

# FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup> IS THE WORLD DAY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

## **SOLIDAR calls for a Just Transition towards social justice globally.**

'Just Transition' is a powerful concept that brings the social, climate and environmental justice agendas and their respective constituencies together. Ensuring a Just Transition means, among other things, addressing the social impact of climate and environmental policies or strategies, ensuring decent work for all, strengthening social protection systems, reversing the process of neoliberal privatisations and capital accumulation, taxing wealth more effectively and leaving austerity measures behind, as well as fostering sustainability transitions in partners countries around the world.

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, SOLIDAR members and partners believe that respect for human rights, climate action, equity, social justice, and peace are interconnected issues. Therefore, on the World Day for Social Justice (WDSJ), we reiterate their call to the EU to:

### **1 Promoting and Enabling Space for Civil Society Organisations and Countering Shrinking Space.**

Independent CSOs and Trade Unions are the backbone of sound democracies and indispensable actors to design and monitor public policies for a just transition so that they are accurate, meet the needs and rights of people and increase public acceptance. Yet, all around the world, from El Salvador to Palestine, from Hong Kong to Mozambique, the examples of measures that reduce the space for CSOs to operate, or even to exist, multiply. Despite this shrinking civic space, human rights activists, trade unions, and civil society have continued their efforts to push for fundamental improvements to their rights and freedoms. From workers to feminist activists to journalists, many are facing similar struggles in fighting for their rights as they experience repression and crackdowns from the state on the one hand and the effects of the ongoing climate and environmental emergency on the other.

Through its external actions, the EU should foster and support a just transition and hold its partners countries accountable for rights' abuses and curtails to fundamental freedoms within their countries. It should highlight the most pressing human rights concerns and their obligations under international treaties during dialogues with states in the region.

The EU shall keep building the capacity of CSOs in the region, especially grassroots NGOs, to ensure ►

**ADVANCING  
JUST TRANSITION  
WORLDWIDE**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY  
20 February 2023**



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they have access to adequate trainings and funding. Moreover, it is necessary to ensure a meaningful dialogue channel for CSOs working on the ground to shed light on the most pressing rights issues.

## 2 Put the Health of the Planet and the People Before Profit.

The EU at the forefront must do its fair share of climate action and contribute to a fully inclusive Just Transition also in partner countries.

With only seven years left to the SDGs deadline, the EU must increase its efforts and guarantee **due diligence and stop offshoring unsustainable production.**

Fully inclusive and appropriately funded international cooperation and full support and engagement for multilateral solutions are fundamental tools to support these transition processes globally.

It is fundamental that those groups that are the most adversely impacted by climate change, environmental degradation and unsustainable production and consumption patterns, such as women, youth, workers, indigenous people and migrants, are included in the discussion on climate.

A fair global taxation system and debt cancellation in the framework of international mechanisms is paramount for developing countries to create the **fiscal space** they need to invest in their Just Transition including **public services and universal Social Protection.** Indeed, social protection mechanisms are proven to improve and support households' adaptation to climate change through cash or in-kind transfers, social insurance and labour market programmes (such as unemployment benefits).

**Time for the EU to walk the talk in ensuring a Just Transition everywhere, leaving no one behind.**



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A presentation of the OIS programme can be found at the following link:  
<https://prezi.com/view/9zuxuivoqUSD3w1pGJSz/>