

Trade Unions and Solidarity Linking: **a resource**

STRONGER TOGETHER

CONGRESS

Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Northern Ireland Committee

331.88

NCI Library
3 9006 01021973 3

Trade Unions and Solidarity Linking: **a resource**

Introduction

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU or 'Congress') has been actively engaged in development education for a number of years and has sought to make its purely educational work contribute to its broader campaigning and activist initiatives by – among many other strategies – encouraging affiliated unions to seek their own relationships and partnerships with unions in poor countries.

There are many ways of helping to progress an international agenda that encourages union members to address issues of globalisation, inequality, poverty and the lack of social justice that still mark our world. Campaigning, education (including political education), the promotion of Fair Trade and Ethical Trade, fund-raising for charitable development initiatives in poor countries, are just some of many dozens of ways of engaging in global solidarity. Developing a partnership with a trade union body in a poor country is only one way of furthering the work of international solidarity and it is up to each union to decide whether partnership is to be the most effective way of achieving its goals.

The purpose of this resource is to help individual trade unions to plan the most effective linkage with an identified partner from another country. It is designed to help point out some of the more obvious difficulties and problems in organising such partnerships and to encourage best practice across the movement. The booklet seeks to inform union officials and members about the best ways to build practical examples of solidarity with unions in other parts of the world.



