

# In what way can global labour influence global governance?

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# In what way can global labour influence global governance?

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### What does global labour mean?

Global labour is the trade unions (Mercosur, EU, WTO, ITUC) and other civil society organizations (epistemic communities, Green peace) with similar or converging interests involved in the defense of human and democratic rights and social justice in all its aspects









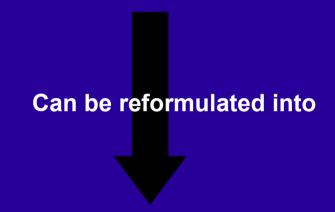
# What does global governance mean?

Global governance is the political interaction of transnational (which mean having a high part of activity abroad) actors aimed at solving problems that affect more than one state or region when there is no rules set yet





# In what way can global labour influence global governance?



Are trade unions working or not?

# An example of a trade union: the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)



The ITUC's primary mission is the <u>promotion and</u> <u>defence of workers' rights and interests</u>, through international cooperation between trade unions, global campaigning and advocacy within the major global institutions.



VS



**Street** 

Lobby

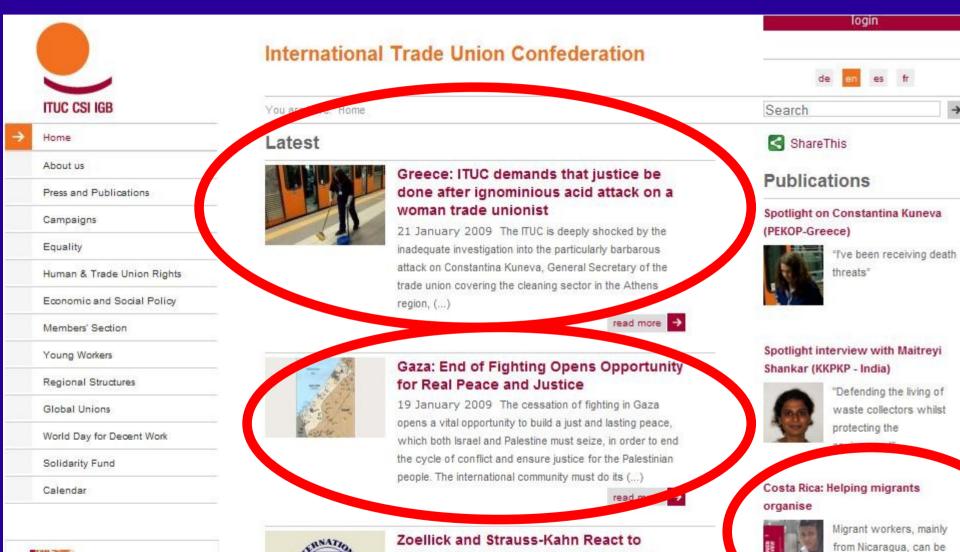
### Main campaigns

- Decent Work, Decent Life a campaign to ensure that all people benefit equally from the process of globalisation;
- Fair Play at the Olympics a campaign urging the International Olympic Committee and the major sports brands to respect the rights of workers in the sportswear industry;
- Global Call to Action against Poverty a campaign aimed at ensuring we achieve the Millennium Development Goals as set out by the United Nations to lift billions of people out of poverty;

### Other missions

- HIV/AIDS working to maximize prevention programs whilst at the same time <u>fighting discrimination in and outside the workplace</u> and ensuring that everyone has access to life-saving medication;
- Child Labour working to ensure that every child is in full-time education instead of being forced to work;
- WTO, World Bank and the International Monetary Fund working to ensure that global governance strategies pursued by these organizations is changed to benefit workers and the poor.
- The Campaigns Officer also works with other departments such as Equality on Youth, Migration and Women's issues and with the Trade Union Rights department on **defending the fundamental rights of workers in countries where they are endangered.**

### Concrete cases



Unions' Demands on Growing Global

18 January 2009 Commitments to strengthen social

**Employment Crisis** 

found in all low-paid jobs.

Annual Survey 08

## **Ivory Coast:**

Video of chocolate child labour in Ivory coast

### Influence of this video

- Awareness regarding child labour in Ivory Coast;
- Awarness that there are some labels on chocolate bars;
  - From this you can get:
- Possible reactions from abroad;
- Possible boycot of the products;

Unfortunately this message is limited to the number of people who are watching it

# Numerous other concrete examples:





#### Burma

« the ITUC urges companies to stop investing in Burma. The ITUC also calls on the international community to apply stronger and more targeted economic and financial sanctions, particularly on oil and gas, to bring the regime to its knees, in line with the request of the Burmese democracy movement. »

# Numerous other concrete examples:

Maid in Lebanon;

Zimbabwe ZCTU beatings;



Firestone & Child Labor in Liberia;



## Other ways of influencing

Encouraging to vote for the other candidate;

Encouraging the withdrawal of support;

Ability to impose sanctions

### In order to make it work

#### You need:

- Developped expertise;
- Raising awareness;
- Identifying the points of access;
- Finding the right balance between mobilization and lobbying;

### Is it working?

I guess so by the number of Trade unionist who are attacked for e.g:

« On 22 December Constantina Kuneva, a Bulgarian migrant worker and union activist, was the victim of an attack using sulphuric acid while returning home from her workplace. She was seriously wounded, losing the use of one eye and of her vocal chords and she is still in a hospital intensive care unit. »

# Fair trade coffee is a good example of trade union success

#### **Transition**

 However as often written his power is limited to the number of listeners and the good will of the different communities:

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Ko Ming Ko Naing. Gambari's mission cannot be a success without increased pressure from the international community "The international community must establish benchmarks and a timeframe for the coming year, and assess progress every month" said Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the ITUC.

### Sources

http://www.ituc-csi.org/

# Thank you for your attention