



# 2020 Workers' Capital Virtual Conference

## November 16-19, 2020

[\(Click here to register\)](#)

*Last updated: November 9<sup>th</sup> 2020*

The 2020 Worker's Capital Conference will be held virtually from November 16-19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The conference is the annual gathering of global trade unions and worker nominated pension fund trustees. It is organized by the Global Unions Committee on Workers' Capital (CWC), a joint initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and the Global Unions Federation (GUFs).

*Please note that sessions will be recorded and made available to registrants (exceptions are identified with an asterisk\* on day 4). Simultaneous Spanish interpretation will be available on day 1 and day 3 of the conference.*

## AGENDA

| DAY 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>MONDAY November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b><br>8:00–10:00 Pacific Time<br>11:00–13:00 Eastern Standard Time<br>17:00–19:00 Central European Time ( <b>anchor time</b> )<br>Tuesday Nov 17 @ 3:00–5:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Time                                                                                                                                                    |                |
| <b>Conference opening</b><br>Tuur Elzinga, Vice-President and International Secretary of the Dutch Confederation of Trade Unions (FNV), Chair of the CWC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>15 mins</b> |
| <b>Session 1: How do asset managers view and incorporate worker-backed evidence in public equities?</b><br>Asset managers resort to increasingly sophisticated systems to evaluate the ESG performance of companies. Trade unions can be an important source of information on labour rights and can supplement ratings. Asset managers can promote responsible labour practices when they | <b>75 mins</b> |



engage with companies, vote proxies and feed into policy consultations. This session will evaluate current practice on how asset managers incorporate trade union and worker provided information in investment stewardship activities.

Moderator:

- Janet Williamson, The TUC (UK)

Speakers:

- Rachit Gupta, Aviva Investors (UK)
- Anna Pot, APG (Netherlands)
- Aaron Brenner, UFCW (USA)
- Rainald Thannisch, DGB (Germany)

30 mins

### **Campaign spotlight series**

Participant-led content. Two organizations will be given the floor for 15 minutes each to discuss a campaign or initiative that they are spearheading.

#### **Spotlight I: The urgent need for activating workers' capital in nursing homes**

COVID-19 brutally struck nursing homes around the world, exposing underlying crises of persistent underfunding and over-financialization, alongside chronic understaffing and dismal working conditions for the workforce of predominantly low-paid women, often migrant workers or people of colour. This campaign spotlight will highlight the urgent need for workers' capital to act to address the immediate and long-term needs for the sector and society, including to enable workers to organise into unions. It aims to kickstart discussion amongst conference participants about how we can achieve this.

Speakers:

- Adrian Durtschi, Head of UNICARE (Switzerland)
- Lisa Nathan, Investor Engagement Advisor (UK)

#### **Spotlight II: Campaigns for democratic capital and worker voice**

The world's largest asset managers and banks - BlackRock, Legal & General, or Deutsche Bank- all cast votes on shares bought with other people's money and yet they fail to follow the preferences of the real investors in capital. These asset managers are all unelected and unaccountable. This has prompted a concerted effort in politics to require asset managers and banks to follow voting instructions on shares from elected pension fund and other trustees, and to be banned from voting otherwise to stop conflicts of interest. This talk will summarise political campaigns, notably from Switzerland in 2013, the Democratic2020



presidential campaigns, and proposals in the EU and UK, to win a more accountable economy.

Speakers:

- Dr. Ewan McGaughey, King's College (UK)

## DAY 2

**TUESDAY November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

14:00–16:00 Pacific Time

17:00–19:00 Eastern Standard Time (**anchor time**)

23:00–1:00 Central European Time

Wednesday Nov 18 @ 9:00–11:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Time

**90 mins**

### **Session 2: Racial justice and the stewardship of workers' capital**

The debates on systemic racism and racial discrimination stemming from the Black Lives Matter Movement have cast a new light on long standing racial justice problems. In the US companies are facing massive mobilisations asking them to end racial discrimination. In Australia, the recent resignation of the Rio Tinto CEO over the destruction of a sacred Indigenous site suggests that “business as usual” approaches are no longer acceptable. In South Africa, the Black population continue to fight against the structures that impede their economic freedom. This session will provide a global panorama of the fight for racial justice in the context of the global financial system that is deeply laced with inequalities. The panel of speakers will share their perspectives on systemic racism, then provide examples of workers' capital being mobilised to advance racial justice and meaningful economic participation.

