



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 16 December 2013

December 18 - International Migrants Day

Public Services International joins the international community in commemorating the millions of migrant workers and their families all over the world and re-affirming our commitment to uphold their dignity and human rights.

“International migration today is primarily about the search for decent work,” says Rosa Pavanelli, General Secretary of Public Services International. “Workers are forced to leave their country of birth in search for jobs and to escape from poverty. Many have lost their lives crossing borders or have fallen prey to unscrupulous recruiters. Many of them end up in precarious working and living conditions and are deprived of access to essential public services, such as health, education and social services. The issue of migration, which today is primarily about labour migration, must be a priority for trade unions. Migrant workers are not commodities. They cannot be used as subjects of trade agreements, nor be valued only for their remittances. Migrant workers must be protected by international human rights norms and labour standards. Workers’ rights are central to fair economic policies. As trade unions, we must continue in our efforts to defend access to quality public services for all, organise migrant workers and fight racism and xenophobia,” asserts Pavanelli.

In celebrating International Migrants’ Rights Day, we in the international trade union movement, together with our partner civil society organizations, communities and migrants’ rights advocates, strongly call on States to ratify the core international instruments on migrants’ rights, which include:

- UN International Convention on the [Protection of The Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families](#);
- ILO Convention on Migrant Workers, [C97](#) and [C143](#)
- ILO Convention on Private Employment Agencies, [C181](#)
- ILO Convention on Domestic Workers, [C189](#)

Furthermore, we recognise that recruitment conditions are critical in ensuring the right of migrant workers to join unions, enjoy equal treatment and non-discrimination.

PSI invites all affiliates [to participate in a survey](#) the results of which will be used to build a global coalition to reform recruitment. The survey is an initiative of PSI affiliate, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), along with several trade unions, labour rights advocates and community groups.

For more information, see:

- **The [survey](#)**
- **[The letter from the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO](#)**
- **The [International Labor Recruitment Working Group website](#)**
- **PSI’s website on [migration](#)**

18 December 2013

PSI brothers and sisters,

I am writing to invite you to participate in a brief survey that will help to inform the work of a Global Recruitment Reform Coalition. The formation of this Coalition arises out of a People's Global Action workshop entitled Global Labour Recruitment Reform, hosted by [the International Labor Recruitment Working Group](#) during the time of the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in October 2013 in New York. During that workshop, PSI and other attendees discussed principles that should guide recruitment reform on a global level, shared models and strategies they are using to reform recruitment, and decided to survey organizations working on recruitment in order to inform future collaboration.

We are sending you this e-mail to ensure that the perspectives of unions in the health sector are included in the survey results. Please [fill out the brief survey](#) about your organization, the scope of your work, your recruitment-related engagement, and any relevant coalitions. The survey should take 5-10 minutes. Your responses will not be submitted until you click "submit" at the end of the survey.

Thank you very much.

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