

Etsy Sellers & Makers Call For A General Strike

In response to changes in values, fees, and programs Etsy sellers and makers around the world are calling for a general strike July 16, 2018 the day rate increases go into effect. Our reasons for organizing a strike are as follows:

- After years of navigating changes and shifts in values at Etsy we are no longer willing to support a company that exploits our time and labour until our demands are addressed.
- We are no longer willing to accept arbitrary company changes and values shifts without transparent consultation with an advisory board of independent makers and Etsy sellers. Makers and Etsy sellers are the reason behind the success of the company and the creation of an economic movement, decisions that impact us must be made in consultation with our communities
- The lapse of B-Corp certification, termination of values-aligned programs, and mass layoffs of staff responsible for community focused projects has resulted in a lack of trust or respect for Etsy as a company, we seek to renew that trust and commitment to shared values.
- Makers and Etsy sellers do not possess unions, trade organizations, or advocacy groups to represent our best interests, we are organizing to solve this problem and ensure we are represented properly.
- We do not accept any increase in rates that is not accompanied by a corresponding investment in creative entrepreneurs. Makers and Etsy sellers are struggling to meet basic needs and access health care and insurance, we demand that any rate increases must be accompanied by a corresponding investment in a robust health care and life insurance policy.
- Protection of the rights and traditional craft of Indigenous People must be a priority and protected by policy not changed at the whims of the policy team at the time.
- We want transparency and accountability around the projects that Etsy has terminated without transparency such as Etsy Wholesale, Etsy Studio, Etsy Maker Cities, Indigenous Seller Handbook and values aligned projects.
- As Etsy continues to grow and benefit off the work of makers we expect the company to implement profit sharing or dividends for active sellers in good standing so that they benefit from any company growth.

Full call for a general strike can be found here <http://bit.ly/etsystrike>

Makers & Etsy sellers are needed to create this campaign <https://www.fellowmakers.com>

For press inquiries contact Jessika Hepburn at editor@ohmyhandmade.com