

A stylized graphic of a globe is positioned on the left side of the page. It is composed of two main colors: a dark red for the continents and a light blue for the oceans. The globe is partially cut off by the left edge of the frame.

Working for global justice



UK trade unions and international development

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WORKING FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

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Introduction

Trade unions, as democratic membership-led organisations, play a unique role in international development. They work to reduce poverty through productive, sustainable and decent work for all and good living standards for workers, families and communities. This development work is based on the principles of human rights, equality and global justice. The TUC and affiliate unions are actively supporting trade unions in the global south to achieve these aims.

Through capacity building, campaigns, advocacy and organising, trade unions help to lift people out of poverty and enable them to win and uphold their human and trade union rights. Trade unions work to empower people to participate in and hold to account their politicians, governments and employers. Through this activity, trade unions make a unique contribution to the Millennium Development Goals.

The following projects and programmes of work are just a flavour of the depth and breadth of the UK trade union movement's contribution to international development and the changes that we help to make working in partnership with trade unions in the global south.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brendan Barber".

Brendan Barber,
General Secretary, TUC

With thanks to our partners in the global south and the affiliate unions who provided copy and photographs for this publication.

Zimbabwe

Striving for democracy

The signing of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in early 2009 saw the end of one-party rule and the formation of a coalition Government in Zimbabwe. Since then, life for some Zimbabweans has improved, the economy has stabilised and political space has slightly expanded. However, the coalition remains very fragile, many aspects of the implementation of the GPA have stalled and possible elections loom in 2011.

In its ongoing struggle to ensure Zimbabwe is run in a 'people driven, people centred' way, the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), with the support of the TUC, bravely continues to take a principled stand. It is challenging the controversial constitution-making process and through nationwide civic education enabling union members to make informed decisions about how their country should be run. It lobbies for all political parties to commit to a Transitional Justice Process, where victims of past violations are recognised and compensated and there are also plans to influence the social and economic policy positions within political party manifestos.



Trade unionists from a ZCTU affiliate prepare for May Day 2010 celebrations

The stakes are extraordinarily high and depend on a peaceful and just resolution to the political impasse. Therefore, the ZCTU has also led early calls for free and fair presidential (not parliamentary) elections in 2011, based on a fully independent Zimbabwean Electoral Commission, a trade union role in monitoring and observing the elections and for an international peace-keeping force presence in the lead up to, during and until the peaceful transfer of power after elections.

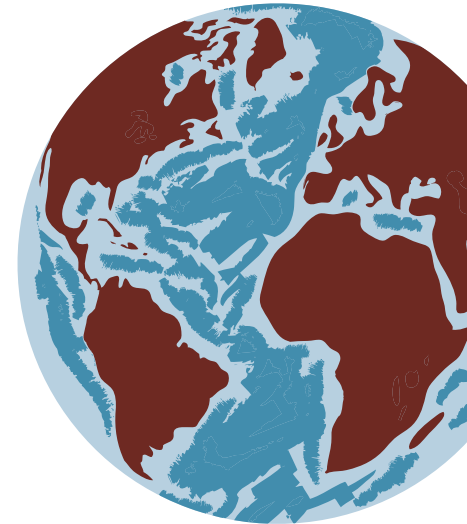
Sierra Leone

Rebuilding trade unions

The horrors of the civil war in Sierra Leone have long been in the news. Few people, however, had the slightest idea of the toll the war took on workers' rights and entitlements in one of the poorest countries in the world. By 2007, trade union membership had dropped to 42,000 from a peak of 150,000 in the pre-war period. The Sierra Leone Labour Congress and its affiliates had an uphill task in defending workers' rights and rebuilding the movement due to the lack of expertise and resources.

The TUC's Rebuilding Trade Union Capacity in Sierra Leone project has been running for over three years and has given a tremendous boost to trade union institutions, structures and networks and therefore to the workers that they represent. The Sierra Leone Labour Congress has consolidated its pre-eminent position as the national trade union centre and backed affiliates' initiatives to recruit, represent and negotiate on behalf of its members. By 2010, union membership has risen to nearly 50,000 and as a direct result of this increased strength and bargaining power, seven new collective bargaining agreements have been signed, increasing the rights of over 45,000 workers. In addition, 15,400 civil servants have received a 20% pay rise – improving the lives of workers and their families considerably.

