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## A Light at the end of the tunnel

**Ricardo Patah, president of União Geral dos Trabalhadores – UGT**

The political crisis worsens, which overlaps the economic crisis and makes it hard to find solutions for this economic crisis and imposes an urgent search of an answer for the living forces of Brazil.

The wave of protests that took place last Sunday in, at least, 120 cities throughout Brazil widely allowed a political crisis that put at stake the legitimacy of the Dilma Rousseff administration. The fact that most of the protestors belong to the white elite (Datafolha showed that, in São Paulo, 70% of protestors earned over 5 minimum wages) does not turn it into a less severe action against the government.



**União Geral dos Trabalhadores – UGT**, due to the fact that it had a multiple creation, but also due to the choice of its members, is a plural and civic trade union center. Several political lines of thought permeate UGT therefore its views to escape the crisis are multiple.

After this supposition is established, it is necessary to find an exit, a light at the end of the tunnel, one that would take this country out of the paralysis it finds itself in. That is what working families wait for, those who astonishingly watch this crisis unfold and who bear the most harmful consequences of its incidence.

Next April, to celebrate May Day, we will hold a seminar to discuss the Brazilian crisis. It will be a contribution to search for solutions.

We are experiencing a deep malaise. The own occurrence of dengue and zika fever epidemics brought deep insecurity to all and, especially, for the working families that include pregnant women.

Recent rains followed by deaths, and the damages caused by them, showed several fragilities of Brazilian cities, lack of an efficient civil defense and inadequate public infrastructure, and will certainly influence the next elections, which are for mayors.

It all add to unemployment and discouragement that afflict all working families, which cause the loss of last year's achievements and cannot provide satisfactory answers from the governments.

If last Sunday's protests showed something, was an extreme disbelief of the Brazilian population in politics. This is very bad from democracy.

**União Geral dos Trabalhadores – UGT** believes that we will find a way out. Brazil is bigger than the crisis.



## 2016 Woman full of Life

São Paulo's East side hosted the largest event of all time to celebrate the International Woman's Day. Woman full of Life gathered more than 100 people at the Carmo Park, on Sunday, March 6. A social action of UGT and of the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo, which had the goal of paying tribute to women and to raise awareness on society on the importance of their rights, warning them against any kind of discrimination and violence against women.

To Ricardo Patah, president of UGT and of the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo, besides valuing this date, the importance of the event lies in creating effective conditions to overcome adversities that women still experience in recent times.

"This event in the Carmo Park is extraordinary, it aims at men and women being able to celebrate together. Unfortunately, women are still harassed, raped and killed. And we are doing this, reflecting, talking, entering a dialogue and having fun. It is an important day in terms of civic actions. Women showed us an essential sign of how we must change, because women mean life, women mean inclusion, women mean hope, that is why we have Women Full of Life", Patah celebrated it.



To Roberto de Lucena, UGT's vice-president and Secretary of São Paulo State for Tourism, "though women present strength of being a major axis, the main core of society, it is a pity that, currently, in the XXI century, we still need affirmative actions for women. And the fact that our trade union center has a distinctive look over women highly cheers me."

Canindé Pegado, UGT's secretary general, emphasizes that UGT is the trade union center that values its social staff the most, especially the female staff. UGT is currently the second biggest trade union center, after eight years since it was founded and counting on more than 1,300 affiliated trade unions, and has, among its affiliated members 51% of women. The trade union environment is a place that was predominantly male. Major female trade union leaders were born through the stimulus of UGT. (Mariana Veltri –UGT's press)

### International Woman's Day demands reflection

**Enilson Simões de Moura –UGT's national president**



According to the Getúlio Vargas Foundation, if the current stage is kept, women will only earn equal wages as men in 2085! One of the reasons of the difference among salaries is that, it is harder for women to get a job than it is for men. Double shifts also hinder them. It's undeniable. Women end up working more than men, but make less money, though they are more educated than men.

Violence against women is still high: three out of five young women already suffered some sort of violence in their relationships, according to the Data Popular Institute. The same survey points out that 56% of men admitted that they had already practiced some kind of aggression. This is intolerable!

Besides, women daily suffer from harassment in overcrowded collective means of transportation, where cowards without a minimum civil ability rub on women in a heinous way and the only feeling that they may cause is complete disgust.

Today, March 8, we also recall the events that led to establish this date as the International Women's Day. It was not a unique episode, but several. The most emblematic was the one of women who died in a fire in the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, in New York. The fight for the right to vote worldwide and the fight of Russian women against the participation of this country in the World War I, on February 23 (which is equivalent, in the Gregorian calendar, to March 8) resulted in the adoption of this date.

However, more than a commemorative day, this date demands a serious reflection on the condition of women in our society. We may come to the conclusion that there is little to celebrate. And there is still a lot of fight to stimulate us, men and women, to achieve the effective equality among genders!



International  
Woman's Day



## In times of crisis

UGT's May Day searches for alternatives to minimize the suffering of workers

For the third year in a row, UGT conceives May Day as a date to think of workers within a social, economic and political situation. Starting at this point, far from common festivities of other trade union centers, UGT brings an invitation to reflect on the moment our country is going through. On April 25 and 26, UGT will hold, through a partnership with Unicamp (Cesit), at Novotel, in São Paulo, the seminar: "Workers in times of crisis: building alternatives."



