



Proposals for the 1st National Communication Conference

Union centrals gather to democratize communication means in Brazil. Dozens of journalists, press agents and unionists participated in the National Communication Seminar of Union Centrals (CTB, CUT, Força Sindical, GUW, CGTB and NCST).

The union centrals that were gathered on October, 21, at the GUW headquarter, in São Paulo, unified their proposals for the **1st National Communication Conference**. Nearly 40 unionists participated in the debates, besides institutions related to media demo-cratization. The main result of the seminar was the joint action agreement. At Confecom, all centrals will defend the same fight agenda, with seven proposals.



Communication Conference: proposals from union centrals

- To strengthen the communication public network;
- To establish a new regulatory mark for the sector;
- To strengthen community radios and televisions and fight against the state repression towards these medias;
- To enlarge and bring to the masses digital inclusion, with broadband to all;
- To set new criteria to official advertising;
- To elaborate new forms of public concession;
- To practice social control.

Three orientations were also defined: a) the repercussion of Confecom in the 6th Parade; b) the strengthening of the National Forum for the Communication Democratization (FNDC) and c) the scheduling of an audience with the president of Brazil in order to request a larger publicizing of Confecom and also the concession of a television channel to union centrals.

6th Working Class Parade



On November, 11, GUW and centrals promote the 6th Working Class Parade in Brasilia.

This year, the centrals anticipated the event to coincide with the PEC (Constitution amendment proposal) election that reduces the working hours for shift work from 44 to 40 weekly hours.

Seminar on Decent Work and Gender Equality

GUW (General Union of Workers) participated in the Regional Seminar on Decent Work that took place in San José, capital of Costa Rica, from October 12 to 14. The meeting had the participation of a delegation of female unionists from institutions affiliated with **TUCA (Trade Union Confederation of the Americas)** and, among them, Adriane Moscardim was at the act representing the national board, she is from the Union of Bank Workers of Ribeirão Preto (country of the state of São Paulo), an institution affiliated with G UW.



"Decent Work is a fundamental path to overcome poverty, to accomplish social inclusion and to promote equality of rights, social and opportunity protection", Adriane explains. The general objective of this meeting, according to the G UW delegate, is to strengthen the coordination actions and exchange of experiences, to reinforce union strategies to a higher participation and representation of women in unions and fall upon public policies orientated to the access of women to decent work.

In Brazil, the National Group of Decent Work (a tripartite group that has the participation of union centrals) is developing the National Plan of Decent Work, with the preoccupation of mainstreaming the perspective of gender in the creation of these policies. The priorities are: fundamental rights, social protection and the campaign "Gender Equality at the Heart of Decent Work", from ILO and TUCA-ITUC.

It's essential that we fight to promote gender equality.

President of G UW comments IBGE research

"It has to be watched out real close if women that went into the job market are not being discriminated by receiving lower salaries than the ones men are receiving and working more". The statement is from the **national president of G UW (General Union of Workers), Ricardo Patah**, while commenting a news from the Agência Brasil, that explained the increase of the participation of women in the job market. A survey done by the Summary of Social Indicators Department of IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) points out a 42 % growth between 1998 and 2008. On the other hand, the survey verified that, in a decade, the percentage of 10-15 years old girls lowered from 11,5% to 6,4%. However, 136 thousand female children still work as maids in 2008.

When it comes to the 136 thousand female children whose ages range from 10 to 15 years old that worked as maids, Patah explains that most of them haven't been able to go to school and their only option of work is this one, "although G UW fully respects this professional activity, they are not in working ages!", the president of G UW reminds. The IBGE survey observes an important data of the racial inequality point of view, although in decline, still persists in Brazil: in 2008, two thirds of young white people and less than one third of African-American and mulattos went to college; 14,7% of caucasian adult people have already graduated from college in 2008, while only 4,7% of African-American have done so. Another data to confirm this inequality is that among the 1% of the Brazilian people with the highest per capita income, only 15% were African-American or mulatto.

Ecology and Development at G UW

G UW (General Union of Workers) promoted on October, 23, the National Seminar on Ecology and Development - The New Economy of Low Carbon, with the participation of nearly 200 people, mostly unionists from several Brazilian cities.

One of the objectives of the event was to enlighten the working class on what is the COP 15 (**United Nations Climate Change Conference Copenhagen**) that will take place on December 7 and 8, in the capital of Denmark.

