

# BWI Resolutions

Adopted by BWI World Congress in Durban South Africa  
on 01 December 2017



## 12. Global Framework Agreements

**Submitted by: UNITE UK**

The courageous South African trade union sisters and brothers in their struggle against the vile system of Apartheid organised under the slogan “An Injury to One is an Injury to All”. They won their struggle and in keeping with this principle the BWI Congress resolves to win justice for all workers.

The majority of construction workers in the UK today struggle against uncertain and precarious employment and in common with workers and unions all over the world they are stronger when supported by practical solidarity to help overcome exploitation and victimisation.

Typically the uncertainty of work experienced by construction workers in the UK is that it is perpetuated by the agency sector and organisation’s known as “umbrella companies”. Workers often have no choice but to accept the classification of being ‘self-employed’ but this is a false description as they have no control over where they work or their hours.

Workers bold enough to attempt to organise find themselves victims of contemporary blacklisting operated by Labour Agencies and Umbrella companies with the encouragement and sanction of multinational companies.

It is a scandal that the operation of blacklists in the UK construction industry did not end following the raid on the blacklisting organisation, The Consulting Association (TCA) in 2009. Instead blacklisting became less centralised and now operates covertly through individual multinational companies and their supply chain including Labour Agencies.

Unite has collated evidence to show that multinational companies, including a major multinational company that from 2005 to 2009 carried out 66,000 individual blacklisting checks on workers, are still operating such systems today.

It is regrettable that central to the problems being experienced by UK construction workers are multinational companies that have signed Global Framework Agreements with the BWI. It is our belief that major multinational companies must be held to account and, as unions in a global family, it is our duty to expose and root out all anti-trade union practices.



Congress commends the officers of the BWI who have with all sincerity negotiated Global Framework Agreements; however, we must recognise that there is a lack of commitment and enforcement by the company signatories.

**Congress therefore commits to:**

- Review all Global Framework Agreements.
- Survey affiliated organisations on the application and adherence to Global Framework Agreements.
- Where appropriate renegotiate Global Framework Agreements.

SIGNATURE:



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