



World Day for Decent Work

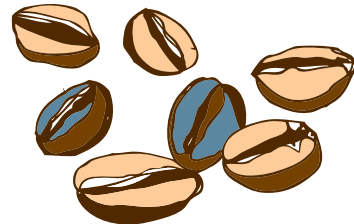
October 7 2008

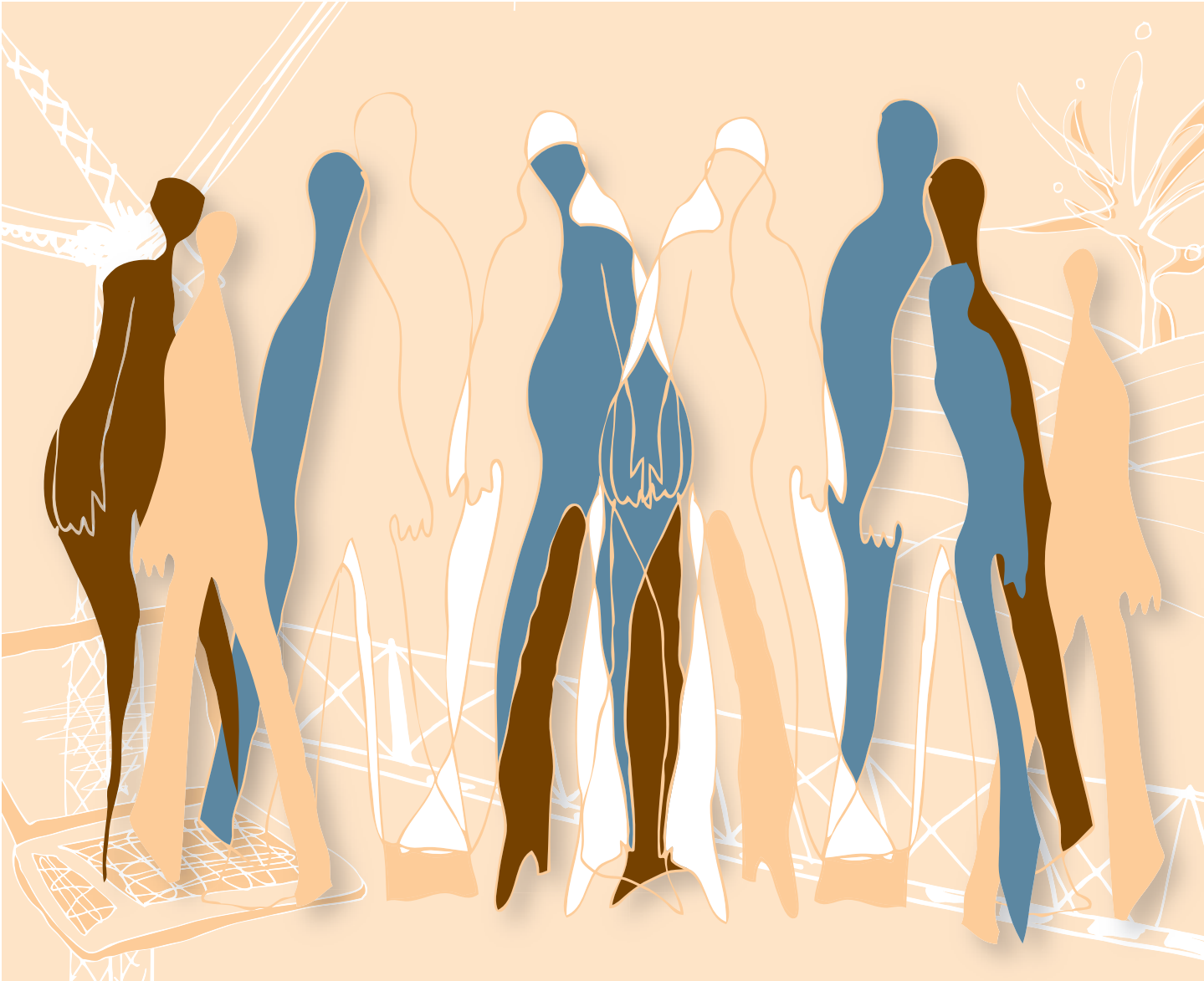


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On October 7 2008 the trade union movement is organising a World Day for Decent Work. This is an unparalleled opportunity for trade unions and organisations interested in Decent Work all around the world to join a broad global mobilisation involving a large number of people and a wide range of activities. A successful day will focus attention on the urgent need for a new globalisation, and also provide a basis for the trade union movement in every continent to join in a common action.

