



11th August 2009

UN International Youth Day – 12th August 2009 More jobs, better jobs for young workers!

One billion young people will reach working age within the next decade. Providing them with the opportunity to secure productive employment and decent work is a societal, national and global challenge.

On International Youth Day, PSI joins young workers in public services around the world in demanding an end to precarious forms of work which all too often typifies youth employment.

On average, young women and men are two to three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. Too often young women and men in public services find themselves in jobs characterised by unacceptably long working hours, low pay, little or no social protection and poor job security. In many regions, young people who have few local options are migrating in large numbers in pursuit of opportunities abroad, but more often than not end up at the bottom of the inequality ladder.

With appropriate access to quality education, decent work opportunities and health care, young workers can make important contributions to the advancement of a world which they will inherit and for which they will be responsible for many decades to come.

“It is unacceptable that today’s generation of young people - the best educated generation of youth in history - continues to be marginalised in the workplace facing wage discrimination, poor working conditions and precarious contracts” says Peter Waldorff, PSI General Secretary. *“It is essential that the trade union movement act in support of young workers who need to be able to speak out and more importantly to be listened to. Young workers have clear ideas on what they want, and are not passively waiting for solutions to be handed to them;”* continues Waldorff. “

PSI is taking this opportunity to call on young workers to join and get active in the trade union movement and for the trade union movement to reach out to young workers:

PSI urges affiliates to:

- Encourage young people to join unions and bargain collectively to promote equality for young workers in the workplace
- Ensure that young workers have adequate information about their rights and access to learning opportunities
- Represent and defend the interests of young workers.

PSI is also calling on governments, as policy makers as well as employers, to:

- Ensure that young workers have access to employment opportunities
- Ensure decent work, based on principles of non-discrimination, for young workers
- Recognise the indispensable role of young people in eradicating poverty and meeting the Millennium Development Goals
- Encourage young workers' participation in developing of policy and actions on climate change issues.

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Public Services International (PSI) is a global trade union federation that represents 20 million women and men working in the public services around the world. It has some 600 affiliated unions in more than 150 countries. PSI is an autonomous body, which works in association with federations covering other sectors of the workforce and with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). PSI is an officially recognised non-governmental organisation for the public sector within the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and has consultative status with ECOSOC and observer status with other UN bodies such as UNCTAD and UNESCO.