

foreword

solidar

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2004 ended tragically for over 270,000 women, men, and children as the Tsunami struck the shores of South East Asia on the morning of 26th December. Within 45 minutes of the disaster hitting Sri Lanka, SOLIDAR's Norwegian People's Aid had trucks on the beaches. Arbeiter Samariter Bund had their Sri Lanka field hospital at the ready with the support of Swiss Labour Assistance. Volkshilfe and MPDL, already active on the Indian coast, refocused their resources on the relief effort. Meanwhile, many other SOLIDAR members raised funds and mobilised support for the region. It was another defining moment for the SOLIDAR alliance.

2005 has been a year in which we have strengthened our alliance with the Global Unions and the Global Progressive Forum. One year of planning brought us together in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in January where SOLIDAR coordinated 12 joint seminars at the World Social Forum built around the ILO report on the Social Dimension of Globalisation. Our vision of social justice, equality between women and

men, rights of workers, social protection for all, and access to quality public services is neatly encapsulated by the concept of "decent work."

In spring this year, we launched Save Our Social Europe - a call to EU decision-makers to strengthen the social dimension of the European Union. Our campaign is rooted in the belief that there is a synergy between social and environmental policies and economic growth. This core belief, the heart of the so called Lisbon strategy, is our European notion of sustainable development.

Each day our members deliver millions of acts of solidarity to fellow citizens. Much of this is provided by volunteers - people who give their energy, time and skill to bring comfort and help to people in need. Civil society organisations are the glue of European social cohesion, a defining element of our identity. Through SOLIDAR, our members have worked together to coordinate their actions and to help EU decision-makers measure the impact of their decisions on this precious resource.

SOLIDAR's mission is to bring NGOs, trade unions and other parties together. It is about fostering dialogue within our alliance and outside it. The Global Network, working with the IFWEA in over 30 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, has continued to develop, enabling thousands of civil society activists to meet to discuss the real impact of globalisation on their communities and to take action together to improve their livelihoods.

The EU is desperately trying to find a way to reconnect with its citizens. As we celebrate SOLIDAR's 10th anniversary, our alliance will take the European debate forward, demonstrating how dialogue with civil society is part of the solution.

Pierre Schori
SOLIDAR President

Giampiero Alhadef
SOLIDAR Secretary General

Social affairs

Social policy and social protection have always been defining characteristics of the European Union. Though welfare models in Europe differ, there is a widespread belief that fundamental social rights and values such as equality and anti-discrimination form the basis of a common European Social Model.

SOLIDAR works to promote the social dimension of the EU. One aspect of this is to ensure that the Lisbon Strategy is a strategy for social sustainable change. We work closely with other NGO networks to ensure that the social inclusion dimension of the strategy is strengthened and not sidelined by a focus on growth and competitiveness. The SOLIDAR alliance is made up of social and educational service providers and we promote the provision of high quality services for all within the EU internal market. The role

of NGOs in providing services that combat social exclusion needs to be recognised on a European level.

The social dimension is a very important aspect of the debate about the future of Europe. In 2005 SOLIDAR worked closely with the Convention on the Future of Europe and actively followed the ratification process of the Constitutional Treaty. Together with the Civil Society Contact Group, an NGO alliance representing six major NGO sectors, SOLIDAR lobbied for greater involvement of NGOs and community groups in the Constitution process. We are committed to real citizens' debates on the future of Europe.

International coo

SOLIDAR's ideas and hopes for the future are embedded in our vision for economic and social justice. Economic and social justice can only be achieved in a society that is free from the threat of war, that respects the rule of law, and promotes sustainable development for current and future generations.

These goals are possible: poverty can be eradicated; people can live in a sustainable way while preserving the environment; human rights are a realistic goal not a vague aspiration. But the struggle to achieve these goals is a continuous one. It needs the active involvement and participation of a strong civil society, based on alliances with the trade union movement, NGOs and community organisations from the north and south. Civil society has a vital role to play in strengthening the social and environmental dimensions of globalisation, in holding our governments and international institutions to account, and in actively influencing future policy.

As an international network for global solidarity, SOLIDAR endeavours to make its voice heard in debates on international policy, and steers its international work to the demand for social justice for all people - north and south.

Humanitarian aid

Many of our member organisations have extensive experience of providing humanitarian assistance in areas of conflict and natural disasters. Expertise includes providing medical help, water supplies, shelter, transport, food and non-food items, counselling and mine clearance. Many other members have an important role in fundraising to support the emergency interventions of partners in the field.

In recent years, SOLIDAR members have been working in humanitarian aid and development in many countries, including the former Yugoslavia, Angola, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sudan, Western Sahara, Palestine, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, South America, Central America, and in several countries of the former Soviet Union.

The SOLIDAR team helps to coordinate actions by members in specific countries - most recently in countries affected by the 2004 Tsunami.

