



**PUBLIC SERVICES  
INTERNATIONAL**

# PSI's Regional Programme of Action for the Americas for 2020\*

1. **National tax reforms** | Identify two or three countries where national campaigns for progressive tax reforms and combat regressive proposals, based on a document prepared by PSI in 2019, could be organized. Campaigns should include clearly defined priorities for the implementation of progressive reforms. Use the issue of the pandemic and economic recovery to gain support for the fight for tax reform.
2. **Tax exemptions** | PSI will organize a study on tax exemptions and subsidies that are offered by governments to transnational corporations, denouncing the financial loss that this represents and the absence of benefits for the population. Trade unions should develop good contributions on this issue in the context of Covid-19.
3. **Private arbitration tribunals** | Publish an article that shows how ISDS mechanisms reduce the autonomy of the national judiciaries, which are replaced by private international courts, usually pro-business and anti-state. Organize specific actions to oppose these courts together with the workers of the Judicial

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\* This is not the complete PSI Regional Programme of Action for the Americas that was approved at IAMRECON 2019. This document only includes priority items 2020. It is still a bold plan. Remaining items present in the complete Regional Programme will be prioritized in 2021-2024.

Branch and the CLT-PJ (Latin American Confederation of Judicial Workers) specific actions to oppose these courts.

4. **Regional platform against TNCs** | Continue supporting the two coalitions that PSI is part of in the region: OWINFS, which is global and operates in English, and the Platform 'Latin America is Better without FTAs, in which unions, NGOs, academics, etc. Encouraging more affiliates to participate in both of these coalitions.
5. **Legislative work** | PSI will carry out a study that demonstrates the loss of autonomy of national and local legislators when free trade agreements are signed. This study will be used to insert into the legislative debate to question FTAs, acting in conjunction with CONTLAC (Confederation of Legislative Workers of Latin America and the Caribbean).
6. **Digital Economy** | Organize seminars on the digital economy, its impacts in the region and specifically for public sector workers, particularly in the face of the growth of telework.
7. **Gendered Violence and harassment in the world of Work** | Organize webinars and meetings between PSI union leaders on gender issues in the context of the pandemic. Important themes include domestic violence which has become mixed with workplace violence as teleworking has rapidly increased, home care issues and others. These discussions should also lead to an exchange of good practices. PSI will organize three global seminars on gender in the coming period. These seminars will be widely publicized in the region. Additionally, PSI Interamerica will organize a seminar on Tax Justice and Gender connected to IAMREC in October.
8. **Young workers** | Develop the Regional Young Workers' Committee by seeking to include representatives from Canada and the USA. Maintain the practice of prioritizing the participation of young workers in the virtual training processes organized by PSI. Hold at least two meetings of the Committee, to discuss themes of interest to the Committee and the continuity of the Project supported by DGB in its next cycle, 2021-2023.
9. **LGBTQ+ workers** | Develop the Regional LGBTQ+ Committee by seeking to include representatives from Canada and the USA. Hold at least two virtual meetings of the Committee, and if possible one in person meeting to discuss themes of interest to the committee and the continuity of the Project supported by DGB in its next cycle, 2021-2023.
10. **Combating racism** | Develop the Regional Committee to combat racism by seeking to include representatives from Canada and the USA. Hold at least two virtual meetings of the Committee, and if possible one in person meeting to discuss themes of interest to the committee and the continuity of the Project supported by DGB in its next cycle, 2021-2023.

11. **Migrants and refugees** | PSI Interamerica will support and advocate that quality public services are always accessible to migrants and refugees, whether documented or not, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic.
12. **Workers with disabilities** | Disseminate standards and agreements from this area and map the trade unions that have experience and/or work with this group of people.
13. **Trade union rights** | Identify good practices in social dialogue in the face of the pandemic in the region, where trade unions are present in Committees to Combat the Crisis, showing the results of this type of participation. In turn, compare with countries where salary cuts, withdrawal of rights and other anti-union measures are proposed.
14. **IACHR** | Disseminate the original study published by PSI on how to file complaints with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Standards Committee of the International Labour Organization (ILO).
15. **Communication** | PSI Interamerica will improve the direct flow of information with the communication departments of affiliated organizations in order to be able to more quickly share local struggles that need regional support and strengthen the connections between local and global struggles.

## **TWO ADDITIONAL THEMES THAT WERE INCLUDED AT THE VIRTUAL IAMREC MEETING**

1. **Covid-19** | prepare four papers on central global issues for PSI, showing how these impact actions against the pandemic:
  - **Covid and FTAs**: How the free trade agreements hinder the urgent action of governments, particularly because of the presence of patent issues, clauses on government procurement, the physical presence of companies, digital trade and other topics.
  - **Covid and Tax Justice**: Exposing the losses represented by the fact that TNCs do not pay taxes while highlighting what could be done with additional resources in the face of the pandemic. Expose how these companies evade taxes despite the crisis and that they receive public resources.
  - **Covid and ISDS**: Highlight the possible consequences that countries signing investment protection agreements will have due to their decisions in the areas of public health and social protection. Denounce these agreements.

- **Covid and Quality Public Services:** Make clear the consequences of the neoliberal measures implemented in the region for the fight against the pandemic. Reaffirm how Quality Public Services are essential for humanity, particularly for saving lives.
2. **Climate Change** | Develop two seminars on the subject, relating environmental issues to the current situation in which we live, seeking to train and sensitize more union leaders. Seek to strengthen PSI's network in Latin America in this process. A WhatsApp group that operates in Spanish has already been established. Evaluate the interest in creating an English-speaking group. Constitute a regional group of leaders to coordinate PSI's climate change work in the Americas. At the same time, verify how to use the global policy that PSI is preparing on the subject to promote training.

**AREAS OF WORK ESTABLISHED BY THE REGIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE**

- **Strategy:**
  - a) It is time to revive and radicalize OURSELVES, to raise the gender perspective in the context of and in response to the Emergency response as a function of the "New Normal" that COVID19 presents to the world, managing to take the WOC agenda up again at a global level and articulate ourselves with the global policy that PSI has proposed to respond to the crisis.
  - b) To make this an opportunity for transformations that imply a new world order/new normality with equality.
- **Women's work:**
  - a) Scope: Reproductive work (care) and productive work. Work in frontline sectors in the day-to-day response to the pandemic with predominantly female labour and essential public service sectors.
  - b) Conditions: Extension of the working day, effects on mental health, gender wage gap, horizontal and vertical gender segregation in the workplace.
  - c) New modalities: teleworking and social distancing.
  - d) Transversality of gender violence in the world of work: education, pressure for the ratification of C190 and implementation of the provisions of the agreement where possible through collective agreements and direct social dialogue.
- **Quality public services that transform gender relations:**
  - a) Full public ownership; a guarantee for the full exercise of women's human rights.
  - b) Access to public sexual and reproductive health care services for women during the emergency.
  - c) Access to public services for care, prevention and containment of gender-based violence during the emergency.
- **Global economy:**
  - a) Taxation
  - b) International commerce