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**3rd WFTU World Working Youth Congress, 2 - 3 November
2017, Rome, Italy**

WWYC Resolution

Nowadays, young workers all over the world suffer the consequences of the world crisis of capitalism. These consequences take various forms on the different continents, such as poverty, hunger, wars, refugees, unemployment. Millions of workers, young ones as well as older ones, have to face wars, interventions, blockades etc, which result from the intra-imperialist rivalries for the control of the sources of energy, transportation routes etc.

A typical example of the difficulties young workers face around the world is the one of unemployment, which deprives young people of the right to work during their most productive age. According to official ILO data, the youth unemployment rate is 13.2%, i.e. an absolute number of 71 million young people, with increasing trends over the past two years. More specifically, per continent/ region, in North Africa the youth unemployment rate is 29.3%, in Sub-Saharan Africa 11%, while in South Africa there is the highest unemployment rate in the continent since 50% of working-age young persons are likely to remain unemployed. In Latin America and the Caribbean, youth unemployment reaches 17%. In North America the youth unemployment rate is 11.5% while youth unemployment rate in the Arab states remains one of the highest in the world with 30.6%. Asia: East Asia: The youth unemployment rate is about 11%, while in Southeast Asia and the Pacific it is about 13%. Eastern Europe: Youth unemployment in the region is estimated at 16,2% for 2017 while in Central Europe it is estimated at 17%. Northern /Southern and Western Europe: Youth unemployment percentage will deteriorate in these regions while youth unemployment rate in the EU-28 is estimated at 18,4% in 2017.

However, just the unemployment rate does not reflect the seriousness of the labor market situation for young people, since a large number of young people who work do not earn enough money to get out of poverty, with 156 million young people in emerging and developing countries living in extreme poverty, with less than \$ 1.9 a day or between \$ 1.9 and \$ 3.1 a day. The percentage of these young workers is 37.7% compared to 26% for older workers. It is important to remember that poverty is multidimensional and its consequences for young people go beyond the concepts of income or consumption. In addition to low wages and undeclared work, young people are often forced to work with flexible working relationships, part-time or fixed-term contracts. For example, in 2014, in EU countries, 29% of young people were working part-time and 37% in temporary jobs.

Young people and immigration



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Facing this situation, many young people resort to migration, seeking better education and work opportunities outside their home country. In 2015, some 51 million migrants worldwide were between 15-29 years of age, most of whom came from developed economies. The millions of refugees, including many young children and young persons, who are victims of multiform exploitation, constitutes a negative development in the last years. The main cause of this social phenomenon is the imperialist wars and the plundering of the wealth producing resources of the third-world countries.

Xenophobia, racism, rise of fascism

In many countries, the rise of xenophobic, racist or even openly fascist forces is observed (Trump in the U.S.A., Le Pen in France, AFD in Germany, Golden Dawn in Greece, etc.) The media and various forces are trying to present the emergence of such forces as a response to the status quo and as an alternative chosen by the workers. They systematically conceal the support that capitalists and industrialists provide to these forces. For example, AFD was founded by the President of German Industrialists. They conceal that these forces support the development of the capitalist economy, the interests of large business groups. The development of such forces is based on the anti-labor policy and the reactionary rhetoric of the bourgeois political powers.

Young people and education

A large number of young people, especially in developing countries, cannot go to school (because they are poor and have to work or compliment their family's income), so they can never have the opportunity to find a job other than the one of the unskilled worker. For young people aged 20 to 29, the lack of employment opportunities is often the main factor that discourages their participation in the labor market. As youth unemployment rates remain high and the transition from school to working life is becoming more and more difficult, there is a growing number of young people who are neither students nor workers, situation that degrades their skills, traps them into underemployment and frustration. Surveys in 28 countries around the world show that about 25% of young people aged 15-29 belong to this category. The majority of them are women.

Child labor

Child labor is the work of children aged 5-17, which puts at risk their physical and mental health because of the very nature of the work as well as the hard working conditions. 168.85 million children were victims of child labor in 2012. The worst



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forms of child labor are all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, child abduction, including forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict, prostitution, the production and trafficking of drugs. Young workers need to realize the dimensions of exploitation and corruption of the capitalist system, which sacrifices little children at the altar of profitability, depriving them of their childhood and their smooth development and destroying their lives.

Causes of these problems

As we all know, we live in a period where monopolies dominate, where big capitalist companies, multinationals and transnationals are in constant competition for sharing the wealth and the markets of the world. Capitalists exploit the workers in order to make huge profits, while they pay them crumbs. They also exploit the countries' natural resources (see the plundering of African countries, etc.), while their residents are deprived of even the most basic goods. When these antagonisms are intensified, they do not hesitate to massacre the peoples through wars and imperialist interventions (Syria, Libya, Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.). All capitalist states participate to a greater or lesser extent in this "game" and no government or political power that serves the interests of capitalists can be innocent. Also, this system has specific laws of functioning, which determine that when products are over-produced and overaccumulated, after periods of growth of capitalist companies, then these products cannot be sold in the market. Thus the process of profitability is interrupted and a capitalist economic crisis breaks out. The breakout of the capitalist crisis has led to changes in the global balance of powers, to the emergence of countries such as China, Russia, India, Brazil (apart from the traditional ones, i.e. the USA, EU, Japan), with a developing economy, trying to upgrade their position at regional level (BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, etc.). However, this does not mean that these forces will prevent the imperialist policies of the USA and the EU and make the world more peaceful. Only the struggle of workers and of the youth of the working class in all countries can safeguard peace and prosperity for the peoples, the right to health and social security and true development, the end of exploitation. The struggle against all imperialist unions (NATO, IMF, EU) needs to be stable irrespective of their geographical location or the forces that lead them.

