



### **GENERAL CIRCULAR #7 (2019)**

All PSI affiliates, EB/WOC/SC members; All Global Union Federations; Sharan Burrow, General Secretary ITUC; Guy Ryder, Director General ILO; Maria Helena André, Director ACTRAV; Cc: *All PSI staff for information*

5 March 2019

Read on-line: <http://world-psi.org/en/psi-mourns-death-former-deputy-general-secretary-alan-leather>

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Alan Leather, former PSI Deputy General Secretary. Alan died at the age of 77 on Sunday, 3 March 2019, after a long illness. He leaves grown children Jack and Amy and countless trade unionists, social justice activists and thespians across the globe with nothing but love, respect and good memories. Alan was a gifted man who always brought out the best in people, inspiring with his optimism, sincerity and good humour. People were drawn to Alan. Many union leaders in PSI and across the labour movement will remember Alan helping them.

When Alan joined PSI in 1987 as Education officer, he brought a wealth of experience and his unique sunny disposition. Says Tim Beaty: "He was an outstanding adult educator, and with the help of solidarity support organisations, he developed a network of talented PSI trainers that mirrored the regionalisation of PSI's structures." In the early '90s, Alan led efforts to integrate the unions of former Soviet republics into PSI and EPSU. This was gruelling but exciting work to which Alan applied all his skills. PSI opened offices in Bucharest, Kiev, Moscow and Prague. PSI affiliates in our North-East Europe constituency remember Alan as a "man of vast soul and inexhaustible energy... Alan was the Godfather of international affiliation..."

Alan led PSI support for public sector trade unions during their hard fight against apartheid in South Africa.

Alan became PSI Assistant General Secretary in 1993 and Deputy General Secretary from 1995 until his retirement in 2006. His tireless dedication to defend workers' rights were reflected in the many missions he undertook, in lobbying governments in person and via the ILO. He led PSI's health sector in the fight against HIV-AIDS and ensured that the concerns of health workers were heard.

It is impossible to list all of Alan's achievements. There are countless stories about him, which will be told and retold for many years, for Alan was a convinced trade unionist and a fine human being.

His death is a personal blow to many people around the world, to the workers and unionists in the public services, to the staff who worked with him for many years and to the many trade unions he helped to build to their present strength.

Jack and Amy, we join you in sadness, but also in the joys and pleasures your father brought us all. Alan will be sorely missed, and the international trade union community will remember him for many years.

Rosa Pavanelli  
General Secretary