

For further information on the campaign and the project please contact:



The Global Progressive Forum is a global space for the creation of a global, progressive community for a fairer, more inclusive globalisation. www.globalprogressiveforum.org. **Contact:** Cathrine Bossenmeyer, cbossenmeyer@GlobalProgressiveForum.org.



The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has 236 affiliated organisations in 154 countries and territories on all five continents, with a membership of 155 million. www.icftu.org. **Contact:** Andrea Maksimovic, Andrea.Maksimovic@icftu.org; Kristian Weise, Kristian.Weise@icftu.org.



World Confederation of Labour is an international trade union confederation uniting 144 autonomous and democratic trade unions from 116 countries all over the world. www.cmt-wcl.org. **Contact:** Isabelle Hoferlin, Isabelle.Hoferlin@cmt-wcl.org.



An international alliance of social and economic justice non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in development and humanitarian aid, social policy, social service provision and life-long learning. www.solidar.org. **Contact:** Barbara Caracciolo, barbara@solidar.org.



*"Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere",
International Labour Organisation Constitution*

Time for Decent Work for a Decent Life

Decent Work for a Decent Life

Decent Work for Decent Life is a joint **campaign** led by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the World Confederation of Labour, the Global Progressive Forum and Solidar which aims to:

- Build awareness of Decent Work amongst citizens, decision makers and key institutions;
- Show that Decent Work is the only sustainable way out of poverty and is fundamental to build democracy and social cohesion;
- Place Decent Work at the core of development, economic, trade, financial and social policies at the national, European and International level.

What makes work 'decent'?

Decent Work is a **strategy** to achieve sustainable development that is centred on people. Decent Work is a key element to build fair, equitable and inclusive societies being based around the principles of employment creation, workers' rights, equality between women and men, social protection and social dialogue.

Decent Work is about **equal access to employment** without discrimination. Decent Work is about a **living wage** for workers to allow them and their families to live with dignity. Decent Work is about **social protection** in case of illness, pregnancy or the normal ups and downs which most of us face in life. Decent Work is being **free from exploitation**. Decent Work means allowing people to organise themselves to represent their interests collectively through **trade unions** and engage in genuine **dialogue** as citizens and workers.

Why we need Decent Work

Growth is not enough! International trade and economic growth alone cannot eradicate poverty. In many countries wealth is continuously concentrated within a few hands. Societies, both developing and industrialised are growing more and more unequal. Decent Work is a key mechanism by which wealth is redistributed and poverty eliminated.

Not any job is a good job! In the world there are 1.4 billion people who work but still live on less than 2US\$ a day. They have no job or depend on precarious working conditions. While it is clearly the case that employment is central to poverty reduction, it is only Decent Work that can allow people to fulfil their right for a decent life.

Decent Work is key to poverty eradication! Men and women around the world want globalisation to meet their simple aspirations for sustainable and dignified livelihoods and a better future for their children – this can only happen by placing a greater emphasis on Decent Work.

There is no time like now to start creating Decent Work

Each year...

- those who fight for Decent Work are dismissed, threatened, harassed or killed: more than one hundred trade unionists are killed, several thousand are imprisoned, tortured, and often sentenced to long prison terms.
- hundreds of thousands of workers lose their jobs merely for attempting to organise a trade union or to carry out trade union activities at their workplace.
- more than 2.2 million people die as a result of work-related accidents or diseases.
- some 200 million children aged 5-14 go to work instead of school.
- some 12.3 million people are trapped in forced labour.

Year after year, jobs are becoming more precarious, unstable and deprived of any social protection while there is a growing pressure on labour laws and ILO Conventions. In general, there is a lack of Decent Work. This situation affects particularly...

...young people

- 66 million young people are unemployed. A much higher number are underemployed.
- The informal sector accounts for up to 93% of all jobs available to young people, wages in the informal economy are 44% lower than in the formal economy and protection and benefits are nonexistent.

...women

- Women on average earn two-thirds of what men earn.
- Women make up the majority of the world's part-time workers – between 60% and 90%. In the European Union, 83% of part-time workers are women.

The campaign aims for a world where.....

- Economic growth and human dignity go hand in hand;
- Workers' rights are considered as a cornerstone of development, economic, financial, trade and social policies;
- **Decent Work** is not considered the domain of rich countries but an opportunity for sustainable human development worldwide;
- Core labour standards as mandated by the UN specialised agency the International Labour Organisation, are upheld by each and every country,
- **Decent Work** strategies are developed and implemented at the national and international level;
- Decisions at local, national and international level are publicly discussed and taken with the involvement of those affected by them;
- Companies recognise **Decent Work** as an essential component of their business strategies;
- Civil society organisations from developing countries are heard by EU decision makers on the relevance of **Decent Work** as a fundamental step to live in dignity, achieve a better standard of living and the opportunity to raise themselves out of poverty;
- **Decent Work** is understood, discussed, and claimed as a right in developing and developed countries.

Taking action for Decent Work for a Decent Life

The Decent Work for a Decent Life campaign will target young people, trade union activists, NGOs, and decision makers in industrialised as well as in developing countries. It will use different campaigning tools and strategies adapted to different audiences, including:

- A media campaign to make Decent Work a recognisable concept amongst citizens;
- Educational material and action kits on Decent Work to be distributed at international youth events;
- Popular mobilisations in developing and developed countries;
- Advocacy aimed at key decision makers (G8 member states, EU, international financial institutions);
- Participation in international civil society gatherings such as the World Social Forum;
- Launch of a Decent Work charter;
- Seminars with key European decision makers on the impact of Decent Work for social cohesion in industrialised as well as in developing countries;
- The Decent Work for Development Project focusing on the impact of Decent Work on poverty eradication. 8 pieces of research will be developed and used to feed the Decent Work for a Decent Life campaign.