



# Global



UNIÃO GERAL DOS TRABALHADORES

Sindicalismo Cidadão, Ético e Inovador

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## March 06th: everyone in Brasilia!

### For development, civic rights and valuation of work

Representatives of rural and urban workers, of women, African-American, landless, roofless, slum dwellers, young people, retired workers and pensioners, will hold, on March 06th, in Brasilia, the 7th March for Development, Civic Rights and Valuation of Work.

This protest, which was called by trade union centrals and institutions related to social movements, will be a strong display of unit of the Brazilian people in the fight for a more prosperous, sovereign and fair Brazil. **March ideals** show the model of development that our people defend and long for.

### The people united will never be defeated!

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By complying with the proposals of the trade union movement - the law of the raise in real terms of the minimum wage, tax cuts, increase in the credit offer -, the government makes economy move, strengthened the internal market, created employment and distributed income.

Consumption heated sales and kept employment, despite the increase in exports, recession in industry and instability of the international financial system.

Despite all that, there is still a lot to do. A new national project of development with sovereignty, democracy and valuation of work, demands the end of the primary surplus, the protection of industry, tackle against denationalization and a further interest reduction.

Apart from that, the trade union movement requests that 10% of the GDP is directed to education and 10% of the national budget is used in health; valuation of retired people; ratification of ILO Convention 158 and regulation of ILO Convention 151; besides other ideals evoked by the trade union centrals and social movements. (*Workers Paper, news of UGT and other Brazilian trade union centrals*)

## UGT prepares 1st National Conference on Gender and Race

With the goal of restoring fight ideals previously defended by UGT and drawing affirmative policies to be developed, **UGT's Women Department and Human Diversity Department**, as part of the agenda "Women March 2013", it will take place, on March 04 and 05, the **1st National Conference on Gender and Race**, in Praia Grande, Sao Paulo. The invitation extends to trade union leaders, as a way to raise awareness and incorporate in the fight for autonomy and empowerment of women in society, economy, work and politics.



On February 19, these two departments of UGT, directed respectively by Cássia Buffeli (Women Department) and **Ana Cristina Duarte (Human Diversity Department)**, through a preparatory process, had a meeting with state branches and affiliated trade unions of Sao Paulo, on the occasion in which the second Collective and Gender Meeting of National UGT took place, at UGT's Head Office, in Sao Paulo.

During this meeting, it was considered that participants of the 1st Conference will be organized in 4 tables, in which the following issues will be debated: African-American women and discrimination in the world of work; participation of women in spaces of power emphasizing on the Law Project 6653 on Equality of Opportunity among men and women in the world of work; facing all sorts of violence against women; legal ratification of ILO Convention 189 (which regulates domestic work). Participants are expected to arrive in the Holiday Camp of the Commerce Workers Union on March 03 and return on the 5th.

### End of violence against women and girls immediately!

The 57th session of UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) will have a meeting in New York this week to debate the issue of violence against women and girls. The International Trade Union Confederation, an institution which UGT is affiliated with, participates and urges the international community to not concede in this project.

Last year, the commission did not come to an agreement due to conservative governments that questioned the own principle of gender equality. "This cannot happen again", said Sharan Burrow, ITUC secretary general, reporting current attacks on women's rights and budget cuts related to women's issues.

The trade union present in New York, composed of 100 women from Italy, Senegal, Canada, United Kingdom, Angola, Morocco, Brazil, Singapore, Colombia and other countries, actively demands that governments are to fulfill their international and national duties in the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

On March 11, a new report of ITUC and UN Women called "Domestic Workers Count Too: Implementing Protections for Domestic Workers", will be released in a parallel event in New York.

[Read the union declaration for the UN Commission on the Status of Women \(UNCSW\)](#)

## Regulation of Convention 151

**Sérgio Mendonça**, secretary of labour relationships in the public service, announces the creation of a workgroup to regulate Convention 151.

By the end of the first semester of 2013, president **Dilma Rousseff** is expected to sign a measure creating a workgroup to discuss the regulation of ILO Convention 151.

On February 22, Mendonça participated in a meeting at UGT's head office, in Sao Paulo, with **Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, Lineu Manzano, National Secretary of UGT's Public Servants Departments, and Paulo Mendes, president of Aner. Regulation of ILO Convention 151** is one of the main demands of public servants that, according to Manzano, total 11 million workers, including state, municipal and federal workers.



During the meeting, which was also attended by several directors of UGT, Sérgio Mendonça made a commitment that he will not deal with a negotiation of the effective framework as long as the issue of representation of regulating agencies is not solved. To Paulo Mendes, president of Aner, this is an extremely important measure to all workers that this institution represents, since the expectation is huge, once the resolution might give this institution its definite record.

**Lineu Manzano** reminded Sérgio Mendonça that UGT represents a great amount of public servants, due to the fact that over the last months several trade unions affiliated with UGT, and in this institution there is a consensus that enormous advance will be made once a workgroup in charge of regulating Convention 151 is created. The national secretary of the Public Servant Department guaranteed that regulating the negotiation in this working class is a historical step, putting an end to conflicts between servants and governments. Lineu emphasized that, despite the 1988 Constitution allowing the right of public servants to go on strike, it is necessary to create tools that regulate the negotiation between parts.

