



# YOUTH TO YOUTH

**PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL**

**October 2013**

## Young workers in the public sector and trade union renewal



The EPSU Youth Seminar held on 16 - 18 September in Sesimbra, Portugal, brought together young workers from around Europe to discuss the further development of their network and future activities.

Since youth is hit the hardest by the crisis in Europe, with unemployment soaring up to 50% in some countries, there is a real urgency to work towards short and long term solutions, creating more and better jobs, the integration of young workers in public services and their career development. Austerity and dismantling public services has to stop and is not a solution to the enduring crisis. A stronger voice of trade unions on the rights of young workers, including by a wider representation of young workers in unions, is needed! Click [here](#) for the report.



### Workers' rights and municipal organising in Brazil

Young and active Brazilian João Gabriel Guimarães Buonavita represented the PSI-affiliated SINDSEP-SP union at the UCLG World Summit for Local and Regional Leaders in Rabat, Morocco, 1-4 October 2013.

"My participation at this conference was a great opportunity to meet Brazilian mayors and organisations," he said. "I have established contact with the organisation of mayors in Brazil, and I have also had a meeting with the vice-mayor of my hometown São Paulo. This is the first time I have met her since her election."

Even though Brazil has ratified the ILO Convention on the right to collective bargaining, this is still not regulated by law. "This is the greatest challenge for unionists in Brazil at the moment, and it's a hard fight," says Buonavita. But he is optimistic. "We have a lot of hard work ahead of us. But I think the people we have met and the contacts we have made here will be a start to something that will benefit the workers in the future." Visit PSI's website, click [here](#).

#### Asia Pacific Regional Organisation

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Public Services International (PSI) is a global trade union federation representing 20 million working women and men who deliver vital public services in 150 countries. PSI works with the United Nations system and in partnership with labour, civil society and other organisations.

## Union solidarity rap

WATCH this cool video! **Union solidarity rap** - tell us how unions stand up for fairness, how unions deliver good jobs and better lives, how unions fight for a better deal for everyone. The rap also voices the advantage the union brings to you, your family and your community.



This video was the first place winner of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) [“One Minute Message Video Contest”](#). For a generation, people have been told they don’t need unions. A lot of people fell for it and since then, things haven’t been as fair as they used to be. But Michael Rouse, who created this video, told us clearly that unions are good for our health as we know the benefits of being member of a union! Watch the video [here](#).

## New Zealand PSA Youth leadership training

*Report by Erin Hodgson, Lower South Island Regional Youth Convenor.*

A productive and insightful two days training in Dunedin, New Zealand, 23-24 September, was spent learning about what leadership means, and what skills and experience each of us bring to the leadership table.



It was great to see everyone getting involved, and there was a lot of respect and support shown, which will hopefully continue into the future with the new friendships and networks made. This was also an opportunity to plan for the future, and amongst other things, there are plans for submissions to MP’s, Personal Development opportunities and the Lower South Island Regional Action Group. Thanks to all those who attended. It was great to see a room filled with such bright and motivated young leaders! Check out some hilarious photos from the training on [PSAY Facebook](#) or visit PSAY’s webpage, click [here](#)

## Make your own poster and express your demands

Young workers from PSI affiliates in Brazil decided to create an application for computers, smart-phones, social networks, etc to help make your own poster. This application will allow them to express themselves and to give visibility to their demands and opinions. The poster says: “Share Your Poster”, the idea of this project came up in a June demonstration when many young people took to the streets carrying their own handmade “demands” posters. Creating their own poster is a good way for young workers to communicate and express their opinion. For more info, please visit PSI Brazil’s website:

<http://ispbrasil.org.br/compartilhe-seu-cartaz/> or contact Ms. Monica Valente, PSI Sub-regional Secretary for Brazil: [monica.valente@world-psi.org](mailto:monica.valente@world-psi.org)





## Public services and decent work for all

On 7 October we celebrated [the World Day for Decent Work](#). PSI joined the international trade union movement in demanding decent work for all and an end to the continuous attacks on trade union rights around the world. We want jobs that provide decent salaries and social security with safe working conditions. PSI stands with the International Trade Union Confederation in the commitment to organize more workers. Trade union unity and international solidarity are our strongest weapons in a globalized economy. Please see the full statement [here](#).



