

Newsflash

Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking



Dear friends,

This is a newsletter of the Global Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking. It is addressed to all interested and wants to inform you about trade union activities to fight forced labour and human trafficking around the world. The Alliance is led by the International Trade Union Confederation and financially supported by the Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour of the International Labour Organisation. It promotes decent work for all and more specifically geographical and institutional commitment and cooperation to eradicate forced labour and human trafficking as its very antithesis.

ITUC WTO reports on Core Labour Standards:

[Dominican Republic](#)

[Switzerland and Liechtenstein](#)

[Guatemala](#)

TUC UK and Polish trade unions, **Solidarnosc** and **OPZZ**, sign [protocol](#) to work closely to help and to support Polish workers in the UK.

The Peruvian **BWI** affiliated **FENATIMAP** organises indigenous woodworkers out of forced labour.

“Abused, raped, unpaid, unorganized, isolated and unrecognized, domestic workers are in trafficked situation in Malaysia”, said Irene Fernandez, Director of Tenaganita. “Domestic workers from Indonesia or Cambodia were abused and could not seek help because they did not have any off day and thus remained isolated.” The Malaysian **MTUC** supports the launch of the [Malaysian Coalition for Domestic Workers Campaign](#) for “one paid day off” to promote public awareness of the right of domestic workers to get one day off a week and to lobby the government.

Skogstrafacket, Swedish **BWI**-affiliated Forestry and Wood Union steps in for tree planters from Romania: “The union found out that some of the workers, originally from the fellow EU state of Romania, were actually in debt to their employer” ([statement](#))

An international **ITUC** mission went to Costa Rica last November to look at the work carried out in the field by the Costa Rican national migrant workers’ union (**CSM**). More information can be found in the Union View report on [“Costa Rica: Helping Migrants Organise”](#)

IUF: www.domesticworkerrights.org is a network devoted to increasing the visibility of domestic/household workers and their organisations currently seeking photos, media presentations and volunteer translators. What should the international network do? What should be the network's relation to the IUF. National-level / In-country Activities, Regional/International activities... Participate and write to Anneke.vanLuijken@iuf.org

On Migrants’ Day (18 December 2008), **PSI** joined the **ITUC**, **Global Unions**, civil society and the international community in celebrating the human rights of all migrant workers and



International
Labour
Office

Newsflash

Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking



members of their families worldwide. "For PSI, we see migration as a trade union issue. It is very important that migrant workers' rights are fully protected. Ensuring trade union rights for migrant workers is fundamental in fighting abuse, exploitation and exclusion of migrant workers, particularly undocumented migrants" explains Peter Waldorff, PSI General Secretary in his [statement](#).

IMF, BWI: Second Global Forum on Migration and Development (GMFD) meets in Manila, trade unions representatives speak out for migrant workers ([Global Unions](#)).

BWI has facilitated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding regarding migrant workers between its affiliate the **Central Union of Painters, Plumber, Elector and Construction Workers (CUPPEC, Nepal)** - the union from the sending country - and the **Timber Employees Union Peninsular Malaysia (TEU)** of Malaysia - the union from the receiving country. "The objective was to organize the more than 70,000 Nepali migrant workers in the Malaysian timber industry" added Anita Normark ([statement](#)).

BWI Video on Burmese Workers: A "Lost Generation" depicts the lives of Burmese workers working in both the construction sites and furniture factories in Thailand.

[Global Union Calls on Leading Brands and Retailers to Protect Migrant Workers from Abuse](#)
Action taken by Nike to avoid migrant workers in its supply chain becoming bonded. The Nike position was developed after discussions with the [ITGLWF](#) regarding forced labour practices at a Nike supplier factory in Malaysia. There is a [statement](#) dating from August 1 2008 available on the Nike site. The Australian Seven News [video](#) report features a representative of the [Australian Textile Workers Union](#), an ITGLWF and [ACTU](#) affiliate.

Trade unions are to be integrated in anti-trafficking network in Romania. [Memorandum of understanding](#) between social partners and government signed in Romania following a European CCME [seminar](#), where **ITUC**, **Cartel Alfa** and **CNSLR-Fratia** were represented.

UNI and CIETT, the International Confederation of Private Employment Agencies (Adecco, Kelly Services, Manpower, Olympia Flexgroup AG, Randstad and USG People) have signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to create partnership and a global social dialogue to achieve fair conditions for the temporary agency work industry. The partnership will help to promote quality standards within the industry, prevent unfair competition by fraudulent agencies and fight human trafficking.