Education and propaganda against struggles

According to official data about the European countries, young workers present very poor participation in their unions, and this fact is partly related to the flexible forms of employment they have, which do not allow them to have a stable workplace. But it seems that the main reason for Europe and for the other continents is that they do not think that it is worth fighting, along with their colleagues and with the other young workers of their sector, with whom they share the same problems and live the same life.



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This attitude does not come out of nowhere but from the conscious effort of the ruling class to manipulate the consciousness of young workers so that they do not react to their policy, so that they think that nothing changes, trapped in fear and disappointment. In the overwhelming majority of countries in the world, in no case does the ruling class want the promotion of trade union action in the ranks of young persons, nor their militant position in their workplaces. On the contrary, through education, through official propaganda, they promote individualism instead of collectivity, the defamation of struggles, terrorism and threats about the participation of young workers in protests and militant trade unions. They also use the rewriting of history so that young people never learn about the important rights achieved by workers when they organized small and bigger struggles to meet their contemporary needs. There is also the yellow trade unionism, reformism, i.e. the position of some organizations and trade union leaderships, which choose the logic of compromise, of dialogue with the state and the employers, so that “a balanced solution” can be found. They claim that such a solution will take into account both the employers’ and the workers’ needs, but the truth is that in no way will it correspond to the rights that the workers can enjoy nowadays. These forces ask for the reduction of workers’ wages and rights, on the basis that in the middle of the crisis the workers must do sacrifices in the name of competitiveness. At international level, these unions are expressed through the International Trade Union Confederation, ITUC, which serves the interests of the imperialists and of the monopolies through the trade union movement. The ITUC supports Israel against Palestinians, it supported the imperialistic wars in Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya and it supports the monarchies of the Gulf against the Syrian people.

What is the way out of all these? World Trade Union Movement

The history of the world trade union movement is rich in experience and very useful for our present and future. Since the emergence and consolidation of capitalism, the organization of this mode of production has united the workers and made them realize the need to claim their rights in a collective way.

The role of the youth in the class-oriented trade union movement

Working youth is the new shift of the working class and its characteristics such as strength, hope, enthusiasm, bring new dynamism to the class-oriented trade union movement. For this reason, the movement must always pay great attention to the development of young trade unionists who can lead the working class to victorious struggles. What is more, the renewal of our cadres is necessary so that older and more experienced trade unionists can cooperate with young and enthusiastic militants. The young workers should have role to play at all levels.



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The young trade unionist should be characterized by the following elements: A) A young trade unionist should have a good knowledge of the problems of his workplace, a good knowledge of the problems of his sector and the overall problems of workers in his homeland. B) The second characteristic of a militant trade unionist should be his faith in the working class, and its role and mission to be the leading class that can unite all the popular strata and lead to the elimination of exploitation of man by man. C) A third requirement of the militant trade unionist is a knowledge of history and an understanding of the values, traditions and culture of the labor movement. D) The fourth element that we emphasize is internationalism and international solidarity. The trade unionists need first and foremost to fight inside their own country. To develop struggles in their own country. At the same time they must pay close attention to developments around the world.

Unfortunately, currently there is low participation of young workers in trade unions, which is related to the low awareness of the working class. Today, computer technology, migration and global development of capitalist production have "brought closer" young workers from different countries, but this does not spontaneously translate into militancy. In fact, the leading ideology brings so many young workers to consider workers of other countries as competitors or enemies. Faced with increasingly aggressive capitalism, we need to innovate our tools to make young workers approach trade unions. In the 17th congress held in Durban, the WFTU approved the Platform of Action, in which practical measures are announced for the coming years. Based on the guidelines of the historical 17th World Trade Union Congress and through the rich and fruitful works of the World Working Youth Congress on 2-3 November the WWYC delegates conclude to the following points and goals:

- The Working Youth Committee must have an annual regular meeting in order to define and coordinate its action.
- The Young Workers should not only participate in the WFTU activities but they should be in the front line of the WFTU actions.
- The Working Youth will actively participate in the activities and initiatives of the WFTU which declared 2018 as year of trade unionist training.
- The Young Workers all over the world will act as pioneers during 2018 for the working youth rights through the WFTU. The Working Youth declare that will have as priority the struggle for the working conditions and he will spread campaign for the dignified work the year 2018.
- A crucial task of the Youth is to contribute to smooth integration of the migrants and refugees, particularly the young ones, in the local societies and also to encourage and help them in joining the class-oriented trade union movement of their new country.
- The Working Youth Committee has as primary goal the linking of the world working youth with the WFTU structure, goals, and struggles.



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- The expression of solidarity with the suffering peoples is a crucial duty of the new generation. Moreover, awareness about crimes and attacks of the bourgeoisie and its imperialist plans as well as the spread and information on this reality to the young workers worldwide is a crucial duty too. The knowledge of contemporary needs, worries and interests of the working youth and promotion of efficient proposals and solutions related to the militant direction of the trade union strikes and struggles.
- Addressing individualism, apathy and political indifference that is cultivated among young people, alienating them from the organized trade union movement.
- Necessity of regional coordination of the Working Youth struggles. This co-ordination must be conducted taking into account the dialectical coexistence of both the particularities/ specific situations of each region and the common class position and interests of the working youth that implies the coordination of the struggle at world level.
- A permanent goal should be the lasting efforts for the development of the working youth class-consciousness, for the improvement of their perception and understanding on the causes generating the capitalist barbarity. Their shaping through class-oriented struggles for a society without man by man exploitation.