Lifelong learning

Education and training policies are given much importance within the Lisbon Strategy. In 2000 the Lisbon Council Conclusions stressed the need for Europe's education and training systems to adapt to the demands of the so-called knowledge society as well as to foster quality employment.

For SOLIDAR, education and training policies are an important means of promoting the self-esteem and personal fulfillment of individuals. They also have an essential role in fighting unemployment and social exclusion.

Yet, five years after its launch, the Lisbon Strategy seems to have lost touch with some of its initial goals and the value of lifelong learning has been overlooked. SOLIDAR is particularly concerned about the risk of education and training policies being seen solely as a tool to promote employment and economic goals.

SOLIDAR has been actively taking part in the civil society debate on lifelong learning. We work closely with EUCIS - the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning. EUCIS is made up of six NGOs who have established a common platform that will contribute to the debate on the future of education and training systems in Europe.

peration

SOLIDAR is an international alliance of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in social and economic justice. SOLIDAR works in Europe and worldwide in alliance with trade unions and civil society for an equitable and sustainable world. Our main focus is on supporting our member organisations and on lobbying European and international institutions in four key areas: social affairs, lifelong learning, international cooperation and humanitarian aid.

What are we?
solidar
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I would like to congratulate SOLIDAR on its 10th anniversary. Through your work over the last ten years, you have shown the importance of connecting citizens around the world to debates on globalisation, trade, democracy and development. Your alliances with NGOs, trade unions and community groups are a powerful force for change and a challenge to the way we conduct the debate.



Margot Wallström
Vice-President of the European
Commission

TEN

years in Brussels

SOLIDAR celebrates its 10th anniversary in Brussels this year though the organisation's history is much older.

Our roots can be traced back to the 1920's, with our main history beginning in 1951 when representatives of Belgian socialists and European aid organisations from France, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland and Germany met during the Socialist International Conference in Frankfurt. Together they formed International Workers Aid (IWA) and laid the foundations for international cooperation between socialist parties and social aid organisations.

The first priorities of IWA were to respond to the needs of displaced people in central and eastern Europe and assist the political refugees from the totalitarian regimes of Spain, Greece and Eastern Europe. IWA was also concerned with improving

the health and living conditions of children and young people. Supporting the survivors of the Second World War seemed to be the guarantee for a democratic future.

The IWA was strengthened by the addition of more members. The Centro Italiano di Solidarieta Sociale joined the founding members, followed by the Samaritan workers' organisations from Norway, Denmark, Germany and Austria. The secretariat of the IWA, until this time based in Workers' Aid Switzerland, moved to the offices of Arbeiterwohlfahrt (Workers' Aid Germany, AWO) in 1970 and AWO took the presidency of the organisation until 1995.

The IWA also strengthened its external role: making links with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the European Trade Union Confederation

(ETUC), and gaining recognition as an international non-governmental organisation by the ILO in 1973, by the European Council in 1984, and by the European Communities in 1985.

By 1988 16 organisations from 12 European countries were members of IWA, most of which are still members of SOLIDAR today. IWA developed projects in Africa and Latin America and began working at an EU level through a small office in Brussels.

The next major change to the organisation came in 1995, when the IWA changed its name to SOLIDAR and set up its headquarters in Brussels. Its membership and activities increased significantly. Today, SOLIDAR has 33 full members, ten affiliated members, and the ICFTU as observer member.

campa

SOS

SOS Europe

“The challenge we face is how to reconcile the need to build prosperous and competitive societies with ensuring that our citizens have adequate social protection in a rapidly changing world.”

Josef Weidenholzer, SOLIDAR Vice-President

In 2005 SOLIDAR members launched a joint campaign with NGOs from all over Europe to ensure that the social dimension of the European model is not sidelined by an agenda solely focusing on growth and competitiveness.

Within four weeks, over 700 NGOs had signed the petition - Save Our Social Europe - which was handed over to the Luxembourg Presidency in time for the Spring Summit. This action, supported by trade unions and the leadership of the Luxembourg Presidency, succeeded in getting a last-minute mention of the social side of the Lisbon Strategy in the communiqué of the Summit.

The European Social Model is at a crossroads. Growth in Europe is stagnant and unemployment rates are high. High taxes and social costs, low

levels of participation in the labour market, too few workers with the right skills for today's jobs - all these factors have helped produce societies that are fearful of change and unable to adapt to the challenges posed by globalisation.

The tragedy is that at the 2000 Lisbon Council a start was made in building a narrative which could have supported and explained the reforms which need to take place. At the Lisbon Council EU leaders came up with a simple political message. In brief, they explained that we live in an age of great uncertainty. We, as societies, need to become more competitive; our citizens will have to be prepared for a life of change; our governments will make sure that we have all the support we need to take advantage of these new opportunities.

Sadly, many EU decision-makers have failed to seize the narrative of the original Lisbon Strategy. But the Commission has found, to its cost, that the Lisbon Strategy is not for cherry picking. Citizens understand that a strategy which focuses on growth now and social protection tomorrow is simply another version of the old “trickle-down” theory and one they will reject.

