

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

WORKERS' UNITY:

THE UNITY OF ALL WORKERS, REGARDLESS OF WHATEVER DIVIDES THEM, IS OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE. THE WIDEST POSSIBLE UNITY TAKE PRIORITY OVER ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.

NON-RACIALISM:

OUR MEMBERS COME FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND SPEAK DIFFERENT LANGUAGES. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WORKERS STAND TOGETHER REGARDLESS OF RACE.

ORGANISATION FROM BOTTOM UP

ORDINARY WORKERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE UNION AND SHOULD BE WELL ORGANISED FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR LEVEL UPWARDS.

EQUALITY OF WOMEN

WOMEN ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FOOD INDUSTRY AND ARE STILL IN THE LOWEST PAID JOBS, SUGGESTING THEY ARE STILL NOT SEEN AS EQUALS IN THE WORKPLACE. THEY MUST BE ENCOURAGED TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN UNION ACTIVITIES.

MAJORITY UNIONISM

IT IS IMPORTANT TO ORGANISE THE MAJORITY OF THE WORKERS AT A PARTICULAR WORKPLACE AS THAT ENABLES THE UNION TO REPRESENT WORKERS MOST EFFECTIVELY.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

FAWU ORGANISES ITS MEMBERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY I.E. THE FOOD INDUSTRY WHICH MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR MEMBERS TO PRESS FOR THE SAME DEMANDS.

NATIONAL ORGANISATION

THE UNION ORGANISES INDUSTRIALLY AND THEREFORE IT NEEDS TO ORGANISE WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY ON A NATIONAL LEVEL. ORGANISATION AND CO-ORDINATION ON A NATIONAL LEVEL HELPS TO OVERCOME DIFFERENCES THAT EXIST AT PROVINCIAL LEVELS ESPECIALLY AMONG OUR MEMBERS EMPLOYED BY NATIONAL COMPANIES.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

OUR UNION ENCOURAGES THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY OF WORKERS JUST AS WORKERS SHOULD UNITE ON A NATIONAL LEVEL, SO TOO UNITY MUST BE BUILT INTERNATIONALLY.

WORKERS' CONTROL

MEMBERS OF THE UNION SHOULD CONTROL THE UNION AS THEY CONTRIBUTE THEIR MONEY TO IT AND ITS EXISTS TO FURTHER THEIR INTERESTS. MEMBERS EXERCISE THEIR POWERS BY TAKING DECISIONS IN THE UNION'S STRUCTURAL MEETINGS. FAWU'S CONSTITUTION ENSURES PARTICIPATION OF THE GREATEST NUMBER OF WORKERS IN THE UNION.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

WHEN WORKERS ARE IN CONTROL OF THEIR ORGANISATION, THEY MUST FINANCE THE ORGANISATION AS THIS IS WHAT FINANCIAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY MEANS. THIS REQUIRES THAT EACH BRANCH AND PROVINCE OF THE UNION SHOULD NOT SPEND MORE THAN IT CONTRIBUTES TO THE UNION AS A WHOLE.

