



Event "Women With Life" defends salary equality

This information was one of the main attractions of the event "Women with Life" organized by UGT, on Sunday, March 7, at Vale do Anhangabaú, as part of the celebration of the International Women's Day, celebrated on March, 8.

The event, organized under the coordination of UGT's Women Department, supported by the Commerce Workers Union, Sao Paulo City Hall and Sesc, Women with Life offered a great range of informations on the main rights and achievements of women all through mankind to the audience that went to Anhangabau valley.

The event also had the purpose of reminding that many achievements are still to come, and wage equality is one of them and it was one of the main ideals defended at the event.

"We are going to collect 1,5 million signatures so that we can bring in a class action in order to stop women from receiving lower wages", Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT informed.

Besides defending wage equality, fighting violence against women, the ratification of ILO - International Labour Organization - Convention No 156 (Workers with Family Responsibilities) were some of the fight ideals shown by UGT during the act "Women with LIFE".



"We are going to collect 1,5 million signatures" informed Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT



Concerts and Drama Plays

One of the high points of the event was in charge of drama plays performed by the group "Primeiro Ato" that played a series of plays, entitled "A difícil arte de ser mulher", "júri, Simulado" and "Elas (related to women's health).

Music shows were in charge of the pagode group "Deixa que eu Deixo" and the juvenile singer Samuel, that preceded the concerts of Jair Rodrigues and the singer Luciana Mello.

International Women's Day

Gender biases remain

More women choosing to work, but gender equality remains a long way off

Despite signs of progress in gender equality over the past 15 years, there is still a significant gap between women and men in terms of job opportunities and quality of employment, according to a new report by the **International Labour Office (ILO)**.

Silvana Mesquita, secretary of UGT's Accessibility Department, emphasized the need women have to organize themselves



The report, entitled **Women in labour markets: Measuring progress and identifying challenges**, says that more than a decade after the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing adopted an ambitious global platform for action on gender equality and women's empowerment, gender biases remain deeply embedded in society and the labour market.

The ILO report shows that the rate of female labour force participation has increased from 50.2 to 51.7 per cent between 1980 and 2008, while the male rate decreased slightly from 82.0 to 77.7 per cent. As a result, the gender gap in labour force participation rates has narrowed from 32 to 26 percentage points.

ILO report: Women in labour markets: Measuring progress and identifying challenges

UGT represents Brazil at ILO Body

Workers from Latin America and Brazil will be represented by 3 out of the 14 counselors. The Brazilian representative is **Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti, secretary of International Relationships of UGT**.

ILO's Governing Body is composed of 28 representatives from governments, 14 from workers and 14 from employers.

Ten governmental positions are permanently occupied by countries of the highest industrial importance (Germany, Brazil, China, United States of America, France, India, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and Russia).

Employers and workers elected their own representatives in separated electoral colleges.



Arnaldo Benedetti is in Geneva, at the moment, participating in an ILO's Session of the Governing Body, that will take place from March 11 to the 26, 2010.

There are several topics of discussion in the agenda of the meeting that will prepare the International Labour Conference, which is the international forum that will be held next June, in Geneva as well.

To get more information on the Session of the Governing Body, [click here](#)

UGT is solidary with European workers

UGT sent a letter to trade union centrals from Portugal, Spain, Greece and Turkey in which it is solidary with the fights that workers from these countries are battling against the attempt to make them pay the price for an economic crisis that they did not provoke.

The expression of solidarity was decided in the last meeting of UGT's National Executive Session and it was demonstrated through a proposition delivered to the main trade union centrals of each country: **UGT** in Portugal, **UGT** and **Comisiones Obreras** in Spain, **GSEE** in Greece and the centrals in Turkey (**HAK-IS**, **TURK-IS**, **DISK** and **KESK**).

