



Achieving the end of violence against women

November 25 is already consolidated as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

This date also marks the first day of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, that culminates on December 10, in the International Human Rights Day. In order to strength the mobilization, the United Nations (UN) Women released a political agenda and announcements, in which it calls everyone to participate.

Through a message, **UN Women Executive Director, Michelle Bachelet**, emphasized that a lot has been achieved concerning women rights, however, there is still a long way to go. "Currently, 125 countries have specific laws that penalize the domestic violence, something unimaginable 20 years ago. The Security Council of UN recognized sexual violence as a tactic of a deliberated and planned war", she says.



National Forum of Female Workers of Trade Union Centrals

16 Days Campaign of Activism against Gender Violence

The list of things that must be done is long, and the problems cause serious consequences: there are 603 million women and children in countries where domestic violence is not yet considered a crime; six out of ten women already suffered physical or sexual violence; over 60 million girls are obliged to get married; 140 million girls and women suffer mutilation and more than 600 thousand girls and women are trafficked, most of them, to be sexually exploited.

In Brazil, every 04 (four) minutes, one woman is assaulted in their own home, by a person with whom they had a loving relationship.

In order to not leave anyone aside, UN points out 16 possibilities of action - informing to friends on the 16 activism days, creating an event (from exhibiting a movie on the violence against women, to organizing workshops, petitions, marches), participating in discussions in social network, giving opinions on the problem and making a donation to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, are some of the options. The National Forum of Female Workers of Trade Union Centrals is the association of representatives from UGT, CTB, NCST, Força Sindical and CGTB.



UGT considers small the reduction in the interest rate

In a combined statement, UGT and other trade union centrals, considered "extremely small the decrease of only 0,5% in the Basic Interest Rate".

Signed by Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, and by the presidents of CGTB, CTB, Força Sindical and NCST, the note points out that the "Central Bank lost a great opportunity to use the decrease of the world demand to make a drastic reduction in the interest rate, that could work as a stimulus to the creation of new jobs and to an increase in production in Brazil".



To the trade union centrals, "while Europe and the US are skidding in the economic crisis, Brazil has the possibility and the opportunity to keep and boost the internal economic activity and to create more employment and income, if it steadily invest on the internal market through a reduction in the interest rates (Selic), and by adopting policies that are guided to increase the credit offered to consumers and to companies.

"The reduction of the interest rate is also important to prevent the valorization of the real, that affects both the exports and the Brazilian industrial production, and it is also important to improve the fiscal situation of Brazil, since each 1% decrease on the Selic rate, the government saves R\$ 17 billion in the payment of interest of the public debt, money that lacks in the improvement of the economic and social infra-structure of Brazil, in education and in the public health."

The trade union centrals, that made a combined protest for a higher reduction in the interest rate, in front of the Central Bank, in Sao Paulo (picture), emphasized that "in the fight for the reduction in the interest rate, workers are together with all Brazilians who want to see a country free of rentiers and unbridled financial speculation, that have drained enormous amounts of resources that are vital to the national development".

Multinational companies do not pay taxes

New report clears out on the tax evasion of multinational companies



A new report, released in London by the International Education, a world trade union federation that deals with the educational area, documents the enormous amounts of income that governments loose due to tax evasion, done by multinational companies, and the impact that it has on education and other essential public services, that run the risk of suffering budgetary cuts.

"Hundreds of billions of dollars are lost every year, because companies have found new and complex ways of avoiding paying their taxes, and governments are competing to attract multinational investments, through a reduction of corporate taxes, that are lower and lower".

"Governments are effectively depriving their own citizens of tax income from companies, that could be better used to guarantee the quality of the public services. Therefore, the governments must be focused on ensuring that companies pay the fair amount that they are supposed to, instead of cutting public services, reducing salaries and reducing the rights of people at work, through wrong measures of fiscal austerity", said the General Secretary of ITUC, Sharan Burrow. "This report will help clearing out the fiscal evasion scandal of these companies".

The report Global Corporate Taxation and Resources for Quality Public Services was elaborated by the Education International Research Institute on behalf of the Council of Global Unions.

I Conference on Employment and Decent Work of São Paulo

The 1st State Conference on Employment and Decent Work was held on November 24 and 25, at the Memorial da América Latina in São Paulo, marking the construction of a tripartite state agenda (with the participation of the government, businessmen and workers) on employment and decent work. The approved proposals will be defended by the State during the 1st National Conference on Employment and Decent Work, that will take place next May.



"We held several pre-conferences, in important cities, during this year (Americana, Tupã and Praia Grande). Now, in this significant event, we will extract these demands and we will take, along with delegates from Sao Paulo, to the evaluation of the Federal Government, during the National Conference, that will be held next year", stated **the state secretary of employment of Sao Paulo, Davi Zaia**.

