

Public Services International: Health Services Task Force meeting
International Labour Organization, ILO Building Room No. IV, Geneva

14 February 2011 (Monday)		
Time	Session	Podium
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Opening session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Introduction of participants • Overview of meeting and arrangements 	<p>Chair: Sari Koivuniemi Presentation: Odile Frank and Nobuko Mitsui</p>
10:30 – 11:00	<p>Public Sector Funding and achieving Quality Public Services</p> <p>In the face of widespread cuts to public services, leaders of private and public sector trade unions, municipal governments and civil society groups gathered in Geneva on 12 to 14 October 2010 at the Council of Global Unions' conference: <i>Quality Public Services - Action now!</i> where they committed to work together to promote investment in quality public services as a key solution to the economic crisis and the way to build peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies. PSI recognizes that achieving Quality Public Services (QPS) requires adequate public funding and a fair taxation system. The QPS Conference adopted the <i>Geneva Charter for Quality Public Services</i> and outlined a <i>Plan of Action</i> to define the joint action of the Global Unions to implement the Charter.</p> <p>Key person: Rolv Hanssen (rolv.hanssen@world-psi.org; +33 450 40 11 60) http://www.qpsconference.org/</p>	<p>Chair: Teresa Marshall Presentation: Peter Waldorff, Secretary-General, PSI</p>
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>	
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Migrant workers in health and social care</p> <p>PSI's 3-year project (2010-2012) on <i>International Migration and Health and Social Care Workers</i> aims to strengthen the capacity of public sector trade unions to address the causes and impact of migration on public services and workers' rights through advocacy and dialogue, research, information drives, capacity building and organizing. Planning meetings have taken place in 3 pilot countries (Kenya, September 2011; South Africa, October 2011 and Ghana, November 2011). The project will carry out participatory research, in conjunction with a desk review and mapping of the health and social care sectors. The results are expected to assist PSI in formulating trade union tools to deal with the new migration challenges in the context of the economic crisis, demographic change and the rise in precarious employment.</p> <p>Objective: HSTF participants are invited to learn about the research and affiliates are invited to participate.</p> <p>Key person: Genevieve Gencianos (Genevieve.Gencianos@world-psi.org; +33 450 40 12 14)</p>	<p>Chair: Helene Davis-Whyte Presentation: Genevieve Gencianos and Jane Pillinger</p>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Privatization of health services</p> <p>Assessing the cost/benefit ratio and efficiency changes resulting from privatization of health services raises issues of how to measure the costs and benefits and how to assess efficiency of services. Delivery of health care depends not only on the service a patient is given, but also the quality of care the patient receives. Health care delivery is a labour intensive activity whose quality is strongly influenced by the condition of the workforce.</p> <p>An evidence-based analysis by PSIRU focussed on the health sector will seek to examine contentions that 1) when the private sector controls public services, it leads to higher service costs that are paid for by the consumer; and 2) the introduction of competition and profit lead to increased corruption in procurement and delivery.</p> <p>Objective: To canvass HSTF participants with regard to the most important and urgent issues regarding privatization that affiliates face.</p> <p>Key person: Jane Lethbridge (j.lethbridge@gre.ac.uk; +44 208 331 7781)</p>	<p>Chair: Candice Owley Presentation: Jane Lethbridge Group 1 Chair: Pinda Bowessidjaou Akoua Rapporteur: Michele Boisclair Group 2 Chair: Jennifer Whiteside Rapporteur: Margret Steffen Group 3 Chair: Mhlanga Irene Nonhlanhla Rapporteur: Karen Higgins</p>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Break</i>	
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Summary and conclusions for Day 1</p>	<p>Chair: Ayubba Philibus Wabba Panel: Sari Koivuniemi, Helen Davis-Whyte, Candice Owley</p>
19:00	<i>Dinner at « Les Halles de L'île »</i>	

