

# Reclaiming Worker Power Energizing Our Movement

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

## RESOLUTION ON THE PHILIPPINES RESOLUTION #2024.33

WHEREAS, for the eighth straight year, the Philippines is rated by the International Trade Union Confederation amongst the ten worst countries for workers citing that workers and unions remain to be victims of red-tagging, violence, abductions and arbitrary arrests; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 the International Labour Organization (ILO) sent a High-Level Tripartite Mission (HLTM) to the Philippines to conduct an investigation into the atrocities targeting union organizers and worker activists; and

WHEREAS, the ILO HLTM investigation reports that since 2016 there have been an alarming increase in violations that infringed on worker's freedom of association: 69 killings of trade union leaders and organizers, 3 cases of abductions and enforced disappearance involving 5 individuals, 41 cases of arrests and detentions on trumped charges, 111 arrested workers during strikes and protest actions, 90 cases of forced disaffiliation, 58 cases of red-tagging or terrorist-tagging, 127 cases of threats, intimidations and harassment and 19 cases of other types of anti-union activities; and

WHEREAS, the ILO has presented a list of recommendations to the Philippine government including the formation of a Presidential Commission to adequately investigate these incidents and to bring to justice those responsible and that the government must address issues and policies that impact workers' freedom of association and to collective bargain; and

WHEREAS, there has been a long history of Washington state's labor movement building international solidarity with Philippine workers stemming back from the Filipino workers in the Alaska canneries and agricultural industry in the 1940s-1950s, to ILWU Local 37 under the leadership of slain labor leaders, Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes; and

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), AFL-CIO will be sending a labor delegation in 2025 to continue building international solidarity relations between our labor movements; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council condemn the continued violations of human rights against workers in the Philippines and demand that the Philippine government led by Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. address the systemic violations of workers' freedom of association and to collective bargain; and be it further

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**RESOLUTION ON THE PHILIPPINES (cont.)**  
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RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council pursue efforts to pressure the Philippine government to implement the ILO HLTM recommendations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council support the 2025 APALA delegation to the Philippines by financially supporting a delegate from Washington State to participate in the delegation and utilize its network to disseminate the APALA delegation report.