



São Paulo  
August 25, 2025

## **Fighting back: Frontline workers must live and work in dignity**

Public Services International (PSI), founded in 1907, is a global union federation representing more than 20 million workers, represented by 700 affiliated entities in 163 countries. PSI supports the national struggles of our affiliates and takes these struggles into international institutions, while providing support and solidarity, building a solid and united network to achieve quality public services, trade union rights, gender equality, equity in employment, public alternatives to privatization, social justice in the workplace, poverty reduction, and public debt relief.

Public Services International (PSI) stands firmly with firefighters and ambulance workers in Sint Maarten as you take necessary action to have your grievances addressed as a **matter of urgency**. When disaster strikes, you are the ones who run towards the danger. Your departments must be well-funded and well-equipped and there must be quality training, re-training and high quality conditions of work.

You are the ones who we all rely on when disaster strikes. Ambulance workers, fire fighters and other first responders provide the services that we all need when there is an emergency in a family, in a neighbourhood or in the entire country. You also provide valuable services at festivals, sporting events and especially now during the hurricane season.

In 2018, through WICSU-PSU you shared your experiences as public emergency service workers to help PSI contribute to the update of the [\*\*ILO Guidelines on Decent Work in Public Emergency Services\*\*](#).

We will continue to work with you and other members in WICSU-PSU to ensure that you and your work colleagues:

- are **not exposed to unnecessary health and safety risks** while performing your jobs of saving lives and protecting property;
- have **adequate staffing levels** and are properly equipped and trained to provide the protections that communities need. A well-trained fulltime first-responder workforce is essential to effective disaster response;
- have **quality safety equipment, tools and supplies** so that workers can do their jobs safely and effectively;
- are treated with **dignity and respect**.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is an ILO Member State and it has an obligation to promote and to realise the ILO [Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work](#). There is also an obligation regarding the principles of the [European Social Charter](#).

Public Emergency Services workers serve under difficult and extreme conditions to save lives and protect property. They require increased coordination, preparedness, protection and appropriate technology.

PSI will continue to monitor developments in Sint Maarten. Together we stand in solidarity with you as you fight for that core belief: **People over Profit**.

In solidarity,



Regional Secretary  
Public Service International