



UNISON

## Scottish International Committee's E - Newsletter ...

Volume 1

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### Editorial

The purpose of this non-editorial driven publication is to keep readers fully aware about the Scottish International Committee's work. Hence, neither the Editor nor the Publisher are liable for the accuracy of the content. Editorial team members Sabrina Memon (SBMC Rep on the SIC) and Hamid Rasheed are keen to have your views to improve this publication. Please provide your feedback to: Simon Macfarlane. Regional Organiser UNISON House, 14 West Campbell Street Glasgow G2 6RX Tel: 0845 355 0845 Email: [s.macfarlane@unison.co.uk](mailto:s.macfarlane@unison.co.uk)

## International News ...

### [ITUC Condemns IKEA Anti-union Discrimination Practices in USA](#)

As a follow-up to its meetings on multinationals held in Washington D.C., the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) representing 175 million workers in 151 countries and territories is alarmed at the delay of responsibility of the furniture giant IKEA regarding the anti-union discrimination practices in Danville, Virginia, USA. Some of the Virginia plant's 335 workers working for IKEA's industrial group Swedwood are trying to form a union, and workers are not allowed to join the union of their choice. Source: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/>

[Think Global May 2011— World Development Movement](#) Welcome to the May issue of Think Global. You can download the entire newsletter below, or separate articles as listed. If you have any queries about anything in Think Global please contact Katharine on [katharine@wdm.org.uk](mailto:katharine@wdm.org.uk). Source: [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk)

### [Madagascar and the campaign to stop tar sands going global 23/24/25 May, Glasgow, Edinburgh and London](#)

Hear directly from Holly Rakotondralambo about the campaign to stop tar sands in one of the world's poorest counties. The event will take place on 23 & 24 May in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Source: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/news>

[PSC Weekly Update—Gaza flotilla: Registration now open](#) Register and join the protest to End siege on Gaza. The protest will take place at 12 noon opposite Downing Street Whitehall, SW1A London on 14 May 2011. The speakers list includes Prof. Karma Nabulsi, Dave Randall, Andy Slaughter MP, Caroline Lucas MP, Baroness Jenny Tonge, Reem Kelani, Jody McIntyre, with more speakers to be announced later on. The event is organised on the call of Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Stop the War Coalition, British Muslim Initiative, CND, Palestinian Forum in Britain, and enjoys support of Amos Trust, Association of the Palestinian Community in the UK, Communications Workers Union (CWU), Fire Brigades Union (FBU), Friends of Lebanon, Friends of Al-Aqsa, GMB, The Green Party, ICAHD UK, Jews for Justice for Palestinians, Lib Dem Friends of Palestine, Pax Christi, Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), The Russell Tribunal on Palestine, Twinning with Palestine, UNISON, Unite the union, University Colleges Union (UCU), War on Want, Zaytoun. Join us to commemorate the Nakba and to demand the government act to end the siege on Gaza. Sign the PSC petition: Online by [clicking here](#) OR text 'PSC' and your email address to 60777. Source: <http://www.palestinecampaign.org>

[Labour Start - Good news - and a special May Day appeal](#) LabourStart launched a major online campaign to secure the release of jailed Bangladeshi garment workers' leader Moshrefa Mishu. Nearly 5,000 of you sent off messages of protest - and Mishu is no longer in police custody. Your efforts and those of the brave garment workers of Bangladesh have paid off - what a wonderful May Day gift for Mishu and her family. Source: <http://www.democraticunderground.com>

[Burma Where Next? Seminar—organiser keen to hook up with UNISON Scotland.](#) The speakers will examine: labour rights, the position of trade unions/labour activists in Burma and the role of UK trade unions as instruments of change. Speakers: For registration contact: Mick Bowman - [mick.namhoi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mick.namhoi@yahoo.co.uk) Mob: 0798 243 5868. The event will take place at the Newcastle Civic Centre, Collingwood Suite on Monday 16th May, 6pm to 8pm. The event has been organised by Amnesty International Newcastle Upon Tyne group and UNISON Northern Region. Source: Mick Bowman - [mick.namhoi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mick.namhoi@yahoo.co.uk)

[More International News >>>](#)

## [Labour video competition, Working Australia Census and good news from Canada](#)

A little girl making a mess out of cake baking. A cartoon with a menacing dog - and a lamb. And stirring images of the protests against anti-union laws in Wisconsin. Source: <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com>

## [PSI World News April 2011](#)

This year's May Day celebrations come at a critical period for public sector workers and their unions. The celebrations took place against a background of growing pressure on fundamental workers' rights around the world.

Source: [www.world.psi.org](http://www.world.psi.org)

## [Roquette USA worker suffering from terminal cancer doctors say was work-related](#)

Conrad Fedler is suffering from inoperable, terminal lung cancer. He worked at the Roquette USA plant in Keokuk, Iowa. On September 28, 2010 - the company locked out hundreds of union members for insisting on their right to negotiate a collective agreement. Roquette raised his health insurance premiums by over a thousand dollars monthly - from USD 380 per month to 1,467 per month. The lockout has now entered its seventh month. To send a message to the company, one of the world's largest makers of sugar and starch derivatives,

please [click here](#) Source: <http://www.iuf.org>

## [Burma - Crisis in Shan State](#)

Burma Campaign UK today called on the British government to publicly condemn the dictatorship in Burma for breaking ceasefire agreements with ethnic organisations in Burma, including the Shan State Army - North. The dictatorship in Burma is threatening to plunge the country into conflict, which will lead to a major human rights and humanitarian crisis.

