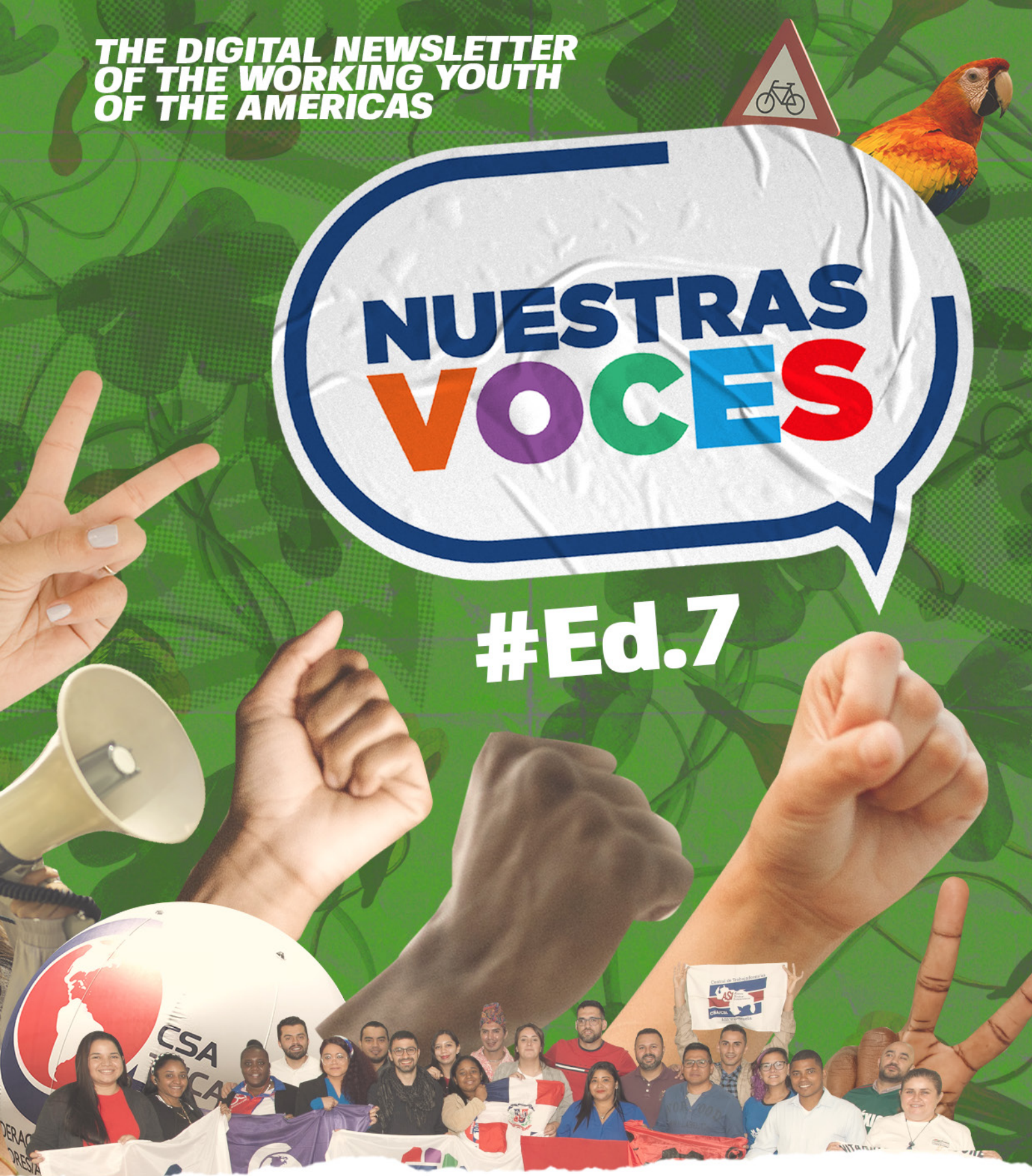


**THE DIGITAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE WORKING YOUTH
OF THE AMERICAS**

NUESTRAS VOCES

#Ed.7



Apoya:





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE AMERICAS?

On November 29th, 2022, a Dialogue (Conversatorio) was held in Bogota, Colombia, with youth of the union centrals, social organizations and parliamentarians, with the aim of making visible the actions of those involved in the social struggles of the Americas.

We are talking about young people with new symbols and flags that challenge the traditional mechanisms in political transformations, youth that has shown that they deploy novel actions, that break with convention, and demand a place for their voices to be heard.