ITUC Union View on Sri Lanka: Export processing zones, domestic workers, sailors, migrants... Sri Lanka's trade unions are managing to help the categories of workers who are most difficult to organise. Migrant worker organisations try to prevent human trafficking. After a [ten year-process](#), thirty-one migrant associations organised by the trade union **NWC** are working to prevent such bad experiences by informing those about to leave of the risks of encountering unscrupulous agents and integrating them into a comprehensive economic and social safety net before, during, and after migration.

The German trade union of service sector workers, **ver.di**, in co-operation with NGOs, established the [first contact point for undocumented workers](#) in Hamburg in May 2008. They



International
Labour
Office

Newsflash

Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking



have had some [success](#) in supporting undocumented migrants legally in their battles to enforce the payment of outstanding wages. (source: [PICUM](#) newsletter)

New ILO ACTRAV [manual](#) for trade unionists working on migrant workers' rights.

[Annual Report](#) of American Center for International Labor Solidarity of the **AFL-CIO**:

- Children of the Mines, Congo DRC
- Assessing the True Cost of Shrimp
- Hotel and Tourism Workers Help Fight Human Trafficking in Kenya
- Migrant and Worker Activists Build Bridges in Gulf States
- Dominican Construction Union Uses Organizing to Combat Trafficking of Haitian Migrant Workers

[UNI Graphical](#) signs global agreement with [Elanders](#), setting model for workers' rights at multinationals. ([video trailer](#))

The [ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour](#) developed a [toolkit](#) for trade unions in Zambia in collaboration with Free Federation of Trade Unions, the National Union of Agriculture and Plantation Workers, United House and Domestic Workers Union, National Union of Teachers and the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions. It aims to provide practical guidance and suggestions that will allow trade union officers and members to recognize forced labour and to take action to prevent it and assist its victims.

TUC UK [responded](#) to the Government's decision to retain the current restrictions on employment rights for migrants. TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber said: "Banning Bulgarian and Romanian workers will lead to more bogus self-employment."

[ETUC statement](#) on [EC Employers sanctions directive](#)

Trade union leaders gathering at the XIV Asia Pacific Labour Network Conference, taking place in Lima (Peru) on 27-28 of October, have [called](#) for a far-reaching reorientation of the policies of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). There is a grave deficit of decent work in the APEC area: trafficking, lack of freedom of association, neglect of collective bargaining, child sexual exploitation, and forced and compulsory labour are daily issues for millions of workers and people around the region.

Newsflash

Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking



Events:

- **15-18 September 2008** Global March Against Child Labour Pan European Maghreb [Conference](#) in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- **October 2008** BWI: Joint [seminar](#) for the Caribbean region on migration, Curacao.
- **3-4 November 2008** [Trafficking in persons Research and Data Forum](#), University of Hong Kong (with participation from [IHLO](#)), Hong Kong
- **21-23 November 2008** [GSEE](#) ITUC/PERC/ETUC International Trade Union Conference on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking [Conference](#) ([English](#)), Athens, Greece.
- **25-26 November 2008** ILO, regional trade union seminar on human trafficking ([project](#)) Kiev, Ukraine.
- **10 January 2009** Federation of Trade Unions Burma: Congress, Mae Sot, Thailand.
- **22-24 January 2009** [CGTM](#) Nouakchott, Mauritania, [Seminar](#) on Migrants and [Slavery](#).
- **26 Jan 2009** TUC [seminar](#) to look at diverse strategies that British unions have used to recruit, organise and represent workers Polish and A10 workers, London, UK.

Useful information:

- Abduction for forced labour and sexual slavery is being used in the ethnic cleansing of Darfur according to a new [report](#) published by the [Darfur Consortium](#) today on Wednesday 17 December. The report includes for the first time evidence that significant numbers of men are being abducted and enslaved as agricultural labourers to cultivate crops in the areas controlled by Janjaweed militias.
- Human Rights Watch reports: [Sri Lanka](#)'s separatist Tamil Tigers are subjecting ethnic Tamils in their northern stronghold, the Vanni, to forced recruitment, abusive forced labour, and restrictions on movement that place their lives at risk, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. [Lebanon](#): Millions of Domestic Workers Lack Adequate Legal Protection.
- [Ban Ki-moon warns that financial crisis could drive more people into slavery-like conditions.](#)
- Third Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted a [draft resolution on trafficking in women and girls](#), with a comprehensive list of 27 recommendations. (Source: [LaStrada International](#))



International
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Office

Newsflash

Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking



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You are kindly invited to send any relevant information to be included in the next issue.

For more information please contact forcedlabour@ituc-csi.org

Website: www.ituc-csi.org/forcedlabour



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