

Online Petition: WE ARE ALL TJAŠA - We urge LIDL to halt the dismissal of the union president!

Unofficial translation from Slovenian by the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre.

Signatures: 3 852

During these times of crisis, they are dismissing a trade unionist in a store?! Sign this petition to defend the union president's employment and to defend the right of workers to organize!

While most of us are staying at home, some workers continue to work daily to make sure society does not completely fall apart. They are the last line of defense. They include supermarket workers that, despite burnout and stress, continue to make sure that we have access to basic necessities of life.

In Lidl, the epidemic exacerbated the problems that had been plaguing workers already before the onset of COVID-19. Together with the Slovenian Retail Workers' Union (SDTS)¹, the Lidl Slovenia Union has been warning that, given the volume of work, there were too few female workers available for each shift to be able to perform the work properly.

Now that traffic has increased even more, as new tasks have been introduced, including emergency disinfecting of stores; now, in a time of health crisis, when many female retailer workers have fallen ill, including due to savings in protective equipment – now Lidl decided to fire the union president Tjaša Kozole. At the same time, while they are dismissing the union president, they are seeking out new, precarious and obedient student workers (through the student service), who will be taken advantage of and then 'dumped' [dismissed].

A year ago, **Tjaša Kozole**, manager at a Lidl store and a single mother of two children, made the brave decision to organize a union with her colleagues. After having set up a solidarity collective, and stood up for herself and all other colleagues at Lidl, she is now about to get fired. While working with the trade union to fight for adequate protective equipment, shortened store opening hours and extra pay given the workload, Lidl is about to take advantage of the crisis to sack the president and seek to destroy the union, as far as possible from the scrutiny of the general public.

In recent months, the union has stepped up its activities and gained recognition among female workers, which has also led to an increase in membership. Through various media outlets, it tried to uncover to the public Lidl's model of exploitation of women workers and their hostile approach to workers' (trade union) organizing. But the management is stubbornly persisting and is continuing with the dismissal process. The defense of Tjaša Kozole will take place on Monday, 23 March 2020, at 8 am, at the seat of the Management Board in Komenda.

Due to the state of emergency, we have to give up on various campaigns, protests and a press conferences at which all of you could jointly support the Lidl Trade Union.

That is **why we urge you to sign a petition in support of Tjaša Kozole** with which we can jointly force the management to

REVERSE THE PROCEDURE FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT OF TJAŠA KOZOLE.

¹ Also known as Trade Union of Worker's in trade sector Slovenia

Source: [https://www.peticija.online/spletna_peticija_vsi_smo_tjasa -
_pozovimo_lidl_ustavi_odpoved_predsednici_sindikata?fbclid=IwAROPYSUsp_oPHdELIBE7RBXjYBoc
YaikQIDd-a55VwpF4T2O0G7CukeKrgc#form](https://www.peticija.online/spletna_peticija_vsi_smo_tjasa_-_pozovimo_lidl_ustavi_odpoved_predsednici_sindikata?fbclid=IwAROPYSUsp_oPHdELIBE7RBXjYBocYaikQIDd-a55VwpF4T2O0G7CukeKrgc#form)