



Dear Colleagues,

The 29th October is the Global Day of Action for Investment and Decent Work in Care. This day consists of a series of online meetings and an action and is organized by the ITUC, PSI, ESPU and the other global union federations.

Social services have been a profit space for private companies because it's been neglected by European and national policies for too long. While people who needed social services became commodities for these companies, care workers exposed union-busting practices, poor working conditions and low pay. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing problems such as lack of funding, inadequate staffing levels, increasing psychosocial risks, and privatisation. Due to these reasons, 421,000 care workers have left their profession between 2019 and 2021.

Actions:

EPSU will organise actions in the week of the 25-29th October, along with the actions of PSI and ITUC. Please find the calendar here:

Monday 25 October	Tuesday 26 October	Wednesday 27 October	Tuesday 28 October	Friday 29 October
<p>PSI event <u>16:00–17:30 CET</u> Webinar: “Unions Defending Care Workers in COVID-19 Times” *Interpretation in EN/ES/FR *Register HERE</p>	<p>EPSU report <u>10:00 CET</u> Launch of EPSU report: “Resilience in Long Term Care: Early Lessons Learned from the Pandemic”</p>		<p>PSI event <u>16:00–18:00 CET</u> Webinar: “The social organisation of care. A global snapshot of main challenges and potential alternatives for a feminist trade union agenda” *Interpretation in EN/ES/FR *Register HERE</p>	<p>EPSU action <u>10:00 CET</u> EPSU will organise a symbolic action outside the European Commission – using crocs to symbolise the vast number of care workers leaving the sector due to poor conditions</p>

			<p>EPSU meetings with MEPs <u>10:00–17:00 CET</u></p> <p>EPSU will organise meetings with Members of the European Parliament and European care workers to present our demands in relation to social care</p>	<p>Joint event <u>16:00–18:00 CET</u> “Investment and Decent Work in Care.”</p>
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Materials:

You can access EPSU materials [HERE](#)

The link contains Global Day of Action logo and images for your social media. Also please find the editable version in PDF format.

- Tag: **@epsunions**
- Hashtags: **#CAREday21 • #InvestInCare • #MakeCarePublic**

EPSU social media accounts will start to share these materials from 25th October, Monday.

We encourage you to record small video clips of care workers on their working conditions, feelings, struggles, success of trade unions (...) Please find Irish affiliate SIPTU’s video as a great example: <https://youtu.be/GSbmol1GWZI>

Campaign:

The EPSU report **Resilience in Long Term Care: early lessons learned from the pandemic** includes a number of key recommendations. Those which we will put forward on the Global Day of Action are:

1. Increase the funding of and investment in public services in general to guarantee accessible and quality care provision and to realise the right to care
2. Increase wages and improve working conditions by ensuring, amongst other things, adequate needs-based staffing levels
3. Improve occupational health and safety for care workers by, amongst other things, drawing more attention to their needs in the next EU OSH strategy and developing a designated directive on Psychosocial Risks and Stress
4. Take an integrated approach to social services with the focus on delivery of quality services throughout the life cycle, and special attention to child, disabled, vulnerable and elderly care
5. Recognise COVID-19 as an occupational disease and increase awareness of long-covid
6. Strengthen collective bargaining and social dialogue in social services
7. Investigate the failures of long-term care services and hold decision makers to account. In the EU we want an inquiry committee, and we support the demands of unions for national inquiries
8. Reverse the growing trend of privatisation of care services and investigate profit making in long-term care

Please also check the [joint statement of Global Union Federations](#)

We urge you to join our actions on the Global Day of Action on Care by:

- **From 25th October** - Sharing [EPSUs social media materials](#)
- **From 25th October** -Joining PSI and ITUC events online
- **On 26th October** - Sharing the report: Resilience in Long Term Care: early lessons learned from the pandemic on your websites and on social media (the report and a one-page summary will be available on 22th October). Also, several translations of the summary and social media materials will be provided by EPSU.
- **On 29th October** - Sharing pictures and livestreams from our symbolic action
- **On 29th October** - Sharing articles published in Brussels Times and Social Europe

In Solidarity

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Goudriaan', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary