

Have you joined the Global Call?

The [Global Call to Action against Poverty](http://www.globalcalltoaction.org) (GCAP) has produced a series of powerful, one-minute videos to encourage people to join the campaign. If you want to know why 2005 is such a crucial year, possibly a turning point in history, make a point of looking at these!

- ▶ <http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/video5.html>
- ▶ <http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/video1.html>
- ▶ <http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/video3.html>

PSI will soon be sending affiliated unions a campaign kit to encourage their involvement. It includes posters, postcards, a presentation, suggestions for actions and coalitions, sample white bands and information about the links between GCAP and our campaign for quality public services.

New guidelines on HIV/AIDS

PSI affiliate representatives from the four regions took part in a joint ILO/WHO tripartite meeting in Geneva this month to negotiate the first internationally recognised guidelines to protect health workers in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. The world's 100 million strong health-care workforce bears a huge burden through lack of resources, overwork, risk of infection, psychological pressure, and lack of safety provisions. These new guidelines are designed to promote safety for both providers and patients, and to enhance trust and confidence in the health sector. We will be reporting on the negotiations in more detail at <http://www.world-psi.org/health>

E-Government: Keep it in house!

Unions wanting to study e-government should consider the example of Canada, which is clearly leading the race to put public services on the web. They have held this lead for five consecutive years, according to Accenture, who have just published their [annual e-government survey](#) of 22 countries. Canada's secret, they say, is their willingness to ask citizens what they want. Another soon-to-be-published study ranks Canada and the Netherlands as the two most successful countries at managing IT contractors. Author Helen Margetts, professor of e-government at the University of Oxford, says the secret is to place small contracts and keep expertise inside government.

Union rights make nations competitive!

It's official! All those theories about trade union freedom being an obstacle to development are wrong. A new ILO report demonstrates a clear-cut and positive link between labour rights and productivity. It also shows how the stability produced by union rights improves a country's volume of exports. Looking at 162 countries from 1993 to 1999, it shows that those with good records on labour standards fare better in world markets. An earlier study showed that Latin American countries which respect labour rights had larger formal economies and smaller informal ones. See:

- ▶ **How do trade union rights affect trade competitiveness?** D. Kucera & R. Sarna, ILO;
- ▶ **Labor Standards and Informal Employment in Latin America**, Galli & Kucera, World Development, Elsevier.

Tsunami update

Public sector unions continue to show solidarity for victims of the tsunamis in Asia-Pacific region. Together we have raised more than 170,000 € . PSI staff have visited the worst hit areas, and have helped provide:

- ▶ An emergency shelter in Aceh, Indonesia (10/01/05): 7,773€
- ▶ Stoves and cooking utensils for Tamil Nadu (12/01/05): 3,175€
- ▶ Bedding and rice cookers for Tamil Nadu (14/1/05): 1,587€
- ▶ Cooking utensils for Sri Lanka (18/02/05): 3,890€
- ▶ 400 plastic chairs for India (19/02/05): 1,270€
- ▶ 30 motor bikes for Indonesia (07/03/05): 25,934€

PSI and other global union federations have, together with ICFTU, set up a joint solidarity fund, and will combine resources to establish:

- ▶ Workers' centres in Sri Lanka and Aceh
- ▶ Vocational training and education centres.

New WWWork

PSI has produced several new web pages this month. As usual, your feedback and ideas would be very welcome.

- ▶ [Trade union rights \(English\)](#)
- ▶ [Health \(English\)](#)
- ▶ [Quality Public Services \(Spanish\)](#)
- ▶ [Quality Public Services \(French\)](#)

PSI mourns the death of Heinz Kluncker

A great trade unionist and a fine man died this month. Heinz Kluncker joined PSI's Executive Committee in 1964, and was elected President of PSI in 1973. He was also President of ÖTV (now [ver.di](#)) from 1964-1982. His dynamism and untiring devotion to help oppressed workers was reflected in the many missions he undertook, but also in his determination to see PSI expand its position in the trade union world. It would be impossible to list all of Heinz's achievements: suffice it

