

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY REPORT

2018-2019



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Managing editor: Karin Jordan

Editorial assistant: Céline Carré

Graphic designer:
Jocelyn Renaud

International Solidarity Officer:
Kelti Cameron

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SOLIDARITY IN ACTION TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD

CUPE is deeply committed to the global labour movement and to international solidarity. Building relationships with workers and community allies around the world strengthens our collective fight for human and labour rights, decent work, strong public services and peace. In 2018-2019, we continued to learn from and support movements that are at the heart of the global struggle for economic and social justice.

This year, we continued to work in solidarity with workers and community allies in many countries and strengthened long-term partnerships through our Global Justice Fund. And we deepened our critical understanding of Canada's role in the world.

We do this work because we know solidarity is vital. It's our most powerful tool to build a better world, and it's needed more than ever. Inequality and injustice threaten to divide us. We must unite in the face of a rising tide of fear, racism and hate in Canada and around the world.

Peoples' movements around the world, including the labour movement, are facing growing threats. Right-wing governments and corporations are stepping up suppression of movements that seek to build a better world by redistributing wealth and funding public services through fair taxation, protecting land and labour rights, and promoting environmental and social justice.

International solidarity gives us a critical lens to understand the world around us. It helps us understand the bigger picture as it relates to our day-to-day union work at the bargaining table, defending public services and taking political action. Our fight against growing corporate power and inequality goes hand-in-hand with protecting workers' rights and public services – in Canada and internationally. The powerful economic, corporate and political forces behind right-wing governments are global, and our response must be as well.

Until all of us are free, none of us are free.



Mark Hickman



Charles Fleury

WORKER-TO-WORKER CUPE DELEGATIONS

PHILIPPINES VISIT HIGHLIGHTS STRUGGLE TO DEFEND
HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC SERVICES



SOLIDARITY

In November 2018, a CUPE delegation visited two of our partner unions in the Philippines, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) and the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees

(COURAGE). The delegation learned first-hand about the many serious challenges for workers under the government of President Rodrigo Duterte.

ACT is campaigning for increased education spending, a pay raise, and reduced workloads. Teachers often pay for school supplies out of their own pockets. They held their third national sit-down strike just after CUPE's visit.

The growing use of precarious contract workers who lack benefits is a major issue for public and private sector workers. COURAGE is campaigning to end precarious work, stop the privatization of public services, and raise the minimum monthly wage.

Our delegation met COURAGE members working for the National Food Authority (NFA). These workers are fighting a bill in Congress that would open the Philippines rice market to the world market. This would eliminate the NFA's power to regulate the price and quality of rice in the public interest. The NFA does for rice what the Canadian Wheat Board did for wheat before it was privatized.

CUPE's delegation met union and civil society leaders who have faced surveillance, threats and military intimidation for their political activities. They also met with human rights groups that have documented 195 victims of extrajudicial killings, mainly Indigenous people and farmers, and over 500 political prisoners, including ACT and COURAGE members.

The Duterte government has cancelled peace talks, extended martial law, and undermined pillars of democracy such as a free press. The government has increased military and policing spending to support its "war on drugs," which has resulted in the deaths of more than 30,000 people, most of them very poor. The military is also being deployed to shut down resistance to government policies, particularly in Indigenous and farming communities.

Our delegation met with displaced leaders and students from the Indigenous Lumad community. These leaders are protecting their land from foreign and local mining operations, and environmental destruction. The Philippines armed forces are attempting



◀ EDUCATION WORKERS AND INDIGENOUS PROTESTERS,
THE PHILIPPINES



to suppress these protests by occupying Indigenous schools in the region. ACT is a member of the “Save Our Schools” network, a group of national and local organizations that is defending Indigenous schools from these attacks. International solidarity delegations provide the opportunity for communities to share their experiences, so CUPE can help expose these violations and hold the perpetrators accountable.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE DELEGATION BUILDS UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT

CUPE's first international solidarity visit to Israel-Palestine took place in July 2018. The goal of the education delegation was to learn about the impact of Israel's occupation on Palestinian

workers, and the human rights impacts on the population in general.

