

PSI-FES TAX AND GENDER FORUM
“No Gender justice without Tax Justice”
London, June 30th-July 1st, 2016

Short report & Conclusions of the meeting

On 30th June-1st July 2016, PSI organised a two-day workshop with the participation of leading trade union and NGO gender and tax experts at the UNISON offices, in London. There were 15 women participants, 3 men and 1 young participant, in addition to 10 other allied partner participants.

A combination of lectures, moderated debate, presentations by participants and some inter-active sessions made the event very dynamic and engaging. The main topics discussed were PSI Global Policy on Tax Justice, the basics of Gender and Tax, Basics of Tax Policy Issues, Alternative Perspectives on Tax, Current Tax Debate, Tax and Gender: Worldwide Struggles, Global Coalition Building, Planning PSIs future work in tax and gender.

A lot of discussion occurred when the group addressed the gender tax bias in their own country. Some participants had been faced with gender tax bias themselves – whereas others had already been engaged in campaigns. Some participants reflected on the link between tax and wages and the gender pay gap. A strong link was also made between how trade unions integrate gender policies beyond “traditional women’s issues” and that more efforts need to be made to implement gender mainstreaming across the board, as well as make unions more aware of the tax debate in general.

As a result, the participants were provided with methodological tools, analytical skills and a wealth of background information, while the link with their trade union work and issues was very much underlined and present throughout the process. The combination of policy issues and hands-on campaigning experience was very much appreciated by the participants. The level of experience and knowledge-base was very different between participants, but all of them took home new ideas and plans for the future in terms of implementing tax and gender issues in their work within their organizations, but also with regard to future cooperation with PSI and the other organizations present.

This activity aimed at:

- Strengthening the international debate about tax and gender sharing progressive multidisciplinary approaches and alternatives;
- Removing the technical barriers to political activity on tax;
- Training and building a group of men and women who can advocate for gender perspectives in the tax debate;
- Training a group of PSI’s women as leaders the global movement for Tax Justice;
- Building an international coalition on Tax and Gender;
- Taking action in the tax debate and highlight gender perspectives.

Conclusions:

This activity aimed at supporting PSI’s Global Tax Justice Campaign, providing tools to affiliate members to influence both national and global tax issues. It has contributed to stronger coalition-

building with NGO allies and partners, integration of trade union issues and consolidation of joint campaigning opportunities (especially in relation to CEDAW). In addition, the activity is a building stone for more in-depth gender mainstreaming within PSI.

The following observations and commitments were made by participants:

- There is a real need for more trainings and promotion of the tools and content of this workshop, at regional and national level;
- PSI will engage the members of PSI's World Women's committee to develop a global campaign on tax and gender, that will offer tools to identify the tax gender bias at national level and make the link with PSI's global tax justice campaign;
- PSI will continue to build stronger networks with civil society allies, also supporting PSI affiliates and regional initiatives;
- PSI affiliates will contribute to CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women) reporting, with a special focus on countries that operate as tax havens;
- PSI and affiliate members will work towards stronger gender mainstreaming in the tax debate and continue to ensure women's equal participation in tax justice campaign activities.