The message from **UGT**, signed by **Ricardo Patah**, president and **Arnaldo Benedetti**, secretary of International Relationships, says that the institution understands the "seriousness of the crisis and the huge fight of our colleagues" and auguring success, states that "its victory will be a historical precedent to all workers in the world where workers' rights are being denied by governments that support banks instead of workers and their families".



UGT, through its message, emphasizes that "solidarity and internationalism are our greatest tool in the resistance towards the attempt that the crisis is paid with our sacrifice, with labour rights".

Mayor of Campinas receives the visit of UGT

Hélio de Oliveira Santos, mayor of Campinas, received, on February 26, in his office, the visit of **Ricardo Patah**, national president of **UGT** and representatives of UGT leaderships in the region.



The visit had the goal of bringing up the subject of celebrating May 1st.

During the meeting, the mayor presented the project "Naves-Mães " to the group, a project he developed in Campinas, changing the deficit of positions in child education for elementary school (from 3 to 5 years 11 month old) down to zero. Education is one of the main issues defended by **UGT**, according to its leaders.

Along with the president **Ricardo Patah**, the following people were in the group: **Davi Zaia**, State Deputy and vice-president of **UGT**, **Magno Lavigne**, secretary of the Human Diversity Department, **Francisco Soares de Souza**, president of the Union of Gas Station Workers of metro Campinas. **Ricardo Patah** also visited the new head office of the Union of Employees in Service and Health Establishments of Campinas and its surroundings, presided by Edison Laercio de Oliveira.

Removal of union chairperson

Union chairpersons that are candidates to the election this year must remove themselves from the board of directors of their respective institutions until June 3 - four months before the election. The removal is not definitive and it doesn't imply in resigning their positions. All titular chairpersons, except for substitutes and members of Advisory Committees, are obliged to remove from work.

The workers' representative that is discharged in order to run for the electoral preview or party convention and is not considered a viable candidate might return to their old position in the institution. This supposition is also valid once the candidate doesn't get elected (DIAP - Inter-union Department of Parliamentary Advising).

UGT participates in hearing to defend racial quotas

UGT, through its **Human Diversity Issues Department**, participated, in Brasilia, the whole week, in several activities related to public and affirmative policies and promotion of racial equality.

The first activity was a workshop of the **Special Secretariat of Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality (SEPPIR)**, which is responsible for implanting affirmative politics that promote racial equality in Brazil. In order to do so, **SEPPIR** invited five union centrals, among them, **UGT** and the **Inter-American Union Institute for Racial Equality** that has Cleonice Caetano (who is also secretary of the Health and Safety at Work Department of UGT) as its president and also the colleague Magno Lavigne, secretary of the **Human Diversity Department of UGT**.



Afterwards, the UGT's bench participated in a public hearing at the Supreme Court that debated the action of the Democrat Party against the quota policy.

Commerce workers from Camaçari do a parade



The business district of Camaçari stopped last Wednesday (February, 24), at 4 P.M., to watch the public act organized by the **Union of Commerce Employees of Camaçari and Dias D'Ávila (SINDECCD)**, an institution affiliated with UGT. The goal of the parade was publicizing the salary campaign 2010-2011.

The class demands, for the negotiations of this year, 100% of INPC tax, plus 5% of real gain, R\$ 590 wage floor, 40 weekly hours working shifts and the inclusion of people with special needs in the job market.

Social movement prepare huge assembly in May

Institutions from social movements affiliated with **UGT**, such as **Cobram**, **CBC** and **Ceac**, participate, in May, in a National Assembly of Social Movements, to define the main fight ideals of these organizations that were defended during the last edition of the **World Social Forum** held in January, 2010, in Porto Alegre and also in Salvador.

FECEP promotes seminar of commerce workers

On March 24 and 25, the Federation of Commerce Employees of the state of Parana will promote a seminar of commerce workers of the southern region, that, for the first time, will have the participation of unions from Parana, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul.



"The General Union of Workers (GUW) 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." Ricardo Patah – UGT's President

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