

EPSU Circular LC N° 45 (2020)

To: All EPSU affiliated unions organising in  
Health and Social Services

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Social Services

Ref:/JE/sh

Brussels, 21 October 2020

**Invitation: Joint EPSU/Amnesty International Webinar:**  
**Presentation of the report “EXPOSED, SILENCED, ATTACKED: FAILURES TO**  
**PROTECT HEALTH AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS DURING THE COVID-19**  
**PANDEMIC”**

Dear colleagues,

EPSU and Amnesty International are pleased to invite you to our joint discussion on the situation of health workers during COVID-19, which will include the presentation of Amnesty International’s recent report **“EXPOSED, SILENCED, ATTACKED: FAILURES TO PROTECT HEALTH AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”**.

The discussion will be held on the Zoom platform on 28 October 2020, from 16.00 to 17.30 CET .

Please find attached a [draft outline](#) of the event.

Amnesty International and EPSU join forces for this event as both our organisations have long been advocating to defend and recognize the role of healthcare workers during this pandemic. As the second wave of COVID-19 is already in full swing in many regions and member states, taking stock of the lessons learnt in the first part of 2020 and reflecting on how to better protect our healthcare workers is more important than ever. Our core message is clear: Applauses are not enough. Workers deserve more. Strong public health care systems, better pay, and more staff are needed to create a more resilient sector. Together, we want to open an urgently needed debate about the future of health and social care.

The recent **Amnesty International report** has drawn a shocking conclusion: “Exposed, Silenced, Attacked”, as well as recent follow up research, reveals that at least 7,000 health workers have died around the world after contracting COVID-19. For others, the immense pressure of lacking protective equipment and a lack of preparation and protocols have led to exhaustion, anxiety and depression. In addition, in several countries, instead of being supported, health and essential workers are facing reprisals from the state and from their employers for speaking out about their working conditions or for criticising the authorities’ response.

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EPSU is a member  
federation of the ETUC  
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PSI in Europe

Following a presentation on the key findings of this report, we will hear what governments must do to comply with their human rights obligations and adequately protect the rights of health and essential workers. Health workers then will provide insight of the current situation in hospitals in several countries in Europe.

Registration for this event is required and can be done by clicking on [this link](#). (login required). You can also register via our website event page (login required)

A zoom link will be sent to registered participants shortly.

**Interpretation will be provided in French and Spanish.**

Best regards,  
Jakob

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