This project has also enabled the Sierra Leone Labour Congress to better represent groups of workers in the informal sector and adopt policies to increase women's representation in the union.



Iraq

Trade unions coming out of the shadows



Hashmeya Muhsin, President of the Electricity Workers' Union, Iraq, campaigning for a just labour law.

The TUC is working with Iraq's fledgling trade union movement to run a campaign calling for fair and just national labour laws that are compliant with international standards.

Currently, trade unions in Iraq operate under the shadows of old laws that allow the government to control them and prevent public sector workers from joining them. Unions in Iraq have a vital role to play in rebuilding the country. They are one of the few forces that unite people regardless of tribal, ethnic or religious boundaries in striving for a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Iraq.

The TUC has assisted with planning and running the campaign by: launching an international campaign appeal; securing the campaign endorsement of the ITUC and other key national trade union centres; improving the website of the General Federation of Iraqi Workers (GFIW); and engaging other governments and the ILO to press the Iraqi government.

The campaign launched in November 2009 and has achieved significant early success, with some 85 members of the former Parliament signing the campaign appeal along with President Talabani. The final passage of the law very much hangs on the long-awaited formation of a new government.

www.iraqitradeunions.org

Africa

Uncovering the uncomfortable truth

Across Africa, journalists' unions are working to protect their members from powerful forces such as repressive governments, warlords and criminals who benefit from the suppression of accurate news reports. Their challenge is to get a 'Safety of African Journalists' resolution passed at the African Union (AU), thereby strengthening demands for all African governments to enshrine in their national laws, the right to protection and redress for journalists.

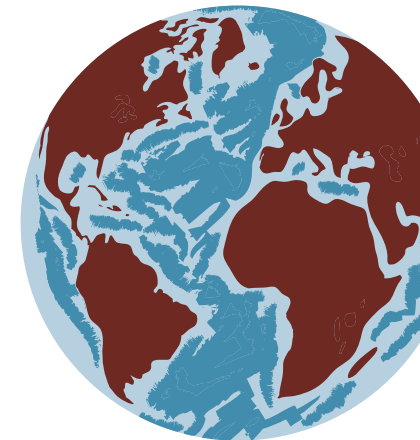
"The number of journalists killed in Africa while working – deliberately, and in crossfire or combat related circumstances – has been increasing year in year out. Governments and media agencies are failing in their responsibility to protect and respect the safety of journalists in Africa. The time has come for the African Union to stand up for the safety and protection of African journalists," explains Omar Faruk Osman, President of the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ).

While not part of the Millennium Development Goals or other official development targets, the ability of citizens to make informed decisions based on accurate information is vital if authoritarian regimes are to falter, political space open up and human and trade union rights and democracy take root.

With the support of the NUJ, the TUC is supporting FAJ to undertake an intensive, co-ordinated lobby of African Union Government Representatives so that in January 2011, a resolution on the safety and protection of African journalists is passed.



Omar Faruk Osman, President of the Federation of African Journalists (right) in discussion with Jean Ping, Chair of the African Union Commission during the July 2010 AU summit.



Zimbabwe

Supporting freedom of the press

The problems in Zimbabwe are manifold – repressive media laws mean journalists face routine threats, intimidation, persecution and imprisonment simply for doing their job. At the same time trade unions operate under enormous strain in the face of political pressure and the huge challenges of defending workers in a country with over 90 per cent unemployment.

Throughout 2009 and 2010, members of the National Union of Journalists, supported by the TUC, have been directly involved in a project with the Zimbabwean Union of Journalists. The project aims to address the immediate challenges facing ZUJ – the lack of press freedom, the impact of a polarised media on journalistic ethics and the specific problems facing women in the workplace.

An NUJ delegation visited Harare and held a workshop with journalists from across Zimbabwe: **“It was an opportunity for journalists to get together, talk about the problems they face day to day, the broader impact the lack of press freedom has on their working lives, and how ZUJ can work to improve the situation. The trip was hugely inspiring and NUJ members have rallied in support of the campaign,”** says NUJ deputy general secretary Michelle Stanistreet.



Journalists in Zimbabwe campaigning for better terms and conditions.

