

YOU'RE INVITED TO:

WTO PROTEST ACTION PLANNING DAY



When > 3:30pm, Sat, Oct 26 (following the 12pm SIEV-X rally at Sydney Town Hall)

Venue > The Crypt, St Joseph's Newtown, corner Bedford and Station streets, Newtown (5 minutes from Newtown station)

BACKGROUND

As many of you know, the **World Trade Organisation (WTO) is meeting in Sydney on November 14-15**. Most of you know about the inherent problems with the WTO from accountability to its aggressive liberalisation agenda.

A few people from ACMICA and ASCM met and decided we would like to organise an ecumenical affinity group, if not a "block" of groups, to participate in some form of non-violent protest against the neoliberal agenda of the WTO. We want as many Christians and other interested people to join us as possible, so we have organised a planning day in Newtown.

DETAILS

At the planning day we will:

- ✍ Analyse the ideology and agenda of the WTO
- ✍ Engage in bible study to ground our protest in the Christian tradition
- ✍ Training in non-violence, peaceful, creative action – this is great fun!
- ✍ Make banners, props etc. to carry our message and provide a unifying voice

Aim: To organise an ecumenical affinity group to participate in some form of non-violent action during the WTO meeting in Sydney.

You don't have to be a hard-core activist to get involved. We are not talking about mass arrests, participating in riots, or fighting the police. We have no pre-defined action plan. We will be doing what people or different groups of people at the planning day feel they are able to do as a protest against the WTO. By meeting beforehand, we become a community of people acting together, rather than random participants.

Please pass on to your friends and networks – and come along!

Useful links about the WTO and international trade and finance:

- ✍ Edmund Rice Centre Issues Paper: <http://www.erc.org.au/issues/pdf/gl01.pdf>
- ✍ New Internationalist (on the WTO): <http://www.newint.org/issue334/contents.htm>
- ✍ 10 Reasons to Oppose WTO: <http://www.globalexchange.org/economy/rulemakers/topTenReasons.html>
- ✍ The Sydney anti-WTO protest: <http://www.nowto.cat.org.au>, and <http://www.aftinet.org.au/>