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In reply please quote:  
Circular N° 19(2007)

**To all affiliated organisations  
To all Global Union Federations**

For information:  
**To all General Council Members**

HTUR/JK/JB

20 April 2007

Dear Friends,

### **Forced Labour and Trafficking Project**

The ITUC has the pleasure to announce the beginning of a new project on forced labour and trafficking in cooperation with the ILO and welcomes a new staff member hired to implement this project.

The Second *Global Report under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*<sup>1</sup> presented to the International Labour Conference in June 2005 states that globally at least 12.3 million people are victims of forced labour, 2.45 million of whom are concurrently victims of trafficking. In industrialised countries, transition countries, the Middle East and the North Africa Region, the proportion of people suffering from both types of abuse simultaneously adds up to more than 75 per cent. In forced commercial sexual exploitation, accounting for a minimum of 1.4 million cases worldwide, 98 per cent of victims are women and girls.

Acting on a suggestion of the ILO Director-General, the ILO Governing Body therefore decided in November 2005 to approve a four-year action plan to build and consolidate *A global Alliance against Forced Labour*, aimed at eradicating all forms of forced labour by the year 2015. Within this framework the ITUC - in close cooperation with the ILO's Bureau of Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) and Special Action Programme on Forced Labour (SAP-FL) - is to design a progressive scheme towards a workers' alliance against forced labour. Initially the ITUC will undertake an assessment of the needs, capacity and opportunities of trade unions on questions of forced labour and trafficking. As forced labour and especially trafficking are truly global phenomena, affecting almost every country in one way or another, the exchange of knowledge will be key to the project's successful implementation. As a first step we therefore request you to share any available information in the matter and urge you to request any colleagues dealing with these issues in national centres and GUF affiliates to contact our new colleague, Jeroen Beirnaert, who will work in the Department of Human and Trade Union Rights at the ITUC Secretariat in Brussels. ([jeroen.beirnaert@ituc-csi.org](mailto:jeroen.beirnaert@ituc-csi.org) , phone: +32 2 224.03.14, fax: +325.2.224.02.97).

Looking forward to future cooperation on this subject,

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD\\_BLOB?Var\\_DocumentID=5059](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD_BLOB?Var_DocumentID=5059)