Fundraising by NUJ members has paid for resource centres in Harare and Bulawayo to be set up and equipped with computers and laptops. Visits from ZUJ general secretary, Foster Dongozi, have reinforced the joint project. He says: **“The help from NUJ members has made a big difference – equipped resource centres give journalists a safe place to research and file their stories and a way of earning a better living. However, this project is about more than practical help – the solidarity and support from fellow journalists in the UK has emphasised that we are not alone in our struggle for decent work and press freedom.”**

Bangladesh

Confronting climate change

Trade unions around the world are supporting the concept of ‘just transition’ to ensure that green and decent jobs are a positive result of policies responding to climate change. It is vital to get trade unions and workers involved in policies aimed at confronting climate change impacts and job losses in order to find new paths of development.

‘Just transition’ is the focus of a TUC-supported project with the Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (OSHE) Foundation. Repon Chowdhury, OSHE’s general secretary, explains why the project is needed:

“Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Agriculture, fisheries, construction and many jobs in the informal sector will be severely affected, posing a risk to the means of survival for many families.” In just one year, floods in the country left 1,000 people dead, 30 million people homeless and £4 billion-worth of damage.



Through this project, OSHE will work with unions in Bangladesh, supporting them to take action at national and workplace levels. Unions will develop a common policy position and speak with one voice on climate change, whilst campaigning to government and the World Bank to ensure that the interests of working people are centre-stage. Technical advice will be provided by Sustainlabour.

As Repon points out, the Bangladeshi government already has policies on climate change. **“But the objectives of the climate change strategy and action plan will not be achieved without the participation of workers and so it is very important that the government fully includes us in policy debates.”**

The West Bank

Organising and empowering



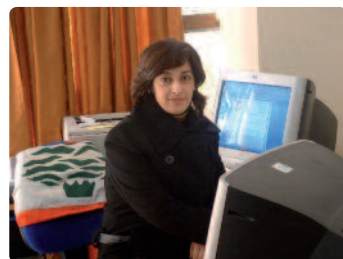
A PGFTU workshop in the West Bank.

“Now I realise the importance of unions and I have begun to know my rights,” said factory worker Nedaa Al Zaher after attending a training session run by the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU). In this TUC-supported project, empowerment training was held in targeted workplaces across the West Bank, covering such issues as labour rights, child labour, solving conflict, gender relations, and organising.

Nedaa Al Zaher is 38 and married with five sons. She has worked at a cosmetics factory since 2005 but before the workshop, she was not a member of a union. **“The workshop was amazing and something new in my life – it has increased my ability to get involved in workplace discussions.”**

Asked how she will use her new-found knowledge, Nedaa said, **“I’m now a member of the union and I hope my contacts with my employer, union representative and colleagues will change for the positive and be based on co-operation, exchanging views and sharing responsibility. Overall, I am hopeful that my position at work will improve.”**

Saed Zubaidy also attended a training session. As a result, his workplace decided to elect some representatives and adopt a new constitution. Saed says: **“I decided to be a candidate and was elected. Being a representative is not easy but since our election we have begun negotiations with our employer and have succeeded in reducing the working day by half an hour for women, also, workers now take two days off each week.”**



Nedaa Al Zaher.

Guyana

Challenging exploitation



Sugar workers in Guyana have partnered GMB London to ensure the implementation and enforcement of labour laws. In Guyana, while there are some good labour laws in place and important ILO conventions have been ratified, exploitation and unfair treatment within the sugar industry continues. Work in the sugar industry can be hard and poorly paid. Women field workers only get seasonal work, making it difficult to sustain a basic living. It is a sector of vital importance to the Guyanese economy but it has been hit by changes to the sugar trade with Europe and the fall in global sugar prices, along with a recent spate of poor harvests.

The project will train workplace representatives in the detail of existing labour laws to enable the two Guyanese sugar unions to represent their members more effectively, take on cases, and improve terms, conditions and health and safety for sugar workers. The link with unions in Guyana is particularly relevant to GMB members working at Tate and Lyle – one of the main buyers of Guyanese cane sugar in Europe.

Komal Chand, President of Gawu in Guyana, says, **“The project ‘Promoting legal rights and building union capacity in Guyana’ provides an excellent opportunity for 120 members from the two unions in the sugar industry of Guyana to understand and to be able to apply themselves at the workplace to ensure that core pieces of labour legislation are respected and complied with by the employer, the Guyana Sugar Corporation.”**

Labour laws in Guyana are fairly progressive, the problem is that managers and reps are often unfamiliar with them. The project is seeking to empower the union reps to take up issues and improve terms and conditions for their members.

