



Against Precarious Work

Focusing on the fight against precarious work, UGT organizes an act to celebrate the World Day for Decent Work

On October 07, **UGT** organized, along with Força Sindical, a protest supporting the **World Day for Decent Work**. The act took place at the Largo da Concórdia, in the Brás neighborhood, Sao Paulo.

The protest had the goal of strengthening the fight towards the valorization of the working class, searching for a better income distribution and a better quality of life.



This is a fight ideal that is in the core of UGT and is inserted in the international campaign scheduled by ITUC/TUCA (International Trade Union Confederation/ Trade Union Confederation of the Americas) in the fight for decent work.

To Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, "it is essential to defend outsourced workers, because most of this class is represented by our affiliated unions. There are 8,2 million outsourced workers in Brazil, 22% out of the total amount of 37 million formal Brazilian workers, in a world that is always expanding, but without a clear regulation. That threatens labor, social and social security rights while preventing, in a generic way, outsourced work."

Workers mobilize themselves to demand decent jobs

Activities in 80 countries - Due to an unprecedented demand for decent jobs, and the growing pressure over banks and over the financial sector, the World Day for Decent Work organized more than 400 activities in 80 countries.

The actions that took place this year had the goal of fighting against precarious work - a tendency that is growing for informal and temporary jobs, which have low legal protection. Young and female workers are the most likely to be affected.

"Decent work - labor rights, job creation policies, social protection and dialogue involving unions and workers - is essential for the recovery of the world economy and the creation of taxes so that governments are able to solve the fiscal situation," said the general secretary of ITUC Sharan Burrow. "The leaders of G20 will have a meeting in France soon, that is why we expect them to take the necessary measures and abandon the failed politics, that put the interests of banks and finances above life and above the income of people" said Burrow.

October 17

International Day Against Poverty

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT

UGT is the trade union central of social and economic inclusion. We adopted this compromise, since our foundation, four years ago, because when the union movement, organized itself around its trade unions and trade union centrals, and it looks outside, it still perceives a Brazil with informal workers, with no access to income, without minimum conditions of human dignity.



Nowadays we are still facing the fact that nearly 16,2 million Brazilians are vegetating (since it's impossible to even classify them as survivors) with up to 70 reais per month, according to data from the census 2010, such thing contributes to our social embarrassment. That is, less than R\$ 2,33 per day. Situation that is considered, by the Ministry of Social Development, as extreme poverty. The northeast region is the most affected one, 18,1% of the people that live there are under such condition.

This scenario is not exclusive to Brazil. On October 17, 1987, it was celebrated in Paris, for the first time, the International Day Against Poverty. This date is yearly remembered, because poverty is spread all over the planet and a mobilization is necessary in order to raise awareness on the human kind against hunger, violence and misery.

In Brazil, UGT is an intransigent defender of public policies concerning education, health and labor. And it supports the political and economic decisions regarding the Family Allowance Program and the real valorization of the minimum wage as one of the main factors that would take large amounts of people out of misery, considering that there are 30 million Brazilian people living below the poverty line.

But since we are still not considering the starving people who earn R\$ 2,33 per day, we are leaving behind 16 million Brazilian people, which is equal to the entire population of the State of Rio de Janeiro. And that proves that not only do we need public policies adopted by the government, but we also need to attack the income concentration in Brazil.

Brazil has one of the highest income concentrations of the world: the income earned by people that represent 1% of the richest population is practically equal to the one earned by 50% of the poorest population, according to Radar Social, a research publicized by the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) in June 2005.

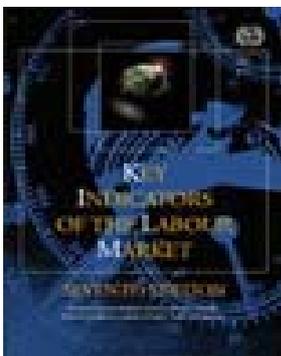
And that can be used as a reflection concerning the date of October 17, International Day Against Poverty, and also concerning the imperious need to mobilize our civil rights, our governments and politicians to improve the income distribution through decent wages, through a reduction in working shifts down to 40 weekly hours without a reduction in salaries, to increase the number of available positions.

We must advance beyond the Family Allowance Program, which is necessary, though only a stopgap, and we also need to valorize the minimum wage. Because we need to build a more just and more equal Brazil.