And the following three moments that Brazil is experiencing compose the agenda: Political and Economic Crisis, Centenary of Samba and Rio Olympic Games 2016. These are issues that are directly related to the problem of employment and working conditions. With a rise of unemployment, what are the alternatives for the working class?

With the changes caused by globalization and by capital, the way people act and think changed as well. With the need of recycling the way the trade union movement acts, UGT perceives this proposal of celebrating May Day as a more productive alternative for the Brazilian workers.

"Capital was globalized, but trade union action hasn't, it continues to be extremely regionalized, with its local characteristics, we have to do something more dense. That is the reason of this partnership, bringing us a certain knowledge from the academic point of view allow us to perceive what is going on in other areas, in Brazil and in other parts of the world", Francisco Pereira, aka Chiquinho, UGT's secretary of Trade Union Organization and Policies and president of the Trade Union of Bakers of São Paulo, said.

"This year, our May day takes place in an extremely unique moment, one of high turbulence, in which the economic, political, ethical, moral and trust crisis (that is, a general crisis) put our country in a red alert. People are living in fear, because there are no conditions to slightly predict tomorrow. What will be our contribution? How can UGT contribute? What can it do to get Brazil go on? How can it provide signs in order to Brazil have conditions to halt this crisis and to us being able to offer a possibility to workers dream of tomorrow? Because I think that the price workers pay for something that they are not responsible for is criminal", said Chiquinho.

Indignant, UGT calls officers that are interested in participating, reflecting and finding new alternatives.

### III Congress of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas

The Trade Union Confederation of the Americas will hold its Third Ordinary Trade Union Congress, from April 26 to 29, at the Convention Center of the Holiday Inn Parque Anhembi, in São Paulo



Víctor Báez, secretary general of this confederation, called its affiliated institutions – UGT is among them, to nominate their representatives to deliberate on a General Program, a Fight Plan, a Statute Reform, Affiliation and dissolution of institutions and elections for the executive council, secretariat and tax council.

The representation of affiliated institutions must be equal among men and women and must have at least 15% young representatives (younger than 35 years old).



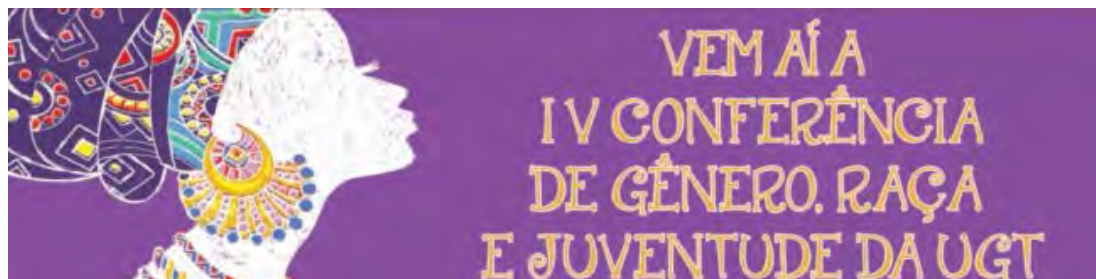
Trade Union Confederation of the Americas





## IV National Gender, Race and Youth Conference

On April 10, 11 and 12, UGT's Women, Human Diversity and Youth national departments will hold UGT's "IV National Gender, Race and Youth Conference", at the Dayrell Hotel and Convention Center, located at Rua Espírito Santo, 901 – Centro - Belo Horizonte/Minas Gerais.



Given the importance of this activity, the organizing commission is requesting its affiliated trade union to save this date, in order to guarantee a massive and high quality participation of male and female members of UGT. The commission informs that the logistical details will be sent shortly, as well as the link to fill out the registration form, which should be done from March 21 to April 01, 2016.

### IndustriALL supports the fight of Nissan's workers

You can do better, Nissan - **Marino Vani, secretary general of IndustriALL Global Union Latin America and the Caribbean**, stated and showed the support of his institution to Nissan's workers. He stated, during a meeting in Rio, that the spirit of global union is the future of the trade union movement, and reaffirmed the responsibility of Rio 2016 Organizing Committee concerning anti-unionist practices of the automobile manufacturer. "We did not come here to denounce the Olympics, we came to ask for help and respect," Vani explained.



### Women at Work Trends 2016

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an opportunity to deal with the persistent gender inequalities at work.

Over their professional lives, women continue to face significant obstacles in getting proper jobs. Since the Fourth World Conference on Women, in Beijing, 1995, the progress that was achieved was marginal, leaving enormous disparities to solve during the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

The report "Women at Work: Trends 2016" examined data of up to 178 countries and concluded that inequality among men and women persists in a wide spectrum of the global job market. Besides, the report shows that women achieved, over the last two decades, significant progress in education, which does not mean comparable improvements in their job positions.



Women at Work Trends 2016

The UGT Global is the Newsletter of International Information of the União Geral dos Trabalhadores

The UGT union is an organization formed to defend the Brazilian workers across a broad trade union movement, national, ethical, supportive, independent, democratic and innovative.

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