**SACRED PROPERTY: UNDER LOCK AND KEY**

**“This is not the first time girls have been burned alive in the city. There are so many of us for one job it matters little if 146 of us are burned to death. Every week**

**I must learn of the untimely death of one of my sister workers. Every year thousands of us are maimed. The life of men and women is so cheap and property is so sacred.”**

Rose Schneiderman, a survivor of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in which these women working in the clothing business were burned to death, speaking at Metropolitan Opera House, New York City on 2nd April 1911 to protest what had happened. They died because *the doors were locked* due to the owners obsession with worker theft.

**A fire broke out at the Hong Kong-owned Yuexin Textile factory in China’s Zhuhai Special Economic Zone in June 1994. Of the 93 people killed and 160 injured, some died in the fire, but many more died when they were told to go back into the burned building to take out whatever fabric could be salvaged and the building collapsed on them.**

**An *electric short circuit* at Chowdury Knitwear, Dhaka, started a fire on 25th November 2000. 51 people, mainly teenage girls died many in a stampede to find the one gate that was not locked. They were doing an enforced overtime night shift. The gatekeepers were stopping people on the first floor landing. Apparently they were anxious that the workers would start ransacking the place...The ground floor main gate was still locked. The main gatekeeper who had the key was not there.**