

## Speech ver.di Strike 25.03.22 #PeopleNotProfit

Hello everybody.

I am Anja and I am speaking for ver.di today.

We are all here today under the motto "People Not Profit". This is a motto that we as a union have been living by for 150 years. Achievements such as sick pay, paid leave and maternity leave have been fought for by politically minded trade unionists on the streets. This shows us that what is good for all of us is not given to us as a gift. Only through collective, joint efforts can major issues be moved.

Underlying this, however, is solidarity with those most affected and recognition of their expertise.

What do I mean by this?

Let's look at the current issue of high fuel prices: to many, it may seem inappropriate to complain about an expensive tank of gas at a time when oil consumption is financing wars and climate change is being driven forward. But for me as a trainee, for example, these prices mean that my salary is currently just enough for housing and fuel. I can't even reach my work locations by public transport during my working hours. So I individually have no possibility to change this situation. That's why the structures have to be changed, and that's only possible if those affected, like me, are not only heard, but also have the right to have their say.

What I have just described here on a small scale must also be applied internationally. People who live in areas particularly affected by the climate crisis have accumulated expertise over decades and, precisely because they are affected, must be given the power to act - linked to financial resources.

At the same time, we must not forget that MAPA must not only fight against the climate crisis, but also against exploitative structures such as those practiced by Heidelberg Cement.

Our solidarity therefore also applies in particular to the workers in MAPA regions. Because we are all somehow forced to sell our labor in this system in order to be able to finance our lives. When we talk about structural changes, we must also talk about this.

I hope that I have been able to make it clear that the struggle against the climate crisis cannot be separated from other social struggles. And I may sound utopian now - but 150 years ago, people also thought that paid sick leave, paid vacation and maternity leave were utopian.

Let's draw strength from this for today's and future struggles.

Thank you for listening.