During the opening solemnity, the **national vice-president of UGT, Salim Reis**, emphasized the importance of a combined participation of the trade union centrals.

"Due to our action in a unified way that we were able to witness the minimum wage with a 7% of real raise". Salim also emphasized the imperious need to invest on the qualification of the Brazilian workers. "We cannot allow, in any circumstance, the subtraction of the rights that were achieved by the working class and we should advance in the proposals of professional qualification, this cause should unite the government, the private initiative and the union movement", stated the vice-president of UGT, Salim Reis.

The conference gathered 518 delegates that were evenly distributed, according to criteria of tripartite participation, including, besides the employers, labor and governmental sectors, the civil society. The event also elected 70 delegates from Sao Paulo (according to the same representation), that will participate in the 1st National Conference on Employment and Decent Work. (*Joacir Gonçalves, from UGT Press*)

The drama of Haitian workers in Amazonas

Tabatinga is located in the region of Alto Solimões, state of Amazonas, Brazil, and is in the border with Colombia and Peru. This city is also an important drug traffic route, and one of the points of entry of Haitians immigrants in the state of Amazonas (Brazil). This new migratory flow began in 2010 and it is fast growing. In January 2011, 1.500 Haitian immigrants had already crossed the border in an average rate of 8 per day.

The immigration began after the worse earthquake in Haiti for two centuries, that killed over 200 thousand people, and destroyed a large part of the country, one of the poorest countries in the world. According to the Federal Police of Brazil, 98% of Haitians arrived via border and then, go to Manaus, after going through customs.

Mônica Mata Roma, Assistant International Affairs Secretary of UGT, explains the current situation: "Haitians of Tabatinga are not only seeking for refugee, but mostly, for better conditions of life and job opportunities. Haitians that arrive at Tabatinga are getting legalized through a refugee request, however, it is a fact that they will not be legalized, once due to international treaties and according to the Brazilian legislation, the status of refugee is only given in cases of violation to human rights and political persecution".

To the Mexican **Andrés Ramirez, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)** representative in Brazil, "this is a issue that should start being discussed in international forums, since more and more displacements are taking place due to natural disasters". Monica Mata Roma defends "that a humanitarian visa should be granted to them, that would guarantee the right to live and work in Brazil, however, this resource does not guarantee other rights that the refugees have, such as medical and social assistance, Portuguese classes, housing and help to get into the job market".

UILPENSIONATI defends international union of retired people

On November 26, UGT received in its national head office, in Sao Paulo, the visit of the delegation of Unione Italiana Lavoratori Pensionati (UILPENSIONATI), that proposed the construction of an international institution of fight to increase the rights of the retired workers.

According to **Rubens Romano, president of the National Union of Pensioners, Retired and Elderly People of UGT (Sindiapi)** in order to fight for a more just society, it is necessary to find and solve the collective problems, strengthening the ideals of the working class and increasing the mobilization towards a more respectful life for the retired workers and pensioners.



To **Valdir Vicente, secretary of UGT's Public Policies Department** and General Secretary of the Coordinator of the Central Trade Union of the Southern Cone, it is essentially important to create an international organization of retired workers that organize the institutions in several countries and increase the battle against the effects of the crisis that fell upon Europe, mainly, concerning the reflect on developing countries. Romano Bellissima, general secretary of UILPENSIONATI, reiterated that the fight ideals of the retired workers and pensioners go beyond the requests of the working class and advances in social areas such as: health, income and quality of life. *(Fábio Ramalho – Redação da UGT)*

UGT receives representatives of the Public Minister of Labour

The creation of a path to settle a combine action in defense of the working class was the main agenda of the meeting between between the general attorney of the Public Minister of Employment, Dr. Luís Antônio Camargo de Melo and the national president of UGT, Ricardo Patah.

The meeting took place on November 30, at UGT's national head office. Besides the general attorney, other people were representing the Public Minister of Labour, such as the attorneys Dr. Ricardo José Macedo de Britto and Dr. Erlan Prado, both from Brasilia, and the attorney Dr. Francisco Gérson Marques de Lima, from Fortaleza. *(Joacir Gonçalves)*

COP17: Climate Negotiation



South African miners, energy workers from Japan, Argentinian civil construction workers and British teachers will join over 250 unionists from 100 countries, in a series of different national activities to face the climate change and the creation of jobs in **the Labour World pavilion**, during the negotiations of the UN meeting on **Climate Change in Durban, South Africa**.

While governments are getting ready to enter the most important round of negotiations for an international agreement on climate, the highest concentration of workers and trade unions in an UN conference on climate change will show that workers assumed the challenge so that their jobs and communities are resistant to climate, through the adoption of policies in the workplace and support to actions in the national and international levels.



"The General Union of Workers (UGT) 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. " Ricardo Patah – UGT's President

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