

A stylized illustration of a factory interior. The scene is dominated by a complex network of black structural beams and machinery. In the foreground, a worker in a white shirt and a red hard hat is bent over, working on a piece of equipment. To the left, another worker in a light-colored uniform stands near a machine. In the background, a third worker in a dark suit is seated at a control panel. The background features a large, light-colored circular structure, possibly a window or a large piece of machinery. The overall style is graphic and industrial, with a limited color palette of red, white, black, and grey.

# MAY DAY

2008

Public meeting,  
May 1<sup>st</sup>

March, May 3rd

# WHY CELEBRATE MAY DAY?

May Day was celebrated as a pagan festival long before the Romans came. Then in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it became the international worker's holiday arising from the struggle in the US and Canada for an 8 hour working day:

*“Lay down your tools on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1886, cease your labour... for one day in the year. One day of revolt, not of rest! A day of protest against oppression and tyranny, against ignorance and war. A day on which to... enjoy eight hours for work, eight hours for rest and eight hours for what we will”.*

In 1894, Nottingham held its first big May Day celebration, with thousands marching in strict Trade Union parades from the Forest. There were speeches from mining, hosiery and railway unions and from political parties. Resolutions were passed by an enthusiastic crowd.

Today, the industries are different, but the need for struggle against oppression, tyranny, ignorance and war is still there and not just for one day a year. It has become international and you can add global warming to the list. Nottingham's May Day march is a relaxed event - we just have to avoid trams and buses - but in many countries, workers get savagely beaten up for attempting to demonstrate on their own streets.

Supported by Nottingham Trades' Council, Nottingham's 2008 May Day festivities have been organised by Nottingham Refugee Campaign Group. We campaign against the callous and inhuman treatment of asylum seekers by the government. Their latest plan is to withdraw free primary health care from asylum seekers. Government policy will then leave them not only destitute and homeless, but also without health care.

## WE SUPPORT ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THEIR DEMAND FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK



**Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.** Public meeting at the New Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, starting at 7.0 pm. The speakers will be former Guantanamo detainee Moazzam Begg with asylum rights and aids campaigner Amdani Juma.

**Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.** The march sets off from Brewhouse Yard at 12 noon (gates open at 10 am), then back to Brewhouse Yard for speeches, music and stalls (including food). Bring banners and placards.