



Freedom Report: Peace, Democracy and Rights in 2019

Contents

Introduction	3
Peace and democracy struggles: trade unions in action	5
Algeria	5
Argentina	5
Brazil	6
Ethiopia and Eritrea	6
Hong Kong	7
India	8
The Philippines	8
Turkey	8
Freedom at risk in 2019	10
The rise of the right	10
The world re-arms	11
Global treaties to govern nuclear weapons	12
Increasing numbers of refugees and displaced people	14

Introduction

Democratic rights and freedoms, wages and social protection remain under attack in the majority of countries around the world, and the conditions for peace and equality are absent.

The ITUC's Global Rights Index depicts a world where democracy itself is at risk as people lose trust in institutions – 54 countries denied or constrained freedom of speech and assembly last year.

Governments are failing to protect their people from predatory capitalism with de-humanising exploitation in supply chains unchecked by the rule of law.

Multilateralism is in crisis and yet the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO continue with policies that merely prop up a failed economic model.

Conflict is increasing and can only continue to escalate when these conditions exist. Governments are rearming, including with medium-range nuclear weapons, while weak global governance opens the world up to the grave threat of nuclear warfare. The UN itself is ineffective without shared leadership and solidarity from governments.

And nations are rejecting refugees, as xenophobia is a key tool of the extreme right. Inhuman approaches to border control are proliferating.

The ITUC's founding Declaration of Principles commits us to act for the promotion of peace and democracy everywhere. This is the essential foundation for democratic rights and freedoms. We know that secure lives require social protection, just wages and safe and secure work with the guarantee of fundamental rights and the rule of law. Peace is dependent on democracy and decent work and a world free of weapons of mass destruction as well as on progress towards general disarmament. Peace, democracy and rights are also foundations for realising the Sustainable Development Goals.

The global trade union movement's commitment to peace and democracy – where democratic rights and freedoms are guaranteed, where xenophobia and

racism have no place in our workplaces and communities and where corporate greed is controlled by the rule of law – means workers are on the front lines of struggles against increasingly autocratic governments and the extreme right.

The conditions for the current “age of anger” we are witnessing today are being entrenched as:

- only thirty per cent of the world's people believe that their voice matters;
- living standards are not based on minimum living wages and collective bargaining to guarantee decent jobs;
- universal social protection and quality public services are not the bulwark against poverty;
- fair taxation, where corporations pay their share in the country where profit is earned, is not collected and invested in vital public services including free public education, vocational education and lifelong learning and affordable healthcare, childcare and aged care;
- equal economic participation of women and inclusion of young people is not guaranteed;
- fundamental human and labour rights including mandated due diligence with grievance mechanisms and remedy are not enforced; and
- environmental responsibility for net-zero emissions and biodiversity protection with ocean and water purity are not high on the political and legislative agenda.

If governments spend scarce resources on building walls and on the tools of warfare, then trust is not possible.

Trust cannot be rebuilt if people are not guaranteed voting rights and fair electoral boundaries or engaged beyond the ballot box through consultation, tripartite structures and dialogue along with other measures that capture the voices of the community. Without these, the rise of authoritarianism will not be checked.

These are the conditions for extreme right-wing groups to emerge and lure those who feel excluded. The result is fascism and dictatorship with hate speech and discrimination that sets the framework for conflict.

And despite the world being three times richer than it was just thirty years ago, development is a dream denied in too many countries with shared prosperity further out of reach for more people today than any time since the period of world wars of the early part of the last century.

The ITUC stands for hope not hatred, rights not oppression, democracy not dictatorship, freedom not fascism, solidarity not division, fairness not inequality,

courage not fear, the 99% not the 1%, dignity not exploitation.

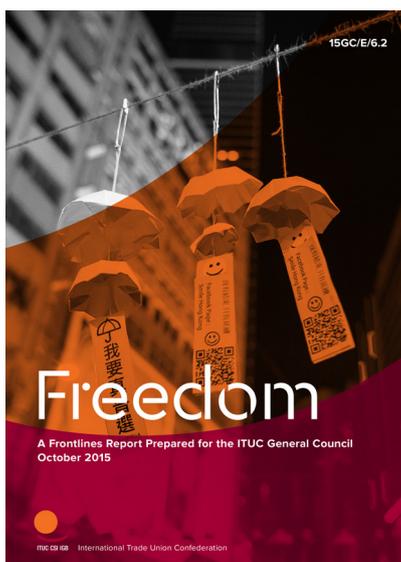
With our affiliates we will act in solidarity with workers and their unions on the front lines as they seek to secure peace, democracy and rights.

