

THEMATIC SESSION #4

**CARE | CLIMATE & EMERGENCIES**

Thursday, 18 November 2021 1-4pm CEST  
Interpretation: ENGLISH, FRENCH, SPANISH<sup>1</sup>

CONCEPT NOTE

Session I – The territorial dimension of care services



Social care, whether public, private or involving the “non-profit” sector, is often provided, regulated and subsidised by local and regional governments (LRG). Care is often delivered via community health centres and homes. In many countries, care remains a highly feminized, undervalued, precarious and informal profession, even when delivered as a local public service by LRGs. Covid-19 has unveiled the deep injustice and major shortcomings embedded in the current social organisation of care. This session will discuss issues, good practices and proposals to make local care services public, of high quality, accessible to all and just for care workers. The session is co-designed in cooperation with PSI’s Health and Social Services, Care and Gender Equality staff.

Social care, whether public, private or involving the “non-profit” sector, is often provided, regulated and subsidised by local and regional governments (LRG). Care is often delivered via community health centres and homes. In many countries, care remains a highly feminized, undervalued, precarious and informal profession, even when delivered as a local public service by LRGs. Covid-19 has unveiled the deep injustice and major shortcomings embedded in the current social organisation of care. This session will discuss issues, good practices and proposals to

Session II - The territorial dimension of the climate crisis, public emergencies and environmental protection

Cities and regions are at the forefront of the climate crisis, which is causing more frequent and severe disasters and human displacement requiring stronger public emergency response mechanisms. LRGs have the potential to cut up to one-third of global greenhouse gases and many are implementing climate innovation. They are also key to protect public health, the environment, green spaces and natural resources. LRG workers are the first responders in case of crises. Firefighters, waste workers, park rangers and urban planners and their unions must have decent working conditions and respect for trade union rights to enable them to fully engage in all the challenges ahead, both in the risks they assume in their work and the skills and dedication they bring to bear.



<sup>1</sup> PSI may consider interpretation into additional languages subject to registrations and budget constraints.

## DRAFT AGENDA

### 13h00-14h15 - The territorial dimension of care services (1h15')

Welcome and opening contributions:

- **Banaani Deka**, Project Organiser South Asia, PSI
- **Dries Goedertier**, CSGP-ACOD, Belgium
- **Cecilia Fraga**, Researcher, PSI

Plenary discussion & affiliate consultation.

Closing remarks by:

- **Karol Florek**, Researcher, PSI

### 14h15-14h30 – Break and live consultation (15')

### 14h30-15h45 - The territorial dimension of the climate crisis, public emergencies and environmental protection (1h15')

Welcome and opening contributions:

- **Sandra Van Niekerk**, Climate Change Project Coordinator, PSI
- **Helene Davis-Whyte**, JALGO, Jamaica
- **Gerardo Juara**, AGOEC Trabajadorxs del Ambiente, Argentina

Plenary discussion & affiliate consultation

### 15h45-16h00 - Conclusions and next steps (15')

#### Guidance questions:

##### Care services:

- Who are **care workers** and what are their **professions and occupations**?
- How are care workers distributed across the **public, private and “non profit” care sector** and what are the **specific challenges** to each of these labour regimes?
- How are **care services provided and regulated by LRGs**? What innovative, progressive LRG **good practices in the care sector** are out there?
- How to ensure adequate funding to enable LRGs to provide **quality care services and ensure decent conditions for care workers**?

##### Crises, disasters & the environment:

- What **LRG professions and services** are key in confronting extreme climate events, disasters, human displacement and protecting the environment?
- Which are the **key challenges** that such LRG workers face?
- What **good practices** exemplify the key role of **LRG unions ensuring disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response**?
- How do **LRG budgetary constraints** reflect on the ability of LRGs to provide **quality care services and on care workers' conditions**?

#### Target audience:

- PSI affiliates' representatives
- Allied organisations
- Experts & academia

### Session format:

This session encompasses two segments of 1h15' each structured as follows:

- A first segment (1h15') on care services & LRGs with opening contributions by affiliate representatives and experts from allied organisations followed by a plenary debate with affiliates.
- A break during which an online live consultation (15') will take place.
- A second segment (1h15') on the LRG angle to crises, disasters & the environment with opening contributions by affiliate representatives and experts from allied organisations followed by a plenary debate with affiliates.

PSI HO staff provides technical support to the session.

### Background documents for this session:

- Brief #9 - [The territorial dimension of care services](#)
- Brief #10 - [The territorial dimension of the climate crisis, public emergencies and environmental protection](#)

### Resources:

Care services:

- Florek, K., [Resilience of the Long-Term Care Sector. Early Key Lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic](#), EPSU, October 2021
- PSI, [The Social Organisation of Care: A Global Snapshot](#), October 2021
- PSI, [Care Manifesto: Rebuilding the social organisation of care](#), 2021
- CUPE, [Fix long-term care now](#). Campaign to make Canadian care services public 2020
- UNISON [Ethical Care Charter](#), 2012
- Kallon, I., [The Situation of Community Health Workers in Africa](#), PSI-FNV 2020
- PSI, [Fighting Covid on the frontlines: Stories of South Asia's Community Health Workers](#), 2020
- ITUC-Reset Vlandereen, [Coping with climate change in the care sector. Workers' Guide](#), 2021

Crises, disasters & the environment:

- PSI, [Confronting the Climate Crisis: Time to Act](#), 2020 (ES, FR, PT, SW, RU)
- CUPE, [National Environmental Policy 2021](#) (FR)
- ILO, [Guidelines on decent work in public emergency services](#), 2018 (ES, FR)
- Van Niekerk, S., Wegmann, V., [Municipal solid waste management services in Africa and the Arab countries](#), PSI, 2019 (FR, AR)
- Cibrario, D. [To ensure sustainable waste services, we must value waste workers and make sure they are in decent jobs, Spotlight on Sustainable Development Report](#) 2018 (ES, FR)
- Lethbridge, J., [Municipal solid waste management services in Latin America](#), 2018 (ES)

### For more information:

- Consult the [full programme](#) for LRGNext2021
- See the LRGNext2021 website: <https://psishort.link/LRGNext>
- Please write to PSI LRG and Municipal Services at: [lrg-municipal@world-psi.org](mailto:lrg-municipal@world-psi.org)