15 February 2011 (Tuesday)		
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Violence in the workplace</p> <p>PSI maintains a strong focus on this issue. Together with the ILO, ICN and WHO, PSI had established the Joint Programme on Workplace Violence in the Health Sector in 2001, which produced 8 case studies, Framework Guidelines and a complementary Training Manual in 2003-5. Violence in the health sector has since been the subject of two International conferences, and the <i>Third International Conference on Violence in the Health Sector</i> will take place in Vancouver, Canada, on 24-26 October, 2012. Violence includes behaviours along a continuum from psychological violence (verbal abuse: shouting, swearing, insulting, threatening, bullying and harassing) to physical violence (physical abuse: spitting, manual assault; use of objects, weapons, animals) that includes murder. Perpetrators include health service workers, patients, and members of patients' families and the public, and victims include health service workers and patients. Cutbacks to increase savings and efficiency result in increased wait-times and increased workload of health service workers which are stressors for health workers and patients and their families alike.</p> <p>Objective: to develop a workplan to address needs for surveillance, and for possible standard setting (guidelines, codes, accreditation/certification, audits).</p> <p>Key person for International Conferences only: Nico Oud (www.oudconsultancy.nl; + 31 20 409 0368)</p>	<p>Chair: Judith Kiejda</p> <p>Presentations: Yamini Adbe, Vickramaduth Beeson, Ivanka Brenková, Sitiveni Tuvou, and Slava Zlatanova</p> <p>Group 1 Chair: Samia Letaief Bouslama</p> <p>Rapporteur: Maria Aparecida Godói de Faria</p> <p>Group 2 Chair: Kim Øst-Jacobsen</p> <p>Rapporteur: Davies Sian</p> <p>Group 3 Chair: Rosni Bte Aziz</p> <p>Rapporteur: Michael Lighty</p>
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Break</i>	
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Protection and reinforcement of occupational health and safety standards</p> <p>International normative instruments, including ILO standards; WHO resolutions and guidelines; UN resolutions; and joint guidelines of UN specialized agencies (e.g. WHO, ILO, UNAIDS) offer protection to all workers and to health workers. PSI plays a role in disseminating and promoting the application of these standards and good practices. PSI strives to maintain health workers healthy and is producing a video promoting 1) universal precautions against blood borne diseases and Hepatitis B vaccination, 2) use of safety engineered injecting devices, especially retractable syringes, and 3) availability and use of post-exposure prophylaxis in case of HIV to protect health workers. PSI also strives to make all health workplaces healthy working places by elimination of workplace hazards and prevention and management of workplace violence (see earlier agenda item).</p> <p>Together, the global union federations can address broader issues of workers' occupational health and safety.</p> <p>Objective: to develop a workplan to address needs to protect:</p> <p>a) the health and safety of workers, by working jointly with the global union federations, and</p> <p>b) the health and safety of health workers, by possibly canvassing health workers on hazards and poor practices (eventually establishing checklists and criteria for safe workplace labels, certification, audit and so on)</p> <p>Key person: Odile Frank (odile.frank@psi-world.org; +33 450 40 11 50)</p>	<p>Chair: Ivan Angelov Kokalov</p> <p>Presentation: Odile Frank</p> <p>Video on the prevention of needle-stick injuries</p>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Precarious work in health services</p> <p>Precarious work takes different forms according to sector and group affected. Increased use of temporary agency contracts, fixed term contracts and casual contracts as well as sub-contracting, contracting out and privatization make it increasingly difficult to identify the employer or the employment relationship from which workers' rights flow. Withdrawal of secure decent jobs across public services shows the worst impact on women, young workers and migrant workers. Precarious work reduces income and takes away trade union and workers rights; employers do not contribute to pension funds, issues such as occupational safety and health are ignored and workers are held in fear of losing jobs because of injury or work-related health issues. These conditions shrink bargaining units, the ability to organize and trade union density; collective bargaining rights cease to exist whereas discrimination, harassment and violence increase.</p> <p>Objective: to maintain occupational health and safety for precarious health workers and to seek ways of unionizing precarious health workers</p> <p>Key person: Chidi King (chidi.king@world-psi.org; +33 450 40 11 70)</p>	<p>Chair: Ashoka Abeynayaka</p> <p>Presentation: Chidi King</p> <p>Group 1 Chair: Suzuki Takafumi</p> <p>Rapporteur: Maryvonne Nicolle</p> <p>Group 2 Chair: Helene Davis-Whyte</p> <p>Rapporteur: Tarja Honkalampi</p> <p>Group 3 Chair: Elizabeth Adams</p> <p>Rapporteur: Pauline Worsfold</p>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Break</i>	
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Summary and conclusion for Day 2</p>	<p>Chair: Rodrigo López García</p> <p>Panel: Judith Kiejda, Ivan Angelov Kokalov, Ashoka Abeynayaka</p>
17:00 – 19:00	<p>Organizing meeting to prepare agenda for Nurse issues meeting</p>	<p>Chair: Judith Kiejda</p>