The delegation traveled to large cities and smaller communities in Israel-Palestine. Members learned a great deal from meeting with activists and leaders in the labour movement, legal advocates, civil society and human rights activists, academics, Canadian government officials, representatives of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and residents of Khan al-Ahmar, a Bedouin community in the West Bank facing demolition.

Workers in Israel are struggling in an economy shaped by right-wing government reforms, that led to the privatization of the public sector and the transfer of state assets to a few wealthy families. The social and economic

system that has developed over the last two decades is fuelling enormous income inequality. More than a million workers live below the poverty line. Young workers, migrants and Arab workers are particularly vulnerable to the weakened social safety net, and inadequate recognition of labour rights that coincided with these reforms.

The Palestinian people live under a regime intent on displacing them from their ancestral land. Delegation members heard about the day-to-day reality for people in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which includes restrictions on movement, arbitrary arrest and detention, confiscation and destruction of property, segregation of transport, denial of basic services and resources, and disproportionate military

◀ CUPE DELEGATION IN BAGUIO CITY,
THE PHILIPPINES

response to any form of protest and resistance. Palestinian people in the Jordan Valley struggle to access water that is being diverted from their homes and farmland into the settlements.

The civil rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel have also been severely eroded. In July 2018, the Israeli parliament approved the Jewish nation-state *Basic Law*. This legislation removes the official language status of Arabic, legalizes housing discrimination based on ethnic, religious, or national background, and denies Palestinians the right to self-determination.

Workers in the occupied territories are extremely vulnerable. Delegation members learned how they share the same experiences of precarity as workers elsewhere in the region and around the world, but the occupation makes their situation doubly precarious. Many are forced to work in the illegal settlements or in Israel, with limited protection of their rights. A permit is required to work outside the boundaries of the occupation. Revocation of this permit is used to threaten workers who resist in the workplace or their communities. Women are particularly at risk of harassment and exploitation.

CUPE has long recognized the need for the Israeli government to withdraw from the Occupied Palestinian Territories and abide by UN Resolutions 242 and 338 as a precondition to peace. CUPE has called for Israel to dismantle the 700-km long separation wall and end all acts of violence that take the lives of innocent people, whether they be Palestinian or Israeli, and we have voiced our support for a peace process that recognizes the equality of all Israelis and Palestinians, based on the implementation of UN resolutions and international law.





CUPE'S GLOBAL JUSTICE FUND IN ACTION

In 2018-2019, CUPE's Global Justice Fund supported workers and community allies in Burma, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Philippines. The fund supported ten projects working for peace, advancing labour and gender rights, defending human rights, building trade union capacity, fighting water privatization, promoting public services and raising awareness among CUPE members. Here are some of the ways our partners and allies took action to build a better world.

MIGRANT WORKERS IN CANADA

For years, migrant caregivers, migrant rights advocates and other allies have pressed the Canadian government to grant permanent residency to caregivers and other migrant workers. As part of this work, KAIROS supports the *Caregivers' Campaign for Status*.

Over the past year, the campaign has worked with migrant caregivers and advocates to call on the Canadian government to grant migrant workers and their families permanent residency upon arrival.

Canadian immigration policy has often discriminated by favouring groups of people from specific countries, or with certain income levels, to become permanent residents, while keeping other groups of people under temporary status.

In 2018, the federal government announced changes to its migrant caregiver program. This created panic among migrant caregivers working in child care, long-term care and elder care, and their employers. The changes would have meant migrant caregivers who had not worked continuously for 24 months by November 2019 would not qualify for permanent residency.

Migrant worker groups and their allies, including CUPE, mobilized against the new program and built a campaign. This coordinated advocacy led to the federal government announcing two new five-year pilot programs that give migrant caregivers a pathway to permanent residency.

The new programs provide occupation-specific work permits. This lets caregivers change jobs quickly and easily when needed, making them less vulnerable to abuse. In addition, family members will be able to

accompany caregivers through work permits for spouses and study permits for dependent children.