## CTSP young workers - going forward with confidence and determination

Members of the young workers' committee of the Confédération des Travailleurs (euses) des Secteurs Public et Privé (CTSP) in Haïti attended a PSI-sponsored planning and strategy workshop on September 8 and 9 in Port-au-Prince. At its second congress held in February this year, CTSP delegates approved an action plan that places emphasis on increasing the activism of young trade union members. As a first step in the process, CTSP's executive committee immediately approved the formation of a young workers' committee. The committee comprises representatives from each of CTSP's 14 member unions. Twenty-two young activists (12 women and 12 men) discussed and drafted the committee's aims and structure as well as the duties and responsibilities of the various officers. They also agreed that they will strive to be fully integrated into the work and activities of their unions and the CTSP. By the end of the workshop, the committee had agreed to a draft 2-year work programme that focuses on building their capacity, skills and knowledge on issues including the principles of trade unionism, trade union administration, workers' rights and responsibilities, the value of public services and regional and international solidarity.



*Ms. Sandra Massiah, PSI Sub-regional Secretary for the Caribbean with the CTSP's Young Workers' Committee*

"I do not have the words to thank PSI for these two days of training for the young workers of the CTSP. I have learnt so much from PSI and our discussions. I am ready to work together with PSI and my comrades to ensure an effective young workers' committee. Many thanks PSI," said Ginou Jean Baptiste, committee secretary. "We're anxious for the next training session," added Junior Azard, president. CTSP's young workers warmly welcomed the news of a visit to Haïti and the CTSP by young trade union activists from the rest of the Caribbean family. Decent work through quality public services is the broad theme of the activity which will take place in August 2014. The young activists are ready to exchange ideas and develop plans for the solidarity visit which will be one of the activities commemorating International Youth Day.

See photos of the workshop on [Flickr](#). For further information, please contact Ms. Sandra Massiah, PSI Sub-regional Secretary for the Caribbean: [sandra.massiah@world-psi.org](mailto:sandra.massiah@world-psi.org)





## Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN): The way forward

At the PSI conference in Bangkok, 16-18 October 2013, a panel discussion on ‘The way forward’ for the Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN) took place 17 October 2013. This panel discussion was facilitated by Ms. Katie Rowsell, APYN Coordinator/CPSU-Australia. Katie opened the session by asking how many attendees were aged 35 or under through a show of hands. Only a few hands were raised which highlighted the amount of work affiliates still needed to do in mainstreaming youth into activities. The first guest speaker was Ms. Sandra Vermuyten, PSI Equality and Rights Officer. Sandra began by showing the group a one minute [youtube video](#) which won the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) “[One Minute Message Video Contest](#)” competition in 2013. Sandra spoke about the achievements of the APYN so far, giving examples of successful activities that had been run in the region.



These include workshops, the publication of CD-Book containing essays, and social media activities. She then discussed another region, the Inter Americas, that is also well organised with active youth participation. Improvements and changes that need to be made were also put forward by Sandra. The conscious inclusion of young people in activities and attention to quotas is important too as capacity needs to be built. These changes need to be implemented to ensure the sustainability of our movement.

Mr. Nick Kelly from New Zealand Public Service Association (PSA) and PSI’s Oceania Youth Network Coordinator talked about the experience of the PSA Youth (PSAY) network. The PSA has 58,000 members, and 10,000 members are part of its youth network. All members under the age of 35 are automatically part of the network. The goals of the youth network are to increase youth participation in the union, grow youth membership, develop youth leadership and encourage young members to influence union policy and direction.

The third speaker was Mr. R. Srinivasan, General Secretary of the Indian National Defence Workers Federation (INDWF), who took the group through a successful experience in organising contractual workers. This topic is highly relevant to youth as precarious employment impacts mostly young workers and women. It was heartening for the workshop members to hear about a successful experience. The INDWF was concerned about the increasing amount of contractual employees who were being employed on inferior conditions to permanent workers. The INDWF built power and awareness through organising the contractual workers.

An intervention from the floor was then given by Mr. Ramesh Vats, President of the Delhi Transport Corporation Employees Congress (DTCEC), who gave an example of a similar situation in organising precarious workers. For details of the report, please contact Ms. Indah Budiarti, Organising and Communication Coordinator: [indah.budiarti@world-psi.org](mailto:indah.budiarti@world-psi.org)

PSI’s Website: [www.world-psi.org](http://www.world-psi.org)

PSI’s Young Workers webpage: [www.world-psi.org/en/issue/young-workers](http://www.world-psi.org/en/issue/young-workers)

PSI’s Asia Pacific webpage: [www.world-psi.org/en/issue/asia-pacific](http://www.world-psi.org/en/issue/asia-pacific)