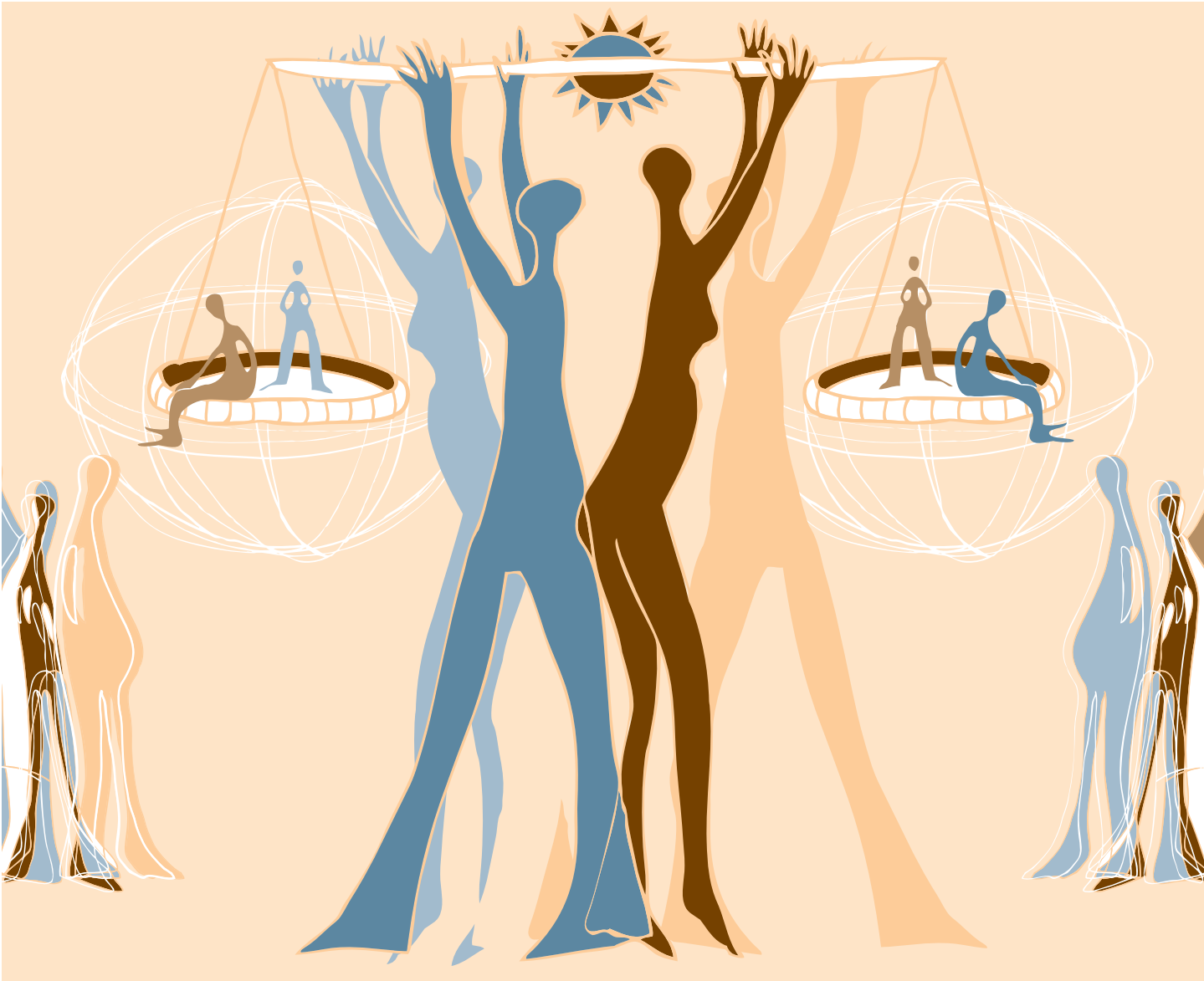




Why is Decent Work important?

Every person on earth should be able to have a job that enables them to live a good life in which their basic needs are met. Employment is a crucial factor for achieving this. This is why all governments should be urged to work more on job creation. Not just any jobs, of course, but decent jobs for everybody.

It is often argued that countries cannot afford to have fair wages and better conditions, however the short-term costs will quickly be outstripped by the long-term benefits. That is why Decent Work is the best way to fight global poverty. To most people around the world, lack of decent work means poverty.

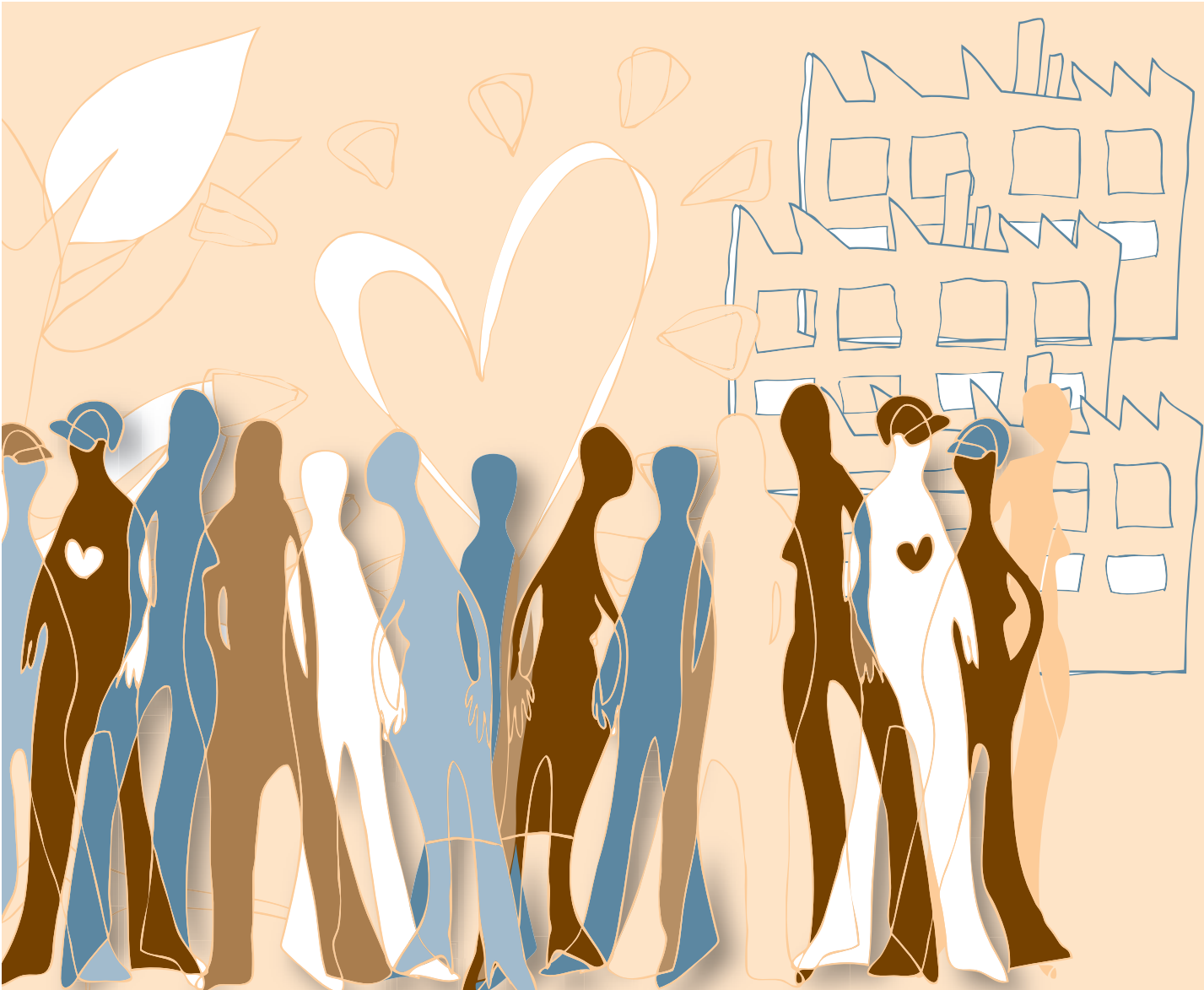


What is Decent Work?