In 2006 SOLIDAR will continue its lobbying for a strong social dimension of the European model. In cooperation with our member Volkshilfe Österreich, a high-level SOS Europe event will be organised in Vienna, coinciding with the Austrian Presidency.

action

Global Call to Action against Poverty

“The Global Campaign for Action against Poverty can take its place as a public movement alongside the movement to abolish slavery and the international solidarity against apartheid.”

Nelson Mandela, Trafalgar Square, 3 February 2005

SOLIDAR has been actively involved in the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), a large grassroots movement which has captured the imagination of thousands of people and organisations across the world since its launch in January 2005. SOLIDAR sits on the GCAP International Facilitation Group and is a leading player in GCAP Europe. SOLIDAR members are supporting the campaign with their own national and regional events.

GCAP's main goal is to ensure that world leaders tackle the causes of poverty by delivering trade justice, more and better aid, and full debt cancellation. It also calls for transparency and accountability from all governments in their plans to eliminate poverty and reach the Millennium Development Goals. GCAP, the largest-ever anti-poverty mobilisation of people around the

igns

world, was launched internationally at the World Social Forum in Brazil in January 2005 and in Europe by Nelson Mandela in February 2005. The white band is the symbol of the campaign.

Rallies, marches and media events have been planned throughout the year, including White Band Days at critical times, such as the G8 summit in Gleneagles in July, the UN Millennium Development Goals summit in New York in September, and the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December.

SOLIDAR members helped organise a series of GCAP events at the European level leading up to the G8 meeting. In just three months high profile events were staged with all the major EU institutions targeting EU Ministers, the European Commission and the European Parliament. These events played a key role in ratcheting up the pressure on Member States and the Commission to reach agreement on aid targets and debt.

SOLIDAR staff arranged for the European Parliament to be wrapped in a symbolic white band in early July in Strasbourg. A 220m white cloth was wrapped round the hemicycle of the Parliament. Some 300 MEPs signed a white band to demonstrate their support. The climax of the event was a GCAP press conference including Josep Borrell, President of the European Parliament, Jack Straw, UK Foreign Minister, Hilary Benn, UK Minister for Development, Louis Michel, EU Development Commissioner, and Luisa Morgantini, Chair of the European Parliament Development Committee.

life

Decent Work for a Decent Life

SOLIDAR is a strong campaigner for decent work. "Decent Work for a Decent Life" is the slogan that we use to promote our model of a fair and just globalisation. The concept of decent work is based on strategies to promote productive employment as the way out of poverty for millions of workers in both the formal and informal economy and for those who have no work. It embraces workers' rights, trade union rights, a fair wage, access to social protection schemes and equality between men and women. The International Labour Organization has called for decent work to be at the heart of global, national and local strategies for social and economic progress.

Meeting in Porto Alegre in January 2005, the Global Progressive Forum, supported by the SOLIDAR alliance, resolved to campaign for decent work to be at the heart of social and economic policy.

DECENT
WORK
DECENT
LIFE

campaigns



“High-quality social services contribute to the development of social cohesion and to the implementation of the social rights of users. Carelessly endangering the provision of social services will be perceived by citizens all over Europe as a covert attempt to undermine the European Social Model by the back door.”

Wilhelm Schmidt, President of AWO

social

Social Services

Supporting social services has long been a focus for SOLIDAR's work - whether lobbying for policies that strengthen social services in the European internal market or supporting members who act as providers.

The ideals of the post-war European welfare state - such as health care for all, decent housing and protection against poverty - were achieved through the struggles of organisations of working people. Social democratic parties, trade unions and NGOs, working with other progressive groups, built the philosophy and institutions of European social welfare.

Today social services are the backbone of our societies, helping people in their daily lives and offering support in difficult life situations. Many of our members play an important role in providing these services. SOLIDAR members in many European countries run residential homes, ambulance services and daycare centers for the elderly and disabled. Others organise children's holidays, adult education classes and advice services. Many specialise in support for migrants, asylum seekers, offenders and other groups who are socially excluded.

Working with both professional staff and volunteers, our members provide a real value to the community and help create social capital. For NGOs, however, the work does not stop once the meal is delivered to a bed-ridden

person, or the newly arrived migrant has completed a language course. NGOs are also an active part of the political process, making sure that the people they work with are visible to society, legally protected and financially supported.

In 2005 social service provision in a European internal market has been an important aspect of SOLIDAR's work. SOLIDAR lobbied for social and educational services to be exempt from the controversial Commission proposal for a directive on services in the internal market. To give an evidence-based input to the discussions, SOLIDAR organised three seminars throughout the year. Eight SOLIDAR member organisations from six countries discussed the challenges NGO service providers face in an environment of growing competition and public tendering and how the benefits of service provision by NGOs can be maximised in the EU internal market.



