

BREAD AND ROSES

SONG EXPLAINED

DID YOU KNOW IT'S GOT A 100-YEAR-OLD HISTORY?

The song's roots are in a speech given by American women's suffrage activist, Helen Todd in 1910.

Todd spoke for a future where a woman's vote would deliver both **“bread, which is home, shelter and security”** as well as **“the roses of life: music, education, nature and books”**.



- 1912, Lawrence Textile Strike in Massachusetts

THE BREAD AND ROSES STRIKE

In 1912 the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) led the Lawrence Textile Strike in Massachusetts. It was also known as the Bread and Roses Strike.

The strike proved conservative trade unions wrong: **a diverse, migrant workforce of predominantly women could be organised and win!**

PRESENT DAY

The Bread and Roses Strike reminds us that it's not just about the pay check. It's about respect and dignity.

Now strong UWW farm workers are holding up the Bread and Roses banner.

The “Perfection 12” are fighting to end gendered violence across farms in Australia, after surviving harassment and assaults in the glasshouses of Perfection Fresh.

ABOUT THE WIN

The strike was called after workers suffered a **two-hour pay cut**, due to a law that shortened the work week for women.

Over **51 different nationalities** participated in the strike. Many migrant workers had little to no english.

The Bread and Roses strike went for **more than 2 months**, during a freezing cold winter.

The workers won **pay rises** of up to **20%**.

LISTEN, AND SHARE FAR AND WIDE



Unable to reveal their identities, but still wanting to tell their stories, members of the group have recorded an album with Bread and Roses as the title track.

UNITED
WORKERS UNION