

LO Oslo

Message of Solidarity.

The Federation of Labour in Oslo (LO Oslo) is sending this message of solidarity to our Trade Union Comrades in the Ectun , many of you in the countries worst affected by the Coronavirus. Our thoughts and heartfelt best wishes go out to your members and retirees.

LO Oslo recognises that we are facing the most significant global health crisis in memory, and we know that our members and their families, and all working men and women, are worried, and unsure of what tomorrow will bring, and they fear hardships and difficult challenges in times to come.

LO Oslo is calling for global solidarity. There's no easy way out of this situation. We all have members who are on the front line of the health impacts, in care for the elderly, in hospitals, shops, schools, law enforcement, suppliers, public transport, infrastructure and communications and many, many other sectors of the working life. They are the very people who are most exposed to the virus, and the ones who are most crucial to fight the disease, Covid-19. In normal times, they are also the ones who, through their daily work, create real value in society.

As Trade Unions we have to work tirelessly to put our members first, to protect their health and, not the least, their financial security. As societies close down, and companies with it, we face numerous workers being laid off and unemployed. We will work to help and safeguard our members and their families.

We recognise that we are in an unprecedented situation and that normal rules no longer apply. We have to trust that our governments do everything they can to limit the virus spreading and thus affecting the population.

LO Oslo demands that governments must act to put in place urgent economic stimulus plans and workplace measures to protect the health and the income of workers and their families and stabilise the real economy. We are calling upon governments to provide income support for all workers, including those who are temporarily employed, part-time, migrant, non-resident and precarious workers.

This is a time when there is a need for action and cooperation between governments, employers and unions. The countries' responses cannot single-handedly address the global scale and complexity of this crisis. Coordinated, decisive and innovative policy action is needed from the world leaders and governments.

Our hearts go out to all who have lost their dear ones to COVID-19. But by managing the aftermath of the crisis well, we will honour their memory by steering the recovery toward a more fair, inclusive and sustainable path.

LO Oslo want to emphasise the role of collective bargaining in protecting workers' salaries and rights. We must work to make sure that when this extreme situation is over, our members will be rewarded according to their efforts and courage, and not

be the ones paying for the measures put in place and money given to various relief packages during the crisis.

LO Oslo appeal to the global Trade Union movement to work together in these very difficult times.

We face this together and LO Oslo wish to assure you that we stand with you in solidarity and unity.

This year we will not be able to arrange our traditional May 1st meetings and parades in Norway as Norway is also closing down. But it is more important than ever to show unity and solidarity on Labour Day. Consequently, several local Federations and Trade Unions in Norway have joined together to create a united virtual May 1st Celebration all over the country. From 20th April a unique web-page will be in function. The Trade Unions can post pictures of their banner and slogans. People will join the virtual parade by choosing their union and their preferred slogan. Video recordings of the speeches and appeals that would have been presented will be recorded and posted. A Facebook page has already been created <https://www.facebook.com/1mai2020/> which will be used to invite people to join the virtual celebrations. The various events will start appearing in the morning of May 1st, and will be continued over the course of the day.

We have to be inventive. A special situation requires special measures. We will prevail!

In Solidarity

Ingunn Gjerstad
President
Oslo Federation of Labour (LO Oslo)