Tsunami

Immediately after the tsunami struck the shores of South East Asia in December 2004, SOLIDAR members rapidly mobilised support for the survivors.

In Sri Lanka SOLIDAR members, experienced in providing development aid and humanitarian relief in the region, were quick to respond. From their base in the north-east of Sri Lanka, Norwegian People's Aid immediately mobilised over 200 staff and 20 trucks. Arbeiter Samariter Bund set up a field hospital for survivors with the support of Swiss Labour Assistance. Volkshilfe and MPDL, already working on the Indian coast, refocused their resources on the relief effort.

Meanwhile, many other SOLIDAR members raised funds and mobilised resources to support their partners in the affected areas. Over 30 million Euros of SOLIDAR members' money is being spent on reconstruction projects in the region.

The response to the tsunami tragedy was a defining moment for SOLIDAR. It has resulted in unprecedented cooperation in the field between members. In Sri Lanka a consortium of field operations led by Norwegian People's Aid, Arbeiter Samariter Bund and Swiss Labour Assistance is being supported by expertise and funding from CGIL, La Ligue, Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA, and Volkshilfe. A SOLIDAR Coordination Advisor has been appointed to oversee operations and SOLIDAR offices have opened in Colombo and Kilinochichi.

Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, SOLIDAR members were responsible for 23,000 displaced persons in two transit camps (Pallai and Mullaitivu). They also supported the hospital in Kilinochchi and 445 families in four other camps by building 260 shelters, 225 latrines, four community buildings and four pre-schools.

Another major activity was the installation of electrical power to 38 transit camps, involving 120 generators, 250 km of electrical cabling and 8,000 bulbs. One thousand wells were cleaned in the south of the country. In the reconstruction phase the SOLIDAR consortium now has responsibility for rebuilding 1,125 permanent houses in Vadamarachchi East.

However, the programme extends far beyond physical reconstruction. The consortium is implementing an innovative Tsunami Education Project in the transit camps (65,000 beneficiaries) providing people with easy to understand information on the tsunami. Plant nurseries have been set up to promote food security, and support is being given for the fishing industry to be re-established.

India

In Tamil Nadu, SOLIDAR member Volkshilfe and its local partner People's Development Aid have also been operational since the tsunami struck. ASB, CGIL, La Ligue and Solidaridad Internacional are providing expertise and financial support for the rebuilding of houses, schools, community centres and child care facilities.

AWO and MPDL also have significant programmes in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh respectively. This work involves supporting the reconstruction of the tsunami-affected area, including schools and a centre for handicapped children.

Volkshilfe, AWO, Swiss Labour Assistance and Progetto Sviluppo have now joined together for a strategic partnership for post-Tsunami work in India.

Indonesia

SOLIDAR operations in Indonesia are just beginning. Volkshilfe's plans involve a 500,000 Euro reconstruction programme in Aceh. The Olof Palme International Center is also active in Aceh with work oriented towards political support for civil society and the peace process.

Australian workers' aid agency Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA is also planning a programme in Aceh focusing on emergency relief, reconstruction and repair of homes and union offices, and job recovery.



**TSUNAMI: SRI LANKAN CHILDREN
SOLIDAR TSUNAMI EDUCATION PRO**



TAKING PART IN A PROJECT

Moving on, a drawing by 12 year old Thilini Prarthana Marasinghe. Solidar is supporting work with young people in Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia.



WORKING IN ALLIANCE

SOLIDAR's mission is to bring trade unions, community groups and NGOs together to campaign for social and economic justice. On the page opposite we describe our involvement with our principal partners.

Global Unions

Trade unions are long standing partners of SOLIDAR. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) has been an Observer Member since we were founded, and we have a close working relationship with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Global Union Federations. As a member of the Global Unions' Trade and Labour Standards Group, SOLIDAR has been active with the unions at the WTO and at the EU level.

Global Progressive Forum

SOLIDAR was involved in the early discussions which resulted in this highly successful initiative of the Party of European Socialists, the Socialist International and the Socialist Group in the European Parliament. SOLIDAR continues to serve on one of the Forum working groups.

Decent Work-Decent Life

SOLIDAR campaigns with the Global Unions, including the ICFTU, the World Confederation of Labour and the Global Progressive Forum for "Decent Work for a Decent Life." Fourteen joint events were organised at the 2005 World Social Forum. This collaboration has continued with preparations for the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial and the 2006 World Social Forum.

EUCIS

EUCIS is one of the newest alliances at the European level, bringing together a number of education and life-long learning platforms. Jean Marc Roirant, the current Chair of SOLIDAR's Education Working Group, is the President of EUCIS.

Social Platform

SOLIDAR has played a key role in the establishment of the Social Platform. Giampiero Alhadeff was its President during the period of its formation and consolidation and is now Vice-President. The Social Platform brings together over 40 NGO alliances active in the social arena and is a key interlocutor for the Commission, Parliament and Council. Katrin Hugendubel, SOLIDAR Social Affairs Coordinator, chairs the Social Platform's Migration Group.

