



Solidarity Message

by Sharan Burrow- ITUC General Secretary

Namaste!

Greetings to all my sisters from GEFONT! And indeed, from your sister around the world, all your sisters and brothers who know that this is a very important meeting.

This is the conference of women standing-up against violence perpetuated against your sisters and indeed the fact your GEFONT leadership, men and women, they are to support your ambition is a very important and historic moment.

Domestic violence, violence in the workplace, the breakdown their community where young women, old women are raped, mobbed absolutely an oppression against women in all forms of violence. This is now something with; we are very concerned about everywhere.

The world is bisecting by inequality. It's greater now than any time that has been at in any time in our history. Inequality within and between countries, a global economy that simply not working for working people and as the tension grow in our families, our communities, our workplace, violence against women grows. We are very worried about young women; we know that in many countries the incident of rape is increasing.

We are very worried about the home-makers, those who work in another people's home- domestic workers and we know the numbers of young women who actually work not only just in Nepal but in the offshore domestic workers a very-very vulnerable. A thousand women in a day, I understand leave Nepal shows desperate for work in other countries. Some 200 thousands in Gulf state will we know there are

no labour rights. Where GEFONT is working with ITUC particularly in Qatar, in Kuwait, in Bahrain to organise Migrant workers, to actually look toward the campaigns that would force government to put labour laws in place and part of those laws have to be protection for occupational health and safety, protection for women against violence.

But in your country today, I know, you are also fighting for legislation. I commend you forward it is absolutely essential that not only you get that legislation to protect in fully women but you have something to organising in your communities, to make sure that the power of women is collective power that your voice is heard in standing up against the oppression of violence.

We know that there are other areas that will add to the support for your work. The campaign for more inclusive education with only half of the women with literacy components compare to the many new countries. Some 25 % I understand the women have come up with literacy right that's not enough. We want education for all for our daughters. We wanna make sure they have the capacity not just to participate in around communities with confidence but participate in economic life-the world of work of your country.

So congratulations! Solidarity! I know these issues are very-very tough and I know that women are very-very vulnerable and they don't often feel confidence to talk about the issues and stand together to do something about it.

But GEFONT your History is there! You will do the Gender Audit that you are aiming to do. You will fight for the legislation and you will organise around it. And frankly your community, your Nation will be stronger for it.

Solidarity! My congratulations and I am very much looking forward to work with you in the year to come.

Happy Women's Day!

March 08, 2013 (Decoded from Video message: <http://youtu.be/aOPT72FqoN8>)