The Dialogue (Conversatorio) was carried out by the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), together with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Institute (FES - sindical), and the Belgian Institute for International Development Cooperation (IFSI) of the General Labour Federation of Belgium (FGTB). The activity was organized in two thematic panels; the first panel discussed the "Participation of youth in the disputes of social and political representation spaces"; and the second panel debated the "Proposals of the

articulated youth in the socio-political context of the region" where youth from more than 15 countries exchanged ideas and challenges on the participation of youth in union and social movements.

TUCA and its Working Youth Committee of the Americas (CJTA), seek to continue consolidating the movement of working youth in the continent, giving a voice and strengthening young people through coordination with other social organizations in the region.

The activity also sought to be a space for reflection for the trade union movement and a tool to deepen the struggle, and aim to have a stronger, more inclusive trade unionism with national and regional unity.

Promoting these spaces is a commitment of trade unionism in the Americas, in order to address the lessons learned by the movement and the challenges faced by youth to improve and strengthen trade unionism.

"...we want this Dialogue (Conversatorio) to be a very important milestone in TUCA's work with youth. We hope to leave Colombia having made a strong leap forward in our work with the youth of the Americas, with the organization, participation, relationship with other social sectors of our countries. (...) The idea is that youth, together with us, can practice a sociopolitical trade unionism. The trade unionism that maintains its independence and autonomy but is not indifferent..."



Rafael Freire General Secretary of TUCA.





Conversatorio de las
Juventudes de las Américas:

**ROL DE
LAS JUVENTUDES
ARTICULADAS**

**EN LOS PROCESOS
DE TRANSFORMACIÓN**

Participation of youth in spaces of social and political representation

Organized youth in the current Latin American context has played an important role that needs to be reinforced through spaces for discussion, debates, hearing the opinions and the challenges young workers deal with.

In the face of neoliberal reforms and changes that are detrimental to the rights of workers, the Colombian organized youth showed that their mobilization were fruitful and were able to stop recessionary reforms. The National Strike made it clear that youth played a key role in making decisions and taking action.

One of the challenges set out in the 2021-2025 TUCA Roadmap Road Map for Strengthening and Transforming Trade Unions is making “way to new leadership and generational replacement”, a slogan that the youth claim with the concept of active participation. Active participation means being present in decision-making spaces and feeling represented in union actions, which refers to an equitable distribution of power. The active participation in Colombia during the National Strike should be taken as a lesson, young trade unionists have to be included in decision-making spaces.

“One of the most important lessons learned from the mobilizations is that youth play an important role in union organizations (...) It is important that our leaders, our new Executive Committee, give that opportunity and active participation to all youth.”

**Eliceo Castro, CTC,
Colombia.**



"(...) we must not abandon the streets, I feel that the country is now different than it was in the last four years, and the union movement is essential to continue on this path, we have already proven that the marches have an impact on Congress, and that is a lesson that we cannot unlearn and that we must continue using"

Jennifer Pedraza, House of Representatives, Colombia.

A space in the structure of the unions, but without abandoning the streets, that is another lesson learned by the working youth movement.

In Argentina, through collaboration, solidarity and unity, youth has resisted the attempts of Macri's administration to carry out precarious labor reforms. "...but we resisted, and youth mobilized in the streets, we engaged in strike action that constitute the legitimate exercise of the right to strike in all sectors and workplaces, and of course supporting the position of the union central in social dialogue demanding a change of course in the political model, it seemed essential to us to change the course in the political model." Nahuel Placanica, CGT - Argentina.

The coronavirus pandemic hit the economies and caused a recession; According to the ILO, global employment recovery started to come about in the third quarter of 2021. However, workers became mostly employed in the informal sector, where they are not guaranteed decent work or access to their rights at work. "The increase in informal employment in 2021, particularly in developing countries, says the ILO report, fully offset the losses registered in 2020, unlike the evolution of formal employment. Informal employment is expected to increase at the same rate as formal employment in 2022, and this puts at risk the slow but uninterrupted trend towards formalization observed in the last 15 years." (ILO. 2022)



Conversatorio de las
Juventudes de las Américas:

ROL DE LAS JUVENTUDES ARTICULADAS EN LOS PROCESOS DE TRANSFORMACIÓN

Economies are recovering, but at the expense of workers, mainly women and youth

During the post-pandemic recovery phase, youth returned to employment faster than adults. If we compare the third quarter of 2021 with the same period of 2019, the employment rate in the region for youth remained the same, while that of adults dropped almost 3%. (ILO, 2021 Labor Overview).