Concord

Concord, the relaunched alliance of development NGOs, is now well-established on the Brussels scene. It groups national platforms from the majority of Member States and all of the significant networks and NGO groupings involved in development policy. Giampiero Alhadeff was elected to the Management Committee, and initially served as Concord's Treasurer. He is now Chair of the Policy Group.

EU Civil Society Contact Group

SOLIDAR is currently the Concord representative on this group. The Contact Group brings together representatives of NGOs working on development, environment, gender, culture, health, human rights and social issues. It played a significant role during the period of the Convention on the Future of Europe.

Liaison Group with Civil Society

SOLIDAR is represented on the European Economic and Social Committee's Liaison Group through Concord and EUCIS - the life-long learning platform. Giampiero Alhadeff, the Secretary General of SOLIDAR, is Co-Chair of the group together with Anne-Marie Sigmund, President of the EESC. The Liaison Group came into existence in mid 2004 and is fast becoming an important NGO interlocutor for European institutions on matters which affect a wide spectrum of NGOs. It is a broad alliance of NGOs ranging from the consumers' group BEUC, to the European Womens' Lobby, co-operatives, and mutualities.

World Social Forum

SOLIDAR, together with the Global Unions, is a member of the World Social Forum International Committee.

European Trade Network and DG Trade Civil Dialogue Group

SOLIDAR is a member of both groups and has organised civil dialogue events at the WTO Ministerial Meetings of Seattle, Doha and Cancun. SOLIDAR's Secretary General was included in the EU Official Delegation to these events.

Global Network

“The Global Network is about empowering workers in grassroots organisations and building coalitions within the social and labour movement across borders. It’s about working together to develop a people-led response to the challenges of globalisation.”

Rodney Bickerstaffe, Chair of the SOLIDAR Global Network

The Global Network is a project, jointly run by SOLIDAR and the International Federation of Workers’ Education Associations (IFWEA), that empowers activists from civil society organisations and trade unions to improve their capacity for dialogue with international institutions such as the WTO, the ILO, the World Bank and the IMF.

The key activities of the Global Network are capacity building and political education through regional and national seminars on issues such as workers’ rights, strategies for development, and the social dimension of globalisation. Through the project, alliances between NGOs, trade unions and other civil society organisations have continued to grow. The Global Network now consists of 26 organisations, and hundreds of others participate in our activities.

In 2005 the Global Network ran a participative research project called Women Talk! The project brought the voices of women at the sharp end of globalisation, in agriculture, textiles, services and manufacturing, to the core of the trade debate. Three Network partners (Alianza Chilena por Comercio Justo y Responsable - Mujer y Trabajo in Chile, the Trade Union Congress of Ghana and Self Employed Women’s Association in India) conducted research on how trade affects women in the informal economy. The final report aims to influence policy-makers who are responsible for developing trade agreements between the EU and developing countries.

The Global Network has been running since 2001 and is currently funded by the UK government’s Department for International Development (DFID), the British trade union UNISON, the Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland (SASK), Sweden’s Olof Palme International Center, Swiss Labour Assistance and Norwegian People’s Aid. The project is managed by SOLIDAR with three key partner organisations acting as coordinators for their regions: PLADES (Programa Laboral de Desarrollo), Peru; LRS (Labour Research Service), South Africa; and LEARN (Labor Education and Research Network), Philippines.

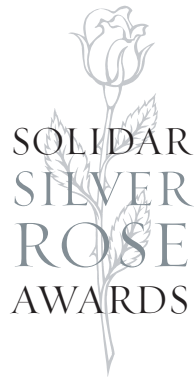
The Global Network is increasingly recognised as a legitimate voice of civil society organisations. It has been instrumental in creating an alliance with the major world trade union confederations, socialist democratic parties and the ILO to develop a common platform around the World Commission’s report on the Social Dimension of Globalisation. The Global Network Hong Kong (under the name of the Hong Kong People’s Alliance) has been accepted as the umbrella organisation for all civil society activities at the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2005.

working for an equitable and sustainable world



“The Silver Rose Awards honour men and women who make an outstanding contribution to social justice. Our awards recognise acts of bravery and selflessness by people who fight for human rights and democracy across the world.”

Glenys Kinnock MEP, Chair of the Silver Rose Jury.



“We are proud to lend political support to the Silver Rose Awards. The award is an inspiration to all those struggling for freedom and striving to create a fairer world based on the values of equality, solidarity and democracy.”

Martin Schulz President of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament

SOLIDAR's Silver Rose Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations who are active in the fight for social justice. The awards, launched six years ago, raise the profile of people who work tirelessly to make the world a fairer and better place.

The awards' dinner, held each year in the European Parliament and hosted by Glenys Kinnock MEP, is a memorable event in the calendar of civil society. It is a rare opportunity for people to come together to celebrate the work of civil society and to renew their commitment to the goals of democracy and international solidarity.

