



UGT has the honor to invite colleagues to

"UGT Women with LIFE"

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8. It is a day of women's fight, marked, all over the world, by demonstrations that follow ideals in defense of equality!

Dia Internacional da Mulher



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This year, **UGT** and thousands of workers will gather to reflect over the participation of women in life, society and in the union movement. Our priorities in this act will be the defense of wage equality, fight against violence towards women, legal ratification of ILO - International Labour Organization - Convention No 156 (Sharing Work and Family Responsibilities).

Defending wage equality, fighting violence against women, ratifying ILO - International Labour Organization - Convention No 156 (Sharing Work and Family Responsibilities) will be some of the fight ideals that will be shown by UGT on March 07, during the act "Women with LIFE", which will be held at Vale do Anhangabaú, Sao Paulo.

The act is being organized by UGT, to mark the International Women's Day, celebrated on March, 8. It is all about a day of the women's fight all over the world, marked by demonstrations under equality ideals. Through "Women with LIFE", UGT intends to mobilize thousands of workers to reflect over the participation of women in life, society and in the union movement.

During the 9th Plenary Session of the National Executive Board of UGT, Rosane Sasse, adjunct-secretary of the Women's Department, talked about the fight to approve the law that extends the maternity leave to six months, but she regretted that this law has not been followed by companies and she suggested an exhibition of a project aiming to turn this law, currently an optional law, into a mandatory one. A representative from the state of Para informed that on March 8 there will be a lecture to 200 women, to broach the subject "Women and the importance of their vote".

UGT organizes plenary session at Braston Hotel

Celebrations of the International Women's Day, main accomplishments of 2009, goals for this year and even union and partisan politics were some of the topics under discussion at the 9th Plenary Session of UGT's Board of Directors. on February 23.

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, while opening the event, said that, last year, the planned goals were accomplished by UGT, considering that 723 valid affiliated unions were reached, emphasizing that by June it is expected to reach 1000 affiliations. Presidents of all UGT's State branches and several secretaries were present at the meeting.

International Women's Day is a special program on March, 7 (on the day before the official date), in Sao Paulo. The initiative is from the national UGT and the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo through a partnership with Sesc and the City Hall.



Five thousand women are expected to attend the event, not to mention their families. The party, scheduled to begin at 9 A.M., at Largo do Anhangabaú, will have a simulated jury to debate the Maria da Penha Law; play representing women, since Adam and Eve, social activities such as medical, juridical services, haircut and manicure ending with a concert of Jair Rodrigues and his son Jairzinho.

Silvana Mesquita, secretary of the Accessibility Department, requested the state branches to motivate affiliated unions to demand that companies fulfill the current legislation as far as it concerns hiring disabled people in their staff. "I speak on behalf of only 10% of the Brazilian people, but I do it proudly, since I am in charge of an important position at UGT, whose board of directors is touched by the accessibility issue", Silvana said.

UGT objects data from Fecomércio-RJ on holidays sales

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, objected data provided by the Commerce Federation of the state of Rio de Janeiro (Fecomércio-RJ) on the losses in commerce of goods, services and tourism, due to 12 holidays on business days in 2009.

According to him, information from Fecomércio-RJ, whose estimates are that the sector did not receive R\$ 55 billions last year due to holidays, "does not reflect the reality perceived by us, workers, since commerce in Brazil and, especially in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, do open on holidays". Patah said that thanks to holidays, "commerce gained a lot more and sold a lot more". Facts publicized by Fecomércio - RJ "are wrong", he assured.

The president of UGT said that if commerce sold less, it wasn't due to holidays. He reaffirmed that, not only do they open their doors, but commerce also increase its sales on these days, because workers, like metallurgist and bank workers, that do not work on holidays, will be able to shop more".

He admitted that the sector might sell less this year, but he pointed out that this will not be a result from holidays. Though the work on holidays and on Sundays represent an additional cost to businessmen, Patah noticed that there is no loss to commerce.

"If this cost were so high, there wouldn't be that much fight, even in the Federal Chamber, to keep the legislation allowing shops to open on holidays. If the commerce sector could not open on holidays it would even be better to us, workers, because many of them do not want to work on holidays. But, due to flexible working schedule of commerce workers all over Brazil, that, actually, brought up a huge intensification for commerce when it comes to sales".

UGT State branch of Parana: new affiliations

UGT's State Branch of Parana formalized, under a solemnity that delivered a union affiliation document to Sinpospetro Curitiba, affiliations of another five unions from the state of Parana. On the opportunity, the following unions affiliate with UGT: **Union of Public Servants from Jacarezinho, from Telémaco Borba and Sapopema, Union of Rural Workers of Sapopema, not to mention Sinpospetro Curitiba.**

"UGT is a union central that searches for important union institutions and serious union chairpersons in this country. Here, in Parana, it's a quarrel, inch by inch among union centrals. At this moment, it is very satisfying, to us, watching five new unions affiliating with UGT. It raises the representation of UGT in the State of Parana, as well as the representation of UGT at a Federal level, which is currently considered one of the largest union centrals in Brazil", **Canindé Pegado, General Secretary of the National UGT**, said.