This recovery is explained to a large extent by young workers who engaged in informal employment, a growing trend, and the development of certain sectors of activity with the greatest impact on youth employment, such as apps.

The youth unemployment rate in the region continues to be of great concern; Prior to the pandemic, the unemployment rate of young people (15-24 years old) in Latin America and the Caribbean was around 18%, and in the third quarter of 2021 the total accumulated in the region reached 21.4%, slightly lower than in 2020, which was 2.3%. (ILO, 2021 Labor Overview).

Organizing, unity, active participation, are lessons that the working youth highlight, but they are also concerned about participation in the unions. Organizing in informal contexts, with a significant number of young people who do not study and/or work, is a great challenge.

Undoubtedly one of the ways forward is to discuss and exchange ideas, create spaces like the Dialogue (Conversatorio) where opinions can be expressed. Union organizations cannot grow quantitatively or qualitatively without youth.

"We must have these mechanisms so that young people are represented in the centrals"

**Eliceo Castro, CTC,
Colombia**

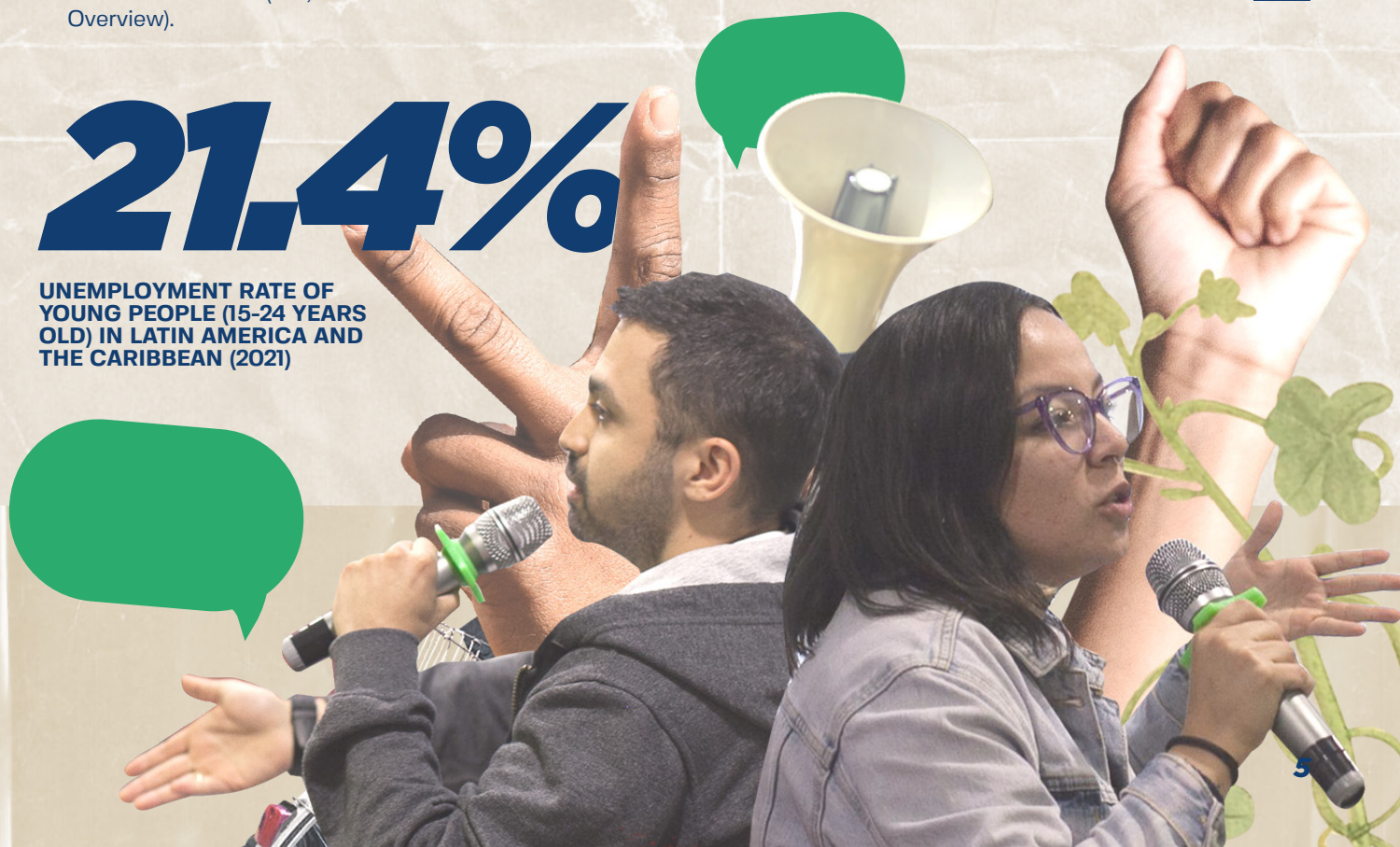
"We need to solve structural problems; one is how youth enters the job market. In this sense, it is important that young people get involved in discussions about development, what development we want and how we can achieve productive development that generates quality employment, because that is what we need to end this matrix that reproduces precarious employment, informal employment"

