



**ITUC CSI IGB**



## **Decent Work, Decent Life for Women Campaign - Update I**

**Successful launch of the two year Decent Work, Decent Life for Women Campaign on 8 March 2008, International Women's Day.**

Thanks to the great effort of unions around the world **71 National Centers in 54 countries participated in the launch of the Campaign:**

- In Korea, Croatia, Columbia and Italy all ITUC affiliated national centers formed coalitions and launched the Campaign during mass events and marches;
- In Angola, Montenegro, Belgium, Sierra Leone, Ukraine, Argentina, Netherlands, Slovakia and Canada unions launched the campaign to start negotiations with the social partners on e.g. improving maternity protection rights and child care facilities, to minimize the gender wage gap and to create a better work – life balance;
- The Campaign was launched in the UK, Malaysia and Cyprus to collect signatures calling for decent work for women and gender equality in trade unions and at the workplace;
- ITUC in cooperation with Education International and ETUC launched the Campaign at a 7 March lunch in the presence of the ITUC leadership and 120 representatives of ETUC, GUFs, Belgian national centers and Women NGO's;
- ITUC regional organizations and affiliates produced statements and launched special Campaign Web Pages;
- The Global Union Federations showed their massive support through statements and press releases.

📄 Link to the Campaign Guide and poster and other Campaign related publications: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?rubrique198>

📄 Sign up to the 'unions4women' email list and send an email to: [equality@ituc-csi.org](mailto:equality@ituc-csi.org)

📄 More information on the World Day for Decent Work on 7 October: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?rubrique210>

📄 'Achieving Gender Equality', a Trade Union Manual:  
[http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/manuel\\_ENGOK.pdf](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/manuel_ENGOK.pdf)

We are compiling a detailed report about the first Campaign activities. Please send your reports and other materials (e.g. photographs) to: [equality@ituc-csi.org](mailto:equality@ituc-csi.org)

### **Worldwide media coverage of the ITUC Gender Wage Gap Report:**

Coinciding with the Campaign launch the ITUC published the Gender Wage Gap Report on 7 March 2008. The main findings of the Report are:

- on average, women are paid 16% less than their male counterparts
- more educated women often find themselves on the wrong side of an even bigger pay gap compared to men with similar education
- trade union membership has a positive influence on the gender pay gap, with the gap being lower for unionized employees than for employees who are not a member of a trade union and;
- information on incomes is not available for hundreds of millions of people in informal and unprotected work, mainly in developing countries, leaving a massive deficit in the global knowledge base.

The report was very well covered in the media e.g. in UK, Korea, Croatia, US, Belgium, The Netherlands, Australia and many more countries. ITUC organized a well attended press conference in cooperation with IFJ and with the participation of FGTB and CSC - two Belgian National Centers.

📄 Press release: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article1880>

📄 ITUC Gender Wage Gap Report: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/gap-1.pdf>

## International Women's Day panel organized by the ILO on 7th March

Agnes Jongerius, President of FNV (Netherlands) represented the ITUC in the above mentioned panel during which she referred to the ITUC Gender Wage Gap Report and the importance of collective bargaining in reducing the gender pay gap.

📄 ILO slideshow of the panel: [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/media/slideshow.curtainUp?p\\_lang=en&p\\_slideshow\\_id=12](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/media/slideshow.curtainUp?p_lang=en&p_slideshow_id=12)

## 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women: 25 February – 7 March

An ITUC-PSI-EI 40 women strong delegation attended the UN CSW in New York and **negotiated successfully for the inclusion of decent work in its Agreed Conclusions.**

📄 Link to the trade union Statement on 'Investing in Decent Work, Decent Life for Women': [http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/EN\\_ITUC\\_2008.pdf](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/EN_ITUC_2008.pdf)

📄 Agreed Conclusions of the UN CSW (English only): [http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw52/AC\\_resolutions/L.8\\_Advance%20unedited\\_as%20corrected.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw52/AC_resolutions/L.8_Advance%20unedited_as%20corrected.pdf)

