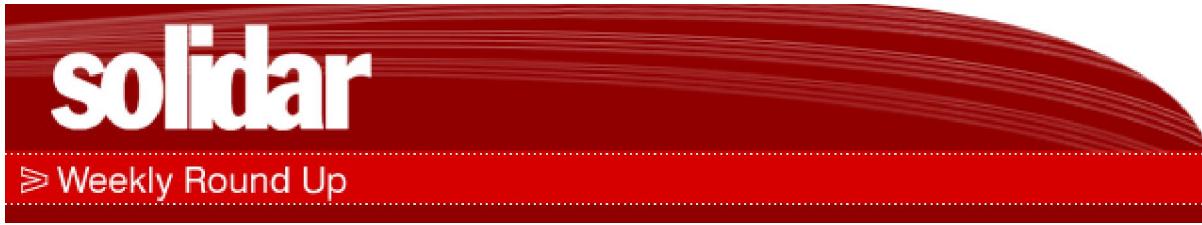


SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 09-03-2012

Solidar [Abigail.Goundry@solidar.org]

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Aan: Veerle Solia

**IN REALITY, EQUALITY IS STILL NEEDED**

8 March is International Women's Day. Far from being an annual ritual, it is unfortunately still more than necessary to remind us all that even if we have achieved the equality of rights on paper, there is a still a gap between the legal framework and the reality. For example, the European average gender pay gap of 17.5% still exists which puts European women at a greater risk of poverty than men, especially in situations of separation, divorce or death of their partner. In addition, in Europe, 7 women die every day from male domestic violence*.

At this week's SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards (read article below), we had the pleasure to honour two women who are fighting for equal rights in very different settings: Iris Munguia has campaigned for decades for the rights of workers, particularly women, in the Chiquita packhouse where she worked in Honduras. And Nevin Öztop from Kaos GL has been carrying out crucial work in the streets of Turkey advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights and fighting all forms of discrimination.

There is still some homework to be done: whereas in civil society organisations we have an important female membership, women are often not enough represented in the leading positions in companies and organisations. The fight for equal rights and against discrimination is one thing, putting it into practice remains the challenge!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

*statistics from European Women's Lobby

SILVER ROSE AWARDS 2012

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On Tuesday (6 March), SOLIDAR celebrated the 12th edition of the Silver Rose Awards in the European Parliament, hosted by Véronique de Keyser MEP. The event this year heard contributions from European Commission, Laszlo Andor, and Staffan Nilsson, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, before getting down to the heart of the matter: the awards.

A special award was presented to **The Norwegian People represented by Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg** and accepted by Niels Engelschion, Deputy Head of Norway to the EU and Ambassador to Belgium: "*This is a token that everyone has thought of us*", he said before continuing: "*We have a democracy and no-one can destroy that for us.*"

Iris Munguia was presented with a prize for her work campaigning for women workers' rights on banana plantations in Honduras. She accepted the award calling for "*a campaign for more stable jobs for women and zero tolerance against sexual harassment on banana plantations*".

Nevin Öztürk from Turkish LGTB organisation **Kaos GL** was presented with the award for their work campaigning for the rights of LGTB people in Turkey: "*This award goes to every LGTB human being in this room, in Brussels, in the world, those who died for who they were or the person they fell in love with.*"

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, former President of the European Socialists, received a lifetime achievement award for his work in opening up political parties to initiatives by citizens and progressive civil society: "*No-one can change alone for the better, but we can change together*", said Rasmussen.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

SEMINAR REPORTS: THE QUEST FOR EFFECTIVE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS FOR DECENT WORK

Within the project "Making Industrial Relations work for Decent Work", two Transnational Seminars took place at the beginning of February in Amsterdam and Bucharest. The aim was to bring together representatives from local authorities, workers' organisations and international stakeholders to investigate conditions, tools and models for effective social and industrial dialogue to promote decent work. Read the event report from the seminar in Amsterdam on [low wage workers](#) while the seminar in Bucharest concentrated on [migrant workers and young people](#).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

YOUR HELP NEEDED FOR A EUROPEAN FTT

On 13 March, EU Finance Ministers will decide on the future of the European Financial Transaction Tax (FTT). The EU-wide implementation of an FTT could make an important contribution to tackling the crisis and ensure that the threats resulting from highly speculative financial trading are kept at bay. However some Member States - like the UK and Sweden - are fervently opposed to the introduction of a tax on speculators. It is crucial to keep up the pressure - [Send your message to the Ministers!](#)

MEMBERS NEWS

Read **FEPS** [Queries magazine](#) just out which includes an article by SOLIDAR Vice-President, Francesco Sauquillo, on Domestic Workers.

Read **ACPP's** [newsletter](#).

Read **La Liga's** [newsletter](#)

Read **Arci's** [newsletter](#)

Solidaridad Internacional issued a [press release](#) on "La sequía del Sahel provoca una situación de emergencia alimentaria en la población de la región de Casamance"

PARTNERS NEWS

Celebrating the Anniversary of the Declaration of Trade Union Freedom, the **Egyptian**

Democratic Labour Congress (EDLC) will organise an [event](#) for trade unions and media in cooperation with CTUWS on Monday March 12th, 2012 at 5 p.m.

Read **ATD Quart Monde**'s press release [EN](#) | [FR](#) following the 12th European Fourth World People's University "Citizens united for a Europe active against persistent Poverty"

Confrontations Europe is [celebrating](#) its 20th Anniversary on 5 April

Read **European Network Against Racism**'s [press release](#) about their Director received a death threat.

The **PES Group in the CoR** has just launched a [photo competition](#) on how they perceive senior citizens taking an active part in society and developing their potential.

AGENDA

March

- 6 SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards, EP, Brussels
- 20 SOLIDAR Round Table: Young People and the Search for Decent Work, EP, Brussels - [register](#)
- 20-21 SOLIDAR Round Table: Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, Paris - [register](#)
- 20-21 SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee, Brussels
- 28 SOLIDAR International Cooperation Committee, Brussels - [register](#)

SOLIDAR is a European network of 56 NGOs active in over 90 countries working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the concerns of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the policy sectors social affairs, international cooperation and lifelong learning. For more info <http://www.solidar.org/>

Tel +32 2 500 1020 Fax +32 2 500 1030
Rue du Commerce 22, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium
Solidar acknowledges the support of the European Union
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