an interview with our union was published on a blog called Pole. However, due to an unpleasant incident, this was a censored version. The uncensored version was published at our website. We explained how PA was formed, problems related to organizing in the workplaces, various aspects related to conducting conflicts, our perspective on the civil protests in Slovakia, wider dimension of our activities and news from the IWA. We also wrote a separate article about the incident where we mentioned problems that can occur when dealing with media.

## **Preparations for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PA**

They are in full swing. We plan several activities. We have started already on 24<sup>th</sup> December by uploading our publications in EPUB, MOBI and DOC formats on our website. In mid-March 2020, a concert will follow. At the end of March the main event will take place – a presentation of 20 years of anarchism and anarchosyndicalism in Slovakia. During the event, we will exhibit our current and archive materials. Also, we will publish the Slovak translation of the Solidarity Federation book called Fighting For Ourselves. In autumn 2020, presentations aimed at autonomous organizing of workers in specific sectors are planned (most likely hospitality and healthcare).