Sharan Burrow
General Secretary

Since 2006 more than 100 countries have suffered declines in political freedom.

Freedom in the World 2018: Democracy in Crisis, Freedom House 2018

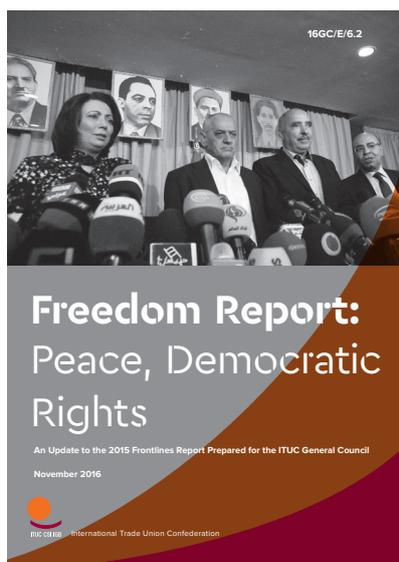
Freedom in retrospect



Freedom 2015

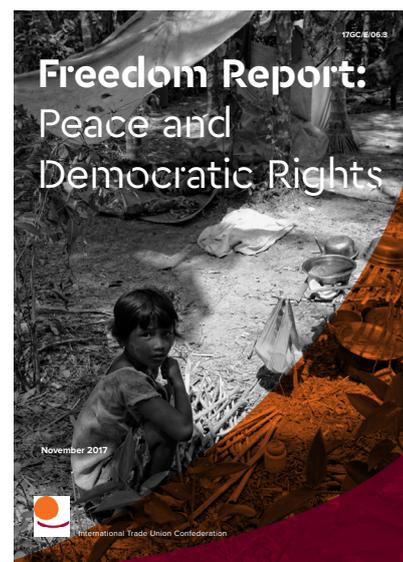
Closing democratic spaces.
The consequences of attacks on rights and freedoms and ITUC responses.

Consequences:
Conflict and displacement.
Corruption.
Impunity and violent crime.
Inequality and attacks on workers' rights.



Freedom 2016

The escalation of conflict.
Violence and attacks on trade union members.
The social contract is broken – collapse of trust in government and rise of populism.
Investing in peace, secure democracy and prosperity.
The global refugee crisis.
A global deal.
A collective voice to oppose government oppression.



Freedom 2017

Democracy and human rights are under attack.
Inequality is growing.
Conflict is expanding and more people are on the move.
Reclaiming peace, democracy and freedom.

Peace and democracy struggles: trade unions in action

Algeria

Freedom and democracy has been in focus in Algeria with mass public demonstrations challenging the undemocratic capture and domination of political power by the government of Bouteflika. Under President Bensalah, who took over from Bouteflika on his resignation in April 2019, the rights of Algerians to participate in democracy have not improved. April protests demanding the resignation of Bensalah were met with police violence including water cannons and tear gas. Furthermore, the new government has done nothing to address the long-standing issues of repression of independent trade unions. The applications for registration of two independent unions, Confédération Générale Autonome des Travailleurs en Algérie (CGATA) and the Syndicat autonome des travailleurs de l'électricité et du gaz (SNATEG), remain outstanding.

Trade union leaders are threatened, harassed and pursued through the courts, and the situation is deteriorating. On 23 April this year, Raouf Mellal, president of IndustriALL affiliate SNATEG, was violently arrested at a peaceful demonstration and taken to the police headquarters where he was undressed, abused and forced to sit on an iron chair while he was interrogated. Teachers affiliated with the Conseil national autonome du personnel enseignant du secteur tertiaire de l'éducation (CNAPESTE) are facing dismissals after taking part in a strike action in January 2019. The ILO Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS) has called on the government to ensure that the registration of trade unions in law and in practice is in compliance with Convention No. 87 and pending applications for the registration of free and independent trade unions, which have met the requirements set out by law, are allowed to freely function. The government has been called upon to review the decision to dissolve the SNATEG trade union. There have been no consultations with the representatives of employers and workers to adopt labour reforms in line with Algeria's international labour standards obligations.