Key Indicators of the Labour Market

ILO presents the 7th edition of Key Indicators of the Labour Market

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has published the seventh edition of its emblematic report **Key Indicators of the Labour Market** (KILM), which contains 18 indicators on employment and decent work based on the latest data available in more than 200 countries, areas or territories.



A new essential element of this issue is that it included the first data base with national currencies on poor workers.

The database was assembled with information from 54 countries; this info is disaggregated by age and sex. The database presents new global figures on people who work but live (along with their families) with an income between U\$ 1.25 and U\$ 2 per day, and per person, which defines the extreme poverty line and poverty, respectively.

As in previous editions, the KILM of this year contains data on unemployment, rates on the participation of the labor force, the employment situation, employment divided by sectors, part time workers, youth workers, levels of education and illiteracy, poverty and income distribution, among others. Besides, for the first time, it contains new indexes: average monthly wages and employment per occupation.

Since 1999, the KILM indexes have been considered a multifunctional research tool - that is, they contain a printed publication, an interactive software (CD-ROM) and an online database - which are essential to monitor and evaluate the world situation of the labour world. It is also a source of national data to measure progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal 1B: "achieve decent employment for women, men and young people".

In addition to the group of traditional indexes, this edition contains three analytic sections: the section "Analysis of the job market of Brazil based on data of KILM and on national data" shows how different indexes in the report might be used to find out the history of the labor market in a particular country.

The section entitled "Poverty, income distribution and the working poor" is specifically focused on poor workers, one of the four indexes chosen to achieve the MDGs. The section "Gender equality, employment and part-time jobs in developed economies" analyzes part time employment as a variable of equality among genders and the job market. (*ILO News*)

Read as well: profile on Decent Work in Brazil

It points out encouraging progresses in the most diverse areas, following the example of a decline in child labor, a raise in the number of formal workers and an increase of the proportion of elderlies who receive retirement or pension checks. It also clears the continuity of several challenges, such as the wage discrepancy between men and women and between white and African-American men, the high number of teenagers and young people that don't work or study and the existence of forced work.

[Perfil do Trabalho Decente \(pdf\)](#)

Bank workers accept proposal and the strike ends

The National Command of Bank Workers and the National Federation of Banks (Fenaban) have come to an agreement on October 14 night, during the second day of negotiations, in Sao Paulo. They were open to the possibility of ending the strike that lasted 21 days.

According to Lourenço Ferreira do Prado, president of the National Confederation of Workers of Credit Companies (Contec), Fenaban proposed a 9% adjustment on the wages and in the participation in profits and results, besides a 12% raise in the wage floor.

The bank workers, who were requesting a 12,8% raise, accepted the proposal that was made at the Maksoud Plaza Hotel and, this way, they were able to achieve a 1,2% real raise in their wages. Prado stated that the National Command recommend that unions all over the country were to stimulate workers to get back to work.

Migration and Integration

UGT and Brazilian trade union centrals that are affiliated with TUCA debated with Paraguayan trade union centrals the migratory flows in the southern cone.

On October 14, the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) organized the seminar entitled "Migrations, Regional Integration and Labor". The event deepened the issue of migrations in the Southern Cone, dedicating a special attention to Paraguay, and the impact of the migrant labor in the textile and construction sectors.

Rafael Freire, secretary of TUCA's department on Economic and Sustainable Development, opened the debate making comments on the relationship between labor and migration. The proposals that were discussed in the event will be used as sources for the process of discussion of the TUCA



Directors from the Paraguayan trade union centrals CUT-A and CNT; from CGT and CTA-RA (Argentina); from the Brazilian trade union centrals UGT, Força Sindical and CUT and a representative from the Center to the Human Rights and Citizenship of the Immigrant (Brazil) were at the event. *(Daniel Angelim, TUCA)*

Romano inaugurates presidency of the SINDI-API-UGT



Rubens Romano, ex-president of the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo, was unanimously elected, through an assembly that took place at the national head office of UGT in Sao Paulo, to take the position of president of the National Union of the Union of Pensioners, Retired and Elderly People of UGT (Sindiapi-UGT).

Romano emphasized the commitment of the union to the fight of the retired people, defending their interests and providing life quality to all its population. "All of us must work in harmony, especially in team - this is the only way we will get bigger and more representative", the unionist explains.



"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

World UGT – the International Newsletter of the UGT Brasil - General Workers Union

GWU Communications Secretary: Marcos Afonso de Oliveira