The awards honour the work of the unsung heroes of civil society. Sometimes the winners are well-known but their actions may have gone unrecognised by the international community. Others are not household names. They are simply ordinary people reaching out to the most vulnerable groups in their societies, advocating their rights, campaigning for their needs, and providing essential services such as soup kitchens, housing, children's holidays and literacy classes.

Every year, SOLIDAR receives nominations from around the world. The Silver Rose jury, made up of MEPs, EU policy-makers and SOLIDAR Friends, judges the nominations against a set of criteria.

Among the winners from previous years is Zackie Achmat from South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign who has persistently called on the government and pharmaceutical companies to improve access to treatment for people with HIV. Last year's award presented to the National League for Democracy of Burma helped turn the spotlight on the political struggle against Burma's military junta. In 2000 Doreen and Neville Lawrence won an award for their determination to pursue justice for their son Stephen who was murdered in a racist attack in Great Britain.

The winners are always powerful advocates of change, united by their passion, commitment and vision for a fairer and more just society.



EUROPEAN CATEGORY

CHAPITÔ

Chapitô is an arts centre, professional school of arts and a circus school for young disadvantaged people. Situated on a hillside in a former women's prison in Lisbon, Chapitô is a vibrant cultural centre with a thriving restaurant and library which attract some 500 visitors each day.

The school was founded over 20 years ago by Teresa Ricou, the female clown whose name is renowned in Portuguese society. The centre offers a broad programme of artistic and cultural activities, including training in performance arts for adults and young people.

Most of Chapitô's activities are focused on young people at risk and lacking family support. Many have been in trouble with the police and some have spent time in offenders' institutions. Young people who have dropped out of school without qualifications can benefit from training in performance arts - equivalent to three-years' of secondary school and leading to qualifications. The school also runs residential courses for young homeless people.

Chapitô has been chosen for the 2005 Silver Rose Award because of its long history of work supporting young people at risk of social exclusion and its rich contribution to Lisbon's artistic scene.



EUROPEAN CATEGORY

LIETUVOS SAMARIECIU BENDRIJA

Lietuvos Samarieciu Bendrija (LSB) is a welfare organisation in Lithuania which works with some of the most vulnerable people in the country. Originally established in 1929, but banned under the Soviet occupation, LSB was relaunched in 1992 by people concerned about the poverty of Lithuanian people after independence.

Among its activities are soup kitchens for the poor, food packages and transport for disabled people and their dependents, and summer camps for the children of socially disadvantaged families. LSB runs an orphanage and has also set up a rehabilitation centre for children who have suffered physical and/or sexual violence.

Advocacy is a key focus for the organisation. LSB works with government and parliamentary representatives on strategies to reduce poverty in Lithuania. The organisation has successfully lobbied for the government and municipalities to transfer public social services to the voluntary sector. The backbone of LSB are the samaritan volunteers who donate their time, skills and altruism to the organisation. Ninety percent of LSB's work is carried out by volunteers.

LSB has a long-standing partnership with SOLIDAR member ASB Germany (Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund). ASB supported the organisation as it took steps to re-establish itself. Partnerships between ASB and LSB branches have led to valuable exchanges of information and skills on common projects.

The Silver Rose Jury has chosen LSB for the 2005 Award in recognition of their important role providing for the most vulnerable people of Lithuania.



INTERNATIONAL CATEGORY

GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

The Global Call to Action against Poverty is a worldwide alliance committed to making world leaders live up to their promises on global poverty. It is made up of people and organisations around the world who are united around the common cause of ending poverty: NGOs, community groups, trade unions, religious and faith groups, development campaigners and many more.

GCAP has succeeded in mobilising millions onto the streets to demonstrate against global poverty. The alliance, barely one year old and run by a network of dedicated individuals around the world, has encouraged thousands of people to mark the important political events taking place this year through hundreds of coordinated protests, demonstrations, adverts, and the symbolic wearing of a white band. At the G8 in Gleneagles in July, the UN Millennium Goals Summit in New York in September, and later at the WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong in December, supporters of the GCAP alliance have campaigned hard for action to lift millions of people out of desperate poverty. The pressure has succeeded in putting increased aid, reformed debt relief and trade justice at the top of the international policy agenda.

The award will be collected by Dr. Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General of CIVICUS and Chair of GCAP. CIVICUS is an international alliance of over 1000 members from 105 countries that has worked for over a decade to strengthen civil society throughout the world, especially in areas where participatory democracy and citizens' freedom of association are threatened. The award will also commemorate the life of Barbara Kwateng who died in August at the age of 28. Barbara was the ICFTU's press officer, a friend of SOLIDAR, and a key player in the GCAP alliance.