Argentina

Mauricio Macri has overseen a period of economic collapse, of violations of workers' rights and of IMF austerity and has attempted to push through anti-worker legislation. The scale of the destruction and suffering inflicted on the working people of Argentina is immense.

Inflation, particularly increases in the price of rents, public services, transport, electricity, gas and water, has prevented many workers from accessing decent housing, adequate sustenance, healthcare and education and from covering basic needs.

- **Poverty** has increased from 25.7% to 32% between 2017 and 2018.
- Almost 60% of workers with a formal job don't earn enough to keep their families above the **poverty line**.
- Half of the working population is in the **informal economy**.
- The **minimum wage** is frozen at 12,500 pesos (USD 292), not even covering the extreme poverty line. The last update was far below inflation, leading to a substantial loss in the real value of the minimum wage.
- **Inequality** has increased by 20% in three years.
- In 2018, the **labour share** of GDP dropped for the fourth consecutive year, standing at 45.2%.

Since Macri came to power, trade unions in Argentina have reported a systematic increase in workers' rights violations such as:

- physical **assaults and threats** to workers;
- **detention, prosecution and imprisonment** of trade unionists;
- **attacks** on trade union premises;
- **sanctioning, replacement and dismissal** of workers on strike; and
- **verbal attacks** by the government on the trade union movement.

One year since the start of the IMF programme, the government has failed to deliver on its promises. The economy is still in recession, unemployment is growing, inflation has not stabilised, debt sustainability has worsened, and poverty is soaring. Although the agreement contained a binding spending floor on certain social assistance programmes, it was set at a level that is inadequate to truly protect the most vulnerable amid the economic hardship. The programme calls for reductions in pensioners' incomes by 20%. Despite this, the IMF is doubling down on its approach of harsh austerity and pushing for the government to meet all its fiscal targets through additional cuts. In turn, this will further erode tax revenue and hurt the economy.

In 2017, due to the united opposition of trade unions across the country, the government failed to pass an anti-worker labour law reform that would have weakened labour protections, while increasing profits for big businesses. Many government officials, however, have pledged to reignite the debate if Macri is re-elected in October 2019. The union movement is campaigning in solidarity with unions in Argentina under the banner #MacriMustGo.

Brazil

Brazil is heading into a dark corner. After the power grab which saw the legitimate president Dilma Rousseff illegally impeached and the subsequent imprisonment of the opposition presidential candidate President Lula, the new president, Jair Bolsonaro, has launched a full-scale attack on freedom of association and democracy. Since his election on 1st January 2019, Bolsonaro has undermined democracy and attacked human rights and freedoms.

The years of social progress, which lifted millions of people out of poverty and guaranteed solid social security measures and the development of strong collective bargaining institutions, have given way to unprecedented destruction of collective bargaining and other pillars of labour market institutions and democracy. The Consolidation of Labour Laws grants the power to derogate and provides an incentive for corruption in collective labour relations. Since April 2018 after the new reforms, informal employment has increased by 4.1 per cent and these millions of workers have no legal protection against abuses. Unemployment rose to 12.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2019, compared with 11.8 per cent in the last quarter of 2017, when the Act came into force – a million more unemployed people. Between

2017 and 2018, there was a decline of 45.7 per cent in collective bargaining as a direct result of the labour reform. Social dialogue and tripartite process have also collapsed. On the 14th of June, an estimated 45 million Brazilian workers from across the nation took part in a strike action to protest the Bolsonaro administration's attacks on workers' rights, social security reforms, public education budget cuts and the privatisation of Petrobras – a key player in Brazil's petroleum industry. The government has put forward legislation to end the current pensions system and instituted proposals which will decimate the social safety net and remove support for workers and families in times of illness and unemployment.

The ILO CAS has called on the government to examine and assess the impact of the reforms in consultation with most representative employers' and workers' organisations.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

Freedom and democracy continue to elude the Eritrean people, who face repression and human rights abuses. In 2018, the UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea noted in her report serious concerns about extrajudicial killings, highlighting the arbitrary killing of a young man who attempted to cross the border in July 2017. The report pointed to this as representing the fate of other young people escaping the repression and lack of opportunity in Eritrea.

Concerns remain that many people who are suspected to be in the custody of the government have disappeared without notification to their families. The disappeared include those holding different political and religious views; journalists; and persons alleged to have avoided national service including compulsory military and other forms of forced labour. The government continues to curtail freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and other civil liberties and rule of law. The judiciary appears unable to guarantee these freedoms and democratic values.

