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PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL | October 2010

Quality public services conference a resounding success

At the Council of Global Unions' landmark conference "Quality Public Services - Action now!" held in Geneva, Switzerland on 12-14 October 2010, some 400 international participants and guest speakers charted innovative strategies to improve and expand quality public services around the world, including giving input to the Geneva Quality Public Services Charter and corresponding Action Plan.

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European countries fail to provide adequate migrant support services

At the Euro-Mediterranean migration conference, held in Malaga, Spain on 21-22 October, affiliates from Public Services International and the European Federation of Public Service Unions highlighted the need for sufficient government funding to protect the rights of migrants. They also proposed several trade union initiatives, including cross-border trade union exchanges of best practices and improving public workers' professional training on migrant issues.

The conference report noted that there are approximately 18.5 million third party nationals living in European countries today. Rosa Pavanelli (photo, second left) from the Italian union FP-CGIL, said, "We are facing a humanitarian and social crisis that can only be solved through adequate funding for public services that support migrants."

Nadja Salson, EPSU policy officer, added, "EU policy on migration is a mess that goes against the EU fundamental right to equal treatment. We call for a European framework on migrant workers' rights, based on the UN Convention on migrants of 1990 that has yet to be ratified by EU governments, and for long-term investment in

quality public services inside and outside of Europe.”

Peruvian trade union wins PSI Quality Public Services Trade Union Award

During the international “Quality Public Services – Action Now!” conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on 14 October 2010, PSI announced the winner of the first annual PSI Quality Public Services Trade Union Award.

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Trade unionist killed during peaceful demonstration

PSI has written to the Haitian authorities denouncing and condemning the killing of professor Jean Filbert Louis outside the offices of the Ministry of Education, on Friday 8 October, during a peaceful demonstration in Port-au-Prince.

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Health service trade union leaders killed

PSI is calling on affiliates to send letters of protest denouncing the recent wave of violence and killings in Guatemala. Three leaders of PSI’s affiliate, the health services workers’ union - Sindicato de Trabajadores de Salud de Guatemala (SNTSG), were assassinated in different parts of the country in September.

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French unions continue strikes

Trade unionists in France have been protesting against the government’s cuts in pension rights with a series of general strikes. Strikes have particularly affected transport and fuel supplies. The proposed pension reform has already been approved by the Senate, but unions believe there is still time to reverse or effect changes. The Sarkozy reforms will push the minimum retirement age from 60 to 62. [READ MORE >](#)

UNISON rallies across the UK

At the end of October, UNISON members across the UK came together with other trade unionists and members of the public to protest against the cuts announced in the government’s comprehensive spending review.

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South Korea: honour your international commitments

As G20 leaders gather in Seoul on November 11-12, Public Services International and other global unions are calling on the South Korean government to honour its international commitments and respect workers' rights.

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