

Handout 12b: Solidarity Quotes

- 1.) Individually or in small groups, read through the following quotes about the idea of solidarity. Which do you think is the best definition and why?
- 2.) Extension: Look up the author of the quote you like the best and find out more about their connection to social justice.

I believe in the essential unity of all people and for that matter of all lives. Therefore, I believe that if one person gains spiritually, the whole world gains, and if one person falls, the whole world falls to that extent. **Mohandas K. Gandhi**

When we are in partnership and have stopped clutching each other's throats, when we have stopped enslaving each other, we will stand together, hands clasped, and be friends. We will be comrades, we will be brothers, and we will begin the march to the grandest civilization the human race has ever known. **Eugene V. Debs**

You don't fight racism with racism, the best way to fight racism is with solidarity. **-Bobby Seale**

In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up. **Martin Niemöller**

My friends, it is solidarity of labor we want. We do not want to find fault with each other, but to solidify our forces and say to each other: 'We must be together; our masters are joined together and we must do the same thing.' **Mother Jones**

If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together. **Aboriginal activists group, Queensland, 1970s**

If the workers took a notion they could stop all speeding trains;
Every ship upon the ocean they can tie with mighty chains.
Every wheel in the creation, every mine and every mill;
Fleets and armies of the nation, will at their command stand still. **Joe Hill**

What does labor want? We want more schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures, to make manhood more noble, womanhood more beautiful, and childhood more happy and bright. **Samuel Gompers**

Years ago I recognized my kinship with all living things, and I made up my mind that I was not one bit better than the meanest on the earth. I said then and I say now, that while there is a lower class, I am in it; while there is a criminal element, I am of it; while there is a soul in prison,

I am not free. **Eugene V. Debs**

Global solidarity is both necessary and possible. It is necessary because without a measure of solidarity no society can be truly stable, and no one's prosperity truly secure. **Kofi Annan**

“You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man's freedom. You can only be free if I am free. —**Clarence Darrow**

We must learn to live together as brothers or we are going to perish together as fools. —**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

An injury to one is the concern of all! —**Knights of Labor slogan**

It is a great mistake for any class of laborers to isolate itself and thus weaken the bond of brotherhood between those on whom the burdens and hardship of labor (fall). The fortunate ones of the Earth, who are abundant in land and money and know nothing of the anxious care and pinching poverty of the laboring classes, may be indifferent to the appeal to justice at this point, but the laboring classes cannot afford to be indifferent. What labor everywhere wants, what it ought to have, and will someday demand and receive, is an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. As the laborer becomes more intelligent he will develop what capital he already possesses —that is the power to organize and combine for its own protection.” —**Frederick Douglass**

A single bracelet does not jingle. **Congo proverb**

If the workers are organized, all they have to do is to put their hands in their pockets and they have got the capitalist class whipped.—**William Dudley "Big Bill" Haywood**

When spiders unite, they can tie down a lion.—**Ethiopian Proverb**

The people united will never be defeated.—**Cesar Chavez**