The Silver Rose Award, presented to the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, honours the hard work and personal commitment of the ordinary members of the GCAP alliance - the many men and women who have lobbied their governments and supported local initiatives in the campaign against global poverty.

working for an equitable and sustainable world



INTERNATIONAL CATEGORY

JUAN SOMAVIA

An attorney by profession, Juan Somavia has had a long and distinguished career in civil and international affairs. His wide experience in all areas of public life as a diplomat and academic and his involvement in social development, business and civil organisations have all helped shape his vision of the need to secure decent work for men and women throughout the world.

Juan Somavia began his career as an academic in Europe and Chile. Throughout his life he has written and lectured widely on trade issues and labour and human rights and holds many awards for his work in the areas of peace, human rights and social development.

Juan Somavia has always shown a strong interest in development cooperation and economic and social affairs. During the 1960s and 1970s, he worked intensively in favour of development cooperation and regional integration through his involvement with many business, financial and civil society organisations.

His efforts to support the restoration of democracy in Chile have been widely recognised. He was President of the International Commission of the Democratic Coalition in Chile and founder and Secretary-General of the South American Peace Commission (1986-90).

In Copenhagen in 1995 where he led the World Social Summit on Development, Juan Somavia was the first to lead a powerful critique of the current model of globalisation. His ground-breaking work continued at the ILO when he became Director General in 1999. He was responsible for setting up the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation, a powerful group led by the Presidents of Finland and Tanzania, which made "decent work for a decent life" the central goal of a different model of globalisation.

Juan Somavia has held a number of important positions in the United Nations and other inter-governmental organisations. Before joining the ILO, he was Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations in New York. He was elected to serve as the Director-General of the International Labour Organization in 1999 and is now serving his second five-year term.

The Silver Rose Award is presented to Juan Somavia in recognition of his vision of a just globalisation which puts at its core decent work for a decent life. It also honours the unrecognised work of thousands of men and women around the world who campaign tirelessly for human rights, worker rights and social development.



INTERNATIONAL CATEGORY

THE FLOWER LABEL PROGRAM

Frank Brassel and Cruz Emilia Rangel Ferreira have been defending human rights in the cut flower industry in Latin America for the past 15 years. Their mission is to fight for the rights of the mainly women workers on the flower plantations.

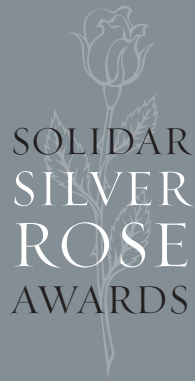
In the late 1980s, they developed an international Code of Conduct for cut flower production together with producers from Latin America, trade unions, German importers and florists. The Code of Conduct is based on internationally recognised human and labour rights together with a set of ecological standards. Most important are: freedom of association, fair wages, no child labour and no discrimination against women.

The Flower Label Program began as a pilot project in 1998 in Ecuadorian flower farms and in German flower shops. The FLP label is granted to producers who pass an annual inspection of their farms and make continuous efforts to fulfill the high standards of the programme. Some 15,000 workers - mostly women - now benefit from improved working conditions in certified farms in Ecuador, Tanzania, Colombia, and Kenya.

FLP is now a registered association with offices in Köln (Cologne). Different stakeholders are represented on the board and work for the promotion of "fairly produced" flowers. Inspections of the farms are regularly carried out and certified flowers are promoted in German flower shops.

Frank Brassel and Cruz Emilia Rangel Ferreira were nominated by the Austrian section of the human rights organisation FIAN. The Silver Rose Award is presented to them in recognition of the commitment and dedication they have shown in their efforts to improve the working conditions of women workers on the flower farms.

working for an equitable and sustainable world



PAST WINNERS OF THE SILVER ROSE AWARDS

2004

NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY OF BURMA

The NLD is the largest political party in Burma, founded after the bloody military coup in September 1988 that abolished the constitution and established a ruling military junta. Led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is under house arrest, they continue to struggle for democracy in Burma.

NARODNA DOPOMOHA (PEOPLE'S AID UKRAINE)

Narodna Dopomoha is a non-governmental organisation in the city of Chernivtsi in the Ukraine, providing services for the most vulnerable groups of society, particularly the homeless and the poor.

GRAÇA MACHEL

Graça Machel has shown unrelenting commitment to promoting peace and reconstruction in Africa. Her courageous work on children's rights in Mozambique began during the war for independence and continued with work to establish universal education and the rehabilitation of children traumatised by war.

TOM BENETOLLO

A Special Lifetime Achievements Award was awarded to Tom Benetollo, who died in 2004, for his work for international solidarity and peace. Tom was President of the Italian organisation ARCI where he promoted peace initiatives, political and civic activism.

