

Labour Leaders in Davos 2017

Global alarm bells call for emergency response

The WEF Global Risks Report sounds global alarm bells as risk becomes reality with worsening inequality and economic insecurity.

People are fighting back at the ballot box, but tragically the alternatives offered by populist political leaders, with people excluded by race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, will not offer inclusive solutions.

Populism is fuelling xenophobia and distorting attitudes to the benefits of migration and to humanitarian and rights-based responses to the refugee crisis.

The model of global supply chains that has profited the 1% is a failed model of low wages, insecure and often unsafe work where freedom of association and other rights are denied by corporations outsourcing responsibility.

Precarious work, informal work, unsafe work and even slavery are increasing as corporate greed dominates the global economy. Governments fail to regulate or to defend their own people by avoiding prosecuting corporations for illegal and destructive behaviour.

Tax fraud and unjust corporate tax concessions threaten essential public services.

Fossil fuel companies are bullying governments and risking the jobs of working people as they fail to transition to renewable energy in a just way.

The threat of an unregulated approach to the Fourth Industrial Revolution lays open the potential for a Darwinian scramble for low-wage work with the potential loss of secure jobs in many areas.

The rapid escalation of cyber-attacks, including financial, institutional and political attacks, threatens democracy, the integrity of the internet, responsible businesses and social development.

Responsibility starts here – Change the rules!

A global pay rise: Reverse the income flow to the 1% with universal social protection, minimum living wages and collective bargaining.

Jobs: Increase labour-market optimism with investment in jobs through infrastructure and the care economy.

Security at work: Reduce workplace fear with the elimination of zero hours and sham short-term contracts.

Rights, the rule of law and corporate responsibility: End the oppression in supply chains with freedom of association as a foundation for human and labour rights, and mandate due diligence across borders for big business.



Regulate the digital economy: Ensure effective regulation in the digital economy to promote employment, rights and formal business models that work for people.

Root out the cheaters: End tax fraud with the implementation of BEPS, and ensure transparency through “beneficial ownership” laws for corporate structures.

Mandate disclosure: Workers have a right to know where their pension money is invested; therefore, the Financial Stability Board recommendations must be mandated.

Just Transition: Climate action is an imperative, and the need to manage a just transition is non-negotiable.

Welcome Refugees: International cooperation for safe haven, resettlement and the right to work. Leaders must show the political courage to combat xenophobic propaganda and hate speech against migrants and refugees in national debates.

The ITUC Global Poll - What working people want – transparency and responsibility:

77% of people hold companies accountable for the actions of their subcontractors, and believe they should make information publicly available to their customers.

82% believe a company is ultimately responsible for the actions of its subcontractors, including if they undertake any illegal practices

82% agree that companies operating in the digital economy should provide workers with the same rights and protections – sick leave, paid holidays, pensions and rights to union representation – as other workers in the economy.



The ITUC Global Poll - What working people want – Decent jobs and wages

“ 45% of people in a global poll representing nearly half the world's population and more than half of global GDP are barely able to get by, with 11% saying they don't have enough money for essentials like housing, food and electricity, and 34% saying that they can afford to meet only these most basic needs, but have no money left over. ”

Change the rules so people have hope !