The excuse of the government has been the no-war-no-peace situation with Ethiopia. However, in 2018 a peace treaty with Ethiopia was signed, ending the formal state of war between the two countries and declaring an era of peace and prosperity. In November 2018, the UN Security Council called for the lifting of sanctions against Eritrea. There is no guarantee that with peace will come

the respect for human and trade union rights and an environment of freedom, democracy and respect for civil liberties. Workers' groups and peace activists are crystallising their actions over human rights, workers' rights, freedom of press, and democracy to ensure that these values are realised as part of the peace dividend.

There are fears that old mistrusts and tensions are re-emerging. There appears to have been little progress in building the peace and economic institutions promised in the Peace treaty. Ethiopia is facing an internal tribal conflict that has created an insecurity situation for the government, which may have shifted its focus. In July 2019, clashes began in the south between security forces and the ethnic Sidama over delayed referendum on creation of a Sidama State. The clashes are alleged to have left dozens of people killed and with many arrested. This is threatening the overall security of the country. The situation in Sudan has as well shown some tensions and differences of opinion between Addis Ababa and Asmara regarding the way forward. Saudi Arabia and the UEA have been actively pursuing their interests in the region, in particular in Eritrea and Sudan, given their contributions of ports and personnel for the Yemen war effort.

Eritrea's role as a member of the Human Rights Council and the Chair of the Khartoum process, the forum for dealing with the migration crisis between the Horn of Africa and the EU, offers potential for further engagement on the freedom and democracy front. The struggle for democracy and freedom in Eritrea and Ethiopia is intractably linked to the struggle for peace and human security in the horn of Africa region.

Hong Kong

Under the "one country, two systems" system, the people of Hong Kong have held the hope of enjoying a post-colonial governance of freedom and democracy. The struggle for democracy and the rule of law has come under several pressures with arguably the major struggle being the unfolding events in Hong Kong. Since 9 June 2019, people have been taking to the streets demanding freedom of expression, the right to peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of the press and other civil liberties including protection from arbitrary arrests. The protests began when the Hong Kong government attempted to push through a highly controversial Extradition Bill with China. Hong Kong people want the assurance that they will not be extradited to countries whose judicial systems do not

provide the same levels of civil liberties, respect for human rights and guarantees against abuse of power as Hong Kong. The Hong Kong police have used violence and other provocative measures against protesters. Recent reports show that apart from failing to prevent thugs from beating up protesters, the police were arresting activists at their homes and have been seen beating up protesters in the public including at transport stations and in trains. Arbitrary arrests of peaceful protesters include some youth and students, the youngest just 13 years old. Those arrested, especially under a charge of "rioting", could be charged and face 5-14 years of imprisonment.

The Chinese government has pressured Hong Kong airline Cathay Pacific to discipline staff who have joined the protests in exercise of their fundamental right and told it not to fly in Chinese airspace with crew members who have taken part in protests.

The five demands of the protesters are for a permanent withdrawal of the extradition law; release of the arrested protesters without charge; withdrawal by the authorities of their characterisation of the 12 June protests as "riots"; an independent investigation into police violence and abuse of power; and implementation of universal suffrage. The Hong Kong government has remained intransigent and refused to dialogue with protesters. A pledge to withdraw the extradition law has not satisfied the protesters' demands. According to HKCTU General Secretary Lee Cheuk Yan, the situation is critical, adding that "we call for urgent intervention from the international community to condemn police violence and for the Hong Kong government to stop violations of basic human rights and release the arrested protesters. The government should conduct an independent, credible investigation which is accepted by the community, for of the protests that broke out since June as a first step to assure the people of Hong Kong that the Hong Kong government is willing to look into police violence and violations of human rights."

India

The recent election victory of the government of Narendra Modi has renewed fears of the hugely regressive economic reforms which have been resisted since he first came to power in 2014. This means that the economic direction of the country will move into a higher gear of privatisation, liberalisation, austerity and attacks on unions to ease the path for business under Modi's "Make in India" economic policy. In 2015 and 2018, the country's largest unions went on strike to stop the sweeping reforms commenced in 2014.