Decent work, as a concept and an agenda, was introduced and initially promoted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 1999.

ILO definition of Decent Work

Decent work has been defined by the ILO and endorsed by the international community as being productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. Decent work involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income; provides security in the workplace and social protection for workers and their families; offers better prospects for personal development and encourages social integration; gives people the freedom to express their concerns, to organize and to participate in decisions that affect their lives; and guarantees equal opportunities and equal treatment for all.



Themes

There are three themes that you can connect your activities to on the World Day itself.

Rights at Work

The first of these sub-themes is dealing with the rights of working women and men. Action on this theme can include a range of possibilities, in particular the fundamental rights to organising, recognition and collective bargaining and protection from discrimination, forced labour and child labour, as well as the right to a healthy and safe working environment. It can also encompass the rights of all citizens to democracy, decent jobs, equality and quality public services. Indeed, quality public services are an integral part of the trade union movement's global agenda.

n°01



Solidarity

The second theme, which is heavily focused on practical action involving cooperation between affiliates in different countries, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, is based on solidarity. This could encompass activities in support of trade unions facing attacks by governments or employers, practical assistance to unions needing support for their campaign work or seeking to organise workers in formal or in informal and unprotected work, and building up actions within existing trade union joint work with other groups, such as on HIV-AIDS, development, human rights, gender, racism, migration and so on. In this way, existing solidarity networks can play an important role as vehicles for action, and also use the preparations for the day to reach out to others and build their own base of participation and support. The focus on trade union solidarity would need to link to the broader quest for solidarity between richer and poorer countries on development, aid, trade and investment.

n°02



Ending Poverty and Inequality

This theme takes up the world campaign against poverty, as well as global trade, aid and investment issues. It puts sustainable and equitable development at the heart of the new globalisation, and encompass the massive and growing income inequality which exists in many countries.

Join the Decent Work, Decent Life for Women Campaign

8 March 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day (IWD) whose origin is based in the protests, strikes and marches of women trade unionists. Their courage and determination to stand up for women workers' rights and the historical role of women trade unionists in the creation of IWD calls for a very special celebration on 8 March 2008. That is why we encourage you to join the two-year Global Campaign for Decent Work, Decent Life for Women.

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Activities

The circumstances and possibilities of the participating organisations vary widely, thus the we will need to provide for different types of actions which enable as many as possible to become involved. It is therefore envisaged that three types of activity be foreseen in the planning process:

- **Mobilisation** including rallies, demonstrations, marches, cultural events etc;
- **Thematic activities** including meetings, seminars, press events, lobby activities, and presentation of demands to governments, international institutions, employer organisations and employers; and,
- **Electronic activities** to facilitate the widest possible participation in the leadup to and during the day, including those who may not be in a position to take part in mobilisation or meetings. The ITUC is going to develop special interactive web pages with a range of easy-to-use applications to support the organising of the day. These would allow people to join in with actions linked to the day and download materials for use or modification.



The idea is to have as many things as possible happening during October 7 itself, but if there are any other activities in the weeks before or after, these can also be linked to the World Day for Decent Work.

It is important that activities carried out by every organisation involved are publicized to participants in other countries, and to the public, so that we can maximize the overall impact of the day. The website **www.ituc-csi.org** is the best place to co-ordinate all the activities. Or you can use the email **wddw@ituc-csi.org** or the address (ITUC, 5 Bvd Roi Albert II, Bte 1, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium) to tell us about your activities and find out what others are doing.

More information

Further information will be available over the next months, including ideas for activities, updates on what actions are developed by participating organisations, and background on topics of common concern.

For more information on the World Day for Decent Work you can look at the WDDW web page, where we will post all news about the campaign as soon as we can; **www.ituc-csi.org**

If you want to be added to the updates via email or just want to have more information, please send an email to: **wddw@ituc-csi.org** or contact the Department for Campaigns and Communications at ITUC.

Something to do now:

Even while you are planning what you are going to do on October 7, you can already sign the Call to Action for Decent Work Decent Life at **www.decentwork.org**

The World Day for Decent Work is an initiative of the ITUC,
and is supported by the Council of Global Unions.

The ITUC represents 168 million workers in 155 countries
and territories and has 311 national affiliates.

www.ituc-csi.org

