

## WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE 2021 SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH A JUST TRANSITION

### SOLIDAR Network STATEMENT

The world is currently suffering from several, parallel and intertwined crises of economic, environmental and social nature, with increasing levels of inequality and hundreds of millions of people, especially women in the informal sector, falling back and deeper into poverty, losing jobs, livelihoods, and housing.

The COVID-19 pandemic has both triggered as well as revealed the unsustainability of the current development model and of existing inequalities.

It has uncovered the massive disparities in terms of access to **universal social protection, quality education and healthcare**, as well as the raising precarity in the world of work also due to the continuous deregulation. At the same time, all around the world, Civil Society Organisation, Trade Unions and Human Rights defenders have denounced restrictions to **civic space and freedom of expression**<sup>1</sup>.

According to the World Health Organisation, 250 million<sup>2</sup> people per year face excruciating financial hardships due to unaffordable access to **healthcare** and the same institution warns about striking inequalities in accessing the COVID-19 vaccine.

When it comes to **education**, the digital learning gap affecting two thirds of the world's school-aged children, who do not have an internet connection in their homes or attend schools with insufficient digital infrastructure, has prevented many children from having access to it.

The impact of the pandemic on the **world of work** has been particularly harsh for women, especially those working in the informal economy<sup>3</sup>, who are often exposed to unsafe work conditions, and left with no income and no social security coverage, such as sick leaves and health and safety guarantees.<sup>4</sup>

The recovery from COVID-19 would need to be rooted on a **just transition to move towards a sustainable future** in which we are able to tackle and face the crises we are now living through as well as future ones.

**In this context, and in the occasion of the World Day for Social Justice (20 February)**, the SOLIDAR Network calls on all progressive forces to come together to promote a just transition towards a sustainable future and calls for a socially just post COVID recovery including:

- 1. Wealth redistribution measures:** as inequalities raise, public policies need to be put in place to ensure a fair wealth redistribution and strong public services including quality health and education for all. Moreover, a determined public commitment is needed to ensure universal and equal access to anti-COVID treatments.
- 2. Universal social protection floors and systems** guaranteeing adequate minimum income and access to essential services for all. In these regards, the establishment of a Social Protection Fund for the least wealthy countries should be prioritized. Moreover, **adequate minimum wages** should be adopted as a proven effective tool to fight in-work poverty.
- 3. A new social contract bringing together social and environmental justice:** there are no jobs on a dead planet nor a green transition would be possible without social and labour rights, including strong collective bargaining, civic dialogue, health, education and other quality universal public services.

This is why the SOLIDAR Network calls for a **Just Transition for Social Justice in the post-pandemic world**.



# WORLD #SOCIALJUSTICEDAY

20 February 2021

## THE SOLIDAR NETWORK MEMBERS ARE:

**Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz (ACPP)**, Spain | **Associazione di Promozione Sociale (ARCI)**, Italy | **ARCS Culture Solidali**, Italy | **Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASBÖ)**, Austria | **Auser**, Italy | **Centres d'Entraînement aux Méthodes d'Education Active (CEMEA)**, France | **International Cooperation Network (CGIL)**, Italy | **Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)**, EU | **Fagligt Internationalt Center (FIC)**, Denmark | **Foundation Max van der Stoel (FMS)**, The Netherlands | **Fonds voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking - Socialistische Solidariteit (FOS)**, Belgium | **Humanitas**, The Netherlands | **International Federation of Workers' Education Associations (IFWEA)**, South Africa | **Instituto Sindical de Cooperación al Desarrollo (ISCOD)**, Spain | **International Solidarity Foundation (ISF)**, Finland | **La Liga Española de la Educación y la Cultura Popular (La Liga Española)**, Spain | **La Ligue de l'Enseignement (La Ligue)**, France | **Movimiento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad (MPDL)**, Spain | **Solidarité Syndicale (OGBL)**, Luxembourg | **Olof Palme International Center (OPIC)**, Sweden | **Solidar Suisse**, Switzerland | **Solidarité Laïque**, France | **Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO)**, Germany | **Arbeiterwohlfahrt International (AWO INTL)**, Germany | **Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB)**, Germany | **Asociácia odborných pracovníkov sociálnych služieb (AOPSS)**, Slovakia | **Asociatia pentru Dialog, Ocupare si Migratie (CONECT)**, Romania | **Berufsförderungsinstitut Oberösterreich (BFI OÖ)**, Austria | **Johannes Mihkelsoni Keskus (JMK)**, Estonia | **Latvian Trade Union of Education and Science Employees (LIZDA)**, Latvia | **Lithuanian Labour Education Society (LLES)**, Lithuania | **Central and Eastern European Network for Gender Issues (CEE Gender Network)**, Slovenia/Croatia | **Community Development Institute (CDI)**, North Macedonia | **Center for Peace Studies (CMS)**, Croatia | **Czech Council on Foreign Relations - Rada Pro Mezinarodni Vztahy (CCFR)**, Czech Republic | **DGB-Bildungswerk (DGB BW)**, Germany | **IFSI-FGTB**, Belgium | **Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC)**, Serbia | **Institute for Social Integration (ISI)**, Bulgaria | **Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade (ISQ)**, Portugal | **Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik (ISS)**, Germany | **International Union of Tenants (IUT)** | **IRIS Association Network of providers of social services (IRIS)**, Southern Eastern Europe | **Istituto Sindacale di Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (ISCOS)**, Italy | **Multicultural Center Prague (MKC)**, Czech Republic | **NEXUS Emilia Romagna**, Italy | **Pour la Solidarité (PLS)**, Belgium | **Progetto Sud**, Italy | **Rede Sem Fronteiras**, Portugal – Brazil | **Samaritan International (SAMI)** | **Solsoc (SolSoc)**, Belgium | **Solidarity Overseas Service (SOS)**, Malta | **Sosyal Demokrasi Vakfi (SODEV)**, Turkey | **Union Aid Abroad (APHEDA)**, Australia | **Volkshilfe Hellas**, Greece | **Volkshilfe Österreich Bundesverband (VH)**, Austria | **WEA**, United Kingdom | **Willi-Eichler Akademie (WEA)**, Germany

<sup>1</sup> According to UN, the protection the truthful information in 2020 have costed at least 59 media workers their lives. Available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1080802>

<sup>2</sup> WHO World health statistics 2019, p.48. Available at: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/324835/9789241565707-eng.pdf?sequence=9&isAllowed=y>

<sup>3</sup> According to the ILO, of the 740 million women working in the informal economy, more than 42% work in sectors severely impacted by COVID in terms of job losses and a decline in working hours. Source: ILO, 2020. The COVID-19 response: Getting gender equality right for a better future for women at work. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---gender/documents/publication/wcms\\_744685.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---gender/documents/publication/wcms_744685.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> ITUC, 2018. Economic and Social Policy Brief: Gender Gaps in Social Protection. Available at: <https://16dayscampaign.org/resource/ituc-economic-and-social-policy-brief-gender-gaps-in-social-protection-2/>

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Organising International Solidarity (OIS) A presentation of the OIS programme can be found at the following link: <https://prezi.com/view/9zuxuivvqUSD3w1pGJSz/>

