

# Newsflash

Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking



Dear friends,

This is a newsletter of the Global Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking. It is addressed to all interested and wants to inform you about trade union activities to fight forced labour and human trafficking around the world. The Alliance is led by the International Trade Union Confederation and financially supported by the Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour of the International Labour Organisation. It promotes decent work for all and more specifically geographical and institutional commitment and cooperation to eradicate forced labour and human trafficking as its very antithesis.

- **ITUC** Core Labour Standards Reports on:
  - [Singapore](#)
  - [China](#)
- **ITUC** on Burma: [European Union position on Burma just not good enough](#) ; strong protest against the very heavy prison sentences imposed on six labour activists. ([protest letter](#))
- [Memorandum of Understanding](#) signed between **ITUC** and **Anti-Slavery International**.
- **TUC UK** and **Anti-Slavery International**: On 1 May, Diana Holland, Chair of the ITUC Women's Committee emphasised that the fight to eradicate forced labour required governments, trade unions, employers and NGOs to work together in effective partnership. ([speech](#)) As a follow-up, **TUC UK** hosted a seminar with representatives from trade unions, government, business and NGOs on 19 August 2008 in London, UK.
- **IUF**: New trade union [handbook](#) for organising and defending migrant workers in agriculture and allied sectors.
- The Burkina Transport Union **SNTRV-B** installed a giant billboard to raise awareness about child trafficking amongst bus and truck drivers. ([press article](#))
- **CSC-Food and Services** denounces a case of Asian domestic workers being trafficked into forced labour in Belgium by a UAE family. ([press statement](#))
- **ITUC**: [Union View](#) on the trade union situation in Georgia mentions joint **ILO-GTUC** project to combat human trafficking.
- **ITUC**: Spotlight [interview](#) with Mohammed Haidour (**CCOO**) Mohammed Haidour, a worker from Morocco who came to live Spain as an undocumented migrant, is now on the national executive of the Spanish trade union centre CCOO, responsible for migrant workers' issues. He describes the challenges unions face in defending the interests of



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migrant workers. "In the fight against human trafficking and the mafias, we have also won the right for migrants to denounce a network or an employer that has been exploiting them, either directly or via a trade union, together with the prosecution of the exploiter and the regularisation of their employment."

- **AFL-CIO:** In the \$13 billion seafood processing industry, workers pay the price for consumer affordability. This [report](#), from the *Degradation of Work* series, uncovers pervasive worker and human rights abuses such as low-wage sweatshop conditions, use of child and forced labour, and global supply chains that drive wages down and hide the exploitation of workers.
- **AFL-CIO/ITUC/BWI:** 65 union, employer, and government representatives attending the International Labour Conference gathered to discuss challenges facing South Asian workers who migrate to the Gulf States in search of jobs. ([documents](#))
- **BWI** has been reporting about the appalling working conditions of many of the 10 million Asian migrant workers in the Gulf, most of whom come from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. [Decent working and living conditions for migrant workers are needed in the Gulf States.](#)
- **ITUC Mini Guide on Child Labour:** The ITUC is closely linking its work in the Global March Against Child Labour and the newly-emerging Global Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking. The ILO estimates that up to fifty percent of all forced labour victims worldwide are children. Increasingly, children are becoming forced child labourers as a result of human trafficking. Children in in-house domestic work, in rural agriculture or isolated estates, in mining, brick making, textiles and fisheries are particularly vulnerable to this "worst form of child labour" as specified in ILO Convention 182.
- **ITUC: Union View:** Chad stories of child labour and child soldiers. See also: [Spotlight Interview with Michel Barka \(UST - Chad\)](#)
- The **ETUC** expressed strong concerns that the 'Returns Directive' runs counter to basic fundamental rights. The ETUC stated that the fight against irregular migration cannot be effective without having opened channels for regular migration, clear policies against labour exploitation of irregular migrants, and providing them with bridges out of irregularity. In spite of ETUC protest, the Directive was adopted and will enter into force 20 days after its publication. ([Letter to the European Parliament](#)) ([ETUC position on migration](#) in which ETUC states it is committed to "combat all forms of human trafficking").
- **TUC UK** launches [website](#) to support the Portuguese workforce in the UK. The website explains the rights workers can expect at work. The website – launched with the **Citizens Advice service** (CAB) and Portuguese union Confederação Geral dos Trabalhadores



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Portuguese (CGTP) – also contains information about social issues such as housing and health, and guidance about what living and working in the UK is really like.

