



## Looking forward to the end of violence against women!



A public protest for the end of violence against women organized by the **Southern Cone Coordinator of Central Trade Unions (CCSCS)** was held at the Nereu Ramos Auditorium in the National Congress, on November 24, in Brasilia. The activity is part of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

"Violence against women is a serious problem that is not restricted to Brazil. A global articulation is necessary to put an end in this social wound", informed the chairperson from UGT and coordinator of Trade Unions in the Southern Cone, **Cássia Bufelli**.

According to Cássia, a regional document will be elaborated and sent to the presidents and parliamentarians of the Mercosur countries.

### November 25: World day to fight for the end of violence against women

The date of November 25 was picked to pay a homage to the three sisters (Maria, Patria e Minerva), from the Dominican Republic, that, in 1960, during the Trujillo dictatorship, were brutally killed.

Violence against women is a serious problem that reaches millions of women all over the world. UGT finds it essential to face this problem. The 10th Plenary Session of the National Board of Executives approved the "**Carta de Joinville**", that starts a permanent campaign of UGT that repudiates all sorts of violence against women

Indignation marked the speech of the **national president of UGT, Ricardo Patah**, in his intervention in Joinville, in defense of the campaign. "We feel nothing but indignation concerning this kind of violence that, according to statistics, is responsible for the murder of 28 women per day", Patah stated.

The women's fight, that has been taking place for decades, achieved an important victory in Brazil, represented by the Maria da Penha Law (Law number 11.340/2006). Since this law became effective, the criminals that harm women will go through more severe fines, besides easing paths for women to be able to make accusations and get out of a violent situation. Now we must go further.

To **Valdir Vicente de Barros, secretary of UGT's Public Policies department**, "it is vital that crimes against women are considered "public domain crimes", what will demand an immediate action of governments, through an investigation of these crimes and an exemplary punishment of criminals, not depending on accusations from women that not only are victims as well as they are threatened by their aggressors."

UGT also participates in Mercosur Conference on Employment and Decent Work on November 25 and 26, in Brasilia.

### UGT discusses Racial Equality Statute in Salvador

Putting up resources to increase the professional capacitation of the African-American population of Brazil was one of the topics discussed during the opening of the **2nd Seminar on Human Diversity**, promoted by the **Diversity Issues Department of UGT, in Salvador, Bahia**.



According to Canindé Pegado, general secretary of UGT, "an item that cannot be forgotten in this document that will come out of the seminar, is the one related to an increase in resources of the Workers Aid Fund (FAT) to qualify African-Americans of this country", stated Pegado during the opening of the event on November 19.

The seminar had the main goal of deepening the implications of the new Racial Equality Statute in the labor world.

To **Magno Lavigne, secretary of UGT's Human Diversity Issues Department**, "we are here on a singular opportunity to evaluate the statute and use it as an important tool that brings concrete benefits to the working class".

The seminar had lectures of the speakers Sérgio Sepúlveda, advisor of the Executive Department of the Ministry of Employment and Work, Dr. Wilson Prudente, labor attorney from Rio de Janeiro, Dr. Dojival Viera, lawyer and editor of Afropress, and Dra. Maria Adalice Gonçalves, lawyer specialized in African religions issues.

Afterwards, the issue of the African religion and culture in the Racial Equality statute was discussed, with the lecturers Dr. João Jorge; professor Moacir Pinho and Dr. Alexandro Reis. "Trade union centrals: affirmative actions", lecture given by Cleonice Caetano de Souza, president of Inspir and secretary of UGT's Health and Security at Work, and also by Dr. Regina Célia da Silveira.

### Letter of Salvador will be delivered to Dilma and governors

The **II National Meeting of Human Diversity of UGT** was responsible for the elaboration of the "Letter of Salvador" with proposals in defense of an inclusion of the African-American population to basic needs of citizens. Data that has been researched, as the most recent research from the Ethos Institute/Ibope show that the proportion of African-Americans in the staff of the 500 largest companies of Brazil has increased from 25,1% to 31,1% from 2007 to 2008, however, they also show a gap of the inequality caused by the inheritance of almost 400 years of slavery.

According to the research, the profile of companies in direction and management positions remains almost 100% represented by white caucasians: they represent 93,3%, and in positions of management and supervision the African Americans represent 13,2% and 25,6%, respectively. The African-American population represents 51,3% out of the total population, according to IBGE.

In the "Letter of Salvador", that will be sent to the elected president Dilma Rousseff and to the elected governors of all states and the governor of the Federal District, there should be included proposals to improve the Racial Equality Statute - Law 12.228/2010 - , starting with the defense of the proposal of its regulation.

