

## ZIMBABWE ELECTIONS

The run-off elections in Zimbabwe are going ahead today with President Mugabe and Morgan Tsvangirai's names both figuring on the ballots even though Morgan officially withdrew from the elections last week because of violence against his supporters. SOLIDAR urges the international community to rise up against this miscarriage of democracy and supports the European Union in calling the run-off a "sham" and promotes the US and Germany in saying that the UN will consider sanctions.

## SOLIDAR SOCIAL EUROPE CONFERENCE

On 25 June the SOLIDAR conference "Together for a Social Europe" took place in Paris. About 70 participants mainly from France, Germany, Austria and the United Kingdom gathered at the Maison de l'Europe to discuss a variety of topics dealing with the social and citizenship dimension of Europe. Distinguished speakers including Members of the European Parliament, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), from the Social Platform and from French SOLIDAR members, contributed to the two Round Tables.

A **resolution and conference conclusions document**, to be submitted to the French EU Council Presidency starting on 1 July 2008, the forthcoming Czech and Swedish EU Council Presidencies during 2009, to European institutions and to policy makers and governments across Europe was presented and broadly supported by participants. Discussions on final amendments are underway. The resolution and conclusions will be available at the beginning of next week in English, French, German and Italian. [Read more about the conference...](#)

See the conference programme in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#)

Read the background paper in [EN](#)

## UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS IN FRANCE

The French organisation Education sans Frontières, SOLIDAR Silver Rose Award winners in 2007, has issued a press release following the fire in a detention centre for undocumented migrants in Vincennes near Paris on 21 June. "The real scandal is not that hundreds of desperate men set fire to their prison, but is that this administrative internment is only preceding their expulsion from the country. They have been arrested out of the blue and locked up. They have lost their work, they will lose their housing, all the possessions that they have accumulated, some will lose their partners and children. They will be dropped off in handcuffs in the clothes that they were arrested in on the tarmac of an airport where no-one is waiting for them. Being thrown out is a humiliation from which nobody can recover", write Education sans Frontières.

SOLIDAR fully supports the position of Education Sans Frontières and points out that this situation can only get worse since the adoption of the "Directive of Shame" by the Council of ministers (see article in WR 20-06-2008) as migrants whose only "crime" consists in coming to Europe to participate in our wealth and our richness can be imprisoned for a period of 5 to 18 months. Conny Reuter, SOLIDAR Secretary General consistently asks: *"is this really the way to promote a Europe of solidarity as stipulated in the Lisbon Treaty or just a desperate response to the policy of selective migration?"* He continued, *"SOLIDAR, together with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) amongst others, has repeatedly stated that undocumented migrants have rights, human rights and civil rights. They may be irregular but they are not illegal."*

[Read the full Education sans Frontières press release in FR](#)

## EU IMMIGRATION BLUE CARD SCHEME

On 25 June 2008, the LIBE Committee (Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs) of the EP debated the so-called EU Blue Card scheme by holding a public seminar on the 'Proposal for a Council

Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment'. Welcoming MEPs, Commission and Council representatives and experts from business, trade unions and various research think tanks, the seminar gave a wide reflection of many different perspectives.

Contentious issues appear to be the definition of 'highly qualified', differences that exist between Members States' minimum wage levels, the ability of the Directive to guarantee equal treatment, and thereby equal rights, the risk of discrimination due to the sectoral approach of the Directive and also concerns about unfair competition, with European Trade Union Confederation's Catelene Passchier noting that it must be ensured that migrant workers are not paid less than EU citizen workers.

[Read the Blue Card Proposal](#)

[Read BUSINESSEUROPE's position on the Blue Card Proposal](#)

## **DECENT WORK DECENT LIFE AT CIVICUS WORLD ASSEMBLY**

From 18-21 June in Glasgow (UK), CIVICUS held its World Assembly: one of the biggest gatherings for international civil society representatives from all over the world to get together, exchange ideas, and build strategies for a just world.

This year, the program also included a workshop run by SOLIDAR in the framework of the EU funded Jobs Jobs Jobs Project to promote the Call to Action for Decent Work. Together with a short video presentation, the workshop included the Photo Exhibition 'Time for Decent Work Decent Life'. The Call to Action was also in the spotlight at the opening plenary session where Sharan Burrow - President of the ITUC - emphasised that Decent Work Decent Life is a universal human right and invited attendants to join the Call to Action. CIVICUS is the proof that individual commitment and collective actions can make a big difference. As South Africans would say 'I am because we are': UBUNTU!

SOLIDAR is campaigning to make Decent Work Decent Life a reality for all. Your support can make the difference. SIGN THE CALL TO ACTION @ <http://www.decentwork.org/>

## **CTUWS REGISTERED**

SOLIDAR is happy to announce that Egyptian Global Network partner, the Center for Trade Union and Workers Services (CTUWS), has after one year of struggle been officially registered by the Egyptian Government.

[Read the full article](#)

## **TEXTILE WORKERS ACTION IN PAKISTAN**

Textile workers in Faisalabad, Pakistan, who are members of Labour Qaumi Movement supported by the Labour Education Foundation (LEF), carried out an action this week against a power loom factory owner.

[Read the full article](#)

## **ROUND TABLE ON NEW REPORT "CREATING VALUE FOR ALL"**

The United Nations Development Programme, the Agence Française de Développement, European Voice and the UN Regional Information Centre are pleased to invite you to the Round Table on the new report "Creating Value for All: Strategies for Doing Business with the Poor" taking place on 2 July in Brussels.

Find out more in [EN](#) and [FR](#)

## FORUM "EDUQUER POUR DEMAIN"

The Forum "Eduquer pour demain" (Educating for Tomorrow) organised by Les Francas, member of SOLIDAR member Fédération Européenne de l'Education et la Culture, will be taking place in Tours, France from the 28 June-1 July 2008. SOLIDAR will be participating in a workshop on educating Europe.

[Find out more in French](#)

## SOLIDAR ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2008

SOLIDAR will hold its Annual General Assembly on the 2 July 2008 in the European Parliament in Brussels.

[For further information](#)

1	<b>SOLIDAR Education Committee Meeting, Brussels</b>
1	EUCIS-LLL Public hearing on Access to Lifelong Learning for Disabled Adults, Brussels
2	<b>SOLIDAR Annual General Meeting</b>
4-6	European Civic Forum - mobility, dialogue, participation: towards an active European citizenship", La Rochelle, France
10-11	<b>SOLIDAR Final Jobs Jobs Jobs/Decent Work Conference, Brussels</b>
19-21	<b>SOLIDAR delegation at European Social Forum, Malmö, Sweden</b>
22-23	<b>SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Baltic Conference on Decent Work, Riga</b>
7	<b>World Day For Decent Work - Call to Action handover, Brussels and International</b>
15	<b>SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards 2008 and 60 Years Anniversary, Brussels</b>
28-29	2 <sup>nd</sup> Forum on Social Services of General Interest, Paris
30-2	Volonteuropa 2008, Genoa, Italy

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SOLIDAR is a European network of 42 members working for social and economic justice in Europe and around the world. SOLIDAR's Weekly Round Up provides you with the latest information and news from SOLIDAR and our members, as well as other issues of interest and European developments.

If you have any comments or wish to have further information on any of the articles featured in the Weekly Round Up, please do not hesitate to contact SOLIDAR's Communications Officer [Abigail](#)

[www.solidar.org](http://www.solidar.org)