Sérgio Mendonça also guaranteed that in the Department of Labour Relationships in the Public Service, federal servants have a negotiation channel and that his visit to UGT had the goal of building a dialogue between the government and the trade union centrals, especially regarding servants.

## World Day for Safety and Health at Work

Thanks to the support and trade union mobilization, April 28, World Day for Safety and Health at Work became an important event all over the world, and the workers right to safe and healthy jobs managed to increase its visibility.

However, the challenge for trade unions is still huge. In many countries, deregulation policies are being used to mine labour rules, and professionals of safety and health at work are not an exception. We continue to observe the charge of a terrible death fee at the workplace. Both in developed and developing countries this tendency of employers to ignore or cut protection in the workplace has led to thousands of workers getting sick or dying while trying to make a living.

The year of 2012 was particularly terrible in this sense. No month has gone by without horrible news of hundreds of workers dead in accidents at work. Our voices must show that we will not forget them, and that we will continue to fight for life!

"Trade unions make work safer" will continue to be the main motto of April 28, and with austerity policies that are still being implanted in many countries, we might consider turning this April 28 into an action day to defend health and security from budget cuts and attacks to regulation and application.

## UGT condemns anti-unionist practices

UGT receives **General Prosecutor Representatives from the Labour and Employment Ministry** and asks for the support of the general attorney to fight anti-unionist practices.

**On February 22, UGT received the visit of the General Attorney of the Labour and Employment Ministry in its head office, in Sao Paulo, searching for a new relationship between the trade union movement and the ministry, which fights in pro of the defense of individual social interests but that still do not act much in labour relationships.**



During this meeting, the following issues were emphasized: the importance of trade union freedom, the need to get to know the role performed by the Public Ministry as well as the role of the trade union movement.

**Dr. Luís Antonio Camargo de Melo, Labour Attorney General**, was willing to listen to demands on the trade union needs and recognized the importance of trade union institutions. "I believe in the strength of this trade union central, in the proposal that UGT trade unionists defend and I would like to contribute and put my office at your disposal, and, through dialogue, we will manage to advance. We live in a democracy, with debates and different points of view. With respect we will be able to reach a common point", he stated.

**Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT**, asked the attorney to pay attention to contributions. "Trade unions offer welfarism services, playing a role in the health area, such as medical and dental care, which should be performed by the government. As well as developing homologations. These are government actions, and it is necessary that the government, in its turn, support trade union actions", Patah emphasized while referring to claims of anti-unionist practices.

Among UGT officers who attended the event, the following ones were at the meeting: Edson Laércio de Oliveira, president of the Federation of Health Workers of Sao Paulo and president of Sinsaúde Campinas and surroundings; Dr. Francisco Gérson Marques de Lima, Regional Labour Attorney of Ceará; Dr. Carlos Augusto, vice-coordinator of the Trade Union Freedom Attorney Office and Dr. Raimundo. (Mariana Veltri, UGT)

## UGT debates representation of telemarketing workers

On February 19, **Ricardo Patah, president of UGT**, had a meeting with **Manoel Messias, secretary of labour relationships of the Labour Ministry**, and with representatives of the Trade Union of Telemarketing Workers of Sao Paulo and Metro Area (Sintratel), to discuss the representation of telemarketing workers in the state.

Sao Paulo was excluded of the area represented by Sintratel, thus, it was represented by Sintratele, due to a mistake of the Labour and Employment Ministry at the moment in which the trade union record took place. To Hudson da Silva, Sintratel juridical advisor, the legitimacy of representing these workers belongs to Sintratel, since it represents this class for 18 years. "It only takes a an amendment of the secretary in office. This would not affront interests of other trade unions or the principle of trade union unity, celebrated in our Constitution".

**Manoel Messias** said that a technical note is being analyzed by the juridical department of the Ministry, and that there is not a deadline to publicize it, but he will ask for quickness. "We will search for an understanding between these two trade unions, and will find a way to answer to the representability of each one", he completed.

### A Better Brazil for Everyone

UGT's Seminar on Trade Union Organization and Policies: Socializing Information to Build a Better Brazil for Everyone



### UGT participated in meeting of TUCA Board of Executives

Mônica da Costa Mata Roma, director of UGT's International Affairs Department, participated in the 8th Meeting of the Board of Executives of the Trade Union Confederation of The Americas (TUCA). Activities took place from February 19 to 21, at TUCA office in Sao Paulo.

During the meeting, which gathered representatives from trade union centrals of the Americas linked to TUCA, the group evaluated the II TUCA Congress, which took place in April 2012 and discussed the Strategic Labour Plan for the period 2012-2016, based on five axes, which are:

1. Sustainable development;
2. Decent work and trade union freedom;
3. Trade union organization and self-reformation;
4. Peace, democracy and human rights;
5. TUCA Institutional strengthening.

The participation of Monica in the Board of Executives meeting was essential not only to UGT, but also for the representability of Brazil in the confederation. In the meeting, she emphasized the importance of capacitation of trade union officers, as the main tool for a more significant representation of workers.

Monica also recalls that this issue is a constant part of UGT's agenda. "Now, for example, we are in a process of capacitation to prepare the delegation that will represent our trade union central in the International Labour Conference (ILO). This way, our officers are discussing public, social and international policies that aim towards the defense of the working class rights", she concluded.



**"The União Geral dos Trabalhadores reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just. "** Ricard Patah – UGT's President

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