While the announcement only applies to caregivers, and they will still wait two years to receive permanent resident status, it is an important step. The government appears to be addressing the inherent power imbalance between migrant workers and their employers, a situation that is made worse by the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and its employer-specific work permits.

CENTRAL AMERICA

The Central American Women's Network in Solidarity with Maquila Workers, known as The Network, is a coalition of seven women's rights organizations in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras, with a focus on maquila workers' rights. The Network addresses the root causes of violations of sweatshop workers' rights, by working to change national and regional labour policies.

In June 2018, The Network organized a public forum in Honduras to look at what women maquila workers in Central America have achieved, and the challenges they still face. Member organizations shared research, including a Guatemalan study on workplace violence as an occupational risk factor and its implications for women's lives. A study from El Salvador looked at the



◀ DEMONSTRATING FOR MIGRANT RIGHTS, TORONTO



BUENAVENTURA STRIKE COMMITTEE
VISIT TO CUPE NATIONAL WITH
GLOBAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE AND
NATIONAL OFFICERS

seeking to turn public water systems into a profitable business.

The union has a committee to keep water public that works with community members on strategies to stop privatization. This committee is supporting a campaign that unites the union and local groups to protect the public water system in the community of Jamundi. The system here is under pressure to privatize from national and Japanese investors.

This past year, SINTRACUAVALLE also organized a regional forum to promote the right to water as a precondition for genuine peace. The union's prominent role in defending workers' rights and the right of universal access to water has led to ongoing threats against their leadership.

COLOMBIA — NOMADESC

In early 2019 the Association for Research and Social Action (NOMADESC) provided human rights monitoring and solidarity to Indigenous peoples who were taking collective action. Their mobilization was called the *Social Minga in Defence of Life, Territory, Democracy, Justice and Peace*. Thousands of Indigenous people from the Valle de Cauca region marched and took other actions to demand a meeting with Colombian President Ivan Duque.

socio-economic situation of a group of women workers and former maquila workers in the municipality of San Marcos. A study from Honduras examined the factors affecting the mental health of workers in garment manufacturing sweatshops in the Cortes area.

The Central American countries where The Network operates face increasingly corrupt and repressive governments, militarization of society, growing precarity of employment, and anti-worker legislation. Participants underscored the importance of unifying efforts to strengthen campaigns through social networks and street struggles, to ensure that human and labour rights are respected, and work-related illnesses are recognized by government authorities.

COLOMBIA — SINTRACUAVALLE

SINTRACUAVALLE, the union representing workers in the public water utility ACUAVALLE in the region of Valle de Cauca, has been promoting their grassroots campaign called the "Social plan to defend water

in public hands" in several communities. Large agricultural and commercial projects which privatize water sources for industrial use are threatening water supplies in some large municipalities. Private control of bulk water limits access for community residents.

SINTRACUAVALLE is committed to ensuring that water is not treated as a commodity and is available to everyone, regardless of ability to pay. The union works with communities outside large municipalities, supporting their ability to control and operate their own local water systems. These self-managed and not-for-profit systems operate on the principles of solidarity and democracy, enabling communities to promote small and medium-scale agriculture and food sovereignty.

SINTRACUAVALLE's water worker members are promoting this community plan to defend their public utility from privatization. The Colombian government's "Water for Prosperity" program promotes public-private partnerships, supported by private investors

The protestors were calling for the government to respect the 2016 peace accords and live up to its promises around human rights, development, and ending violence. To date, the government's response has been repression by state security forces. Dozens of people have been injured, and Indigenous protesters have had their shelters destroyed. NOMADESC is documenting the rights violations by filing complaints. The group is also coordinating international support for the community social mobilizations, known as *Minga*.

Since the 2017 demobilization of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), far-right paramilitary groups have taken over territories previously occupied by the rebels. These groups are believed largely responsible for targeting human rights defenders with threats, violent acts, and assassinations. There

have been 478 assassinations since peace accords were signed at the end of 2016. More than 200 social movement leaders were killed in Colombia between January 2018 and February 2019, mainly in the southwest area of the country.

