



World Day Against Child Labour 2011

UGT: End child labour now!

Warning! Children in hazardous work



In a new report issued for World Day Against Child Labour, the International Labour Organization (ILO) warns that a staggeringly high number of children are still caught in hazardous work – some 115 million of the world's 215 million child labourers – and calls for urgent action to halt the practice.

The report, "**Children in hazardous work: what we know, what we need to do,**" cites studies from both industrialised and developing countries indicating that every minute of every day, a child labourer somewhere in the world suffers a work-related accident, illness or psychological trauma.

UGT calls out all its affiliated unions and federations to join this campaign that will draw attention to the hazardous child labor, given the urgency of actions to solve this problem.

The National Campaign against Child Labor began on June 09, through a solemnity at the Chamber of Deputies, marking the beginning of the Brazilian mobilization for the World Day Against Child Labour. Children from Santa Maria participated in a hearing and were received by the Parliamentarian Movement and authorities that were present in the entrance of the Chamber of Deputies.

The event was organized by the International Labor Organization (ILO) with the support of the National Committee of Child Labour Eradication (CONAETI) and also the support of the civil society, led by the National Forum of Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour (FNPETI).

ILO is launching, in 2011, a campaign focusing on the elimination of all kinds of hazardous child labour. These activities, described in the Convention 182, that prohibits the worst forms of child labour, are work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of the children.

Brazil, in its turn, through the Decree 6481/2008 defined its list of the worst forms of child labour. FNPETI, synched to its 78 integrant institutions and CONAETI, chose the following 4 forms of hazardous child labor as the priority for the Campaign in Brazil:

- **Urban child labour (on the streets)** • **Child labour with pesticides** • **Child labour with trash and in trash plants** • **Domestic child labour**



100th International Labour Conference

Director-General Juan Somavia opened the historic 100th International Labour Conference with a call for an urgent commitment to a new era of social justice and economic growth based on sustainable development to address mounting "turmoil" in the world of work.

"Our world of work is in turmoil," Mr. Somavia said in his address to the Conference. "It is urgent to commit to a new era of social justice, of growth with social justice based on sustainable development."



Secretary from UGT explains the importance of participating in ILO

Elected vice-president for the Americas and Caribbean department at the ILO, to represent the base of workers and the trade union centrals, Benedetti finishes his tenure as a member of ILO Administration Council - the most important organ of the organization. "In Brazil, we have been using a rotation system. Every 2 years, a trade union central gets in. This year, the representability of UGT ends and it was an honor that our institution had this participation", the councilman informs.

"I learned a lot at the ILO Administration Council", stated **Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti**. This is how the secretary of UGT's International Relationships department began his speech to over 120 unionists from all over Latin America and the Caribbean. He reminded that during these three years that he intensively worked in processes that dealt with the enforcement of rules and also in the Committee of Union Education of the International Education Center in Turin, Italy.

"I'm glad I'm being well substituted, since in Brazil we use a rotation system for the seat at the ILO Administration Council. My position will be replaced by Nilton Souza, fondly called by Neco, from Força Sindical", said Benedetti.

"The conventions and recommendation approved by ILO are important, since they are a guideline to the labour area all over the world", adds Benedetti. The secretary, who says goodbye to the Organization, expects that ILO will keep on walking on a more progressive way through its labor achievements aiming towards an improvement on life and working conditions of the working class. *(Mariana Veltri, da redação da UGT)*

Director from ILO reinforces Decent Work Agenda

During a recent visit to the national head office of UGT, the Peruvian Carmen Benitez Gambirazio, regional ILO specialist of Labour Education, congratulated the trade union central for the work it developed over the four years it has existed, emphasizing the union communication area of UGT. The representative of ILO was received by the national president of UGT, Ricardo Patah, with whom she dealt with some general proposals that strengthen the union participation in the Decent Work Agenda. "Due to the activities of UGT's 2nd Congress, we dealt, at first, with more general proposals", explained Carmen.

"I think that you have a good example of union communication, we also work in the communication area, especially aiming to trade union centrals being able to publicize the content of the Decent Work Agenda", stated Carmen Benitez.

"We are working on a proposal so that the resources included in the ILO control system, in our data bank, are made available. We have a bulletin that comes through our newsletter, the idea is increasing these services", informed Carmen.