**Nahuel Placanica, CGT -
Argentina.**

To do this, youth must feel represented by the union and it must reflect their interests and knowledge, and based on this, youth can create an agenda to include and meet their needs.

21.4%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF
YOUNG PEOPLE (15-24 YEARS
OLD) IN LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN (2021)





Create an agenda with a youth perspective and from the territory

"I come from the rural workers sector, and it is very difficult because the struggle to access land is a matter of life or death"

Cristiana Paiva, CUT - Brazil

The territories mark differences that youth have not forgotten; the provinces, departments and states do not have the same needs, nor do they respond in the same way. The youth movement has raised that flag, which was demonstrated in Colombia in the National Strike, in Honduras as part of the resistance to the dictatorship, and in Brazil, where the working youth movement is promoting the transition process that the country is experiencing with the victory of president Lula in the last elections.

It is important to consider the needs of youth. The reality is also marked by the territory inhabited, the context of a young woman who lives and works in a rural area in the north of Brazil is not the same as a young man from the

south of Argentina. The unity agenda with a youth perspective must have an intersectional* perspective cut across by the gender, ethnic-racial and territorial perspective.

"It is necessary to create an agenda on youth priorities with a federal perspective (of the territory), a real, concrete alternative agenda that responds to the needs of youth throughout the Argentine territory. It is not the same to be a young person in Ushuaia than in another part of Argentina, it is knowing the territory's structure of production when defining a policy, the gaps, and how that young person enters the market, what problems exist."

Nahuel Placanica, CGT - Argentina





Proposals of youth articulated in the sociopolitical context of the region

"In Colombia, there is a significant amount of young people who neither study nor work, and that is a major difficulty for youth organizations, unions, and student organizations that have been and continue to be today an important way of organizing, and that poses a great challenge for us to promote this organization."

Jennifer Pedraza, House of Representatives - Colombia.

This situation in Colombia is replicated throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, and accounts for the reality of youth who have high rates of falling behind and dropping out of formal education. The unemployment rates hide many informal workers and unpaid jobs such as care work.

Informality is rife among youth, it is a way of entering the world of work that has many negative effects, it violates the right to social security and to a safe, stable and productive work environment. It violates the right to organize, to meet, to a decent wage. In the face of this reality, the proposal of youth is to include these young workers in the union movement, that they be part of the movement, that they can be trained in unionism, and that they understand their rights as workers.

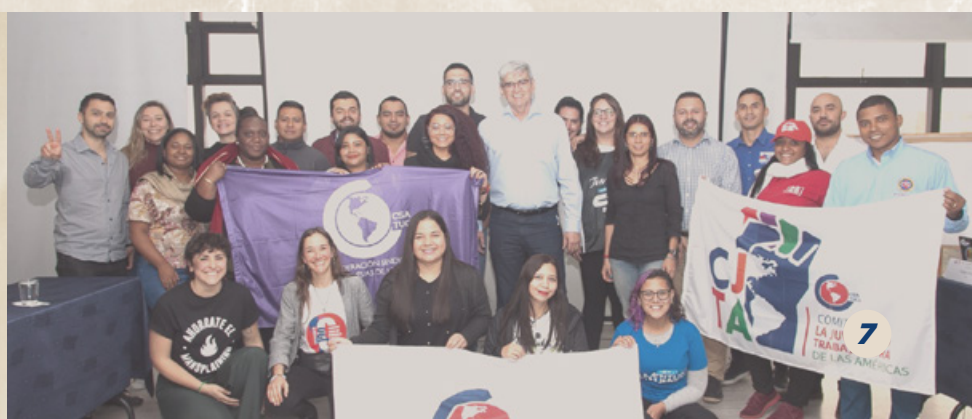
"To strengthen our Centrals, we should increase the organizing rate in the country. One proposal is to include informal workers, because we as citizens and as workers can also contribute to these struggles"

Laura Munevar CUT - Colombia.