In January 2019 a court in Cali convicted three retired military officers of planning to assassinate NOMADESC director Berenice Celeita, opposition senator Alexander López, and leaders of SINTRAEMCALI, the Cali municipal workers union that has steadfastly opposed privatization. The conviction and four-year prison sentence come after years of investigation, which finally proved that Colonel Julian Villate Leal and Majors Alfonso Abondano Mikan and Marco Fidel Rivera were behind the 2004 assassination plot. Villate Leal trained at the School of the Americas, a US army facility.

CUBA

In 2018 Cuban unions, including the National Union of Public Sector Workers (SNTAP) Havana local, organized worksite consultations on a proposed new constitution. Hundreds of thousands of people, including public sector workers and students, took part in the wide-ranging consultations. On February 24, 2019, the Cuban people approved a new constitution. The National Election Commission reported that 90.15 per cent of 8.7 million eligible voters participated, with 86.85 per cent voting in favour.

The new constitution, which enshrines free universal education and accessible public health care, is also expected to open up the economy to the private sector. The impact of ongoing US intervention in the region, including in neighbouring Venezuela, has forced the country to allow private



businesses to operate in the country for the first time in decades. Venezuela supplies much of Cuba's oil, and access has been limited because of the ongoing crisis in Venezuela. The US economic blockade of Cuba remains in force, and US President Donald Trump has announced new sanctions against the country. Some of the provisions in the new constitution try to mitigate this difficult situation.

HONDURAS

The Honduran Women's Collective (CODEMUH) does an enormous amount of organizing to stop workplace violence against women, in a country

with the second-highest rate of femicide in the Americas. CODEMUH is one of the few organizations in Honduras advocating for workers' health and safety, specifically focusing on women maquila workers who make clothes in sweatshops. They work to improve women's rights, with a focus on health and safety, defending basic labour rights, and advocating for women's right to a life free of violence.

In November 2018, CODEMUH organized a major demonstration in San Pedro Sula to protest that 96 per cent of the 322 femicide cases reported that year went unpunished. Their public campaigning has placed

them at odds with the political establishment, who have escalated violence against political opponents since fraudulent elections in November 2017. The post-election repression has been strongest in the region where CODEMUH operates, but the collective continues to focus on defending and improving women's rights by providing education and training, lobbying, and legal and medical assistance.

The violence after the election, and links between organized crime and the government of de facto President Juan Orlando Sanchez, have created unprecedented mass social upheaval. Since October 2018, two *Caravanas migrantes* have been walking through Central America and Mexico in an attempt to seek asylum in the United States. More than 10,000 Central Americans attempted to collectively migrate due to deteriorating economic and social conditions in 2018.

NICARAGUA

The current social and political conflict in Nicaragua has had a significant impact on the María Elena Cuadra Movement of Employed and Unemployed Women (MEC) and the communities it supports. MEC organizes to defend the labour and gender rights of women sweatshop workers.



◀ MEC LEADER SANDRA RAMOS AT CUPE NATIONAL CONVENTION



In April 2018, President Daniel Ortega's government reduced public social security and pension benefits, and increased employer and worker social security contributions. Ortega was responding to International Monetary Fund directives to cut spending on social security. These measures sparked large and sometimes violent demonstrations, which were suppressed with unprecedented levels of repression.

Armed groups set up roadblocks, and many main routes in the capital were closed for weeks. According to Amnesty International, between April and September, at least 322 people were killed in violent clashes, attacks on demonstrators, and assassinations. More than 700 people detained in relation to the protests remain in jail.

Thousands more have fled the country or are in hiding.

A National Dialogue was established in May 2018 to find a way out of the crisis, with participation from many sectors including government, business, students, universities, workers, campesinos, churches, and Indigenous and Afro-Nicaraguan communities. MEC leaders helped represent labour in the dialogue.

