

The Decent Work, Decent Life campaign

decent work
decent life 

The Decent Work, Decent Life campaign, aims to put decent work at the heart of the globalization agenda. It is an initiative of the International Confederation of Trade Unions, Solidar, the Global Progressive Forum, Social Alert and the European Trade Union Confederation.

"For the majority of the world's people who are missing out on the benefits of global economic growth, decent work at this point is merely a dream. This campaign will strive to make it not only a reality, but through it to reconnect people with the political process and give them hope that they can in fact change what from afar seems the unchangeable," Conny Reuter, Solidar's Secretary-General (ITUC Online, media release, 21/01/2007)

The notion of decent work comprises a fair job, adequate pay, social protection, trade union rights and non-discrimination.

WWW.DECENTWORK.ORG

Campaign on Decent Work for the 2010 World Cup focusing on the construction industry

"For South Africa, with a 46% unemployment rate (using the expanded definition of unemployment), this event provides an important opportunity to create over two hundred thousand decent jobs that can help alleviate poverty. The campaign will fight to ensure that this opportunity is not missed" Trenton Elsley from the Labour Research Service in South Africa.

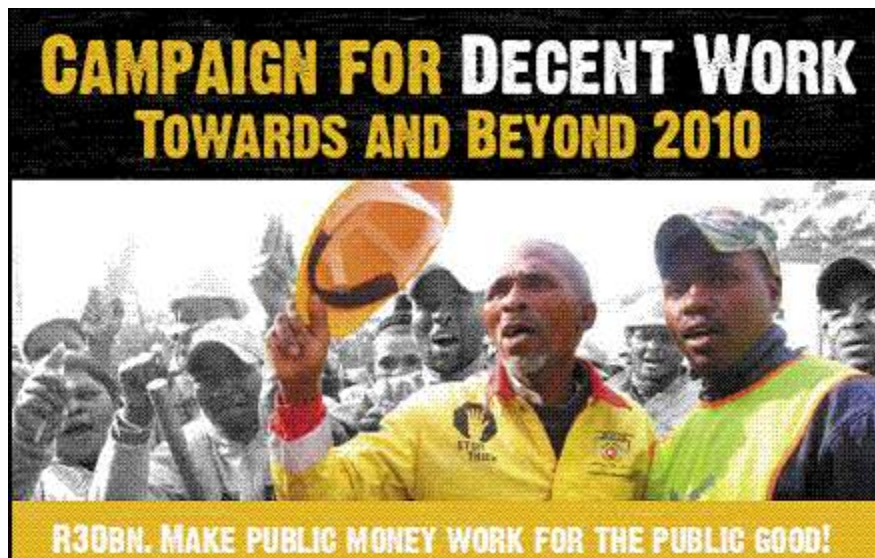
The campaign is led by the **Building Workers International's** South African affiliate, and the Labour Research Service (LRS) in partnership with European and global trade unions and NGOs, principally Suisse Labour Assistance (SLA) who will also campaign around the UEFA championships in Switzerland and Austria in 2008 to promote the same aims.

Launch of National Campaign for Decent Work Towards and Beyond 2010 in South Africa:

On 27 October 2007 construction sector unions, the Building Construction and Allied workers Union (BCAWU), National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the South African Building and Allied Workers Organisation (SABAWO) launched a national Campaign for Decent Work Towards and Beyond 2010 together with the Building & Wood Workers International (BWI). The campaign is supported by the Labour Research Service (LRS). Representatives from all over the country attended the launch. Federations: COSATU, NACTU, CONSAWU FIFA: LOC Government: DOL International Federations: ILO, IMF, ITF

An analysis of the construction sector company performance indicates an enormous *increase* of **36%** in pre-tax profits! Executive directors remuneration increasing on average by 39%, the highest increase of all the economic sectors of the economy. On the other hand, the current minimum wage of R11 per hour for a general worker for a 44 hour week amounts to R484 per week or R1936 per month! The minimum wage in the construction sector is therefore just above that of the minimum monthly wages of domestic workers which is set at R1142! The super-exploitation of construction workers is unacceptable and as labour we question whether the developmental outcomes of the 2010 projects are in the interest of the public of South Africa or the construction bosses.

