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To the PSI Co-ordinating Committee, Nepal  
The PSI Co-ordinating Committee, India  
The PSI Co-ordinating committee, Bangladesh

File Reference: RP/PC/AP South Asia

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Dear Colleagues,

I am writing this letter with a heavy heart, to convey to you my sincere condolences after the devastating earthquake in Nepal on Saturday 25 April, which also affected the neighbouring countries, India and Bangladesh. Condolences and words of consolation are totally inadequate at a time like this, in the face of the magnitude of this disaster which has caused such loss grieving and trauma, and with the aftershocks still continuing unabated.

It was a terrible shock to watch the scenes of earth subsiding and buildings collapsing and so sad to note that many women, children and aged people are sitting outside in the cold and wind, while numerous people are still buried and dying under the ruins.

We are proud of the PSI affiliates in Nepal who have informed us that they have already leapt into action, carrying out relief work and also offering financial help. This an inherent public services culture that we cherish all over the world and this is why we have to defend public services.

In PSI, we strongly believe in the vital importance of increasing public investment to upgrade infrastructure, emergency relief training and skills development and to provide adequate human resources in health, relief work and other essential services, and we argue strongly for these issues in many world forums. Again and again, we are proved correct to defend these arguments, when disasters such as this one take huge tolls on the lives and the livelihoods of thousands of people, whilst governments remain inactive.

I have asked the PSI Asia-Pacific Regional Office to monitor the situation very closely and to keep in contact with our sisters and brothers in Nepal, India and Bangladesh. We are also launching a solidarity appeal via the [PSI Aid Fund](#) to our trade unions colleagues around the world, to support and show international solidarity with the unions in the countries concerned.

Please be assured that PSI will continue the global fight to bring changes to government policies and their myopic vision on the delivery of public services. Public services workers need to be recognised for the work they are doing for the public in these extremely difficult circumstances and they also need to be suitably supported, in order to protect themselves and their families.

Please do continue your good work and be assured that PSI, together with its affiliates worldwide, will remain a solid support for you all.

In solidarity,

Rosa Pavanelli  
PSI General Secretary