- **GFBTU:** Expatriate workers can join Bahrain trade union ([press article](#))
- **ITUC, ITGLWF and the CCC (Clean Clothes Campaign):** The [Play Fair Alliance](#) documented horrendous working conditions in the industry, including poverty wages, excessively long hours of forced and underpaid overtime, exploitative terms of employment, bullying, sexual harassment, and physical and verbal abuse.
- The **BWI** in collaboration with the **Uganda Building Union** (UBCCECAWU) organised a capacity building and information sharing workshop on the union's experiences in monitoring the International Finance Corporation (IFC) funded Bujagali project consisting of the development, construction and maintenance of run-of-the-river power plant. The union shared its experience on how to use IFC performance standard 2 (PS 2) as leverage tools for realising the goals of the decent work agenda. Among others, PS 2 includes promoting the principles of non-discrimination, freedom of association and collective bargaining, and prohibits child and forced labour. PS can be used by unions when IFC funded companies violate workers' rights. ([press statement](#))
- **Italcementi** signed an international framework [agreement](#) with the **BWI** and its Italian affiliates, **Filca-Cisl**, **Feneal-Uil** and **Fillea-Cgil** with the aim to secure trade union and social rights of employees working on Italcementi projects worldwide. Italcementi commits itself to promote the same principles with its subsidiaries, contractors, subcontractors and suppliers. "There shall be no use of forced or compulsory labour, including bonded labour. Workers shall not be asked to surrender passports, identity papers or valuables."
- **EI:** 12 June: World Day against Child Labour – All children in school, not at work! ([press statement](#)); **IUF** and **EI** join forces to demand rural education for all. ([press statement](#))
- **IUF:** Landmark collective bargaining agreement for Seasonal Migrant Farmworkers in Canada. "... for the first time a group of migrant agricultural workers in Canada have a grievance procedure, a right to be recalled each season based on seniority, as well as other contract language to protect them from being evicted from their employer-owned lodgings, or expelled from Canada until their case is heard by an independent arbitrator. ([press statement](#))
- **PSI** Migration Pre-Decision and Information Kit  
[Women and International Migration in the Health Sector](#)

The kit is a package of information that aims to assist health care workers make the right choice, when faced with the decision of migrating for employment. It contains practical information on cost of living situation, legal and employment rights and union contacts in



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the destination countries. It also provides general information on the issues on migration in the health sector and the role of public sector trade unions.

## Related Files

[Brochure 1: Introduction](#) (PDF File)

[Brochure 2: Basic questions](#) (PDF File)

[Annex: Union contacts in participating countries](#) (PDF File)

[Poster 1: Are you a Health Worker thinking of moving abroad?](#) (PDF File)

[Poster 2: Are you a migrant health worker?](#) (PDF File)

[Postcard](#) (PDF File)

[Canada: Migration Kit](#) (PDF File)

[Netherlands Migration Kit \(Dutch\)](#) (PDF File)

[Netherlands Migration Kit \(English\)](#) (PDF File)

[USA Migration Kit](#) (PDF File)

[Philippines Migration Kit](#) (PDF File)

[Ghana Migration Kit](#) (PDF File)

[Migration Fact Sheet - 2006](#) (PDF File)

For more information, visit [www.world-psi.org/migration](http://www.world-psi.org/migration) or contact [the Project Coordinator](#)

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- **Upcoming events:**

- **ILO Special Action programme to Combat Forced Labour:** Workshop for workers' organisations in Kiev, Ukraine, 25-26 November 2008
- **GSEE/ITUC-PERC/ETUC:** International Conference on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking, Athens, Greece, 21-23 November 2008
- **ITUC-AP:** Regional Workshop on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking in Kathmandu, Nepal
- **Past events:**
- **ITUC AFRICA-ILO-AFL-CIO Solidarity Center:** Regional Workshop on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking in Nairobi, Kenya, 7-9 July 2008
- **TUC UK - Anti-Slavery International:** Preventing Human Trafficking for Forced Labour and the Worst Forms of Child Labour 19 August 2008, London, UK
- **Global Alliance against Trafficking in Women-La Strada International- Anti-Slavery International:** European Consultation on Compensation for Trafficked Persons, Berlin, Germany, 3-5 September in Berlin.

## Useful information:

- **ILO:** The latest [newsletter](#) of the Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education for All is now available. The newsletter in English, French and Spanish.
- **ILO:** Forced labour in Brazil: 120 years after the abolition of slavery, the fight goes on. ([press statement](#))
- **UN:** On 18 June 2008, the Human Rights Council appointed Ms Joy Ngozi Ezeilo Emekekwe (Nigeria) Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children. ([press statement](#))
- **Burma Campaign UK:** New Burma '[Dirty List](#)' - Companies Named and Shamed.
- Despite progress, efforts to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers are too little and too late for many children, according to the [2008 Child Soldiers Global Report](#), launched today by the **Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers**.
- **Belgian National Report** on human trafficking 2007 mentions increasing importance of trafficking for labour exploitation and recommends more vigilance in the detection of exploited migrant labour as well as more attention for economically exploited victims.
- “More attention must be paid to labour trafficking...” said Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons in Washington, DC on June 4, 2008, in his Remarks at the Release of the Eighth



International  
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[Annual Trafficking in Persons Report](#) of the US Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

## First newsletter

If you know other people interested in the issue please forward this newsletter and invite them to subscribe by emailing [lyris@forum.ituc-csi.org](mailto:lyris@forum.ituc-csi.org) and write “subscribe forcedlabour” in the message body or send an email to [forcedlabour@ituc-csi.org](mailto:forcedlabour@ituc-csi.org) .

You are kindly invited to send any relevant information to be included in the next issue.

For more information please contact [forcedlabour@ituc-csi.org](mailto:forcedlabour@ituc-csi.org)

