



Activities of tie Global

Brazil

In Brazil tie global acts mainly through VidaViva Brazil. VidaViva Brazil is an international health project of the tie network to improve working and living conditions of workers and to support democratic labor rights. The objective of VidaViva is to enable and strengthen workers and their unions in their efforts for concrete workplace intervention in order to achieve better working conditions, including the ability to detect health injuries, to relate them to working conditions and to develop action plans and lobby for change. The project operates through unions and local union trainers that act as local organisers and multipliers at the work places. Till now about 130 unions of the national union federation CUT and about 20.000 workers of the states of Pernambuco, Bahia, Alagoas, Espirito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Goias, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul from various sectors participated in various project activities since 2004. Since the 80s tie global also supports the exchange of workers networks like the one of Daimler with Germany or Akzo Nobel within VidaViva. tie global also cooperates with confederations like CNM-CUT, FENADADOS and CONTAC.



Mozambique

tie global's links with Mozambique were developed through a joint network between VidaViva Brazil and the union Federations of Mozambique OTM, CONSILMO and the independent unions SNJ and SNP. Since 2005 about 70 local union activists have been trained with various tools of the project and implement participative action research at the workplaces. The project is active in the region of Maputo and the Centre with the provinces of Gaza, Tete, Manica, Sofala and Zambezia.



Mexico

Since the 90s tie global has been active in Mexico, supporting and strengthening various independent unions and worker centres in order to defend workers' rights. Today, tie global acts mainly through the ExChains and VidaViva projects. VidaViva Mexico is comprised of a nation-wide network of worker and community centres, as well as local unions active in the telecommunications, food processing, garment, and maquiladora sectors, seeking to apply a holistic approach towards health and safety organizing in order to improve working and living conditions for all workers.



United States

For close to two decades, tie has worked closely with union activists across North America. Currently, tie works to ensure a strong international focus among the many networks of rank-and-file union reform activists and worker centres that come together around Labor Notes, one of the longest standing grassroots directed labor projects aimed at building networks of and strengthening union activists and leaders. In the US South tie supports efforts for freedom of association. States in the US South regularly deny collective bargaining rights to public sector workers, and together with Black Workes for Justice, tie actively supports the unionisation of state workers in West Virginia and North Carolina. A key role of tie is to support leadership development and outreach to immigrant worker organizations and worker centres as an organic part of the labor movement.

Southern Africa

Since the early 90s tie global supports union activities all over southern Africa by enabling exchanges and trainings of activists within the region or within a specific company. Since 2007 activities of VidaViva have been implemented in South Africa in collaboration with local education, research and trade union organisations.

Senegal

Since 2000 tie has developed an international railway workers network, that involves union activists and civil society from Europe, and West and North African countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali, Morocco, Niger and Senegal. The objective of the network is to cooperate and develop strategies against privatisation of the railway in Western Africa. Additionally tie has supported a women's network consisting of union activists of all trade union federations of Senegal. The objective of this network is to strengthen women within their unions and enable a space for women's training and organising. Since 2004 tie has organised various educational workshops for women workers on leadership building, communication and health.

Turkey

In Turkey tie works with unions and union activists from the metal, textile and commercial sector. The goal of our work is to strengthen workers organising efforts and support international cooperation by which we can build pressure on companies to guarantee workers rights. tie Turkey cooperates with German unions on international issues of organising and is also part of the ExChains project, trying to organise textile factories in Turkey.

Bangladesh

In Bangladesh the active member of tie global is the National Garment Workers Federation. The union was founded in 1984 and organizes garment workers. We fight to realise garment workers trade union rights and human rights, to ensure fair wages and better working conditions, to establish equal rights-wage-dignity for women workers. The NGWF is an active actor within the ExChains project and cooperates within the project with other unions in Asia as in Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and New Zealand.



Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka tie global has a long-standing and close cooperation with the Free Trade Zones & General Services Employees Union. The union has a long record of successful organising within the Free Trade Zones. The union is part of the ExChains project to organise workers along the textile, garment and retail chain and together with the NGWF coordinates the activities of the project in Asia.