The capacity for workers to enjoy freedom to participate meaningfully and effectively in the democratic governance of the country is dwindling. Growing inequality and informality is decreasing the opportunities and capabilities of the working poor in India, undermining freedom and the potential for equality in the society. A small number of wealthy individuals are influencing national policy to neutralise institutions in the labour market including unions and labour inspectorates. With heightened social and economic vulnerabilities arising from growing poverty and inequality, workers are losing their freedom through declining wages, employment insecurity and are left to work under unsafe conditions and workplaces. Bonded and forced labour are rising, as are child trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls linked to the disempowerment arising from increased economic insecurities and vulnerabilities. Ninety-two per cent of workers are trapped in the informal economy. There is also a declining rate of female participation in the labour market. Individual and collective freedoms are seriously undermined when there is such lack of economic opportunity and capabilities brought about by the declining workplace safeguards guaranteed by labour institutions such as trade unions. The government has introduced a laissez-faire labour inspection system, which prioritises the self-assessed inspections of businesses over the complaints of workers. The government keeps attacking freedom of association, collective bargaining and labour inspections and constantly stigmatises unions.

The ILO CAS has called on the Indian government to strengthen laws against bonded labour, trafficking in persons, forced labour of children and sexual exploitation. The Committee has also called on the government to ensure that effective labour inspections are conducted in all workplaces, including the informal economy and in all Special Economic Zones and to promote collaboration between inspectors, employers and workers or their organisations, especially regarding implementation of inspection reports.

The Philippines

Freedom and democracy are under politically motivated attack in the Philippines. Since 2017, the protection of civil liberties and rights have further deteriorated. The rising number of extrajudicial killings has been shocking. The 2018 report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) reveals that assassinations of trade union leaders appear to be on the increase. In June this year, Leonides Dennis Sequeña, a veteran trade union organiser, was assassinated by a gunman on a motorcycle while meeting a group of workers. So far, there have been reports of 65 cases of extrajudicial killings of trade unionists. The politically charged atmosphere created by the military's war on the so-called "reds" is a recipe for violence and reminiscent of the years when unionists were targeted, harassed, arrested, jailed, abducted and murdered after being tagged falsely as "reds". Armed soldiers threatened striking workers at a tropical fruit company and broke up a picket in May and June 2017. These military interventions in trade union affairs occur with approval of the government, which on several occasions threatened striking workers with military and police action. The ILO CAS has called on the government to take effective measures to prevent violence in relation to the exercise of workers' and employers' organisations legitimate activities and to effectively undertake investigations into allegations of violence and murder.

Turkey

The freedom for workers to express grievances through protests and strikes remains under attack in Turkey. From 2016, the government justified continued violations of civil liberties under the guise of a state of emergency. Even after the state of emergency was lifted in 2018, the law on meetings and demonstrations has consistently been used to prohibit legitimate trade union activities. For example, in September 2018 some 600 workers were arrested in their dormitories at night for engaging in a protest against health and safety breaches at the construction site of the new Istanbul airport where, according to official figures, 57 workers had died as a result of various health and safety violations. As part of the attacks on independent trade unions, the authorities have also repeatedly dismissed workers for their trade union activities. More than 11,000 representatives and members of the Confederation of Public Employees Trade Union (KESK) were suspended from their jobs or sacked because of their trade union activities, under the pretext of national security and terrorism. This

stigmatisation has created a clear, chilling effect on workers wishing to join trade unions. The EU has noted its concern over the continuing and deeply worrying situation of attacks on fundamental rights and rule of law in Turkey, especially the pressure faced by civil society, with widespread arrests, and recurrent bans on demonstrations and other types of gatherings.

The Inquiry Commission on the State of Emergency Measures has failed to serve as an effective remedy for those unjustly affected by the broad scale and collective nature of the measures taken in the aftermath of the coup attempt. It is, rather, used to harass and keep the accused in judicial uncertainty. The freedom and democratic rights of trade unions and other civil society organisations are under siege. The ILO CAS has called on the government of Turkey to respect civil liberties and lift restrictions placed on workers' organisations to function. The CAS has called on the government to ensure that the right to freedom of association can be exercised in normal conditions with respect for civil liberties and in a climate free of violence, pressure and threats.

Freedom at risk in 2019

The rise of the right

Right-wing populists and authoritarians now govern more than half the world's population.

