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## Say NO to violence against women



Image

From 25 November to 10 December 2008, PSI will again be participating, along with the ITUC and other Global Union Federations in the **16 days of activism to end violence against women**.

PSI has produced a range of materials to assist affiliates in their work on this very important topic including:

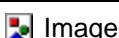
A booklet that sets out the facts and suggests actions unions might take; a series of posters; "Say NO" postcards and white ribbons

All materials are available in English, Spanish and French. You can also find information and access materials on the [PSI dedicated web pages](#), from which you can send an electronic white ribbon.

Copies of materials are being sent to all affiliates, but please let us know if you require further copies. Please send us descriptions of your planned activities, to [equality@world-psi.org](mailto:equality@world-psi.org), descriptions of your planned activities and/or events.

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## Protecting workers against dangerous substances



Image

PSI participated in the Rotterdam Convention Conference on 27-31 October. The Rotterdam Convention is an important tool to protect human health and the environment by controlling trade in hazardous chemicals and pesticides that meet the requirements of the Convention.

PSI Health Officer Jorge Mancillas participated on behalf of PSI and the ITUC. He said, "There are three specific topics of great concern for our members and all unionists: the continued use of chrysotile asbestos, and the widespread use of Endosulfan and Tributyltin. The convention's decisions also have an impact

on the occupational health and safety of all types of workers, and there are discussions scheduled on the the convention and its collaboration with the Stockholm conventions on handling of waste".

[here](#) to read the joint declaration that has been endorsed

operations of  
and Basel  
Please [click](#)  
by PSI.



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## Please send us your success stories about PSI

As part of the organisational review, we are eager to hear from all those who have a success story about PSI to share.

All PSI affiliates and staff are invited to write in with their positive experiences of PSI's work. It might be how PSI Secretariat staff have supported your organisation, how a PSI constitutional body has helped to push an issue further, how a capacity-building project has given your organisation impetus for change, or how information, research or publications communicated by PSI has helped your organisation to understand an issue better.

Your story can be as short as you like, but should not be longer than the equivalent of three A4 pages. You should include your name, position and the name of your organisation, details of the

issue you were facing, what actions PSI took, and what changes happened as a result. You can also draw attention to any particular strengths of PSI that you think should be considered in the review. We plan to include the stories on a special webpage, but if you prefer your story to remain confidential, please let us know.

Full details, including further examples of experiences you may write about, are available [here](#). We have created a simple form on the PSI website as a quick and easy method to send in your stories. [Click here to go straight to the form](#).

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## French-speaking Africa: Planning seminar

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Eighteen participants from PSI affiliates in Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Togo attended a five-day strategic planning workshop for the LO/TCO-FNV funded union development project in French-speaking Africa, held on 6-10 October in Lomé, Togo. The agenda included interesting discussions about the role of the unions and the newly created Federations, as well as a debate on national priorities and challenges that laid the basis for action plans of the Federations. There will be national meetings to finalise these plans, and a questionnaire is being circulated as a follow-up to the external evaluation that took place in 2006 to collect information about the development of unions and their campaigns. All this information will be used to develop a continuation proposal to the sponsors for another three-year period.

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## 20th Anniversary of the PSI Japanese Council

On 30th September 2008, Public Services International Japanese Council (PSI-JC) celebrated its 20th Anniversary with an International Symposium on “PSI’s Activities and Quality Public Services Campaign” in Tokyo, with almost 200 trade unionists and guests participating.

Mr. Kenji Okabe, the Chairman of the PSI-JC, presented a brief history of PSI-JC since it was in 1988 by Japan’s public sector unions. Peter Waldorff, PSI General Secretary, was invited as keynote speaker to address the current and future situation of public service workers. He highlighted the crucial role that PSI-JC plays for the international trade union movement and thanked PSI-JC for its valuable contribution to the expansion of PSI in the Asia-Pacific region. [Click here](#) for more.

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## Greek workers strike against government reforms



On 21 October, dozens of demonstrations took place across Greece in a 24-hour strike that shut down banks, schools, public services and transport. Both private and public sector workers were protesting the conservative government's reform policies.

The country's two largest unions, private sector federation GSEE and public sector union ADEDY, a PSI affiliate, representing more than half of the country's workforce of 5 million, are protesting the 2009 budget. The budget fails to ensure workers will receive either their pensions or protection from privatisation and tax collecting measures.

The conservative government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis, has been rocked by recent scandals. It said it will push forward with reforms and privatisations despite union opposition.

Further to the strike, flights have been cancelled at Olympic Airlines in protest against plans to privatise the company. The cancellations apply to around 100 flights to European destinations on 30 October.



## European Women's

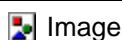


## Lobby launch gender equality campaign

Key European and national women decision makers met in Brussels on 16th September at the invitation of the European Women's Lobby to launch the Campaign "50/50 No Modern European Democracy without Gender Equality".

The Campaign seeks to ensure the equal representation of women and men in the European Parliament to be elected in June 2009 and the upcoming European Commission. The Campaign will run from 16th September 2008 until the European Parliament elections and the appointment of the European Commission and other top positions at EU level in 2009, and will include activities across Europe. For full details, see the campaign website

<http://www.5050democracy.eu/>.



## Launch of the Asia-Pacific Fire-fighters and Ambulance Workers Network

Workers in emergency services such as fire-fighters and ambulance workers play a crucial role in saving lives and make a significant contribution to society. These workers have very hard and dangerous working conditions and their trade union rights are strictly restricted. PSI APRO held a Conference to launch the PSI Fire-fighters and Ambulance Workers Network on 2-3

October 2008 in Seoul, Korea. The programme included discussion forums and workplace visits. PSI General Secretary, Peter Waldorff, participated in this important conference to bring together emergency workers from the Asia-Pacific region. The participants highlighted the need to demand freedom of association for these workers - in many countries, firefighters and ambulance workers have restricted rights to negotiate, and in some cases that right is totally denied them.

[Click here](#) for more.

## India: Poverty, a millennium challenge

India most certainly is a country where the fight to eradicate poverty is a challenge. Anandalakshmi Vaidhiyanathan PSI's sub-regional secretary for South Asia got to the heart of the matter when she spoke at a Congress in Oslo, Norway, on 22 October. "There are similarities between poverty in India and in Norway, but in India large numbers of people do not have any access to food. In Norway there is food, but for some there is no money to buy it", Vaidhiyanathan explained. She was invited to a one-day conference on poverty and the millennium development goals, organised by PSI affiliate Fagforbundet. She gave the conference a look into a country where there are schools without teachers, where millions of people have to survive on an extremely low budget and where abundance of wealth lives side by side with deep poverty. Good governance is still a big issue in the world's largest democracy. [Click here](#) for more.

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## World of Work Report 2008 - Global income inequality gap is vast and growing



Despite strong economic growth that produced millions of new jobs since the early 1990s, income inequality grew dramatically in most regions of the world and is expected to increase due to the current global financial crisis, according to a new ILO study. The World of Work Report 2008: Income inequalities in the age of financial globalization also notes that a major share of the cost of the financial and economic crisis will be borne by hundreds of millions of people who haven't shared in the benefits of recent growth. "This report shows conclusively that the gap between richer and poorer households widened since the 1990s", said Raymond Torres, Director of the Institute responsible for the report. "This reflects the impact of financial globalization and a weaker ability of domestic policies to enhance the income position of the middle class and low-income groups. The present global financial crisis is bound to make matters worse unless long-term structural reforms are adopted." For more information, [click here](#).

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