

No to the war economy – we're not sacrificing our children for war



Ford Works, Cologne. © Raimond Spekking / [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) (via Wikimedia Commons)

The following resolution was adopted in January 2026 by the 300 shop stewards at the Ford plant in Cologne, Germany. Translated from the German by Robert Dale.

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The IG Metall shop stewards at the Ford Works in Cologne are extremely concerned about global rearmament and the growing number of wars. In Germany they are already looking for factories to convert to armaments production. Promises that this will provide employment are a despicable attempt to exploit the existential fears of workers in the car industry. Rearmament cannot secure peace. It is preparation for war. If the government declares a state of emergency, the right to strike will be curtailed, and there will be labour conscription and decrees dictating extremely long working hours. In the event of war, legislation already in effect provides for specialists in all professions to be forced to work under threat of imprisonment. Across the world people like you and me are dying in the trenches – not for some worthy cause but for the interests of big capital. The arms industry celebrates as profits go through the roof. They are reactivating conscription, in order to send our children to war.

We say no to all this!

Rearmament and a war economy are contrary to the interests of workers and their families, and contradict our trade union ideals. Let us underline our slogan 'fight for every job!' and work actively towards our goal of 'peace, disarmament and international understanding' (as laid out in Article 2 of our union's statutes).

And we call on the national leadership of IG Metall and all members of the union to reject the conversion to a war economy!