Having statutes with clear rules for work is something we must put on the agenda in order to guarantee the participation of the unions in salary negotiations and working conditions, as well as to review and discuss the working conditions for youth who have always suffered abusive contracts that threaten decent work. In consequence, youth propose to include training throughout primary, secondary and university education.

"...there is no education on labor and trade union rights in school and primary education, and that is something that has to be done, it is essential, because most violations of labor rights occur due to the ignorance of laws."

Danna Vargas CUT - Colombia



"...through (education) we can combat ignorance and anti-union practices, and the stigma attached to social and union movements. We can develop social awareness of labor rights and the importance of the realization of rights... giving youth access to employment and decent work"

Carlos Mosquera,
National Spokesperson
of the National Student
Council of Colombia.

It is through education that we can fight against the violation of rights and the discrediting of the union and student movements. Training on labor rights is essential, from international agreements to national laws in each country, delving into the various forms of organizations. This training also means giving an account of where the working class stands in society and its transforming role. It is the sociopolitical vision of unionism that fights for a decent salary and adequate working conditions, and also for a more just society.

The youth of Honduras established three lines of action; Organize, Mobilize and Educate. They created an internal agenda and a youth secretariat at the central and towards society, not abandoning the streets and actively participating in institutional spaces of the new government, that has a woman President for the first time in the history of Honduras.

"As youth, we continue in this organizing process because the regime tried at all times to stop us. We had elections, 40% of the youth population went out to vote, and that shows that we are part of the change"

Nayelly Dominguez,
CUT, Honduras



**Conversatorio de las
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Challenges raised in the Dialogue (Conversatorio)

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

Being part of the decision-making processes within the Centrals and the unions, being part of the mobilizations, and being present also in the decision-making places. Without youth, the unions lose their vision, their perspective and their imprint.

YOUTH AGENDA

Unions must create an agenda that takes into account the concerns and particular needs of youth, considering that they are one of the populations that are hit the hardest in the world of work, and usually only have access to informal jobs that violate their rights. An autonomous and independent trade union Agenda for and with youth.

FROM THE TERRITORY

The youth agenda must be considered from the territories, from their reality. With their actions, young people have overcome the centralities, they have broken the hegemonies of the territories, an example is the epicenter Cali as the center of unemployment. The challenge is to address the particularities of the territory and achieve gender and ethnic-racial mainstreaming. It is recognizing the territory and its potential, and recognizing its characteristics to create specific agendas.

ORGANIZE, MOBILIZE AND EDUCATE

The three lines of action are important to strengthen the trade union movement and fully include youth. Young people have shown that mobilization is essential, marching for rights is a necessary action that should not be abandoned. Together, spaces for organization and mobilization must be created and must include informal sector workers. Training on labor rights, assembly, and union rights is essential for a critical mass capable of analyzing the context and acting accordingly.

THE UNION, A SPACE WHERE WE FEEL REPRESENTED

The union must represent youth, and young people must see themselves reflected in the union, their interests, their ways. The union must consider their needs and interests.

UNITY

The workers have shown that when faced with macro issues, the answer is always unity. In countries where there is more than one central, organized workers have responded in unity. Youth mobilize based on this slogan and it is an example of action. Facing persecution and discrediting.

FIRST THE POLITICAL DEFINITION

The political aspect points the way to communication. After we have defined the agenda, we can analyze the ways of communicating (platforms, interventions, demonstrations, etc.). What is important are the socio-political definitions. We must know how to communicate, but based on the definitions adopted. They don't work separately.



“...being a leftist is a philosophical option where the collective interest prevails over individual interests, that is exactly what we are, a collective option to improve people’s lives. When I talk about practicing sociopolitical unionism, this Dialogue (Conversatorio) is the demonstration of that.”

