



**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?

Can be reformulated into



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 promotion and defence of workers' rights and interests, through international cooperation between trade unions, global campaigning and advocacy within the major global institutions.



Street

vs



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;
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Other missions

- HIV/AIDS – working to maximize prevention programs whilst at the same time fighting discrimination in and outside the workplace 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.**
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Concrete cases

The image shows a screenshot of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) website. The page features a navigation menu on the left, a main content area with a 'Latest' section, and a right sidebar with 'Publications'. Three news articles are highlighted with red ovals:

- Greece: ITUC demands that justice be done after ignominious acid attack on a woman trade unionist**
21 January 2009 The ITUC is deeply shocked by the inadequate investigation into the particularly barbarous attack on Constantina Kuneva, General Secretary of the trade union covering the cleaning sector in the Athens region, (...)
- Gaza: End of Fighting Opens Opportunity for Real Peace and Justice**
19 January 2009 The cessation of fighting in Gaza opens a vital opportunity to build a just and lasting peace, which both Israel and Palestine must seize, in order to end the cycle of conflict and ensure justice for the Palestinian people. The international community must do its (...)
- Costa Rica: Helping migrants organise**
Migrant workers, mainly from Nicaragua, can be found in all low-paid jobs.

Other visible content includes the ITUC logo, a search bar, language options (de, en, es, fr), and a 'login' button in the top right. The bottom left features a link to the 'Annual Survey 08'.

Ivory Coast:

Video of chocolate child labour in Ivory coast



Influence of this video

- Awareness regarding child labour in Ivory Coast;
- Awareness that there are some labels on chocolate bars;

From this you can get:

- Possible reactions from abroad;
- Possible boycott 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;



Not In Vain - The Death Of Pedro...(Nicaraguay);

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:

- Developed 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

