



Philip J. Jennings
General Secretary of UNI Global Union

20 million members, 900 unions, 150 countries
[@PJenningsUNI](#)

UNI's "Global Warrior"

Philip J. Jennings has been General Secretary of [UNI Global Union](#) since its creation on 1 January 2000 and has been described as the labour movement's "Global Warrior". Today membership and influence continue to grow and the organization which represents the services sector, counts 20 million members in 150 nations and 900 unions. UNI is a force in Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia and the Pacific. To date UNI has negotiated more than 50 [global agreements](#) with leading multinationals.

Breaking Through

During UNI Global Union's 2010 World Congress in Nagasaki, members endorsed UNI's Breaking Through strategy for Union Growth. The aim of Breaking Through is to grow and strengthen affiliated unions and UNI Global Union to improve the working conditions and lives of workers in the services and allied sectors. Jennings said Breaking Through has become part of the DNA of the organisation and will continue through our 4th UNI World Congress in Cape Town in December 2014 towards the 5th UNI World Congress in Liverpool in 2018.

Contribution to the labour movement

In a globalization process gone wrong, Philip sees unions as part of the solution to build a sustainable and fairer global economy. He says economic inclusivity is the key and that is why "Including You" has been chosen as the theme of the next World Congress in Cape Town.

He firmly believes that it is time for big business to work together with global unions to 'change the rules of the game' and create a more responsible world. He has taken this message to the G20, IMF, World Bank, OECD and the World Economic Forum – tireless in his pursuit of a 'seat at the table' for working people. Philip was instrumental in ensuring that the labour movement finally achieved a seat at the G20 table with the establishment of the Labour 20 (L20) which is now an integral part of the G20. Philip also chaired the Commission on the Future of the Irish Trade Union Movement.

Bangladesh Accord

Philip is proud of the role UNI played in working with its sister global union IndustriALL in creating the Bangladesh Safety Accord in response to the Rana Plaza factory collapse in 2013 which claimed the lives of more than 1,100 garment workers in Bangladesh. The Accord is a legally binding agreement and has been signed by over 160 global brands from 20

countries in Europe, North America, Asia and Australia. It has also garnered support from numerous Bangladeshi unions and various NGOs such as the Clean Clothes Campaign, Workers' Rights Consortium, International Labor Rights Forum and Maquila Solidarity Network. The International Labour Organisation acts as the independent chair.

Philip in the Press

New York Times: *"Jennings...says the only way to reduce that wage gap is for working people to again have a voice. His father, he said, was a toolmaker in a Rover car factory in Cardiff who with co-workers successfully went on strike for better pay and work conditions back in the 1950s and '60s. "We need to revisit some of the old struggles," he said. "We need to rediscover collective bargaining."*

CNN Quest Means Business: Richard Quest quotes Philip Jennings, *"The World needs a pay rise!"*

The Guardian: Larry Elliott quotes Philip Jennings, *"We can twist the global economy back into shape – this includes a new commitment to create jobs, address income inequality and falling living standards. Since the global financial crisis it's been a race to the bottom in jobs, wages and living standards."*

Awards and honours

In 2011, Philip accepted the nomination of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to serve a three-year term on the board of the UN Global Compact.

He also received the Nagasaki International Peace and Friendship prize from Nagasaki City Major Tomihisa Taue, and was appointed an ambassador for the Prefecture of Nagasaki by Governor Hodo Nakamura in 2011.

Philip is alumnus of the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Leadership Development Conferences.

In 2013, Philip won La Côte newspaper's Personality of the Year award for the Léman region of Switzerland.

From 2010 to 2013, Philip was included in the Bilan Magazine list of the most influential people in Switzerland. He was also voted as one of the top 100 personalities by the Swiss L'Hebdo publication.

Personal

Philip Jennings grew up in Cardiff, South Wales, "in a labour environment filled with labour voters and union families". His father, who was a toolmaker at a Rover car factory, successfully went on strike for better pay and conditions in the 1950s and 60s, and his mother worked at Marks and Spencer. He graduated from Bristol Polytechnic with a business studies degree, followed by a M.Sc. in Industrial Relations from the London School of Economics. He is married with two children and lives in Cheserex, Switzerland.

From 1976-1979 Philip worked with the National Union of Bank Employees. In 1980 he joined the International Federation of Employees (FIET), where he became executive secretary in 1986 and was general secretary from 1989-1999.

For more information:

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