

ITF Women Transport Workers' Conference

Global Crisis to Global Justice: *Women Transport Workers Fighting Back*

New Delhi 27-28 January 2014

Themes and Aims of the Conference

The ITF Women's Committee and Executive Board are continuing to implement the Congress mandate that affiliates strengthen gender work and ensure that it meets the on-going economic, social, environmental and political challenges facing transport workers across the globe. Only by fighting together can affiliates build a unified, democratic and growing trade union movement now and for the future.

Conference Themes

The conference will focus on four priority themes:

1. Organising women's transport workers to build strong unions

Union members and non union workers are turning to unions to protect their jobs and conditions in the current global economic downturn. Many women workers are concentrated in contracted out services such as cleaning, catering and call centres offering mainly casualised, insecure jobs. Organising women transport workers is a tough test of the capacity of ITF affiliates to lead and activate workers in the midst of the economic downturn.

Whilst transport historically has been a highly, gender-segregated sector, more women are now working as crane operators; dockers; train, bus and truck drivers; ship officers; and airline pilots. As global GDP falls, unemployment for women transport workers rises. Significant numbers of women are working in the new jobs offered in the supply chain, particularly in logistics' technological and administrative hubs and corridors. The conference will

- share best practice in organising women transport workers from ITF affiliates in industrial sections and world regions
- show how the ITF can continue to work with affiliates to unionise women transport workers and to create strategic power to protect existing union members pay and conditions and strengthen collective bargaining.

2. Building alliances with organisations at the forefront of combatting violence against women to strengthen ITF affiliates' campaigns at the global and regional level

ITF women have a proud history in the struggle to stop violence perpetrated against women. All women transport workers deserve workplaces, homes and societies where they are free from violence. Affiliates believe violence against women is a trade union issue and are actively supporting women's rights including participating in the International Day to Say No to Violence against Women on 25th November. The conference will support discussion and strategy with international specialists to build alliances that increase active commitment to ending violence against women. We will explore ways to support our unions and strengthen ITF affiliates' campaigns at the global and regional level to build alliances with organisations at the forefront of this campaign.

3. Campaigning for Our Public Services

Women are the majority users of public transport to access employment, childcare and health services. However, austerity policies have cut public services so transport unions are fighting in our communities to defend public transport and fight liberalisation. We will hear from sisters who are at the frontline **building alliances** to deliver strong union campaigns that achieve sustainable Quality Public Services.

4. Women in Leadership, “Leading Change” to grow unions

The conference will consider how programmes such as the ITUC “Count us in” Campaign and the successful ITF Women’s Leadership programme “Leading Change” will support ITF affiliates to build new generations of leaders at all levels who strategize, motivate, mobilise and mentor sisters to build strong unions for the next generation.

Aims of the Conference

The ITF Women Transport Workers Conference will:

- Analyse the challenges and opportunities for women transport workers and their communities in the globalised economy
- Share best practice and plans for organising women transport workers in ITF Industrial sections and world regions
- Share experiences of Global Unions and ITF affiliates in building strategic Quality Public Service campaigns.
- Build alliances with organisations at the forefront of combatting violence against women to strengthen ITF affiliates campaigns at the global and regional level
- Provide delegates with practical tools, e.g., ITF materials the ITF action Guide on Violence against Women, best practice guides, and leadership development online training modules.
- Evaluate the impact of the 2010-2014 ITF gender work and plan for the ITF Women transport workers work programme 2014-2018
- Agree resolutions and priorities for the ITF's 43rd Congress in Bulgaria in August