**[Date]**

**[Minister of Labour/Women’s Affairs]**

 **[Address]**

Dear **[Name of Minister]**,

On behalf of **[name of your union]**, I am writing to express our support for an International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention on violence and harassment in the world of work. **[Name of union or an alliance of unions and/or civil society organisations]** urges the government of **[name of country]** to support a new ILO Convention on violence and harassment at the ILO Conference in June 2018.

There is a need for a specific international legal instrument focusing on violence and harassment, including gender-based violence (GBV), in the world of work, as no such instrument currently exists. Whilst some existing ILO instruments refer to violence and/or harassment, these instruments do not define what is understood by violence or harassment, do not provide guidance on how to address its various forms and do not cover all workers. The social media storm expressed through #MeToo, #TimesUp; #BalanceTonPorc, #QuellaVoltaChe and others, as well as mainstream media coverage of cases of sexual harassment and violence in the world of work, shows how urgently these instruments are needed.

Two-thirds of women around the world experiencing intimate partner violence are in employment. This means that their path to escape most likely affects their work life. They plan, they find accommodation, they seek police assistance, they attend court dates, they arrange counselling and medical attention for their children – they do all this while trying to navigate work. Lack of economic independence can also keep women trapped in violent relationships.

We believe that **[name of country]** can play an important role in establishing a new set of ILO standards on violence and harassment in the world of work.

By supporting a new ILO Standard in the *form of both a Convention and Recommendation*, the government will be signalling zero tolerance for violence and harassment, as well as contributing to Goals 5 and 8 of the UN 2030 agenda on Sustainable Development – on gender equality and decent work respectively.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter further at a time of your convenience.

Sincerely,