



**TUC – CGTP-IN
COOPERATION PROTOCOL
ON
MIGRANT WORKERS**

TUC – CGTP-IN COOPERATION PROTOCOL ON MIGRANT WORKERS

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Europe is one of the favoured destinations for migrant workers. The European social model we all want to preserve and develop owes greatly to the work of many millions of immigrants who contribute decisively in our countries to the accumulated wealth, to the well being and to the very foundation of the democratic societies in which we live today. Millions of people of different nationality, culture, language and religion have learned how to live and work alongside the nationals from the European countries.
- 1.2. Meanwhile, we live at a time in which austerity policies are being imposed by neoliberal governments on workers and peoples, causing unemployment, precarious work, deteriorating living and working conditions in many EU countries. Using this situation, certain forces try to spread racist and xenophobic messages with the aim of dividing communities by encouraging discrimination against migrant workers and ethnic minorities. It is therefore very timely to fight both against those worrying developments occurring in our democratic societies and to help integrate harmoniously the migrant workers and ethnic minorities into our societies while encouraging diversity. Solving the problems faced by these communities is relevant not only to them but also to the workers and peoples of the host countries who should express their solidarity and support their harmonious integration.
- 1.3. In Great Britain, the number of migrants in the workplace has grown over the last years, from several EU states, but also from other non-EU countries.

2. THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY IN GREAT BRITAIN

- 2.1. Meanwhile, the Portuguese workforce in the UK has been growing steadily. The Portuguese communities are mostly concentrated in London, the south coast and Channel Islands, but are spreading to other parts of Great Britain. The majority of them work in hotels, catering, restaurants, hospitals, cleaning services, bakeries, agriculture and food processing. Over the last 3 years, as a result of austerity and very high unemployment in Portugal, thousands of skilled and highly skilled Portuguese workers migrated to Great Britain, especially nurses, doctors and other professionals. The number of immigrants from other Portuguese-speaking countries like Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique has also

grown. Many of the Portuguese nationals and nationals from these countries are members of British trade unions.

2.2. Besides the many Portuguese cultural, leisure and sporting clubs and associations established in Great Britain for decades, a group of Portuguese and other Portuguese-speaking activists from a number of unions are undertaking work on raising the interests of Portuguese workers in trade union life and organising them in TUC affiliated unions.

3. *THE CGTP-IN AND THE TUC'S WORK WITH THE MIGRANT WORKERS*

3.1. The CGTP-IN has a long tradition of supporting the Portuguese migrant workers' communities throughout the world, particularly in Europe. The Portuguese trade union centre has already signed protocols in this area with national trade union centres and unions from Angola, Luxembourg, Spain and Switzerland. In Portugal, the CGTP-IN supports, organises and develops activities with and for the immigrant workers. Abroad, the CGTP-IN is in favour of the Portuguese workers organising in the host country trade unions.

3.2. Solidarity and anti-discrimination are core beliefs of the TUC. The TUC believes that workers without rights, in a precarious situation who are not members of a trade union are vulnerable to exploitation and being used to undermine existing terms and conditions. The TUC believes it is important for vulnerable workers to be part of the trade union movement which campaigns to defend the rights of all workers.

TRADE UNION COOPERATION PROTOCOL

Through this protocol the CGTP-IN and the TUC - as fellow members of the European Trade Union Confederation - will develop their trade union cooperation in these areas:

A) SUPPORT TO THE PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING WORKERS IN GREAT BRITAIN

- 1) Encouraging union membership and organisation among Portuguese-speaking workers.
- 2) Providing trade union information and training to the Portuguese nationals and nationals from other Portuguese-speaking countries in Great Britain, particularly by informing them of their rights, the importance of having proper employment status, and of joining a union.
- 3) The information and training work will be developed by representatives from British union organisations in consultation with the CGTP-IN and representatives from the Portuguese-speaking communities and associations in Great Britain.
- 4) Producing materials in Portuguese and English, outlining GB employment rights, the role of and importance of joining unions, social welfare issues, etc. The CGTP-IN will translate, free of charge, any materials into Portuguese, including any union-specific recruitment material.

B) SUPPORTING THE BRITISH WORKERS IN PORTUGAL

The CGTP-IN and its affiliate unions will ensure trade union support is provided to British workers who are members of TUC affiliated unions working in Portugal.

C) MONITORING AND DURATION

The CGTP-IN and the TUC will assess and monitor the implementation of this protocol on an annual basis.

London, August 2014

TUC

CGTP-IN

(Frances O'Grady)

(Arménio Carlos)