

## Boston Workmen's Circle Shule 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Statement

This year, our class has been learning about the history of the labor movement, unions, sweatshops, and the conditions of working people and immigrants. We have learned about how immigrants in our country, like most of our ancestors, have been subject to many unfair and discriminative working conditions. Unfortunately, we have also learned that these conditions are not just history; they exist still, even here in our own community of Brookline.

We have been learning about a company called Commercial Cleaning Services which is hired by several businesses here in Brookline. We believe that their workers, mostly immigrants, are being treated unfairly. They work long hours for low wages, and sometimes, they are not even paid for the work they have done. Sometimes workers can get badly burned or injured by using dangerous chemicals without being provided with proper warnings or safety precautions like gloves.

We believe workers have the right to be paid for the work they've done at wages that can support them and their families. We believe workers have the right to safe working conditions and a healthy workplace. We believe that everyone in our community - people and businesses - should stand up and speak out against companies who do not respect these rights.

This is why we are encouraging businesses who hire Commercial Cleaning Services, to think about their responsibility to the workers who clean their buildings, and the community they share with us. They have the power to persuade Commercial Cleaning to change the way they treat the people who do the work which they profit from. They also have a responsibility to this community to help make sure that discrimination and injustice do not happen here. We thank you for supporting our effort by being here. Let's make Brookline a better place for everyone.