Cambodia

Decent education – decent work

Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in the world, life expectancy is 56 years and 80 per cent of the population lives on less than \$2 a day. During the Pol Pot era teachers were systematically killed and the education system largely destroyed. There is still a shortage of schools and teachers, with the latter badly paid, often poorly trained and low in morale. Established in 2000, the Cambodian Independent Teachers Association (CITA), one of only two independent trade unions in Cambodia, is working under very challenging conditions to protect and promote the rights of teachers.

With assistance from the TUC, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) is supporting trade unionists to improve access to quality education in Cambodia. In 2009, Rong Chhun, CITA's President, provided a keynote address at ATL's Conference, raising awareness of the challenges faced by teachers in Cambodia and the work that CITA is doing to support them. Later that year ATL's president, international adviser and international officer made a reciprocal visit to Cambodia.



Rong Chhun,
President of
CITA, addresses
the ATL
Conference.

On returning to the UK, ATL secured further funding from DFID through the TUC, which is being used to support CITA's efforts to improve the working conditions of Cambodian teachers and raise the quality of education. The funds are being used to improve CITA's systems, grow its membership and to work with both the Cambodian government and education sector donors to help them understand the concerns of the country's teachers.

“CITA's aim is to improve teaching and learning conditions, increase teachers' salaries and allow access to learning resources throughout Cambodia. These conditions are fundamental to securing the right to education for learners and achieving Education for All,” said ATL General Secretary, Dr Mary Bousted.

Global campaigning for education

The UK's main teaching unions, Association of Teachers and Lecturers, Education Institute of Scotland, NASUWT and the National Union of Teachers are all active members of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE).

The campaign undertakes a range of activities designed to increase community awareness of the state of education internationally and generate the political will necessary to ensure the UK plays an active and effective part in efforts to secure education for all.

Every year hundreds of teachers and other education sector staff participate in the campaign's school- focused action week. In 2010 over one million children from 9,000 schools across the UK were part of activities designed to raise awareness of the plight of the world's 72 million children who still don't attend school.

More than 90 schools hosted a visit from their local MP, including the Deputy Prime Minister and a number of cabinet Ministers. These visits have had a huge impact on parliamentary interest in education internationally and have laid the foundation for the establishment of an All Party Parliamentary Group on Education for All.



Malcolm Bruce
MP, Chair of the
International
Development
Select
Committee,
addresses a
GCE meeting.

All of the unions also play an active part in the GCE's policy-influencing efforts. Along with senior representatives from development agencies the leadership of all three unions meet regularly with DFID Ministers and staff and in 2010 the unions helped shape DFID's new education strategy.

The unions are also committed to raising the profile of education internationally throughout the trade union movement and convened a fringe event at the TUC's 2009 Congress.

All four unions work internationally with other education unions to support teachers and pupils in developing countries and both NUT and ATL have received financial and practical support from DFID to develop projects with developing country partners through the TUC.

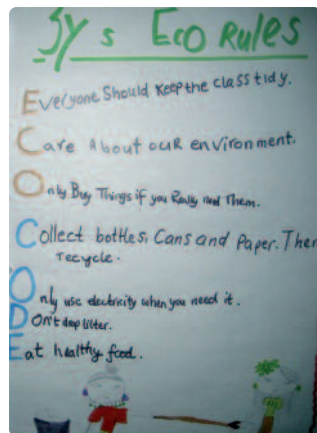
Internationalising learning

The National Union of Teachers is running an innovative Internationalising Learning programme that develops teachers' skills in global learning. These skills will help teachers to strengthen children's understanding, attitudes and behaviour towards global interdependence, human rights issues and poverty reduction.

Five of the 15 Internationalising Learning courses have been held to date and the programme is already having a positive impact on embedding global learning in class work and across whole schools.

One teacher who went on the course said, **"Since trialling the global dimension in my class over the last few weeks, pupils have learned to appreciate other people's opinions and that different views and attitudes are okay and to appreciate the need to look after the world in which we live."**

Children also learn to reflect and evaluate the things they do and how these can be changed to make the world a better place and develop their empathic reasoning.



Ideas and resources trialled by participants during the course have also been placed online so that all teachers can access and adapt them as required. These resources cover; teaching about fair trade, climate change and other aspects of sustainable development; internationalising a subject/curriculum area; teaching about identity, empathy, respect for others and community cohesion; and internationalising learning across schools.

