



Influencing global policy

Fair taxation, trade, fighting privatization, trade union rights, gender equity, migration of health workers, and the multilateral agenda for social protection floors and universal health coverage...

Fair taxation

- Inequality is growing: the richest 1 per cent often pay less tax
- Oxfam International reports increased share of richest from 44 percent in 2009 to 48 percent in 2014 and could exceed 50 percent in 2016
- Profitable multinational corporations use loopholes and tax havens
- A fair tax system is the first step in reversing tax injustice
- Government tax revenues are vital for public expenditures
- **Public sector healthcare** expenditures are sensitive to fiscal policy

Trade

- Trade agreements -Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) and Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) - threaten Quality Public Services. They:
- Encourage privatization and create rights for corporations
- Threaten democracy and accountability of government
- Are counter-democratic, negotiated in secret and can bind governments, flout democratic institutions
- TPP is a risk to provision of [affordable medicines, tobacco control, alcohol policies and nutritional labelling](#)
- TiSA would commercialize [health care services](#) to the benefit of health corporations and insurance companies

Fighting privatization

- Quality public services are the foundation of democratic societies and of successful economies
- Public services are a foundation of social justice and equity, as they are the means to ensure that everyone has **equal access to vital services, including healthcare**, education, energy such as electricity, clean water and sanitation
- Universality cannot be achieved by private services
- Public services are in the public interest. When these services are privatized, the driving force is not public interest, but to maximize profits

Trade union rights

- All workers must be treated with respect by their employers
- Trade unions play a decisive role in improving employment conditions
- Trade unions also play a decisive role in preventing harm and protecting **workers' health** from dirty, dangerous and degrading work
- Trade unions defend **occupational health and safety**:
 - promotion of **safe and healthy conditions**
 - improvement of all aspects of industrial production that **affect health**
 - prevention, control and treatment of **occupational diseases**.

Gender equity

- Women contribute to the global economy by directly, by investing in the next generations, caring for older persons, through a greater share of household work, and widespread informal economic contributions
- Women are at least equal in the responsibilities they assume
- Women's responsibilities must be matched with political, economic and social rights that are equally enforced
- Women have a special claim on **reproductive health** as adolescents and adults, as well as on the **health of infants and young children** that they ensure and directly provide

Migration of health workers

- Skilled **health and social care workers** work abroad to earn a decent income, pushed by low wages
- Health workers have the right to migrate and seek to improve their lives.
- Developed countries address staff shortages by **recruiting health workers** from elsewhere
- **Loss of healthcare workers** can weaken health and social services in countries of origin
- **Migrant healthcare workers** may be used underemployed and underpaid
- The **WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel** (2010) and the **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families** (1990)

Multilateral global agenda

- **Social Protection Floors**
- **Universal Health Coverage**
- **Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals**

Social Protection Floors 1

- ILO Recommendation 202 Concerning National Floors of Social Protection adopted in 2012
- Includes basic social security guarantees that cover:-
 - Access to essential health care, including maternity care that meet criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality
 - Basic income security for children
 - Basic income security for persons in active age in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability
 - Basic income security for older persons

Social Protection Floors 2

- Social protection floors are the overall and primary responsibility of the State
- Principles in their application include *inter alia*
 - Universality
 - Financial, fiscal and economic sustainability with due regard to social justice and equity
 - High-quality public services

Social Protection Floors 3

- ILO Constitution calls for accountability of States not having ratified the Recommendation
- PSI 2012 Congress Resolution N° 29 “Ensure the Common Good with Public Services and a Social Protection Floor” recommended to
 - *“Put pressure on governments, public bodies and international institutions to ensure that public education, **health and social services systems**, as well as accessible, universal social security measures be developed or reinforced in every country in order to genuine social protection floors into place”.*

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) 1

- Defined as ensuring that **all people can use health services they need** to promote, prevent, cure, rehabilitate and palliate of quality to be effective, and without financial hardship, for:
 - equity in access to health services
 - quality of health services good enough to improve health
 - financial-risk protection

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) 2

- The WHO Constitution (1946) already stipulated in its preamble that “The enjoyment of the **highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights** of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.”
- In the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), Article 12 provided that the “right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health“ included, *inter alia*, “The creation of conditions which would **assure to all medical service and medical attention** in the event of sickness.”

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) 3

- Sustainable Development Goal 3 (“Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”) provides for the sub-goals:-
 - “3.8 **Achieve universal health coverage**, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all”
 - “3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the **health workforce** in developing countries...”

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) 4

- The World Bank interprets UHC to apply to the 40 per cent poorest of the population (World Bank President Jim Yong Kim's Speech at World Health Assembly 21.05.2013):
 - "...let's close the **gap in access to health services and public health protection** for the poorest 40 percent of the population in every country."