



## **RESOLUTION No. 19) DEFENDING AND PROTECTING LABOUR RIGHTS**

**The 29<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Public Services International (PSI),  
meeting in Durban, South Africa, on 27-30 November 2012**

### **REAFFIRMS**

that labour rights are human rights.

### **Also REAFFIRMS**

that workers' rights to freedom of association, to join a trade union, to engage in collective bargaining and to strike is guaranteed, respected and enforceable in any democratic society.

### **NOTES**

that these rights are enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and ILO Fundamental Convention No. 87 – Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise.

### **OBSERVES**

that a separate convention, ILO Convention 151 Labour Relations (Public Service) 1978 was necessary to facilitate these rights to be enjoyed by governmental workers (public sector workers) because of the special posers of their employer.

### **RECOGNISES**

that democracy, social and economic justice, human rights and harmonious relations cannot be maintained and would not flourish where freedom of association, freedom of expression and labour rights are suppressed, abused and denied, and advocates of union rights are threatened, intimidated and are at severe risk.

### **Further RECOGNISES**

that anti-union activities and actions have undermined democracy, economic and social justice, development and the wellbeing of citizens and have contributed to crimes against humanity.

### **NOTES**

that the initial persons who perpetuate such crimes of denying workers the right of association and to be unionised, the right to collective bargaining, have also contributed to act of discrimination and victimization against them as a means of punishment to deter them from their commitment and determination to defend and represent their fellow workers from abuses and other forms of atrocities.

### **Further NOTES**

that discrimination, intimidation, dismissals and other forms of abuses or atrocities against workers for their commitment and involvement in union activities have not only devastated their lives but also that of their families, in cases where helpless children who are left destitute and their future and career development shattered, even resulting in their health, welfare and lives being compromised.

### **URGES**

all affiliates of PSI to collectively take steps to assert that trade union rights are human rights which should be respected internationally and nationally.

### **AGREES**

that violators of trade union rights be branded internationally by establishing criteria for identifying and categorizing these individuals, developing an international website to publicly expose them and the crimes that they have committed against workers and to further explore effective means and ways in determining penalties as punishment for these anti-trade union atrocities and crimes.

See all [Congress resolutions](#) including the Program of Action and the Constitution.

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 champions human rights, advocates for social justice and promotes universal access to quality public services. PSI works with the United Nations system and in partnership with labour, civil society and other organisations.