

(UNI The Movie: 12 minutes - 32 seconds)

UNI - global union
ORGANISING THE FUTURE

UNI is the global union for skills and services. We have 900 unions with 15 million members - and our aim is to bring them closer together.

Organising workers into unions in a globalising world - and strengthening those unions - are top UNI priorities.

We build union alliances in multinationals like Donnelley and DHL.

We sign global agreements to tie those companies to labour rights wherever they operate - like Securitas and National Australia Group - and regional agreements with multinationals like Barclays Bank in Africa.

We promote human rights and support democracy building.

Together we challenge the union busters - and companies who behave badly.

"UNI was just born not too many years ago and it has become a very active organisation in organising. It's focus is to organise and to put the pressure of a big, global union on some of these global companies and try to make them behave and to respect worker rights."

JOE HANSEN, UNI President

We demand better corporate behaviour - that includes private equity and hedge funds – and tougher regulation of the world's financial markets.

"Hedge funds and private equity are driving the financialisation of the global economy.

We want to bring hedge funds and private equity out of the shadows - and we are succeeding.

We want better regulation of hedge funds and to drive home the message to private equity that they have to respect the right to organise, the right to collective bargaining and that unions have to be involved in any decision on mergers and acquisitions."

PHILIP JENNINGS, UNI General Secretary

The objective is effective collective bargaining and decent work - globally. We want secure work, not precarious work.

"UNI is very suitable for us Finns, because in Finnish it means a dream. We must have dreams and we want those dreams to come true. Without dreams we won't have goals - goals that we can reach together."

ANN SELIN, Finland

Each of UNI's sectors is now a global union. Organising is their priority too, with established unions in one country helping unions elsewhere.

Progress is already being made in areas like Property Services. They have a global alliance in Group4Securicor where rights have been abused in countries around the world.

A legal aid fund has been launched to help African workers in their struggle against multinationals that break the rules.

UNI Post and Logistics is campaigning to save the universal postal service - and to organise in the new giants like DHL.

Work has already begun to build bridges to workers in China.

In Graphical, active campaigning across borders won a global agreement at Quebecor and built new unions.

Unions are reaching out to new workers in IT, call centres and back office processing.

UNI runs an annual action month for customer service professionals as global giants emerge. In Brazil SINTETEL has made use of the UNI-Telefonica agreement to recruit in call centres.

(Speaking Portuguese)

"If there had not been the global agreement that UNI has - which we proposed in the first meeting with Telefonica - we wouldn't have reached such a membership level."

ALMIR MUNHOZ, Brazil

These new industries have young workers - women workers - tomorrow's trade union activists.

"Unions must make a greater effort to recruit women because women are the fastest growing segment of the labour movement. Agendas will change in the future for negotiations because they have to meet the needs of the part time or the non-regular employee."

BARBARA EASTERLING, UNI Women

"We have the same challenges - those of human rights, decent work, corporate greed, poverty and, of course, the issue of multinational companies."

MALAKA PARKER, Antigua

Unions are reaching out to the growing number of workers in the informal economy - many forced out of traditional, formal jobs by globalisation.

"It is very, very important for unions to organise in the informal economy. We have particularly been successful with the informal sector workers, those of our members who went into the barbering and hairdressing sector."

NAPOLEON KPOH, UNI-Africa

UNI is responding to the challenges of the multinationals

- in Europe - where unions fight to defend a social Europe.
- in the Americas - where there is a new political climate.
- in Asia Pacific - which has more than half the world's workforce.
- and in Africa, where union alliances have been built in companies like France Telecom.

(Speaking French)

"Multinationals have substituted themselves for the states that were our employers - and now decisions are made by the managements of multinationals. They are nearly all based in Europe, for instance France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom"

GABOU GUEYE, France Telecom Alliance

UNI is helping to open doors to workers in the new China. We want to stop the race to the bottom and help organise the foreign multinationals there.

"We need to go to China in order to develop union rights and workers' rights, to ensure there is proper collective bargaining, to ensure that the core labour standards of the ILO are observed and that workers enjoy improved living standards in that country."

JOE DE BRUYN, UNI-Asia Pacific

UNI is stepping up activities and organising in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan - a springboard for exporting democratic unions to Mainland China. In Hong Kong our organising projects include DHL and Disneyland workers.

In India UNI has a network of development offices to assist unions - old and new. Our targets include the outsourced jobs arriving from across the world.

"In the 21st century China and India are going to play an increasingly dominant role in the world economy and we have to make sure there is a UNI global union presence there. So we are working on the ground in India trying to encourage unions to move from the state sector into private sector enterprises - we are trying to organise multinational companies there.

"In China we are trying to underline the importance for the trade union movement there that they have to be active and get organised in the private sector, that every single private sector employer in China is covered by a proper collective agreement."

PHILIP JENNING, UNI General Secretary

UNI Commerce is in the forefront of the campaign to wake up Wal-Mart to its responsibilities as the world's largest private employer.

"We are supporting organising efforts in Asia and South America because we know that if Wal-Mart continues to operate essentially as a non-union company in its retail operations that will lower the standards for workers in other companies as well. We have a very highly developed information sharing networks so that different commerce unions exchange information and we get that information out to the public as soon as we can whenever something happens - such as when Wal-Mart closed the store in Quebec."

ALAN SPAULDING

From early days, solidarity has been a key responsibility.

Helping unions in difficulty. Being innovative in promoting global solidarity - as in the Second Life demonstration against IBM. (Second Life clips).

Helping to ensure that a company that behaves well in one part of the world, behaves well wherever it goes. We respond to appeals for help within 24 hours.

(Speaking French)

"In this era of globalisation, trade unionism cannot live any more within national borders. Anything happening in one country will inevitably have an impact on another country."

MICHEL MULLER

We're helping activists to build stronger unions, to reverse the widening gap between rich and poor. Affiliates in wealthier countries help fund a six million dollar development budget for projects to build organising, collective bargaining - and decent work. It's a key part of our solidarity programme.

Trade unions in Europe are helping to finance new unions in India. Unions in Scandinavia are growing unions in Russia and in the Baltic states.

Together we have to challenge governments that undermine labour rights - like in Australia where the government has been promoting individual contracts and the unions are fighting back.

UNI has an ambitious programme that carries us from our Chicago Congress to Nagasaki in November 2010.

(Speaking Japanese)

"We are very happy to host an international congress in Nagasaki.

"We would like to send a message of peace to the whole world."

SHOJI MORISHIMA, JAPAN

"UNI is in the forefront - I expect great things"

JOE HANSEN, UNI President

Globalisation is not yet working for workers. Unions demand a new vision.

"It is so exhilarating to see you all here tonight, ready to forge a new vision. That new vision where workers' rights are respected, where young workers can see promise in the future and one where the corporate race to the bottom is met with our unified struggle to raise the floor for all workers."

MANDIE YANASAK, USA

(Singing)

"When I was just a young boy John Dybart told me, son don't worry about a thing boy - in two weeks Wackenhut will be done.

But now I'm a man and I know a lot more. It will take global solidarity to take down Group 4."

TOM BALANOFF/EDDIE STAM

UNI - your global union

Thanks for video footage from the ACTU, ILO and affiliates

A VideoZoom production

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