With business demanding a flexible labour market we see very low quality jobs being created that pay so little that they make no impact on poverty. The challenge is therefore not only to create jobs but to create decent work. Decent Work is a means to ensure that all workers not only have **decent jobs** but are able to live in dignity!



What are our Demands to ensure Decent Work?

1. **The right to work, to organize & to bargain** - Access to construction sites and to workers for the purposes of communicating their rights and recruitment, without fear of discrimination.
2. **Decent work** agreements with companies must ensure that there is real improvement in wages, working conditions and safety for workers.
3. **A living wage** a wage that takes workers out of poverty
4. **Zero Accidents** Enforcement of Health & Safety measures and fulltime health & safety union representatives on site.
5. **No downward variation** All subcontracting terms to reflect that of principle tender
6. **Quality Jobs** Maximize the creation of quality jobs especially for woman and youth so as to contribute to resolving unemployment.
7. **Improve basic conditions** Decent accommodation and improvement in working conditions for all workers

8. **Health Awareness** - Promote awareness on HIV/Aids; provide voluntary testing, accessible counseling and treatment.
9. **Skills development** - Effective skills development programmes that promote the future employability of workers.

Articles and reports:

Nairobi, 23 January 2007: Trade unions and labour rights activists today launched a world-wide campaign to promote decent work in world football, focusing initially on the construction sector, in the build up to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. This campaign will also link up with initiatives around supply chains in the sporting goods industry.

Meeting at the World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya under the banner of the Decent Work, Decent Life* campaign, the organisations issued a Memorandum to the organisers of the World Cup, FIFA, calling for workers' rights to be respected in all the industries associated with the world's most popular game.

The organisers of the 2010 World Cup, FIFA and the companies which will benefit from the estimated 2.4 billion euros (\$3.1b US) of investment in infrastructure owe it to football fans world-wide to ensure that their game is not tainted by labour rights violations and that instead all those who contribute to the success of the this event do so under decent working conditions, Anita Normark, the General Secretary of Building Workers' International (BWI) said today.

The campaign will mobilise football fans worldwide to put pressure on FIFA, the South African government and the companies contracted to build and/or renovate the ten stadiums required for the staging of the Cup to form agreements with the workers employed to ensure that:

1. The work is undertaken in an environment free from occupational, health and safety hazards;
2. Workers receive a decent wage, adequate social protection and other standards consistent with decent working conditions;
3. Contractors respect core labour standards including the right of workers to collectively bargain and join a union.

For South Africa, with a 46% unemployment rate (using the expanded definition of unemployment), this event provides an important opportunity to create over two hundred thousand decent jobs that can help alleviate poverty. The campaign will fight to ensure that this opportunity is not missed, Trenton Elsley from the Labour Research Service in South Africa commented.

The campaign is led by the BWI's South African affiliate and the Labour Research Service (LRS) in partnership with European and global trade unions and NGOs, principally Suisse Labour Assistance (SLA) who will also campaign around the UEFA championships in Switzerland and Austria in 2008 to promote the same aims.

Football, as well as being the world's biggest game is also a multi-billion dollar industry. From the people who build the stadiums to the women in sportswear factories who sew the shoes, every worker involved deserves their fair share of the World Cup pie. Starting today, we commit

ourselves to ensuring that football fans get the clean and fair game they deserve, Conny Reuter, Secretary General of Solidar stated.

More information about the campaign is available at:

<http://www.solidar.org/doclist.asp?SectionID=6>

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Organisations launching the campaign:

Building Workers' International

International Trade Union Confederation

Solidar

Global Progressive Forum

Social Alert

European Trade Union Confederation

Labour Research Service

Suisse Labour Assistance