

SOLIDAR Statement on the Social Justice Day (20/02/2020)

Economic and Social Rights are instrumental to promote peace, democracy and to achieve social justice.

We witness a time when many achievements gained in the past – social rights, labour rights, gender rights, freedom of expression, freedom of association – are under attack, without decision makers taking action to arrest this trend.

One in 5 workers still live in poverty, many workers face stagnant wages, gender inequality prevails and people are not benefitting equally from economic growth. Inequalities within and among countries are weakening social cohesion, preventing people from achieving their full potential and burdening economies (UN).

While the commodification of essential services is growing, over 265 million children are currently out of school and 22% of them are of primary school age (UN). Half the world lacks access to essential health services, 100 million still pushed into extreme poverty each year because of health expenses (UN).

Civil society organisations, Human Rights defenders, activists promoting these rights are often exposed to threat, violence, persecution and even death.

That's why, today 20 February 2020, 13th edition of the World Day for Social Justice, SOLIDAR together with its 60 members organisation and its partners and allies all around the world, reiterates its daily commitment to:

- Promote the realisation of Economic and Social Rights for all (namely decent work, freedom of association, universal social protection, access to quality essential services), without discrimination.
- Defend the importance of civic activism to raise awareness and monitor the respect of those rights preserved, and protect them.
- Produce a radical systemic change to move towards a new development model that respects people, the planet and promotes peace - countering the current aggressive capitalism.

As stated by the UN *“Social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among nations and that, in turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security, or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms”*.

On this Social Justice Day, SOLIDAR wants to pay tribute to its members and partners that from Latin America to Africa, from Asia to the Mediterranean countries and Europe, every day are at the frontline of the defence of Economic and Social Rights.

Their stories of change will be highlighted with the [#SocialJusticeDay](#) hashtag.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/social-justice-day>