

Central Trade Unions: INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF, UTUC  
India  
Via email

20 May 2020

Dear sisters and brothers,

**Solidarity with nation wide protest on 22 May**

I write on behalf of the Australian union movement to express our solidarity with Indian workers taking action against the draconian changes to labour laws. We condemn the recent decisions of various state governments to suspend major labour laws and extend the standard daily working hours from eight to twelve, under the cover of the COVID-19 crisis. We also condemn the anti-worker labour law reforms initiated by the Modi government in 2015 designed to advance business interests at the expense of workers' rights. The suspensions and amendments of the labour laws at the state and central government level are in violation of international labour standards and must be immediately reversed.

Workers around the world are already bearing the burden of the COVID-19 crisis; governments and companies should not take advantage of this situation to impose their anti-worker agenda. We support your calls for support for workers stranded in the lockdown, adequate food rations to be distributed to all people, and the guarantee of wages to all during the lockdown.

We are inspired by your strength and unity. We wish you all the best for your protest and stand with you in solidarity.

In unity



Michele O'Neil

**President**