

Special Congress edition

PSI's World Congress, held in Vienna, Austria, 24-28 September was a great success. Some 1,500 participants made decisions and held debates that will model PSI's work over the next five years.

Peter Waldorff is new PSI General Secretary



A much-awaited event was the election of PSI's new General Secretary. Peter Waldorff, from the Danish union HK-Stat, won by a margin of about 800,000 votes. The new General Secretary called for unity and a renewed focus on our future challenges. "We will not be the victims of yesterday's agenda. We will set tomorrow's agenda. From today we stay united. I reach out two hands to all of you. We will go forward in friendship, solidarity and success in our future co-operation," he said.

[Read more...](#)

PSI President calls for a halt to global warming



During her welcoming speech to Congress, PSI president Ylva Thörn said every country should sign up to a UN agreement on climate change and place quality public services at the heart of the fight against global warming. [Read more...](#)

A great welcome



PSI's Austrian affiliates did a wonderful job in preparing Vienna for Congress. They worked in collaboration with the PSI Head Office and had the tremendous task of making sure everything went smoothly for all participants. Heartfelt thanks from all of us!

[Read more...](#)

Celebrating 100 years of PSI

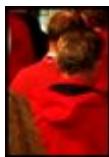


The Centennial celebrations really came to life on Tuesday 25 September when PSI's history was told through a mixture of videos, music, drama, pictures, interviews and speeches. [Read more...](#)



Iraq: Pressure pays off

Pressure from PSI has forced a rethink on trade union rights in Iraq. Abdullah Muhsin of the General Federation of Iraqi Workers told PSI that the deputy prime minister has met the union to discuss the possibility of repealing laws that currently ban public service unions. [Read more...](#)



Congress condemns situation in Myanmar

On 26 September, delegates adopted an emergency motion on the recent situation in Myanmar.

[Read more...](#)



Speaking out against poverty

On the afternoon of 24 September, all Congress participants stood up to speak out against poverty. It was a strong symbol from the over 1500 participants who used the opportunity as a rehearsal for the 17 October event organised by the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP). [Read more...](#)



Sexual diversity forum calls for LGBT rights

The second international PSI-EI LGBT forum took place on 21-22 September. The forum saw the launch of Trade Unionists Together for LGBT Rights, the new edition of our guide to achieving equality for LGBT workers. PSI and Education International (EI) also launched the world's first international trade union website for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered) workers. [Read more...](#)



Young workers want space

Trade unions must campaign on issues relevant to young workers and change their working methods if they want more young people to join unions. They also need to make space for young workers to mobilise their energy and commitment to global justice to encourage more young people to become active in unions. [Read more...](#)

Health workshop



Access to health services is one of the most fundamental rights of all people, said PSI health services officer Jorge Mancillas at the opening of the health workshop on 25 September. Jorge said almost 60 million workers were employed in health care facilities around the world. "They are doing a very important job, but health services, health workers, and their workplaces are under pressure," he said. [Read more...](#)

Working together to meet MDGs on water

During the Utilities workshop on 25 September, PSI called on unions and management to work together to help developing countries increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

[Read more...](#)

Pay Equity washline



One of the highlights of Congress was the Pay Equity Washline. The washline hung in the congress Mall, and participants wrote their pay equity messages on t-shirts that they then pegged up. It made a very colourful message in support of pay equity, in several languages. [Read more...](#)

Pay Equity sponsored walk



The Pay Equity sponsored walk on 26 September raised 2,000 euros for Anganwadi workers in India. These workers provide childcare in small day centres for working women. They also deliver health screening for the women and supplementary feeding for malnourished children. But despite these responsibilities, they are not recognised as public employees and only get a small stipend, way below the minimum wage.

[Read more...](#)

Workers' alternative



Municipal workers' unions can help achieve the UN millennium development goals because quality public services are the best sustainable alternative to poverty. These services should be immune to privatisation, the municipal services workshop heard on 26 September. [Read more...](#)

PSI calls for international rules on ethical recruitment



At the Migration workshop, held on 26 September, PSI told its affiliates to put pressure on their governments to agree to international standards for the ethical recruitment of health workers.

[Read more...](#)

Together I am strong



"Women should make politics, not coffee!" So said Prema Walter from Indian union INEECLU, speaking at the union development and international solidarity (UDIS) workshop. She said that women did not participate in trade union activities because they had family responsibilities and feared male domination. Participation and education were needed to increase the number of women in unions. [Read more...](#)

Global Policy and Strategic Objectives



During the plenary sessions on 26 and 27 September, the global policy and strategic objectives were presented to the Congress and debated from the floor. [Read more...](#)

Saying NO! to corruption



Speaking at the workshop on the role of trade unions in achieving good governance, Dr Stuart Gilman of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) urged public sector unions to "Stand up and say it's wrong! Public sector unions need to be more outspoken about the need for integrity, which is an essential part of decent democratic government." [Read more...](#)

Sectoral presentations



During the morning of 27 September, the four sectors of the global policy and strategic objectives were presented. [Read more...](#)

Productivity is a union issue

Speaking at the public administration workshop on 27 September, Brendan Martin of Public World said unions should be in favour of better services and increased outputs, but called for better ways of measuring public service productivity. [Read more...](#)

PSI history book



All Congress participants received a copy of the PSI history book, "Fighting for Public Services", which describes the exciting early years of the federation. The PSI history book is now available online on www.books-psi.org. You will also find an order form, if you wish to receive the book in hard copy. [Read more...](#)

