

International women's day 2012: equality cannot be just an empty word

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Verzonden: donderdag 8 maart 2012 17:44

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**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
2012: EQUALITY CANNOT BE JUST
AN EMPTY WORD**

8 March 2012



**European Trade Union Confederation [ETUC]
Confédération européenne des syndicats [CES]**

Tonight, Bernadette Ségal, General Secretary of the European trade Union Confederation (ETUC), will address the “International women's day 2012 - Women and austerity: Impact and resistance” event organised by Trades Union Congress (TUC) in London.

Mrs Ségal will stress the fact that women in Europe have made progress, but will denounce the persistence of the unacceptable pay gap with men. She will confirm the European trade unions' commitment to promoting gender equality and fighting inequalities. For the European trade union movement, equality cannot be just an empty word.

“In most EU countries, the mantra is “austerity”. Money is taken from public sector. This means slashing wages and jobs. This is hitting women, who are in a majority in those jobs. Public services are essential to secure a coherent and fair society. Attacking public services, weakening them is the wrong way forward. It is certainly a step back for women and equality”, Bernadette Ségal will say.

Follow the speech live tonight at 8.15 pm (British time): <http://www.tuc.org.uk/international/tuc-20739-f0.cfm>

The ETUC exists to speak with a single voice, on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 85 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 12 industry-based federations.

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