2003

ZACKIE ACHMAT, CHAIRPERSON OF THE TREATMENT FOR ACTION CAMPAIGN (TAC)
NICOLAS GUTIERREZ, PRESIDENT OF THE BASQUE ASSOCIATION FOR COOPERATION -
SOLIDARIDAD INTERNAÇIONAL
THE SELF-EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INDIA

2002

ALEXANDR STARIKEVICH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, AND THE STAFF OF THE OPPOSITION
NEWSPAPER BELARUSKI CHAS, BELARUS
JEAN-MICHEL FOLON, BELGIAN ARTIST
DR SIMA SAMAR, FIRST MINISTER FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN
PAIF (PROMOTION ET APPUI AUX INITIATIVES FEMININES), DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

2001

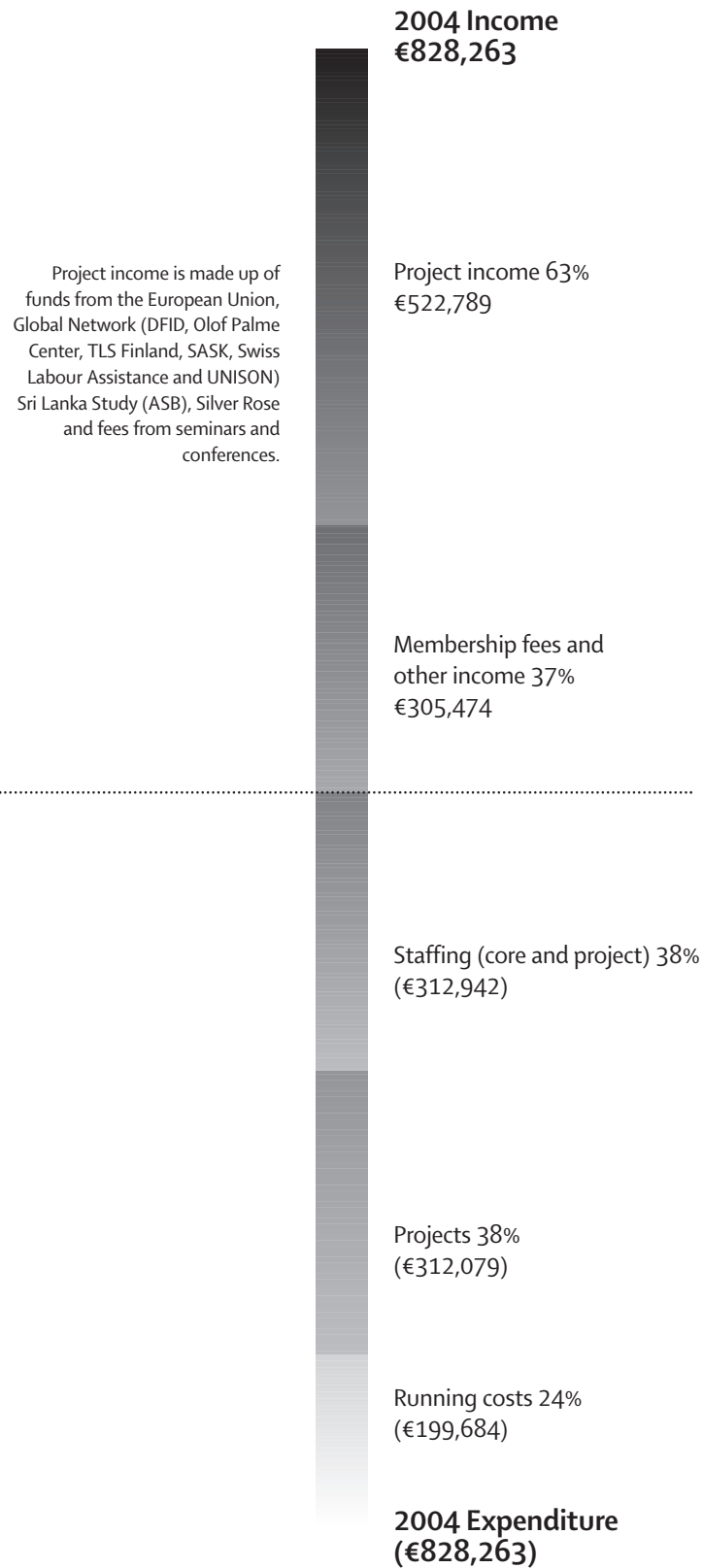
RUDOLF SARKÓZI, AUSTRIA
MORGAN TSVANGIRAI, MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE, ZIMBABWE
THE BARKA FOUNDATION OF MUTUAL HELP, POLAND

2000

DOREEN AND NEVILLE LAWRENCE, UK
MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY, FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
CENTRE FOR TRADE UNION & WORKERS' SERVICES, EGYPT

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The following stagiaires have worked in SOLIDAR in 2005:

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Fonds voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (FOS), Belgium
Humanitas, The Netherlands
International Federation of Workers' Education Associations (IFWEA)
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Istituto Sindacale di Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (ISCOS), Italy
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War on Want, United Kingdom

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Progetto Sud, Italy
Union Nationale des Associations Laiques Gestionnaires (UNALG), France
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The European Policy Centre warmly congratulates this year's Silver Rose Award winners

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Zita Gurmai MEP
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