Marcelo Urbaneja, president of UGT's State Branch of Parana, talked about the importance of the affiliation of Sinpospetro and another 4 unions: "all this work is product of an active board of directors from UGT that is talking to union leaders from the most diverse classes showing which principles and actions UGT will follow in Brazil. This way we are assembling new values, which are represented by these recently affiliated institutions".

"UGT has a primary role in the life of unions. It is a direct connection with Legislative and Executive powers. UGT is always committed with the defense of union's rights and it is a strong hand we have to defend our municipal, state and national claims. Our union, which is small, after affiliating with UGT starts to be strong", Santilho Marinho, president of the Union of Public Servants of Jacarezinho said.

We must end the Social Security Factor

Luiz Antônio de Medeiros, Secretary of Labour Relationships of the Labour Ministry

When you were a child, your grandmother probably told you about the boogie man. And you probably got scared or not. Now that you've grown, and you are retired - or about to - I will tell you about another boogie man" the Social Security Factor". Not to mention that the term itself is almost a bad word, isn't it? If that boogie man from childhood was a fantasy, this one is pure reality and it is eating up salaries from retired people. And now is the time to get really scared. Now that this boogie man was created, under the reform of the Social Security, in 1999, through the law number 9876, aiming to reduce expenses of the Social Security. But the thing is: this law has turned into one of the greatest crimes against the rights of workers and retired people all over the country.

And you know why? To whoever retires due to their age, this law reduces retirements in up to 25%, and they might reach 40%, damaging especially the lower classes, that, usually starts working earlier.

I'll give an example: with the Social Security, a 60 year old worker and 25 years of contribution, if you want to retire due to your age, you will not receive the entire amount of your retirement. If you want to receive it, you will have to reach the time of contribution and then, finally retire at the age of 70. That is, according to IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics), the average life expectancy of a Brazilian citizen is 71 years old. That means, workers contribute their entire life and only retire with full benefits when they are about to die, which is absurd, because it is essential that the retired workers have time for leisure and fun.

Whoever is going to retire due to time of contribution will also be damaged.

And in this case, the damage might reach 26% out of your benefits (when it comes to women, the reduction will be even higher, reaching 38%).

Therefore, it is very important to end this immorality called Social Security Factor. In order to do so, Senate has already approved the Law Project 3299/08, PL 4434/08 (which recomposes the value of retirement), and PL 01/07 (which regulates the readjustments of retirements and pensions).

These projects still need to be approved by the Chamber. Me and the Labour Relationships Department I work for - and the Minister of Labour and Employment itself - will make an effort, with all of our strength, to kill this monster.

Motorcycle couriers from Osasco are recognized

The **Union of Motorcycle Couriers of Osasco (SIMOSASCO)**, affiliated with UGT, recently received a Union Record Certificate, signed by Carlos Lupi, minister of Labour and Employment. "Finally the minister signed our Union Record Certificate, this document legitimates SIMOSASCO, which is now the only representative of the class in the comprehended region", **Reinaldo Carias de Moraes (Scooby)**, president of the union stated.

According to him, "this victory was only made possible through persistence and fight of all board of directors, of our class that was always so united while searching to accomplish our initial project, especially the colleagues **Ricardo Patah, president of UGT**, and **Luiz Antonio de Medeiros, secretary of Labour Relationships**, a colleague that was always present in the defense of the Brazilian union movement."



The defense of the interests of motorcycle couriers at all national territory has made UGT announce the foundation of the **National Department of Motorcycle Couriers**.

Alceu Stival, President of the Union of Insurance Workers of Paraná, passed away



In charge of the Union of Insurance Workers since 1987, the **colleague Alceu Stival**, who has always defended rights and benefits of this class with the same responsibility that he took care of his family, leave us today at the age of 69.

Marcelo Urbaneja, president of **UGT State Branch of Paraná**, deeply mourned the loss of the colleague: "it is a painful moment to the family of Alceu, and it was also a very sad and unexpected loss to us, who have worked together with him in unionism".

UGT is in mourning and through its National President, Ricardo Patah, it is solidary with the family of Alceu Stival, with its board of directors and colleagues from UGT Parana.

Dieese defends 40-hour weekly shifts

Dieese (Inter Trade Union Department of Statistics and Socio-Economic Studies) publicized a note in which it defends the approval, under the Congress, of the PEC that reduces working hours for shift work, currently established in 44 weekly hours, down to 40 weekly hours. "The cost of salaries in Brazil is very low when compared to other countries, according to info of the American Labour Department. This way, the reduction of shifts would not bring losses to competitiveness of Brazilian companies", as written in the note.

According to Dieese, the manufacturing labor costs in Brazil are US\$ 5,96, a very inferior value to the ones paid in Germany (US\$ 37,66) or the United Kingdom (US\$ 29,73).

[Click here and check the note of Dieese in full.](#)



"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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