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## GWU celebrates International Women's Day

Through women that live on the streets of São Paulo, the **General Workers Union (GWU)** and the **Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo** confirmed, this March, 8, International Women's Day, their option and preoccupation with the socially excluded families.

**The event will be held on March 7 and 8.**

On the International Women's Day, GWU will receive at the Vale do Anhangabaú the visit of women from São Paulo and their families that live on the street, tenement houses, slums, that are roofless and collectors of recycling materials.

The event is structured to receive 8 thousand people, that will have access to social care, support to recover of personal documents and access to baths, haircuts and change of clothes.

"The social economic bonding necessary to face the crisis also includes the mobilization of women and families victim of social exclusion", affirms Ricardo Patah.

The initiative of GWU on March, 8, is original while mobilizing families that live on the street through the mothers of these families and, at the same time, seeking for support of the public opinion to a situation that worries everyone. The clothes that are being donated, for instances, are being collected in the neighborhoods, through an action of GWU and Commerce Workers Union volunteers.

On the first day, the event will focus on social matters. And on March, 8, there will be concerts at the event with all women from São Paulo, with the presence of authorities and political and religious leaders.

### International Event in the south discusses the role of the woman

Event will consist of two days of activities in Santana do Livramento (RS), with the participation of delegations of countries that are part of the Mercosur

The role of the woman in Mercosur, in society, in the family, at work, in politics and in the spheres of power will be the main subject of the activities that will be held on March, 7, in Santana do Livramento, on the border Brazil - Uruguay, as part of the celebration of the International Women's Day. The event is provided by the **General Workers Union (GWU)** through the **Committee of Women of the Southern Cone Coordinator of Central Trade Unions**.

"It's this city in the most southern point of Rio Grande do Sul that has the highest index of cases of violence against women", explains **Eleuza de Cássia Bufelli Macari**, coordinator of the project and **adjunct-secretary of the Secretaryship of International Relationships of GWU**.

On March, 8, there will be a public act with the participation of delegations from the four countries that are part of the Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay). The prevision is to gather at least 10 thousand people.



## Crisis: Get to know the proposals of GWU

The General Workers Union elaborated in the beginning of January a document containing suggestions for the government to face the economic crisis and guarantee job positions. The document, with five pages, was elaborated by unionists and economists of the Union central and starts from the principle that the government, businessmen, workers and society should not measure efforts in the sense of avoiding that the economic crisis that world is going through affects in a painful way the working class and consequently the Brazilian economy and society.



The document is divided into two parts, one of emergency nature, whose objectives are to defend labor rights, jobs, salaries and the other part consists of a structural nature, applied to medium and long term, to defend workers, the national economy, stability and sustainable development.

The proposals of GWU were delivered to the Ministry of Labor Carlos Luppí and to the president Luis Inácio Lula da Silva, on January, 13 and 19, respectively.

Below, we highlight some of the items proposed in the document:

- a) Increase of unemployment checks shares
- b) extinction of extra hours
- c) reduction of shifts without reducing wages, in a way to allow the creation of new job positions
- d) adoption of social compensations and maintenance of jobs (not only the level of jobs) from all companies / economic sectors in difficulty that received public resources; at the same time, the loans made to these companies should be traced by the unions of the respective workers in order to keep their jobs
- e) adoption of the Convention 158 of the ILO (International Labor Organization). It prohibits the dismissal of a worker "unless there is a justified reason to do so".

[Read the document in full. \(portuguese\)](#)

### Government increases share of the unemployment check

On February, 11, the Deliberative Body of Aid Fund to the Worker (Codefat) authorized the payment of the unemployment check share to the worker for a period of five to seven months. Currently the share is paid from three to five months. The benefit is valid to people that worked in the sectors that were affected the most by the crisis

Through a statistics survey of the Ministry of Labor and Job, based on the general records of employed and unemployed between the months of December and February, sectors with the highest incident of job positions lost will be identified, workers from these sectors will have the right to receive up to seven shares of the benefit. The amount to be paid varies according to the salary level of the beneficiary. The list of beneficiaries will be released in March, 2009, and the payment will be made from April and on, automatically.

