Trade unions for peace

Delivering a Fair Deal for Workers in a Changed World

CONFEDERATION SYNDICAT EUROPEÆN TRADE UNION

Why This Initiative?

The ETUC is coordinating and supporting the affiliates-led project "Trade Unions for Peace".

We know that, whether in Europe or in the rest of the world, it is working people that always suffer the most in wars and conflicts. In addition to the impact of violence, social and economic conditions, which are often the main drivers of conflict, disproportionately affect workers and vulnerable groups. The search for peace with social justice is at the heart of trade union values, which contain at their core the principles of negotiation and dialogue, solidarity and internationalism. It is one of the fundamental pillars of our movement. Trade unions play a vital, but often invisible, role in conflict resolution, peacebuilding efforts and reconstruction.

We are more than negotiators. We are peacebuilders.

Trade unions promote peace by

- *Facilitating and promoting dialogue between trade unions, employers, and governments.*
- *Supporting reconstruction through decent and safe work, fair wages, and rebuilding inclusive labour markets after conflict or crisis.*
- *Creating cross-border solidarity to fight division and discrimination.*
- *By advocating for social justice, with a view to change the material conditions of workers, trade unions lay the foundations for lasting peace and are pillars of democratic societies.*
- *Unions are mediators and support peaceful solutions, social cohesion, and inclusive governance at all levels in a crisis.*
- *Workplaces are central to stabilising communities and shaping resilient economies through collective bargaining and social dialogue.*

Our objectives:

1. *Defend the right to organise, bargain and take collective action especially in fragile states, conflict and states emerging from conflict.*
2. *Promote the active role of trade unions in preventing and mitigating the effects of conflicts and disasters through practical action and advocacy.*
3. *Strengthen engagement in early warning and preparedness, enabling trade unions to contribute proactively to crisis anticipation and risk reduction.*
4. *Support conflict-sensitive response efforts by ensuring that trade unions are equipped to participate in immediate humanitarian actions while respecting local dynamics.*
5. *Advance long-term recovery and development, with unions involved in post-conflict reconstruction planning and playing a constructive role in rebuilding livelihoods and communities post-crisis.*
6. *Contribute to peacebuilding and resilience, positioning trade unions as key actors in sustaining peace and promoting inclusive recovery.*
7. *Reinforce the role of the trade unions and social partners across the nexus of humanitarian assistance, development, and peacebuilding.*

Our actions starting in 2025

Peace & Solidarity Forum in the autumn, showcasing examples of trade union involvement in peacebuilding and reconstruction globally.

"Trade Unions for Peace" Toolkit, including digital resources for national affiliates with facts, case studies, support material to help develop our collective capacity in peacebuilding.

Trade Union Peace Work Ambassadors that can share with others the real-world positive impact of unions in conflict resolution — experienced trade union leaders and activists from across Europe and beyond who have been involved in peace building initiatives, resolved social crisis in post conflict situations through dialogue, solidarity, and leadership.

They will help trade unions to advocate for peace, social dialogue, and inclusion, and will mentor trade unionists in conflict-sensitive organizing, bargaining and dialogue.

Solidarity is our strategy. Dialogue is our tool. Peace is our goal.

#UnionsForPeace #Unionsresolve

If you want to get involved in this new initiative or would like to nominate a contact person, please leave the details below or scan the QR code to fill in an online form:

Name _____

Surname _____

Organisation _____

Email _____

Phone number _____

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