Discontented voters: An ETUC survey of members found one third of trade unionists voted for the far right in the 2019 EU election. When they were asked about the reason behind their vote, they mentioned job insecurity, precariousness and the fear of losing their social protection safety net.

“This is what a broken social contract means,”¹

Luca Visentini, ETUC General Secretary

The far right in power: The nationalistic backlash against the rules-based multilateral system and international order has had a contagious effect in elections around the world, with autocratic leaders securing their hold on the institutions of state, and eroding the foundations of democratic society.

Shrinking democratic space: The number of incidents where the press and broadcast journalists have been targeted by far-right groups has been on the increase. As workers and their unions come under attack, so does the democratic civic space provided by unions, undermining rights and freedoms.

72% of countries have denied workers access to justice.

Authorities impeded the registration of unions in 59% of countries.

2019 ITUC Global Rights Index

International funding: The spread of far-right and extremist views points to an internationally funded and networked groups of organisations.

“A recent openDemocracy investigation found that America’s Christian right spent at least \$50 million of ‘dark money’ to fund campaigns and advocacy in Europe over the past decade. The total spent on the 2014 European elections, for example, by all of Ireland’s political parties combined was just \$3 million.”²

The American Dark Money behind Europe’s far right, openDemocracy

The role of the internet: Central as both a driver of, and as a facilitator for, the modern international far right is the internet, which, just as it has drastically reshaped our social, economic and cultural life, has also created monumental shifts in the political arena. Social media and an array of emerging technologies and platforms have offered far-right actors new ways to engage in activism, be this by creating content for or watching YouTube videos, visiting far-right websites, networking on forums, speaking on voice chat services like Discord and trying to convert people on mainstream social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook. Issues, stories and ideas can be spread around the world in minutes, and with a variety of platforms – some more welcoming than others – removing their ability to spread hate has become harder.

The far-right alternative media has been crucial in broadening the spread of extreme ideas across borders and overseas. This media has touched the edges of the mainstream (such as Breitbart News Network) to scores of YouTube vloggers, Twitter accounts and outlets such as InfoWars, which have gained an unprecedented reach online. Many of these organisations take an open-

¹ <https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/news/one-third-of-trade-unionists-voted-for-the-far-right-at-last-eu-election/>

² <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/the-american-dark-money-behind-europes-far-right/>

ly global outlook – Breitbart, for example, despite being based in the US, has opened offices in Jerusalem and London, and had once planned to expand further into Europe (although this project failed miserably). Rebel Media, despite being based in Canada, has employed far-right figures based in the UK, such as Stephen Yaxley-Lennon and Katie Hopkins. Whilst YouTubers, such as Paul Joseph Watson, the British editor-at-large of the American organisation InfoWars, may get involved in British political ventures (for example, joining the political party UKIP), he estimates that only a small fraction of his over 1.7 million subscribers are from the UK.

The global cooperation of far-right international networks – their online networking, propagandising, organising and financing – is a pressing concern, having provided the far right with renewed energy, alliances and financing over recent years. This increasing international cooperation only looks set to continue.

[“Hope Not Hate” - UK]

The world re-arms



A new interactive map, compiled by The New Humanitarian, charts the spread of conflicts across the globe.

Each conflict is represented on the map by a red dot, the size of which is determined by the length of the ongoing war. Nearly 40 ongoing conflicts are currently represented.³

From 2011 to today, there has been a six-fold increase in annual battle deaths, with 2014 and 2015 being the deadliest years on the battlefield since the end of the Cold War.⁴

Last year 70% of casualties from explosive weapons were civilians – more than 20,000 in total.⁵

³ <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/maps-and-graphics/2017/04/04/updated-mapped-world-war>

⁴ https://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6156/Civil_war_trends_UPDATED.pdf

⁵ <https://aoav.org.uk/2019/2018-a-year-of-explosive-violence/>

Ethnic cleansing is on the rise. The Freedom in the World report lists 11 cases this year, compared with three in 2005.⁶

In the decade following the Ottawa Treaty, which banned the use of landmines in 1999, the number of landmine related casualties dropped by 62%. But since 2013 that number has increased by 150%, resulting in 8,605 casualties in 2016 alone.⁷

⁶ <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/freedom-world-2019/democracy-in-retreat>

⁷ http://www.the-monitor.org/media/2918780/Landmine-Monitor-2018_final.pdf

There is the internationalization of civil war, “proxy wars,” where external states intervene militarily on one or both sides. This internationalisation has risen from 6% in 1991 to 40% in 2015.