"There is now going to be whole school implementation of a global dimension in planning."

Defending public services



Trade unionists defending public services in Bangladesh.

Trade unions in the UK work with unions in developing countries to build strong civil societies in order to secure affordable access to education, health, water and sanitation and decent housing. As a public services union, UNISON's international work focuses on defending and strengthening trade unions and public services around the world.

At branch, regional and national level links are made with public service trade unions abroad to share experiences and ideas about improving public services and operating more effectively as trade unions. Many of the challenges faced by unions in different countries are the result of similar liberalisation policies, often promoted by international bodies, such as the World Bank.

UNISON has directly supported public service unions in other countries to strengthen their organisation, often by better involving and representing women in their structures, for example with teachers in Iraq, civil servants in Zimbabwe and water workers in Malawi.

Campaigns to defend public services are also directly supported, for example through the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies and the Public Services, Local and Municipal Economy Workers Trade Union of Georgia. Fledgling public service unions have been funded to try and establish formal public service trade unions, for example through the Confederation of Salvadorian Workers in El Salvador.

Research is also underway to extend UNISON's links with public service unions in Latin America, Asia and Africa, identify common campaigns to strengthen public services and provide educational material for union members on the battles for public services in the global South.

The battle against HIV/AIDS

Building workplace capacity to combat HIV/AIDS in Nigeria

Nine out of ten people living with HIV/AIDS are in the prime of their productive life and are therefore workers. Africa bears two-thirds of the burden of the pandemic and in Nigeria, in the continent's most populous country; HIV/AIDS has become a serious public health problem.

The TUC 'Building Workplace Capacity to Combat HIV/AIDS in Nigeria' project, seeks to address the issues in two key sectors – health and education - from the perspective of the workplace. Following education and training, union officials are educating colleagues on best ways to prevent infection.

The protection and promotion of the human and employment rights of workers affected by the disease is on the collective bargaining agenda. Unions are negotiating a National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS to be enforced at all workplaces. In addition, a new campaign to mobilise support for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation is in progress.



The new Voluntary, Counselling and Testing Clinic in Abuja.

A Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) Centre for workers, opened at the Primary Health Clinic at Jikwoy in Abuja, on 5 July 2010. The current VCT initiative in Abuja follows the successful completion of a TUC pilot project in the Ashanti Region, Ghana, in collaboration with the Timber and Woodworkers' Union (TWU).

This project will contribute to a reduction in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria, better protection and promotion of employment and human rights of workers infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS and to the elimination of stigma and discrimination against them.

Supporting public sector trade unions in southern Africa

UNISON members are committed to taking action to support trade unions in southern Africa fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic that puts considerable strain on public service workers and their families. The prevalence of the disease is having a devastating effect on how public services are delivered and is a significant challenge for public service trade unions.

In 2004, UNISON brought together every public service trade union in southern Africa to discuss HIV/AIDS and the public sector response. This was the first time that these unions had been brought together to share, plan and network.

The unions shared their experiences of how they had responded to HIV/AIDS, including what had worked well and what had not. The resulting pilot project, sharing best practice on HIV/AIDS between southern African unions through regional meetings, staff resources, a new website and materials, was funded by DFID.

The majority of unions involved have been undertaking activities to tackle discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS; working together with other civil society organisations; and several national governments are now being directly lobbied by public services trade unions.

As a member of the Stop AIDS Campaign, UNISON has used the knowledge and experience of its work with southern African unions to lobby the UK Government on universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment, adequate global funding and for better resourced public health systems in the global south.

Patrick Mazila, from the Civil Servants and Allied Workers Union of Zambia (CSAWUZ), says: **"The in-country seminar was an eye opener in terms of developing policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS in the workplace and also the importance of leadership commitment to fighting AIDS."**



Group work during training of peer educators and shop stewards conducted by Water Employees Trade Union of Malawi.

Decent work for domestic workers

“I wanted to make domestic work into decent work and that is why I became a trade unionist. As a union, we try to make sure that employers recognise that domestic workers are like other workers and should enjoy full rights.”

So says Sonu Danuwar, founder of the Nepali Independent Domestic Workers’ Union (NIDWU) and one of the partners in a TUC-supported project with the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT). This project is building capacity in NIDWU and working to ensure that government policy supports domestic workers.

