

MICHAEL SOMMER
PRESIDENT
PRÉSIDENT
PRÄSIDENT
PRESIDENTE

SHARAN BURROW
GENERAL SECRETARY
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRALE
GENERALSEKRETÄRIN
SECRETARIA GENERAL

To all affiliated organisations

CAM/COM/TN

23 August 2012

World Day for Decent Work (WDDW), October 7

Dear colleagues,

With the global economic crisis still hitting working people hard in every part of the world, trade unions around the world will once again organise mobilisations, events and activities on October 7 to demand decent jobs and full respect for workers' rights.

The crisis, and the inability or unwillingness of governments to restore jobs and growth, is having a particularly brutal impact on young people. Official figures show that 75 million young people are without jobs across the world, many millions more are trapped in informal or precarious work, and tens of millions of new job seekers have no prospect of finding work, or education and training to equip them for work in the future. Youth unemployment is as high as 60% in some countries, and a whole generation of young people faces exclusion from the labour market. This is a social and economic time-bomb. For these reasons, we are recommending that the crisis in youth employment be a prominent feature of your WDDW activities.

October 7 this year falls on a Sunday, meaning that in many countries, events will be spread over more than one day. In addition, every participating organisation will have priority Decent Work issues that it wants to highlight, whether within their own country or through solidarity actions with workers elsewhere. The variety in the types of activities, and the focus on different Decent Work issues from country to country, are important features of the World Day. We will shortly launch the 2012 WDDW website, which as usual will enable you to follow events around the world, and to post onto the site reports, pictures, videos etc to inform others of what you are doing in your country. You can also add more materials after the posting of your event onto the web site by emailing the materials to: wddw@ituc-csi.org

Poster designs for the WDDW, which you can download and print, will also be sent to you in the next days. The design this year is based on the slogan "For Brighter Working Days", and will be reflected in the 2012 WDDW website through the provision of national "weather forecasts" on the prospects for decent work for young workers. Visitors to the site will be able to react to these forecasts on the web site. As before, if

you send us the slogan in your local language, we can incorporate that in the design for you.

We can again provide limited funds for organisations which need financial support to organise their WDDW events, and suggest that if you wish to make a request, that you contact us as soon as possible to allow us to assess the requests in time.

The economic crisis and the increasingly hostile environment for workers' rights in many countries are presenting the global trade union movement with some of the biggest challenges in history. Mobilising together for a successful WDDW will help to show the world that trade unions are ready and able to continue to confront those challenges, and provide brighter working days for all working women and men – in particular young workers.

We look forward to full and active participation in the World Day for Decent Work this year, and to receiving the information on your activities via the website, before, during and immediately after they take place. For further information, please email wddw@ituc-csi.org

Wishing you a successful WDDW,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B...', written in a cursive style.

General Secretary