Civil War Trends and the Changing Nature of Armed Conflict, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research

Global treaties to govern nuclear weapons

2020 will mark the 75th anniversary of the U.S atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It also marks the start of international movements to abolish nuclear weapons and create a nuclear-free world.

Instead of celebrating peace, governments are fueling a new arms race. This is not limited to dictatorships or the most authoritarian countries, as even countries in Europe are rearming with medium-range nuclear weapons, new unmanned weapons and even the development of “autonomous” weapons in a technological age that heralds terrible possibilities for rights and freedoms vital for lasting peace.

These trends must be stopped. The global risk of nuclear rearmament and technological warfare requires us to join with allies in support of peace and development. Disarmament, including a ban on nuclear weapons, is more important than ever. The massive trade in arms and huge cost it imposes on economies and societies are a threat to peace and to investment in social protection and jobs elsewhere in the economy. There are many jobs in the manufacturing, trade and services associated with arms but like any political choice, the danger is in both not dealing with the issue itself and in failing to ensure the livelihoods of the workers and communities who depend on that trade.

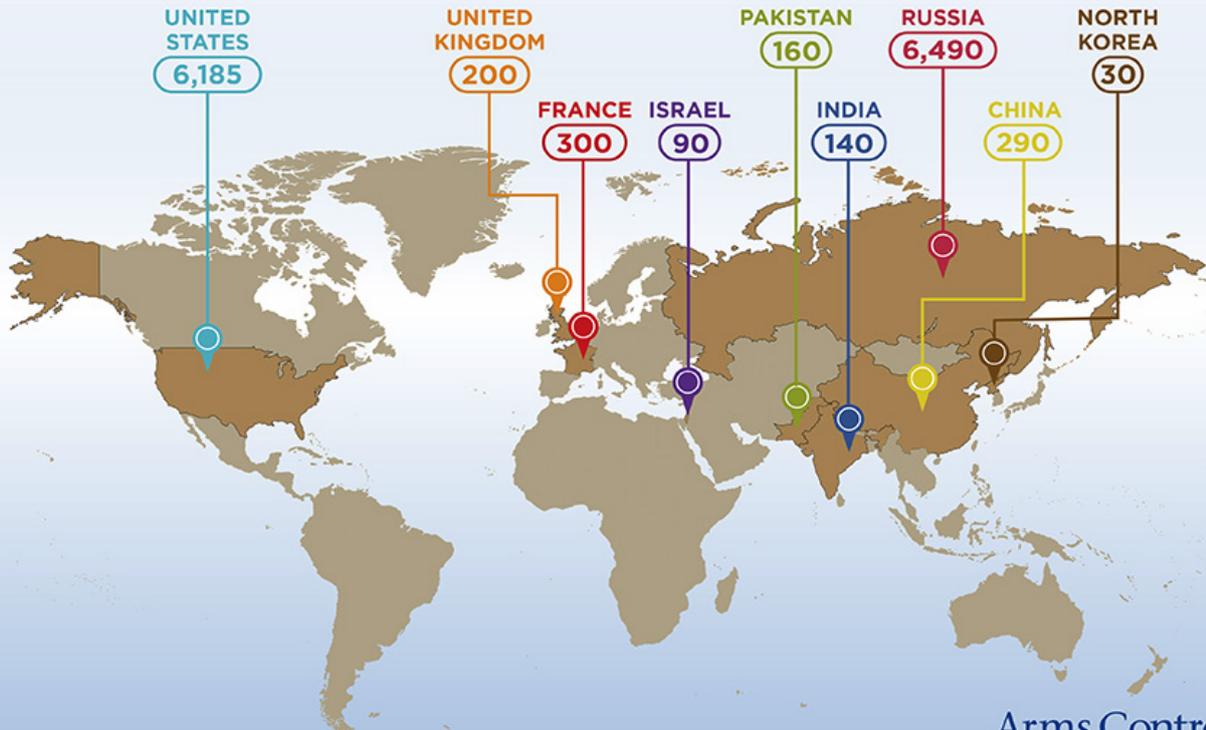
Unions face the fallout from political investment or divestment and changes in global demand which impact on workers every day. The centrality of social dialogue and the consequent commitment to national and industry plans for managing these shifts are a key demand.