Opening remarks:

- Liz Shuler, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO (USA), vice-chair of the CWC

Moderator:

- Shannon Rohan, SHARE/CCSN (Canada)

Speakers:

- Renaye Manley, Service Employees International Union (USA)
- Kara Keys, CBUS, AIST (Australia)
- Ngoako Matsha, National Union of Mineworkers (South Africa)
- US healthcare sector worker (USA)



30 mins

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#### **Spotlight III: The accelerating misalignment between workers, pensions, and private equity asset managers**

The private equity asset management business is thriving as the public sector faces a crisis. It is estimated that client allocations to alternatives will climb to 60 percent from the current 25 percent. Yet the labor movement continues to struggle to close the yawning misalignment between private equity and public funds and their beneficiaries. This session will discuss how investors are trying to close the gap with RCPs and other initiatives around alignment, transparency, and governance.

#### Speakers

- Dana Wise, Unite Here (USA)

## DAY 3

### WEDNESDAY November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

2:00–4:00 Eastern Standard Time

8:00–10:00 Central European Time

18:00–20:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Time (**anchor time**)

Tuesday Nov 17 @ 23:00–1:00 Pacific Time

90 mins

#### **Session 3: Tools and examples to hold asset managers accountable on social issues**

Despite the growth story of the responsible investment movement, ample concerns remain with policies and practices of asset managers as they relate to workers' rights. Pension fund are increasingly disposed to holding their asset managers accountable on ESG issues. This session will review some recent practices and examples of asset manager accountability, including watchlists or joint client letters.

#### Opening remarks:

- Paddy Crumlin, President of the ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation), Co-Chair of the CWC



Moderator:

- Lisa Nathan, UNI Global Union (Switzerland)

Speakers:

- Ole Buhl, ATP (Denmark)
- Lisa Marty & Bill Watson, First Super (Australia)
- Paddy Crumlin, ITF, Maritime Super & MUA (Australia)
- Doug Prouty, Trustee, Maryland State Retirement and Pension System and Vice President, Maryland State Education Association (USA)

30 mins

### Campaign spotlight series

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#### **Spotlight IV: The Cleaning Accountability Framework (CAF)**

In Australia, the Cleaning Accountability Framework has the objective to end exploitation and to improve working conditions in property services using a whole of supply chain approach. This session will present the CAF's rights-based framework for asset managers and their certification model to drive a culture of accountability throughout the supply chain. Starting at the point of procurement, to independent verification and compliance enforcement throughout the lifetime of certification, the CAF meaningfully engages with workers to empower cleaners and correct issues that are raised.

Speakers

- Poonam Datar, CEO, Cleaning Accountability Framework (Australia)

8:00–9:00 Pacific Time

11:00–12:00 Eastern Standard Time (**anchor time**)

17:00–18:00 Central European Time

Thursday Nov 19 @ 3:00–4:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Time

60 mins

### **Keynote Address: Leo E. Strine, Jr (Former Chief Justice, Delaware Supreme Court)**

Leo Strine served as the Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court in the United States from 2014 to 2019. Since an overwhelming number of companies are incorporated in the state Delaware, Strine became one of the most influential judges in corporate America. He has long argued for companies to focus more on their workers and has become a respected commentator on the debate around stakeholder capitalism.



## DAY 4

### THURSDAY November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

8:00–9:00 Pacific Time

11:00–12:00 Eastern Standard Time

17:00–18:00 Central European Time (**anchor time**)

Friday Nov 20 @ 3:00–4:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Time

10 mins

#### Closing remarks

Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation)

50 mins

#### **Session 4\*:** Strategic brainstorming session on 2020-2021 CWC priorities (1/2)

This strategic brainstorm session is meant to facilitate participation from a European/ North American audience. The interactive session will be an opportunity for participants to share their views on priorities for the 2020-2021 CWC workplan. What does a worker-centric agenda look like in the new global context? Discussion will be facilitated using a mix of discussion groups and open-ended discussion.

14:00–15:00 Pacific Time

17:00–18:00 Eastern Standard Time

23:00–24:00 Central European Time

Friday Nov 20 @ 9:00–10:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Time (**anchor time**)

50 mins

#### **Session 5\*:** Strategic brainstorming session on 2020-2021 CWC priorities (2/2)

This second strategic brainstorm session is meant to facilitate participation from an Australian/ North American audience. The interactive session will be an opportunity for participants to share their views on priorities for the 2020-2021 CWC workplan. What does a worker-centric agenda look like in the new global context? Discussion will be facilitated using a mix of discussion groups and open-ended discussion.