

May Day

"Contemporary unionism: May Day - a new view on the Brazilian trade union movement"

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On April 28, UGT, through a partnership with CESIT/UNICAMP (Center of Trade Union Studies and Labour Economy of the State University of Campinas), in an unprecedented way promoted the opening of the international seminar: contemporary unionism. This event aims at providing a reflection on the fight of the working class and on the Workers Day - May first.

With a full auditorium, this seminar was attended by more than 1,000 officers and trade union advisors.



The following people attended the opening seminar: Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, Manuel Dias, ministry of labour and employment, Eduardo Suplicy, senator, professor Anselmo Luís dos Santos, coordinator of CESIT / UNICAMP, Ademir Camilo, Roberto Santiago, Roberto de Lucena, João Eduardo Dado and Lourival Mendes, federal deputies and vice-presidents of UGT, Davi Zaia, State deputy and vice-president of UGT, Canindé Pegado, UGT's secretary general, Chiquinho Pereira, secretary of UGT's department of trade union organization and policies, José Moacyr, secretary of UGT's finance department Clemente Ganz, DIEESE technical director, Antônio Augusto Queiroz, Diap director of documentation/political scientist, Artur Henrique, municipal labour secretary, Francisco Gerson Marques, coordinator of Conalis/Labour and Employment Ministry, Associate Judge Rilma Aparecida Hemetério, 2nd Area of the Regional Labour Court, César Augusto Mello, president of the Trade Union Law of OAB (Bar's Federal Council), professor Luiz Alberto de Souza Aranha, vice-director of FAAP, Cassia Bufelli, secretary of UGT's women department, among others.

In his speech, Patah emphasized that this event is not exclusively focused on the financing of the trade union structure, but he recalled that through this autonomy that many trade union institutions fulfill their role of fighting for the advance of the rights of the working class, but they also end up providing aid service that, in most cases, try to fill gaps left by the public power, such as those that offer medical and odontological assistance.

"We are searching for a process of high quality debate within the trade union movement, bringing specialists from several countries to deepen this debate, since when we think of unionism, the trade union movement has been seriously hit by the major media and businessmen, what makes society achieve a perception of our representation that is very different from reality. Though our pillars are strong, we need to improve them", explains Patah.

According to Manuel Dias, minister of labour, this event promoted by UGT and by UNICAMP is essential since it advances in technology and innovation, workers cannot be damaged, for precarious work comes along with it and this type of discussion creates resistance and a new proposal for labour relations. "These events must be accompanied by knowledge, in order to capacitate and qualify to be able to prevent the thought that with innovation it is inevitable to make work precarious." (Fábio Ramalho - UGT press/ Pictures : FH Mendes)



Moral harassment at work



World day for safety and health at work
All over the world, millions of workers have accidents and hundreds of thousands die while working every year.

In Brazil, numbers are also impressive. However, this data represents only a small part of reality, due to the following reasons:



The numbers presented by the Brazilian government refer solely to formal workers, since public servants are entitled to a specific system of social welfare (another type of hiring), and do not receive the benefits of INSS (National Institute of Social Welfare), out of which this data is extracted from.

Another fact that contributes to knowledge of only a part of reality is that, though the Brazilian legislation determine that companies are to notify the occurrence of labour diseases and accidents at work, by issuing a CAT (communication of accident at work) document, employers systematically do not comply with this demand, especially when it deals with labour diseases.

In its turn, the increase of accidents at work and labour diseases, caused by the management and organization of production causes Brazil to spend billions of public resources with medical assistance, with benefits for temporary or permanent disability and pensions due to deaths of workers victims of bad working conditions. Besides, it is worth it to emphasize that diseases affect the lives of workers not only through an economic point of view but also through a social and professional point of view.

In this context, UGT and other Brazilian trade union centrals (CGTB, CTB, CUT, Força Sindical and NCST), which traditionally mark April 28 by organizing activities on a specific theme related to issues that affect the health and physical and psychological integrity of workers, are adopting the topic of moral harassment at work and organizational violence.

Throughout Brazil, trade union institutions will be holding protests on this issue and on other ones recalling several victims of this cruel process that places production and profit above the protection of life and integrity of people.

Workers Memorial Day

On April 28, World Day for Safety and Health at Work, trade unions worldwide will hold activities in memory of those who had accidents and in defense of the health and security of workers.

Follow the activities that will take place in the webpage of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).



See the images on World Work Day



Collective Bargaining in Public Administration

UGT attends debate at ILO on collective bargaining in the public administration

Lourenço Ferreira do Prado, president of the National Confederation of Workers of Credit Companies (CONTEC), vice-president of UGT and coordinator of the Trade Union Forum of Workers (FST) attended the World Forum on Collective Bargaining in Public Administration, which took place on April 02 and 03, at the head office of ILO in Geneva, Switzerland.