MEC leaders were appointed to the Verification and Security Commission, a body of opposition and government representatives to monitor roadblocks and other protests, investigate reports of clandestine prisons and visit hospitals and clinics to interview people injured in the conflict.

MEC has a high public profile as a critic of the government and an opposition representative in negotiations with the government. This has made the organization a target for repression by government security forces and pro-government paramilitary groups.

The situation has directly affected the women maquila workers MEC works to defend. Sweatshops in Nicaragua's free trade zones were shut down during the worst periods of the conflict, some of those arrested are children of workers linked to MEC, and travel between different communities became dangerous for weeks at a time.

The crisis left MEC unable to carry out most of their training and outreach activities. At the same time, demands on MEC's

mobile legal clinic increased. Clinic staff, who deal with labour violations and gender-based violence, worked to defend community members who had been arbitrarily detained and fought state actions that threatened MEC's legal status.

PHILIPPINES

At the beginning of 2019, President Duterte brought in tax reform that increased the price of commodities and transportation. Inflation has soared to 5.2 per cent. At the same time, overreliance on contract workers has continued. More and more workers in the public and private sectors are conducting protests and strikes.

The Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) has been campaigning for a monthly national minimum wage of 16,000 Philippine pesos (about \$410 CAD) for government workers, alongside a campaign to make government contract workers permanent. The public sector in the Philippines relies heavily on contract workers hired by private agencies. Contract workers are deprived of permanent status, lack benefits, and are further exploited by receiving lower wages than permanent workers.

Through lobbying and mass mobilization, COURAGE forced the government to shelve plans for mass layoffs of contract workers. The government



had announced the layoffs to prompt government agencies to review their labour force and identify which contract workers should become permanent. Current contract workers would only have been rehired if they worked for a private employment agency.

Ongoing pressure also forced a change in legislation to ensure contract workers are paid the same as government workers in equivalent positions. It is a partial but very important victory. In the process, COURAGE established relationships with a number of new unions in private agencies outside Metro Manila.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) is campaigning to improve the education sector, as well as calling for an end to martial law and military attacks on Indigenous peoples' schools in Mindanao, and for the rights and welfare of all workers. ACT has organized to become the biggest public sector

union in the Philippines and is currently campaigning for a salary increase in the House of Representatives. In 2019, ACT and their political representatives, the ACT Teachers Partylist, celebrated a major campaign win with the introduction of free post-secondary education. The next steps to ensure the policy is implemented fairly and equitably include eliminating ancillary fees and pushing for increased public funding for post-secondary institutions.

WORKING WITH OUR ALLIES

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

CUPE's international solidarity work is rooted in the knowledge that the struggle for economic and social justice has no borders. As active members of the global trade union federation Public Services International (PSI), we are united with 20 million public sector workers in 163 countries around the world. Through longstanding relationships with social movements, and our affiliation with PSI and other global and regional groups, we continue to build a more connected and powerful movement.

BUILDING UNION STRATEGIES TO BRING PUBLIC SERVICES BACK IN HOUSE

CUPE participated in an international union workshop on reversing privatization, also known as remunicipalization. More than 60 labour leaders, researchers, and organizers from every continent attended the PSI workshop in Geneva in December 2018.

Participants shared successes and setbacks in bringing public services back in house. CUPE shared the story of CUPE 500's ongoing work to contract in Winnipeg's solid waste services, including the local's recent success securing an in-house pilot project.



Returning privatized services to public ownership, management and operation is a complex process that varies by jurisdiction. Unions bring specific concerns about the working conditions of their members to campaigns.

While the workshop highlighted campaigns against privatization, it also provided space for strategic thinking about the future. Remunicipalization work can be an organizing and growth opportunity for unions. But labour needs to do more than be defensive, reacting to privatization. Unions also need to mobilize our members and the broader community for change that supports a strong public sector.

Workers can do this by building and participating in broad coalitions that influence the platforms of progressive political parties, by connecting with our members and all users of public services, and by sharing our research and experience about the benefits to the public, workers, and governments when services are fully public. Unions bring many strengths to this work, including long-term thinking, organizational stability, political networks, and legal expertise.