Many domestic workers are forced into domestic work at a young age because of poverty, meaning that they miss out on education. Unscrupulous employers can then exploit young workers, refusing to pay them, offering inadequate accommodation, and even subjecting them to physical abuse.

The problems facing domestic workers are a global phenomena and that is why the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has started work to develop a convention to protect the rights of these vulnerable workers.



In June 2010, unions, employers, governments and domestic workers from around the world met in Geneva to begin negotiations. As part of the TUC’s project with GEFONT and NIDWU, Sonu participated in the negotiations. Meanwhile, the TUC-organised workers’ delegation from the UK included Marissa Begonia, a member of Justice for Domestic Workers, a group for migrant domestic workers in the UK and part of Unite the union.

Marissa represented UK workers on the committee discussing the proposed convention. **“Every second in the Decent Work Committee was so intense and we wasted no time in lobbying others. Our excellent teamwork worked well during the discussions. My heart melted in happiness to hear the positive support and recognition from many governments, including the UK.”**



Through the TUC’s active membership of the ILO governing body, trade unions are represented and part of lobbying efforts to ensure the UK government takes a progressive attitude towards the rights of domestic workers worldwide.

A louder voice for southern workers

It is the poorest and most disenfranchised that don’t have a say in global decision-making such as the G8, G20 and OECD, yet it is they who bear the brunt of decisions about whether governments decide to continue the trend of providing global fiscal stimulus practices, follow the ILO’s Jobs Pact recommendations or retain commitments to development aid.

To counter this problem, the TUC is supporting the Trade Union Advisory Council to the OECD (TUAC), to give workers’ representatives from the developing world a louder voice at key international bodies. A TUC-TUAC agreement is helping them to be a key part of global trade union lobbying efforts to ensure that G20 world leaders chart a progressive course out of the global economic crisis.

It is also helping them to have input into the update of the OECD Guidelines for Multinationals – rules of responsible behaviour covering multinational companies that operate in or from the 42 signatory countries to the guidelines. The guidelines have recently helped settle major industrial relations disputes, helping workers secure decent jobs from Pakistan to Malawi.

OECD-headquartered multinationals have a huge and often negative impact on working conditions and human rights in the developing world – so it’s essential that potentially affected workers can have a say. Through TUAC, they are able to contribute ideas and experiences to improve the effectiveness of guidelines, particularly through ensuring that they cover the tens of millions of workers in global supply chains, address climate change, and have a fair and effective complaints mechanism so that companies take them seriously.

Campaigning for Decent Work

PlayFair 2012



Around the world, millions of mainly female workers are employed in the global supply chains that make many of the products we consume every single day. Yet, many of these workers are paid poverty wages, forced to work long hours in unsafe conditions, have little job security, and are not free to join or form a trade union to fight for their rights.

Trade unions in the UK have long recognised that respect for workers' rights and payment of a living wage throughout global supply chains is crucial to eliminating poverty and enabling people in developing countries to live and work in dignity.

Building on this experience, the TUC, with Labour Behind the Label, is co-ordinating PlayFair 2012, a national campaign to improve the working conditions in global chains supplying sportswear and Olympics-branded goods for London 2012.

The campaign brings together over 20 unions and organisations calling on the London Games, the sportswear industry and the International Olympic Committee to ensure that workers' rights are respected and in line with internationally recognised standards.

Since the launch of the campaign in 2009, unions and organisations have: taken online action targeting sportswear brands; organised a national speaker tour and associated events; promoted the campaign in their publications; and disseminated PlayFair 2012 materials to regions and branches. Teachers are also using teaching materials on global supply chains for 16-18 year olds.

As a result of PlayFair 2012's engagement with the organisers of the London games, suppliers are required to comply with labour standards in the Ethical Trading Initiative base code and, where there are violations of rights, workers will be able to make a complaint through an independent mechanism.

www.playfair2012.org

The Ethical Trading Initiative

Any garment, item of food or piece of merchandise has passed through a long line of factories, suppliers, buyers and warehouses before it reaches the shop. These supply chains can stretch all over the globe and can mean a race to the bottom line in terms of wages and conditions for workers.

The TUC is an active member of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) – a multi-stakeholder body where trade unions and NGOs work with companies to improve working conditions in their global supply chains. These 'ethical efforts' have benefitted an estimated 9.4 million workers in 35,000 workplaces globally, resulting in improvements in areas such as health and safety and working hours.