This event gathered representatives of the working class and employers of several countries that increased the discussion on the importance of the challenges that involve the collective bargaining in the public administration.

Among the issues that were put to discussion, some might be highlighted, such as the ones related to which way the collective bargaining might contribute to solve difficulties faced by the public administration, including effects of the financial economic crisis and which measures would be necessary to improve the development of the workforce, the professional progression, working conditions, efficiency and development through social dialogue.

"We may affirm, categorically, that this was a very important event for the Brazilian trade union movement and, especially, for the fight of the public servants that long for the legal ratification of the ILO convention 151, which establishes the protection of the right to organize and procedures for determining conditions of employment in the public service in the three spheres of government - municipal, State or federal", explains Lourenço Prado.

According to the trade union officer, though destined to workers of the public sector, this event concerned all workers, keeping in mind that in Brazil not only federal, state and municipal governments are the major employers, there are also autarchies, public companies, mixed economy companies and foundations, at all levels of the public administration, which end up being the matrices in charge.

Against child labour in the Soccer Cup

UGT signs manifest condemning companies that hire 12 years old teenagers to work as ball boys



UGT signed, along with other trade union centrals, a manifest condemning companies that hire 12 years old teenagers to work as ball boys during the Soccer World Cup.

"The World Cup is the main sports event of the world. It is good indeed to hold such a grand show here in Brazil, but this is no excuse to go against our Constitution. We cannot allow that to happen, otherwise, we will connive at this regression", explains **Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT**.

This document was also signed by the Labour Public Prosecutor, the national group of human rights of the national council of general attorneys of public prosecutors, the permanent commission of childhood and youth (COPEIJ), the National Council of Child and Teenager Rights (CONANDA) and the National Forum of Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour (Fnpeti), was registered under the national justice council (CNJ) and sent to minister Joaquim Barbosa.

This documento repudiates the recommendation of December 13, from CCJ, which allows the participation of teenagers in the activity of ball boy during the World Cup based on the principle of full protection to children and teenagers consecrated under the article 227 of the Federal Constitution. Besides, the constitution establishes that people under 16 are prohibited to perform any type of work. (*Fábio Ramalho – UGT press*)



Officers are to temporary resign from office on June 05

Trade union officers who intend to run for elections this year should temporary resign from their institutions on June 05 (four months prior to elections), the first round of elections will take place on October 05 (first Sunday of the month) and the second round will take place on October 26 (last Sunday of the month).

If a trade union officer does not resign in favor of workers, he or she might become ineligible. Resignations are not permanent nor do they imply on an abdication of their position in the trade union institution in case the officer is not approved in the party primaries.

Servant and public employees

As for servants and public employees who intend to run for elections, they must request a leave from the department they work until July 05 (three months prior to elections).

It is guaranteed, to public employees and employees of State companies, the right to salaries while they run for elections. Another important fact after July 05, until elected politicians are empowered, is the prohibition of the public administration to remove, transfer and dismiss public servants. (DIAP)

3rd March of Health of the State of Sao Paulo

On May 10, the Federation of the State of Sao Paulo of Health Workers, institution affiliated with UGT, holds, in several cities of the State the 3rd March of Health of the State of Sao Paulo. According to Edison Laércio de Oliveira, president of the federation, this will be a State mobilization to value health professionals, for better salaries, implementation of a national wage floor and 30 weekly hour working shifts for the class.

In the second edition that took place last May, the march was held in 31 cities, mobilizing more than 6 thousand workers who took it to the streets simultaneously with the goal of touching the population and health businessmen regarding the importance of professionals of this area for society.



Say no to sexual violence against children

The State university of Feira de Santana/UEFS and the Study Group of researches in childhood and adolescence (NNEPA) presented, to the community of Feira de Santana and semi-arid region of Bahia, the second version of the manual "Say no to sexual violence against children and teenagers in your city".



This publication is a result of a partnership between the team of NNEPA/UEFS, managers and professionals of instances that compose the "Integration networks - university and systems of health, education, social assistance, public security and guarantee of rights of childhood and adolescence" supported by the International Labour Organization/ILO and the Aid Foundation to Research of Bahia (FAPES).

In this issue, the contents were increased and updated with the goal of subsidizing professionals of this network in the daily work of implementation of measures of promotion, protection and intervention, in cases of victimized children and teenagers.

Diga não a violencia (Say no to violence).

"The União Geral dos Trabalhadores reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just. " Ricard Patah – UGT's President

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