Source: <http://burmacampaign.org.uk>

## [BIF News Briefing, March to April 2011](#)

In a new development in Bolivia's longstanding demand for sovereign access to the Pacific Ocean, President Evo Morales announced on 23 March that the country would seek international mediation. Source: <http://www.boliviainfoforum.org.uk>

## [MAP Monitor 38](#)

MAP FILMS: Pregnancy and childbirth are vulnerable times for mothers and newborns across the world. But in the Palestinian refugee camps of Lebanon this vulnerability is magnified by poverty and neglect. With no government, and few rights in Lebanon, MAP's Maternal and Child Health works provides an opportunity for change and empowerment, and the protection of mothers and babies.

Source: <http://www.map-uk.org>

## [Scotland's for Peace Conference on Afghanistan](#)

Scotland for Peace has organised a conference on Afghanistan. The conference is to take place at 10:30 - 16:00 Thursday on 26 May 2011, at Trades Hall, Glassford Street, Glasgow. The conference on Afghanistan will look at the potential for moving away from military intervention and towards increased humanitarian aid.

Speakers include David Hayman (Spirit Aid), Orzala Ashraf (Afghan Womens Network), Habib Malik (Islamic Relief), Kathy Galloway (Christian Aid), David Pratt (Journalist), Ian Galloway (Church of Scotland), Political Panel. Please email [john.ainslie@banthebomb.org](mailto:john.ainslie@banthebomb.org) for registration. Please download and distribute A5 Leaflet: <http://www.scotland4peace.org/AfghanConferenMay2011.pdf>

Source: [Scotland4Peace](#).

## [Updates from the Scottish International Committee ...](#)

**The SIC Elections:** The SIC's last meeting took place on 7th May 2011 at UNISON House in Glasgow. The SIC elected Sam MaCartney and Alison Cosgrove as its Chair and Vice Chair respectively, for the year 2011-12.

**Scottish Venezuela Solidarity Campaign (SVSC):** The SIC has agreed in its meeting on 7th May to continue its support for the campaign.

**Take One Film Festival:** The SIC agreed to submit a bid to the Finance Development and Organisation committee, to support its ongoing involvement in Take One Film Festival.

**The SIC Work Plan:** The SIC agreed in its meeting of 7 May to update its work plan.

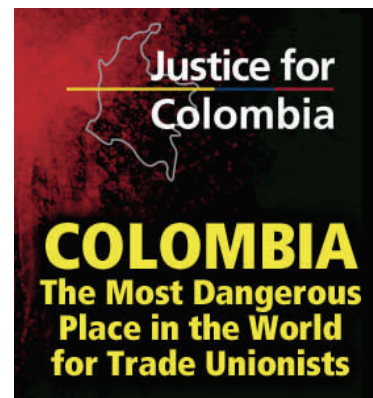
**Campaigns:** The SIC agreed to continue with its campaigning agenda, to highlight issues related to campaigns such as: Labour Behind the Label, Banana Link, War on Wants, Amnesty International, Cuba Solidarity, Fair Trade, and etc.

**Amnesty International AGM:** The SIC Vice Chair Alison Cosgrove reported that at the Amnesty International AGM, Louise Giblin and Kaila McCulloch of UNISON Scotland, were presented with a UNISON award for campaigning on Amnesty work.

**Cuba Solidarity Campaign:** A personal letter from UNISON's Scottish Secretary has been issued, asking Scottish branches to please affiliate their branch to the Cuba Solidarity Campaign, to ensure support against the illegal US blockade.

**Scottish International Seminar:** The seminar is scheduled to take place on 10th September 2011. The format of the seminar is to be workshop based; setting its focus on trade union International issues and Branch International Officers Training.

## [For peace and social justice in Colombia](#)



JfC campaigns for human and labour rights. They need your support.

## [UNISON Scottish Council Elects New Scottish International Committee](#)

At the Scottish Council AGM on 16 April 2011, the Council elected a new Scottish International Committee (SIC) to continue with the International work on behalf of UNISON Scotland. Following UNISON members were elected to serve on the SIC, for the year 2011-12:

### **(4 Female Seats)**

Allison Cosgrove  
Bettina Low  
Marie Sharp  
1 vacant female seat

### **(4 Male Seats)**

Sam MaCartney  
Mathew Creighton  
Hamid Rasheed  
Jimmy Farquhar

### **(2 Low Paid Women's Seats)**

2 vacant Low paid women seats

## [Campaign to free Burma's prisoners goes on](#)



Burma Campaign UK calling for ALL political prisoners to be released. Add your name! Affiliate to BCUK.