The workshop also underscored that Canadian unions can't be complacent. We draw inspiration from these stories and must continue to support our fellow workers.

The workshop will support the development of a PSI toolkit for unions to bring services back in house.

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF WORK AND ENDING VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

Workers from across the Americas met to strategize about ensuring the public sector provides good jobs now and in the future, free from violence and harassment. The PSI regional conference, "The Future of Work & Ending Violence and Harassment in the Public Service," took place in Santiago, Chile, in November 2018.

CUPE joined 90 trade unionists from Latin America, Canada and the Caribbean to discuss gender-based violence and develop a collective strategy to influence the new International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work. Canadian unions play an important role in the ILO's multi-year negotiation process that involves unions, employers and government representatives.

The conference also focused on the future of work in the context of technological change, precarious work, privatization and other global trends. Human rights were central. Union leaders from each major sector spoke



► PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL
RALLY, CHILE



of challenges and campaigns in their countries and across regions. They described how right-wing use of social media to manipulate elections and growing xenophobia are barriers to workers organizing for progressive change.

The conference had a strong gender analysis, and women were prominently represented as conference participants and speakers. This is consistent with the PSI constitution, which has gender parity language. Young leaders were also well represented and active participants.

Many of the stories highlighted that union leaders and human rights defenders are being murdered and injured. Leaders living in violent regimes spoke of resistance, direct action and social movement alliances. The same courage and solidarity were on display in a museum commemorating the “disappeared” under Chilean dictator

Augusto Pinochet in the 1970s and 80s. Some of the dictator’s friends and former advisors are back in power, while a racist, misogynist far-right government has taken control of neighbouring Brazil. Activists risk their lives in countries across the Americas – defending land, rights and public services from corporations that operate or even originate in Canada.

Participants discussed and approved declarations on the future of work and ending violence and harassment in the world of work in public services. They also took to the streets, joining union and community activists to protest pension fund-driven privatization and other neoliberal attacks in Chile. CUPE marched with trade unionists from across the continent who are fighting commercialization of water, health care, education and other public services in a powerful moment of solidarity and strength.

PUSHING FOR GLOBAL GENDER JUSTICE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Over 180 trade union women and labour rights activists from more than 42 countries joined the women’s movement in New York in March 2019 to fight for the rights of women and girls at the 63rd annual session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

CUPE participates in these negotiations every year. The 2019 session theme was particularly important, focusing on the critical role of social programs and strong public services in fighting inequality. It was very powerful to have a global gathering of women, and those who identify as women, from diverse social movements talking about how we can fight together for public services that are inclusive, accessible and available to everyone.



CUPE was part of the Canadian labour and PSI delegations. Discussions inside the UN and in parallel civil society sessions focused on the uneven impact of privatization on women; the need for inclusive public services for LGBTQ2+ people, women with disabilities and migrants; and the global campaigns for tax justice and to end gender-based violence.

Women from around the world spoke with passion about the need for strong public services, rather than privatization or development aid. It was a powerful counterbalance to governments and organizations with a conservative agenda in the negotiations. Public services are a source of decent work, and provide the support needed to transform the lives of so many women and girls, especially those who experience poverty, racism, ableism, and other forms of oppression. Creating space to share our often-marginalized experiences and our calls to action was of immeasurable value.

The global union statement to the UNCSW on behalf of 85 million women workers calls for public child care, and for social programs like maternity leave, unemployment benefits and public pensions to be designed to meet the needs of women, especially the most marginalized women. It also emphasizes the need for governments to uphold and advance labour rights and protections.

The week ended on an inspiring note when CUPE delegates and other union women walked out of the meetings to join striking New York City students demanding urgent action on climate change.

SHARING STRATEGIES TO DEFEND PUBLIC EDUCATION

CUPE participated in the 13th annual conference of the Trinational Coalition for the Defense of Public Education in Orizaba, Veracruz, Mexico. The continental gathering of education workers in Canada, the United States, and Mexico took place in November 2018.

