

# BWI Resolutions

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



## 26. Resolution on Migrants and Refugees

Submitted by: Filca CISL, Fillea CGIL, Feneal-UIL

In the past few years, migrant flows have exponentially increased.

A growing number of refugees and migrants are forced to leave their native nations due to wars, hunger, global wealth inequality, political tensions and climate change. Over the last four years, almost 200 million people sought shelter in various geographic areas while putting at risk their own lives and the ones of their families. In the world, one person out of 113 people has been forced to leave his home. In 2005, there were 6 people fleeing from their country each passing minute and in 2016, the figure quadrupled, rising to 24 people by the minute. Half of these people are children.

All actors of civil society, including trade union organizations, have the duty to welcome, defend and integrate refugees and asylum-seekers as well as economic migrants. We all must strive for a fairer sharing of the responsibilities related to welcoming and supporting refugees all around the world and we all shall cease considering this mass migration as an emergency phenomenon, since it has certainly become a structural reality of our time.

It is our task, as trade unionists, to help these people and foster their full protection, promoting their social and work integration.

We need to carry out this task in order to preserve them from becoming preys of black labour, mistreatment and slavery of unscrupulous employers who often take advantage of criminal organizations.

At the same time, we have to commit ourselves in guaranteeing the right to language and professional training for adults and the right to education for the younger. The Global Union Federation should also reconfirm its active role in the struggle against racism, xenophobia and intolerance in the society as well as in workplaces, promoting the full integration of **migrants presence** into our trade unions at all levels.

In light of the protectionist and liberal measures adopted by some countries, it is also fundamental to intervene strongly in order to guarantee equal wages and working conditions, decent life and decent work in a cooperation spirit with regard to reception and protection of migrants and refugees. On this matter the European Parliament has recently started a process in order to modify Dublin Regulation that foresaw the obligation to ask for asylum in the first country of access. Now, the new proposal (to be approved by the Council) foresees that this criterion is replaced by an automatic, standing and binding mechanism of relocation and of distribution according to a quote system.



BWI commitment towards migrants and refugees needs to be further reinforced with the aim of creating common answers and strategies, shared between all affiliated federations and across every region, in order to move forward together in a joined action and speak with one big voice.

The shared commitment should start with the cooperation between our European and International federations as migration is, and remains a priority for our sector, on which we will have to work together in collaboration with International organizations and associations, governments and NGOs.

The BWI will also have to examine and face the causes of migrants and refugees flows, promoting partnerships and alliances with the trade unions in the countries of origin.

In order to accomplish what has been written above, the BWI will have to get busy in:

1. The development of actions regarding international institutions and governments in the richest and most developed nations in order to allocate resources and means in the poorest countries, where the phenomenon of migration originates;
2. Promoting peace processes through concrete actions in consultation with those trade unions of the struggling countries, opposing the arms race and supporting the origin and development of free and independent trade unions.
3. Encouraging the material and social reconstruction of those countries which are currently involved in conflicts.

SIGNATURE:



BWI • BHI • BTI • IBB • ICM  
[www.bwint.org](http://www.bwint.org)