According to Carmen Benitez "the computer has been a fundamental tool when it comes to communication, following the example of long distance education, which we have achieved good results, such as the courses of health and security at work, for example".



Union centrals in the fight for the equality of women

Women in the job market and the right to a wage equality and equality of opportunity in the city and in the country are concepts that marked the seminar on "United Women for the Promotion of Equality, that took place on May 27 and 28 and was organized by UGT and other four trade union centrals (CGTB, CTB, Força and Nova Central). Union and government leaders also discussed the importance of the constitutionality of the Maria da Penha Law, solutions to get the Law Decrees related to Equality approved (PLs 4857-A/2009 and 6653/2009) and the importance in the fight for a unity as tools in the achievement of rights of the class.

In the opening speech, **the president of UGT, Ricardo Patah**, based on data from IBGE that point out that the Brazilian population has 4 million more women than men, emphasized that some reflections must be done and measures should be taken, so that such atrocities and differences come to an end.



"In UGT, women have an essential role! And here we are, representing UGT, because we strongly valorize the capacity of having equality of opportunity.

But some reflections are necessary and one of them is on the newspaper, in an article that shows a men that killed a women and said: "I've killed!" and was not convicted for ten years...We cannot allow that! We must stop being so rhetorical!", exclaimed Patah, that considered the unity of the event an important tool to strengthen the achievements of salary and job positions for the women and for the Brazilian people.

The table also had the presence of Cassia Bufelli, coordinator of UGT Gender Collective, that represented the Women Department along with the other trade union centrals. Cássia talked about the importance of steeping up pressure on the Congress, she also emphasized the importance of the legal ratification of ILO Convention 156 and that the Law Decree related to Equality is a matter of honor to the union movement.

In defense of domestic workers

Decent work for domestic workers and Social security for social justice are the main issues of the 100th Session of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva.

Wagner José de Souza, adjunct secretary of UGT's International Relationships Department explains the importance of establishing a Convention in defense of domestic workers: "In Brazil, there are laws that aid domestic workers, but even with all its legislation, domestic workers do not have their rights recognized de facto. And worldwide, this situation is even worse".

A **study**, published by the Institute of Applied Economic Research (Ipea), showed that, in 2009, domestic workers had an income R\$ 78,55 lower than the minimum wage at the time (which was R\$ 465).

According to the research, only 20% to 27% of domestic workers in Brazil are formal workers, therefore, the need to create a discussion on the inspection of domestic work, in Brazil and all over the world.

These data are based on the National Research by Housing Sample (Pnad) of 2009, done by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).

Remunerated domestic work is an activity in which the concept of decent work reaches a special importance: domestic workers are the most vulnerable to the violation of fundamental labor rights and their working conditions are frequently precarious.

Santiago stops vote that would damage workers



Roberto Santiago stops vote of law related to outsourced work with no liability to the companies

The Federal Deputy Roberto Santiago (PV party-SP), vice-president of UGT, vehemently defended, on June 01, the withdrawal of the law proposal PL 4.330/04 (that exempts companies that outsource their work from having legal responsibilities over their employees and frees them of charge) from the vote agenda.

"It's a proposal that will develop more precarious work, and not outsourced work, as the writer and the president of the commission pointed out. We could not allow that". The deputy based his defense on the Internal Regiment of the Chamber, that allowed the session to be blocked due to a lack of understanding on the occasion of the vote. Parliamentarians from the commission wanted to get the vote approved in a heartbeat, when the president was heckled by Roberto Santiago, who presented a memorandum that proves his reason regarding the internal regiment to the table. "We are not against outsourcing, but we do not give in on the workers rights".

More affiliated institutions

The Union of Athletes of Sao Paulo (Sapesp) and the National Federation of Professional Soccer Athletes (Fenapaf), represented by the president of both institutions Rinaldo Martorelli and by its directors Mauro Costa and Osmir Baptista, officially affiliated with UGT.



The Union of Court Workers of Sao Paulo is also one of the most recent affiliated institutions. On June 02, the president of the union, Daniel Franco do Amaral, had a meeting with the national board of directors of UGT in order to formalize the affiliation of the institution.



A Guide to the Governmental Action

Prevention and elimination of child labor

The International Labor Organization and the Public Ministry of Labor presented a guide with suggestions of strategies to elaborate public policies and the guarantee of rights to Brazilian children and teenagers.

[See the guide \(portuguese\)](#)



"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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