### Brazil, India, South Africa sign Agreement on Decent Work and Development

Brazil, India and South Africa have signed a Declaration of Intent on South-South cooperation with the **International Labour Office (ILO)** in the field of Decent work.

The agreement was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Ambassador **Celso Amorim**, the Deputy International Relations Minister of South Africa, Mr. **Marius Lewellyn Fransman**, and the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mr. **Gopinathan Achamkulangare**, and Mr. **Juan Somavia**, Director-General of ILO.

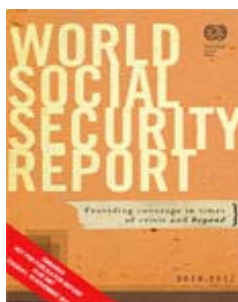


The **IBSA-ILO Declaration** builds on the commitments expressed by India, Brazil and South Africa in previous IBSA Summits to promote cooperation as an important tool for achieving social and economic development.

The instrument also recalls that the three countries have been working for a job-intensive recovery from the economic crisis, as well as for a framework for sustainable growth, as enshrined in the Global Jobs Pact adopted unanimously by the ILO's International Labour Conference in June 2009.

The Declaration also heralds the intent to strengthen the ILO South-South Cooperation Programme to foster greater solidarity and enhance equality among countries and peoples in the world of work.

### World Social Security Report



Social security plays critical role in times of crisis, but still eludes much of the world

A new report by the **International Labour Office (ILO)** says that while social security measures have played a critical role in reducing the social impact of economic crises both now and in the past, basic social security coverage remains out of reach for most of the world, especially in low-income countries.

The "**World Social Security Report 2010-2011: Providing coverage in times of crisis and beyond**" – the first in a series to be published every two years – also examines the gaps in access to social security programmes in areas such as health care, pensions, social assistance, and unemployment benefits. It also finds that most of world's working age population and their families lack effective access to comprehensive social protection systems.

"The current crisis has highlighted the importance of having a minimum set of social security benefits for all in place," says ILO Director-General Juan Somavia. "This is why we advocate for social security and a global social protection floor. This report shows that building adequate social protection for all, drawing on a basic social protection floor, as called for by the **ILO Global Jobs Pact**, is now more urgent than ever".

The report says that social security plays an important role in times of crisis, including the current one, as an "irreplaceable economic, social and political stabilizer" that provides income replacement and helps stabilize aggregate demand, without negatively effecting economic growth.

[Executive summary of World Social Security Report 2010/11. Providing coverage in times of crisis and beyond - \[pdf 204KB\]](#)

[World Social Security Report 2010/11. Providing coverage in times of crisis and beyond](#)

### Committee approves free time for trade union centrals

The Committee of Labor, Administration and Public Service approved the proposal that assures 10 free weekly minutes in radio and television stations to union centrals. The text that was approved substitutes a text written by the deputy **Roberto Santiago (PV party-SP)**, vice-president of UGT.

According to **Marcos Afonso de Oliveira, national secretary of UGT's communication department**, all workers profited from this proposal, because they will be able to directly present to the population what are their points of view on the unfold of economy, on the adoption of public policies and their engagement on the search for a Brazil with more education, more social justice and mainly with more income distribution.



"So far, Brazilian workers have only their own media and depend on large communication groups to get their messages broadcasted to the Brazilian society", he said.

### UGT organizes meeting with state branches

UGT had a growth of 21% this year, this way, it was the trade union central that grew the most. This information is from the **national president Ricardo Patah**, while opening the meeting with representatives from UGT's state branches on November 15, in the national head office, downtown Sao Paulo. Patah also announced that the plenary session that will be held on November 30 will also be used, among other issues, to evaluate what has been done in 2010 and discuss and approve the strategic plan and goals for 2011.

**Chiquinho Pereira, secretary of UGT's National Department of Organization and Union Policies**, announced that the state branches of Acre and Tocantins will be established in 2011. He emphasized the work of the state branch of Ceará concerning the fishermen settlements that are now being spread to unions of this class all over Brazil. The general secretary Canindé Pegado made comments on the importance of the participation of all state branches in the elaboration of the planning and goals for the next year as well as the second congress that will take place next year. During the second part of the meeting, the participants were able to make comments or ask questions. *(Arlindo Ribeiro/Imprensa UGT)*

### Memory of workers preserved



With the presence of the **president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Carlos Lupi, minister of Labor**, the **Leonel Brizola Reference Center** of Workers was open on November 18.

This center is a mark in the labor history of Brazil, dedicated to the memory of labor and studies connected to this issue. After they unveiled the plaque and cut the opening ribbon, Lula and Lupi talked to the guests. Quite touched, Lupi reminded the early days of his public life, along with Brizola, on the occasion that he was the president of PDT party.

**"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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