The various stakeholders within ETI, working directly with trade unions on the ground, increasingly recognise that sustainable ethical changes in working conditions cannot be achieved by external auditors with clip boards, but require workers to be empowered to monitor and improve their own conditions, in negotiation with management.



Other new ETI programme priorities that the TUC is involved in include stepping up efforts to pay a living wage, protecting vulnerable workers, ensuring company purchasing practices don't undermine ethical trade, and tackling workplace discrimination.

www.ethicaltrade.org.uk

Bargaining for development

Trade unions have a unique role in international development that harnesses raising awareness with practical action that has a direct impact in developing countries

Prospect Union has developed a project, through DFID funding, that will educate and enable Prospect members, to place international development issues on the bargaining agenda of the organisations they work for.

The active network of development advocates have had many successes that will positively impact on the lives of workers in developing countries.

These include: working to align EDF Energy's global CSR agreement with the MDGs; conducting a verification audit on a hydro-dam project in Laos; participating in an OECD consultation on guidance for multinational corporations; participating in compiling an ethical procurement and CSR policy for Scottish Agricultural College; and working with the Marine Management Organisation to develop an integrated sustainability policy and action plan.

By raising awareness of international development Prospect Union has empowered members to make development a workplace issue where they can make a difference.

The Decent Work and Labour Standards Forum

The TUC helps co-ordinate the Decent Work and Labour Standards Forum (the 'Forum'), a multi-stakeholder network of business, trade unions, academics, labour standards specialists and NGOs, working with the UK government to help secure Decent Work in the global south.

The Forum's members have collaborated to produce a study into how the economic crisis has affected the garment sector in Bangladesh and the agricultural sector in Zambia, and the potential of Decent Work to promote recovery from the crisis.

The Forum has also published '*Decent work and development finance to the private sector*', which examines the policy and practice of development finance institutions, in particular DFID's CDC Group, in relation to Decent Work.

www.decentwork.org.uk

Supporting people in their hour of need

On 12 January 2010, the people of Haiti suffered a cruel act of nature when a major earthquake hit their country causing over 225,000 deaths and massive damage to the country's underdeveloped, poorly maintained infrastructure. Most buildings, including hospitals, government offices, schools and private dwellings in the capital, Port au Prince, were reduced to rubble.

TUC Aid, the TUC charity, responded quickly to the needs of the people of Haiti through its appeal to affiliates and the general public and contributed £30,000 to emergency relief carried out by the Haitian trade union and the unions from the Dominican Republic.

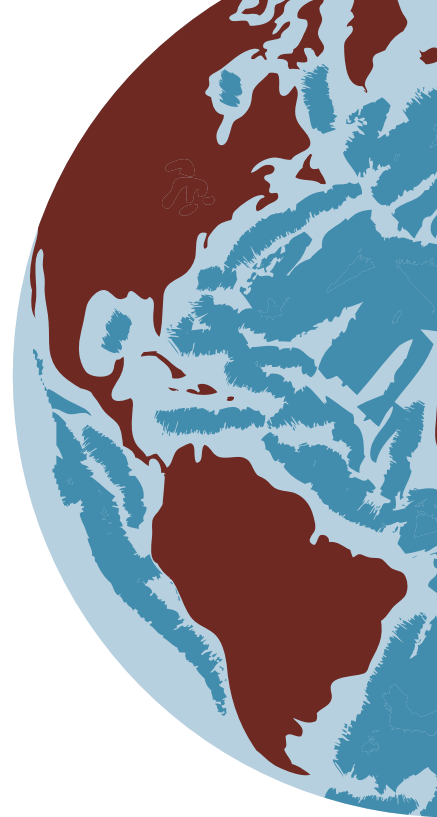
A concert held in Congress House in partnership with the Cuba Solidarity Campaign in aid of the appeal attracted over 700 people and brought together well-known performers like Billy Bragg and Benjamin Zephaniah. TUC affiliates contributed about £67,000 to various appeals including the DEC Appeal and the Education International Appeal for Haiti.

The TUC is now involved in the international trade union movement plan to support the rebuilding of the country ensuring that the Decent Work agenda is incorporated into national reconstruction strategies.



Billy Bragg performing at TUC Aid's Concert for Haiti, Congress House.

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Published by

**Trades Union Congress
Congress House
Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3LS**

www.tuc.org.uk

Design www.wave.coop

September 2010