The measure is temporary and will be restrained only to the sectors that are suffering the most with the crisis and the states that had most dismissals in this area. The only ones allowed to receive the benefits are the ones who lost their jobs from December, 1, 2008, and on, stated the minister of Labor, Carlos Lupi.

To the general secretary of GWU, Canindé Pegado, who is also a member of the Codefat, though the central defends a raise in the number of shares, the measure will contribute to minimize the drama of the workers that lost their jobs due to the crisis.

Among the sectors that should be benefited with the raise of shares are the mechanic industry; rubber, tobacco, leather, shoes industry; mineral extraction; industry of non metallic mineral products; chemical industry; agriculture; retail commerce; and industry of transportation material.

## Councilmen of the Deliberative Body of CODEFAT and GWU want Embraer to return the money of the FWA

**Canindé Pegado, General Secretary of the GWU**, representative of the workers at the **Deliberative Body of Aid Fund to the Worker - CODEFAT** will demand that the banks that used resources credit from the the **Fund for Workers' Assistance (FWA)** and loaned money to EMBRAER to settle in advance the loans that were made, once the financing to the company was linked to job generation.

"EMBRAER disobeyed the agreement and sanctioned this Thursday, the dismissal of over 4 thousand workers. That is why it is fair that the money from the FWA finances the generation of jobs and income and not unemployment, as EMBRAER is doing", said the councilman.



The General Secretary of GWU, Canindé Pegado, participated in the World Social

Pegado requested to the executive secretary of CODEFAT, a survey of all the amount that EMBRAER benefited with the resources from the FWA along with financial agents, to formalize in the beginning of the week the request that EMBRAER returns immediately the money from the FWA. "The money belongs to the worker and will be returned, even if it has to be taken to court" states Canindé Pegado.

Ricardo Patah, national president of GWU, present at the discussions on the subject, said that in a meeting with the national executive of GWU, it was approved the support to the proposal of the councilman that represented the workers.

Forty per cent of the FWA resources, besides other special credit lines approved by CODEFAT are destined to financial programs of economic development. "The companies that were benefited by these resources have to generate jobs as a compensation, though many of them do not originate one single job position. They should take advantage of the crisis and do their homework before taking jobs away. We would be irresponsible to allow this company to take a job away and still keep the FWA resources in the strongbox", said Patah.

Another councilman, **Roberto Nolsaco**, who is also at the group of representatives of workers in the CODEFAT is in accordance with the initiative, saying that the FWA is the Fund of Worker's Assistance and not the Fund of Aid to the Unemployment".

### Court suspends dismissals at Embraer

The president of the Regional Labor Court (RLC from Campinas, chief judge Luis Carlos Cândido Martins Sotero da Silva, granted today morning, February, 27, a restraining order that suspends until March, 5, the 4,2 thousand dismissals at the Brazilian Company of Aviation (Embraer). The employees were fired on February, 19.

In the lawsuit, the union institutions argued that Embraer ignored the unions and didn't established any kind of negotiation before making official the mass dismissal. It was also argued that since it's a company with a high index of profit, it wouldn't need these dismissals to face occasional financial crisis.

### National Protest Day

In the afternoon of February, 27, **GWU** participated along with other union centrals, in a protest act, that gathered a large number of workers in front of the Embraer industry, in São José dos Campos - SP.

According to the general secretary of **GWU, Canindé Pegado**, the representatives of the centrals that participated in the manifestation study the establishment of a national protest day against dismissals of workers. "Next week we'll gather again to define the date of this event", informed the general secretary of **GWU**.

## GWU finds new minimum wage of São Paulo reasonable

The raise of 12,22% on the salary levels to workers of the private sector, whose professional classes have low union mobilization, announced by the Governor José Serra in the morning of February, 16, was considered reasonable by Ricardo Patah, national president of the General Workers Union. The minimum wage of the state of São Paulo will reach mainly domestic and rural workers.



Patah participated in the ceremony and highlighted that the raise will reach 1 million out of the 12 millions of workers from the state of São Paulo and has a great importance, because it represents an injection of 40 million reais per month in the economy of São Paulo. "In a moment of financial crisis it is important to the economy and job maintenance in several classes, mainly commerce and service sectors, the largest ones represented by GWU."