Rafael Freire General Secretary of CSA

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csa-csi.org/2022/11/29/huestras-vozes-edicion-numero-6/



ACTIVITIES /AGENDA

Recent activities



Meeting of the Working Group for Union Strengthening and Transformation



csa-csi.org/2022/12/12/montevideo-recibio-representantes-de-17-paises-para-debatir-el-fortalecimiento-y-la-transformacion-sindical-en-la-region/

The second meeting of the Working Group for Union Strengthening and Transformation (GTFTS) was held on December 6 and 7, in Montevideo (Uruguay). The participants included representatives of 26 centrals affiliated with TUCA, the Committees of the Working Youth of the Americas (CJTA) and the Working Women of the Americas (CMTA), as well as representatives of allied and fraternal organizations such as the PIT-CNT, ILO-ACTRAV, FES REGIONAL UNION, INDUSTRI-ALL and PSI AMERICAS.



Meeting of the Working Youth of the Americas (CJTA)



<https://csa-csi.org/2022/12/01/xxiv-reunion-del-comite-de-la-juventud-trabajadora-de-las-americas-29-11-22/>

On November 29 and 30, the 24th meeting of the Working Youth of the Americas Committee was held. The participants included its members who are representatives of the centrals affiliated to TUCA from across the region.



ITUC elections



<https://csa-csi.org/2022/11/22/nuevo-liderazgo-mundial-fue-presentado-en-el-cierre-del-5to-congreso-de-la-csi/>

The ITUC elections were held on November 22. Luca Visentini was elected as the new General Secretary with 72% total votes, and three representatives from the Americas are among the elected: Antonio Lisboa (CUT Brazil), Jordania Ureña Lora (TUCA-CNTD of the Dominican Republic) and Cathy Feingold (AFL-CIO of the USA).



Social Protection and Migration Meeting



<https://csa-csi.org/2022/11/10/la-csa-realizo-el-encuentro-de-los-gts-de-proteccion-social-y-migracion-en-montevideo/>

On November 6 and 7, the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) held a meeting with part of the Social Protection and Migration Working Group with the aim of informing about TUCA's perspective on social protection, broadening the exchange of information on the reform processes in the continent, and the unions proposals to address the advance of regressive policies in the Americas.

CULTURAL RECOMMENDATIONS



*Who said that I was
always laughter, never
pain,
like spring?
I'm not that much!*

Nicolás Guillén

Graphic Arts:



Catalina Ochoa is a graphic designer born in Bogotá, Colombia. She has worked for different Colombian institutions, and has participated in publications such as Bacánika magazine and the OM ebook.



www.ladobe.com.mx/2019/07/las-ilustraciones-de-catalina-ochoa/



Films: Togo

A man who guards cars parked on the street in exchange for a tip must protect his territory when dealers try to force him and his friends to sell drugs on the streets.

Director: Adrián Caetano

Starring: Diego Alonso, Catalina Arrillaga, Néstor Prieto

Available on Netflix.



Trailer:

www.netflix.com/uy/title/81504388

Literature:



Women mobilized in Latin America

Dora Barrancos & Ana Buquet

CLACSO

In the different cities and countries of Latin America, we are witnessing expanded forms of feminism, with unprecedented support and the majority participation of young people. This book presents a set of scenarios in the region so far in the 21st century, characterized by massive mobilizations with claims and prerogatives that seek the conquest of more egalitarian societies.



<https://biblioteca-repositorio.clacso.edu.ar/bitstream/CLACSO/169811/1/Mujeres-movilizadas.pdf>



Mabel y Rubén (2022)

Tute

The encounters and misfortunes of the most acclaimed feeling in the world, equally cheered and reviled, is reflected with grace, exquisite sensitivity and tenderness. When it comes to love and its ups and downs, age, hair colour, tastes and colours do not matter.

Juan Matías Loiseau, Tute, was born in 1974 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His most recent graphic humor book publications are; Humor on the couch (2017), Diary of a son (2019), Everything is political! (2020), Superego (2021) and Mabel and Rubén (2022).

Sobre Nuestras Voces:

El Boletín Informativo Nuestras Voces es parte de una serie de contenidos comunicacionales que tienen como objetivo darle espacio y visibilizar la diversidad de voces de las juventudes trabajadoras de las Américas.

Es una iniciativa de la Confederación Sindical de trabajadores y trabajadoras de las Américas (CSA) y su Comité de la Juventud Trabajadora de las Américas (CJTA).

Confederación Sindical de trabajadores y trabajadoras de las Américas - CSA

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Fred Redmond - Presidente

Francisca Jiménez - Presidenta Adjunta

Toni Moore - Presidenta Adjunta

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Cícero Pereira da Silva - Secretario de Formación y Educación Sindical

Jordania Ureña Lora - Secretaria de Políticas Sociales

Kaira Reece - Secretaria de Desarrollo Sustentable

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