The ITUC will campaign with those democratic countries which will take responsibility to ensure that the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty (TPNW) enters into force and that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is protected.

Peace is a pre-requisite for democracy, democratic rights and freedoms, equality and decent work and thus a cornerstone for realisation of the UN Sustainability Goals and the Paris Climate agreement – both of which are vital for the future of humanity and social justice.

2019 ESTIMATED GLOBAL NUCLEAR WARHEAD INVENTORIES

The world's nuclear-armed states possess a combined total of nearly 14,000 nuclear warheads; more than 90% belong to Russia and the United States. Approximately 9,500 warheads are in military service, with the rest awaiting dismantlement.



Sources: Hans M. Kristensen, Matt Kordas, U.S. Department of State, and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Updated: June 2019.

Arms Control Association

Arms Control Association: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>



Every country to commit to the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to renounce nuclear weapons

The threat of nuclear weapons is real, and growing tensions between countries are increasing the risk that nuclear weapons may be used. The United Nations Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is designed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and rid the world of them. Some countries that have nuclear weapons are not part of the NPT and some NPT members are expanding their nuclear arsenals.



Major reductions in military spending and investment in the services, infrastructure and jobs that the world desperately needs

Each year, the world spends US\$ 1.7 trillion on the military. Just 1% of this would feed all the world's malnourished people for 5 years. But military spending is increasing and is helping to drive armed conflicts that today are causing untold death and destruction. The money that goes into the arms trade should be used to provide vital social protection and services to people, and to pay for infrastructure that economies and societies depend on.



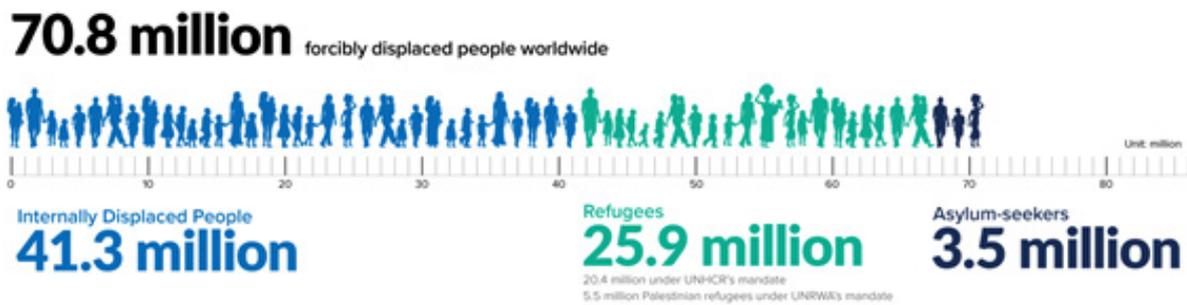
Call for the NPT and for major reductions in military spending and investment in the services, infrastructure and jobs that the world desperately needs!

Increasing numbers of refugees and displaced people

Global forced displacement has topped more than 70 million people. This is the highest number in UNHCR's history, and twice as many people as 20 years ago. The UN Global Compact, approved by the UN General Assembly in December 2018, seeks a more equitable sharing of responsibility for hosting and supporting refugees, about 80% of whom live in countries neighbouring their home.

Fewer refugees are going home than ever before: less than 3% last year.⁹

In many countries, refugees have no access to jobs, markets and other activities. Regulatory frameworks, as well as support structures, need to change. While the United Nations is committed to a compact on migration, there must be a parallel commitment to shared resettlement of refugees with the right to work and equal treatment.



<https://www.acnur.org/datos-basicos.html>

Of the 25.9 million refugees, nearly one in five are Palestinian under the care of UNRWA.

UNHCR Annual Global Trends Report 2019

The withdrawal of funding to UNRWA by its largest donor the United States for political reasons and by other countries due to allegations of corruption is a serious cause of concern for the conditions of Palestinian refugees.

An estimated 13.6 million people became newly displaced during the year due to wars or persecution, a number equivalent to the population of Tokyo, and greater than that of Moscow and Manila. The total included 10.8 million IDPs and 2.8 million new refugees and asylum-seekers.

UNHCR Annual Global Trends report 2019

Civil wars are generating more refugees (29.5 million) and internal displacement (41 million) than at any time since World War II.⁸



⁸ <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/freedom-world-2019/democracy-in-retreat>

⁹ <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2018/>