While doing the official opening, the president of G UW, Ricardo Patah highlighted the importance of union chairpersons in engaging into this movement that concerns the future of the planet.



He informed that, next February, G UW will promote another seminar to evaluate the proposals approved at COP15 and how they will be applied in Brazil.

The Ecology Seminar of G UW, held at the auditorium of the Braston Hotel, in downtown São Paulo, had a didactic part when it came to climate and environmental issues presented by the lecturers Luiz Gilvan Meira (Visiting Researcher from the Advanced Studies Institute, USP), Marcelo Furtado (Greenpeace), Carlos Cavalcante (Fiesp Energy Director), Antonio Carlos de Macedo (Director of the Brazilian Rural Society), Sídney de Miguel (Professor and Economist, former Federal Deputy and supporter of the Green Party), Luiz Pinguelli Rosa (Secretary of the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change), the professor Alexandre Pessoa and the environmentalist Fábio Feldmann.(former federal Deputy and former secretary of the Environment Department of the state of São Paulo).

The seminar was divided into three parts. In the first part, during the morning, the topic "The climate issue" was covered with lectures from Luiz Gilvan Meira and Marcelo Furtado, explaining on climate changes and the greenhouse effect and their consequences to mankind. During the afternoon, in the second part, Carlos Cavalcante, Antonio Carlos de Macedo and Sídney de Miguel made their speeches. Right after the lectures, the audience participated with questions to the lecturers. In the third and last part, it was the time for the environmentalist Fábio Feldmann, the professor Pinguelli and Alexandre Pessoa to do their speeches.

All the lecturers made compliments to the initiative of G UW for doing this seminar, like Fábio Feldmann, who emphasized that the environment issue should not be restricted only to environmental sectors but also to unions when it comes to transmitting to their foundations the changes that have already occurred and the ones that will certainly occur in the next years of life on planet Earth.

The **president Ricardo Patah** said that G UW will be "very well represented at the Copenhagen, in Copenhagen, because the topics that are going to be discussed also interest the Brazilian union movement". The coordination of the seminar was in charge of the **General Secretary of G UW, Canindé Pegado** and the **Secretary of the Environment and Sustainable Development Department, Francisco Braga de Souza**.

G UW National Seminar - Economy

Braston Hotel São Paulo
October, 29, 2009



Commerce workers of São Paulo achieve a 7,5% raise

The 450 thousand commerce workers of São Paulo achieved a salary readjustment, retroactive to September, 1, of 7,5% for the class wage floor and 7% for the other wage floors. That represents a real raise of 3% and 2,5%, respectively.

Ricardo Patah, president of the Commerce Workers Union, says that the agreement was a victory to the commerce workers, because this is the first time, in the last six years, that the class achieves a real raise of 3%. The unionist emphasizes that, besides the real raise, the class established new rules for the commerce opening on Sundays and holidays.



GUW participates in 7th Urban Workers Congress



The **General Union of Workers - GUW**, represented by the colleague **Canindé Pegado, General Secretary of the National GUW**, was present at the opening of the 7th Urban Workers Congress, that took place at the Vacation Colony Ministro João Cléofas, in Caraguatatuba, north coast of São Paulo, on October 2 to the 4th, 2009.

In the event, commanded by the colleague Marquito Duarte, president of SINTIUS and director of the Urban Worker Department of the National GUW, and with a wide participation of the delegates that were present, the directions of the class for the next years.

GUW state branch of Piauí is founded

On October, 20, an important event to the union movement in Piauí happened: the foundation of the **GUW (General Union of Workers)** state branch. The event took place at the headquarter of the Union of Town Servants and counted on the presence of the national secretary of the Organization and Union Policies Department of GUW, Chiquinho Pereira, besides other union authorities of the state.

GUW participates in ILO course in Turin

GUW (General Union of Workers) participated in the course on "Union Education, Organization and Action" among the lusophone (Portuguese speaking countries, being this language the sixth most spoken in the world) countries of America and Africa. The adjunct secretary of the **International Relationships Department, Eleuza de Cássia Bufelli Macari** and the member of the Fiscal Council, **Sidiney de Paula Corral** were representing the **National GUW**.



The event took place from September, 28 to October, 16, at the **International Education Center of ILO (International Labour Organization)**, in Turin, Italy.



"The General Union of Workers (GUW) 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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