Across North America, high quality, universally accessible public education is under pressure. Teachers, faculty and staff are facing cuts to public funding, privatization, and increasingly precarious employment. But workers and unions are fighting back, defending public education as a common good that benefits us all.

The conference focused on strategies to defend the right to education. CUPE shared how our union is tackling precarious work in the post-secondary sector, highlighting our recent research exposing the rise of precarity on campus.

Schools in deplorable conditions, teachers paying for resources out of their own pockets, teachers, faculty, and staff doing hours

of unpaid work, and the rise of short-term, temporary contracts were common themes in all three countries. Business interests use these conditions to push for greater privatization.

Participants also shared stories of successful fights against increases to classroom sizes, the spread of private schools, and top-down education reforms that don't protect the best interests of students.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As trade unionists we are confident the growing strength of workers around the world will lead to dignity at work and a just society. Solidarity takes many forms, starting with our delegations and Global Justice Fund projects. Our daily work also includes supporting global campaigns and actions, expressing our solidarity and concern through statements and letters, providing financial support, and holding the Canadian government accountable for its actions in other countries. Our voices and actions make a difference. Over the past year, we also worked in solidarity with diverse labour and social movements, including in Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Haiti, Iran, Israel, Mexico, Myanmar, Palestine, South Africa, the United States and Venezuela.

MOVING FORWARD



International solidarity is the antidote to fear. The courage of CUPE's partners, in particular over the past year, is inspiring. They have refused to be silenced. Instead, they continue to organize and resist in the face of growing

economic pressure and political repression that includes ongoing violence.

When faced with the violence of war and economic inequality, resistance movements spread and become stronger. More and more workers are fighting for their rights, and demanding justice and democracy. We all feel the consequences of economic policy rooted in unrestricted capitalism that puts profits ahead of people. Our struggle as workers is a shared global struggle.

International solidarity and worker-to-worker exchanges connect CUPE members with these creative and courageous struggles. We learn important lessons and make the links between what we are confronting at home and around the globe. We are helping build a more connected, coordinated and powerful international movement.

CUPE's Global Justice Fund is one way our union supports global movements for human rights, labour protection, peace and justice. Through the Global Justice Fund and our relationships with workers around the world, we support and engage with trade unions and social movements that are organizing the most oppressed and marginalized among us.

Global Justice Fund projects give CUPE members opportunities to build relationships with workers around the world. CUPE is proud to support projects where members can connect with, and learn from, activists opposing violence and war, defending land rights, and demanding decent jobs, strong public services, living wages, and safe workplaces.

CUPE stands united with workers around the world challenging privatization, poverty, austerity, corruption and war. And we will continue to challenge these same forces in Canada. Collective, coordinated resistance is the only way to achieve genuine justice and dignity.

If your local is interested in supporting the CUPE National Global Justice Fund and our union's international solidarity work, visit cupe.ca/global-justice or contact International Solidarity Officer Kelti Cameron at kcameron@cupe.ca.

**TOGETHER, LET'S KEEP
BUILDING A BETTER
WORLD.**





**CUPE National Global Justice
Committee members 2018-2019**

Keir Hiscock, Newfoundland
and Labrador
Janice Melanson, New Brunswick
Shawna Quinn, Prince Edward Island
Cheryl Burbidge, Nova Scotia
Royse Henderson, Quebec
Nathalie Garceau, Airline Division,
Quebec
Farid C. Partovi, Ontario
Sarah Pentlow, Cuso International
Connie Sorio, KAIROS
Diana Sarosi, Oxfam Canada
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Employees' Union
Steve Stewart, CoDevelopment
Canada
Denis Bolduc, National Executive
Board Liaison
Kelti Cameron, Staff Advisor

**Global Justice Fund supporters
March 2018 – April 2019**

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CUPE Saskatchewan
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CUPE Quebec
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CUPE Nova Scotia
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Hospital Employees' Union (HEU)
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