

An Age of Anger Time for a New Social Contract

Economic confrontations expected to increase in 2020

The consequences of a failed economic model are devastating. The world's people face a climate emergency, but governments are still cowed by dominant corporate interests. The global model of trade has fueled massive inequalities, and our largest corporations have torn up the social contract with no intervention from national governments or multilateral governance structures. Indeed, too often elected governments have facilitated the dehumanising exploitation that characterises global supply chains and the world of work for the majority of the world's people.

We have 60% of the world's working people struggling to survive in informal work because governments have failed to regulate labour markets.

Without legislated rights and strong compliance systems, there is nothing to hold business to account for decent work.

The monetary value of unpaid care work globally for women aged 15 and over is at least US\$10.8 trillion annually – three times the size of the tech industry. Oxfam

Minimum wages on which people can't live create despair with 60% of families living on the edge.

Attacks on collective bargaining systems destroy the most effective mechanism for shared prosperity.

Two thirds of the world's people are without universal social protection because governments have failed to establish inclusive systems.

Taxing an additional 0.5% of wealth of the richest over the next 10 years is equal to investments needed to create 117 million jobs in education, health and elderly care and other sectors to close care deficits. Oxfam

We have inadequate funding of vital public services including education, health, childcare and aged care because governments are frightened to tax the corporates and the wealthy.

The climate emergency is happening now

We have a climate crisis because governments have failed to act, and there is just one year for governments to commit to NDCs that will reduce emissions if we are to stabilise the planet by 2030 and have a fighting chance to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. This requires Just Transition.

Global technological shifts need new rules

The monopoly power of big tech companies operating on individual, government and corporate data without consent or reparation defies regulatory constraints. Decent work is being destroyed and rights are being denied by companies avoiding rules and regulations.

Data privacy, data ownership and surveillance of workers need to be regulated in order to put people in control.

Low wages and insecure jobs

84% say the minimum wage is not enough on which to live.

70% of people have no social protection.

60% are living on the edge without enough money for essentials.

ITUC Global Rights Index

85% of countries have violated the right to strike.

80% of countries deny some or all workers collective bargaining.

The number of countries which exclude workers from the right to establish or join a trade union increased from **92** in 2018 to **107** in 2019.

Workers had no or restricted access to justice in 72% of countries.

Out of **145** countries surveyed, **54** deny or constrain free speech and freedom of assembly.

Workers experienced violence in **52** countries.

Alliance structures and multilateral systems no longer hold

2020 must re-shape the international order. Without progress on the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), the world is at risk of having little or no controls on nuclear weapons.

The 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations must be recognised with government commitments to peace and a revitalised international order.

The WTO and the Bretton Woods Institutions must accept major changes in governance, as well as compliance with human and labour rights plus environmental standards.

The subsequent loss of trust in government is represented by the anger that has people in the streets in all continents. Democracy is in crisis as brutal repression is used to silence the age of anger.

Authoritarianism, dictatorship and extreme-right governments are on the rise and have flourished as multilateralism and the rule of law are collapsing,

It's time to rebuild the social contract, rebuild hope

The ILO Centenary Declaration on the future of work lays out a roadmap for the Decent Work promised by SDG Goal 8:

- A labour protection floor for all, workers with fundamental rights, occupational health and safety, a minimum living wage and maximum hours of work.
- Universal social protection.
- Just Transition for climate and technology shifts.
- A transformative agenda for women.
- Quality education and lifelong learning.
- Vital public services.
- Jobs through investment in infrastructure and care.
- Regulation of platform business.
- Formalisation of informal work.

Precarious work - precarious income - precarious environment: it all means precarious lives.

For too many of the world's people, this is their daily life, and it's getting worse not better. The risks to people, the environment and the economy are known, yet we accept more of the same from governments covered by major corporations and economic elites who fail to see the very risk of inequality and environmental disaster to their own future.