

BWI Resolutions

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14. BWI Youth – Global Activism and Organizing

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ACKNOWLEDGING THAT under the world-wide decent work agenda, one of the most prominent issues is the alarming rise in youth unemployment. According to the International Labor Organization there is about 71 million unemployed young people and 156 million young workers are living in poverty. Young people have been forced into informal or temporary forms of employment. Poor employment conditions directly affect the working and living standards of young workers and create a cycle of poverty that will be a detriment to future generations.

BELIVING THAT trade unions must recognize that major effects of the global economic downturn and the rise in precarious work undermine working standards for young workers. Young workers whether they have a permanent or a fixed-term employment contract are most likely not to have decent work. They are beset by brand-new challenges of changing dynamics of the future of work and are the ones who will carry these challenges towards the next generation.

STRONGLY EMPHASIZING THE FACT THAT trade unions must consider that young people can currently play an active leadership role in trade unions. Young workers should have more representation in trade union structure to voice their demands and problems not only the labor market but also in economic, social and political arenas. Young workers should be the main actors of the present and future, of their struggle.

DEMANDING THAT the BWI shall support the necessary steps to enhance the roles of young people in decision-making structures. BWI shall encourage its affiliates to strengthen the policies of giving a more accurate voice and place to youth. Additionally, young people's problems shall be included as a focal point of BWI campaigns and young people shall be given responsibility of driving campaigns influencing young workers and youth issues.

THEREFORE RESOLVED:

We **CALL** BWI and its affiliates to focus on:

1. Creating a **BWI International Youth committee** to increase youth activists' influence, including the implementation of BWI policies and strengthen cooperation between affiliated unions' youth activists. The Youth committee should contribute to a number of BWI global campaigns including the Global Sports Campaign for Decent Work as well as encouraging young people to work in the BWI sectors. The committee should be composed of the chairs of the Regional Youth Committees in line with the proposed



by bilateral Motion of BWI President and EFBWW President that foresees changes in BWI Statute and **Representation of youth in BWI World board** to deliver youth agenda in BWI global policy development and report on the activities and campaigns run by affiliates' youth organizations and activists;

2. Allocating resources and providing support for **Youth Campaigns** as a mobilization and visibility raising instrument empowering young workers and activists in BWI sectors followed by creating **BWI Youth Global Activist Network**. The Youth Global Activist Network will be structured in such a way that allows all Global Youth Activists to connect with each other both digitally and in person where possible. The aims and objectives of the Network will include supporting young and women activists into leadership.

SIGNATURE:



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