There are three wage levels that will be benefited by the new level standard of São Paulo. They are:

Level 1: raised from R\$ 450,00 to R\$ 505,00

Level 2: raised from R\$ 475,00 to R\$ 530,00

Level 3: raised from R\$ 505,00 to R\$ 545,00

The president of GWU emphasized that the raise of 12,22% has a larger meaning because it will limit the next wage negotiations of the classes linked to GWU in São Paulo. "São Paulo is the largest employer state of the country, if the workers from this state get an index of a higher raise it will reflect all over the country, such as readjustments above inflation and real profits that will stimulate economy and help Brazil to go through this crisis without any kind of trauma".

### ILO's Adviser makes compliments to the communication sector of GWU

In her visit to Brazil, to keep contact with the six union centrals, the adviser of the International Labor Organization (ILO), Carmem Benitez, from the regional office of Lima, Peru, was received on Thursday morning, February, 19, by Ricardo Patah, national president of GWU.

On the opportunity she made sure to compliment the work of the GWU communication sector, that according to Benitez "brings a website with a very rich and dynamic content, and has several publications (bulletins, newspapers, magazine) that I receive periodically".

The representative of ILO highlighted that the organization intends to develop actions in order to stimulate the union institutions to create and organize their communication departments.

After that, Carmem Benitez joined the journalist team of the GWU Agent Press department to get to know how is developed the communication process of the union institution. The ILO leader got to know fully the procedures of news supply of the GWU website, getting information from the journalist Marco Roza.





## GWU participates in the release of the Committee of Immigrants and Refugees

The municipal council of São Paulo held on February, 5, the release of the **São Paulo Committee of Immigrants and Refugees**. Composed of public institutions and organizations of the civil society, the committee has the mission of searching for the valorization of human rights and the inclusion of foreigners in a vulnerable situation in São Paulo. The committee will also be a space for discussion of public policies towards immigrants and refugees.



The event counted on the participation of **GWU**, represented by the secretary of the Executive department, **Tadeu Amaral** and by the adviser **Francisco Rosas**, that integrates the directorship of **ANFATE - National Organization of Families and**

**Workers Abroad** - institution affiliated to **GWU**.

The special secretary of Human Rights of the city of São Paulo, **José Gregori**, reminded that the work of sheltering immigrants is already made in São Paulo, but emphasized the importance of creating a committee. "It will be a way to optimize and value all this work, a link in search of the defense of human rights". Gregori also highlighted one of the first activities of the group. "One of the first fights will be a request to the Federal Government to grant amnesty to the refugees", said the secretary.

The São Paulo Committee of Immigrants and Refugees will also be an open channel of dialogue between the society and the public power, as highlighted by the **GWU** representative, Tadeu Amaral.

## GWU and "Mascaro e Nascimento" sign a partnership

**GWU** celebrated a partnership with the office **Mascaro e Nascimento Attorneys**, with the objective of offering high quality juridical services to all its affiliated union institutions.

Since the first two weeks of February, there is a professional from the labor office at the GWU headquarter, from Monday to Friday, to serve exclusively any appeal and doubt from our unions.

Among the main service that will be performed, the most outstanding ones are:

- Juridical Consultancy of issues related to labor law
- Elaboration of a union bulletin on a monthly basis, diffusing the main news related to labor law and the most relevant sentences of the labor courts all over the country.

The **president of GWU, Ricardo Patah**, assures that "there will be made a mapping of the most relevant union demands of the institutions affiliated to GWU, so that the quality of the service is up to the mark of the presented need". Patah highlights that this partnership will help in the best possible way the affiliated unions to deal with the issues that are pertinent to the Labor Law.

The service will be made by Dr. Renan, that can be reached by the phone (11) 2111-1803 and through the e-mails: [estudoug@ugt.org.br](mailto:estudoug@ugt.org.br) , [renam@mascaro.com.br](mailto:renam@mascaro.com.br) .



**"The General Workers Union 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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Adress : Rua Formosa, 367 - 24º andar Centro CEP 01049-000 São Paulo - SP  
Fone: 55(11) 2111-7300 Fax: 55(11) 2111-7301 e-mail: [ugt@ugt.org.br](mailto:ugt@ugt.org.br)