Germany

Since the early 80s tie global acts in Germany on various levels:

- Publication and research on social movements, work organisation and workers struggles
- Various education programs for workers, workers representatives, and works council members
- Development of new organising strategies
- Support of national and international workers networks in companies, industries, and sectors like auto, chemical and retail and in the public sector in Germany, France and Western Africa.
- International exchange program of activists in Germany and China

tie Germany is active within the international health network VidaViva, training works council members and implementing participative action research at the workplace. Another key area of work is the project ExChains, solidarity along the value added chain between workers from retailers in Germany and their suppliers in Asia.



Nigeria

Since 2001, tie global has assisted the Nigeria Labour Congress in building a national trade union activist education program. The program consists of national schools to develop new organising strategies and link the country to other unions such as in Ghana, Sierra Leone and South Africa. Since 2008 VidaViva has been active in Nigeria. Today, tie global supports train-the-trainer seminars to multiply its impact at local work places.



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A Global Workers Network

self-organization

fight against racism, and sexism and all forms of oppression

global solidarity

social transformation

About tie global

tie global is a global grassroots network of workers active in workplaces and communities. It includes both union and non-union activists in the formal and informal sectors. tie aims to encourage, organize, and facilitate international consciousness and cooperation among workers and their organizations in various parts of the world.

tie global was founded in 1978 through the initiative of union activists from various countries. Today, tie includes activists in every continent and has active groups in Bangladesh, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey and the USA. From the beginning tie has supported workers initiatives that see themselves as part of a broader movement for social change committed to fight for a life without exploitation and exclusion – a life grounded in the dignity of human beings and their freedom for self determination.

tie global supports an international exchange of information and experiences among worker activists, women's and human rights groups. Therefore tie organizes local, regional, and international conferences, exchange visits, and education seminars on a regular basis. tie is a politically independent organization that is rooted both in the global South and North.

Principles and Actions

→ **Global Solidarity:** Neo-liberal policies, changes in mass production, globalization of work, as well as the variety of social, political, and economic mechanisms used to divide, exploit, and exclude workers demand continuous evaluation and development of strategies linking local, regional, and international unions, and workers in non-union facilities of the same sector. It is critical that workers, both employed and unemployed, regardless of migratory status, develop these strategies in the context of defending their own interests and responding more effectively to new challenges.

→ **Self-organization:** We see solidarity and self-organization as important instruments for fighting back, we understand they also enable workers to experience the empowerment of their own world in the here-and-now and thus the world we want to build. For us solidarity and self-organization mean mutual help between equal partners, brothers and sisters explicitly aiming to overcome existing divisions. tie has a proven track record of facilitating both the exchange and implementation of fight-back strategies learned through international exchange projects and programs by movement activists.

→ **Fight against racism, and sexism , and all forms of oppression:** tie global is firmly committed to dealing with issues of racism and sexism, and all other forms and mechanisms of exclusion.

→ **Building global workers networks:** tie global actively supports and participates in building transnational networks among workers in specific sectors, and among workers employed by the same transnational corporations or their suppliers in different countries. Another kind of networking is the ExChains project, a network to link and organize workers along the global textile, garment retail subcontracting chain. Here tie supports global campaigns on workers rights and organizing efforts.

→ **Building democratic workers' organizations:** For workers worldwide "globalization" has meant not only decreased wages, deteriorating working and living conditions, but also a decrease in democratic rights. As the power of transnational corporations has increased, companies, especially in the global south, have regularly disregarded social, labor, or collective agreements and regulations. tie supports both the building of democratic workers organizations that genuinely represent the interests of workers, as well as new forms of organizing. For example, in Sri Lanka tie together with other organizations has participated in the formation of the Free Trade Zones and General Services Employees Union in free trade zones of that country. In Bangladesh tie together with the National Garment Workers Federation supports the organizing of garment workers.