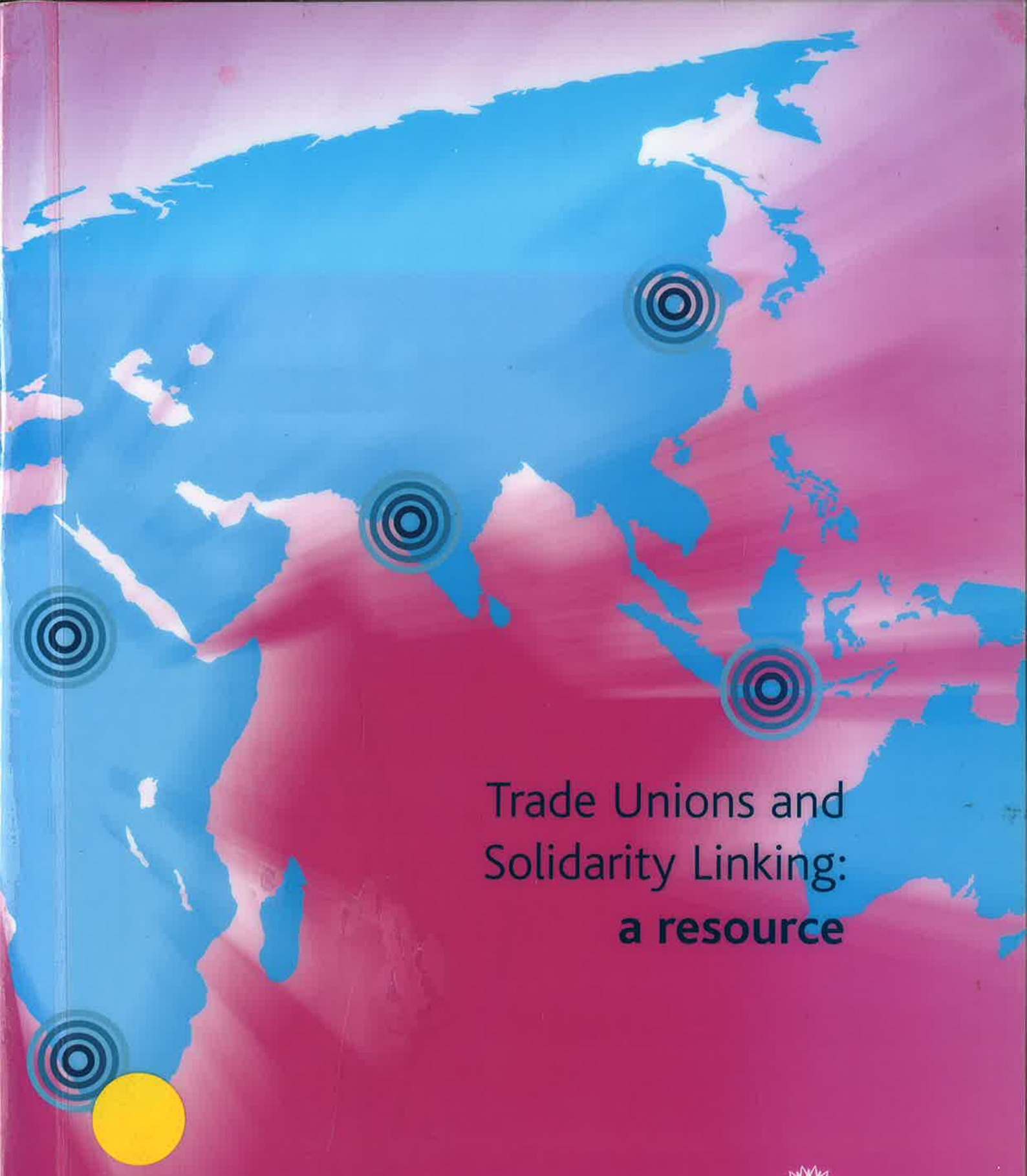


Trade Unions and Solidarity Linking: **a resource**

STRONGER TOGETHER

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

Introduction

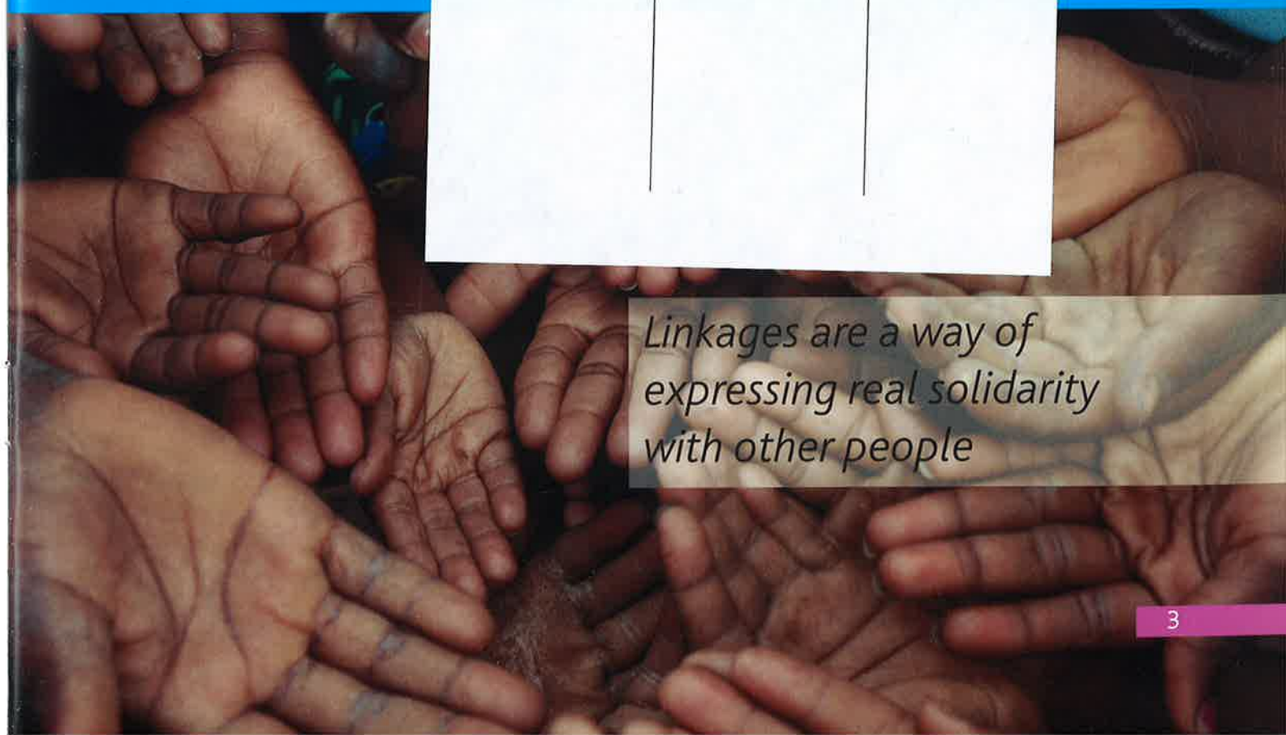
The Irish Congress of Trade Uni
or 'Congress') has been actively
development education for a n
years and has sought to make
educational work contribute to
campaigning and activist initia
among many other strategies -
encouraging affiliated unions t
own relationships and partners
unions in poor countries.

There are many ways of helpin
an international agenda that e
union members to address issu
globalisation, inequality, pover
lack of social justice that still
world. Campaigning, educatio
political education), the promo
Trade and Ethical Trade, fund-

charitable development initiatives in poor countries, are just some of many dozens of

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Linkages are a way of expressing real solidarity with other people

Resources

The trade union movement is structured throughout the world and provides an excellent range of contacts and information sources for developing relationships with partners in the Global South. At the national level, there are some 42 unions in Northern Ireland affiliated to Congress (www.ictuni.org), and more than 70 unions affiliated in the Republic (www.ictu.ie). In total, there are over 700,000 individual workers affiliated to Congress through these unions. Your union is always the best place to start!

After that, there are regional and international confederations: across Europe there is the European Trade Union Congress (ETUC: www.etuc.org). There is also the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC: www.tuac.org), which offers advice and comment on all international policy affecting members of the OECD –the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. ETUC is affiliated to the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC: www.ituc-csi.org) which was formed in November 2006 by the merging of different organisations that had been divided by the Cold War but which had no real reason to continue their separate existences.

In parallel to the national, regional and international structures, the movement has been successful in recent years in organising sectoral unions on an international scale. These are called the Global Union Federations (GUFs) and you can find more information on them at www.global-unions.org There are 10 GUFs, which are listed alphabetically as follows:

Building and Wood Workers International: www.bwint.org

Education International: www.ei-ie.org

International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mines and General Workers: www.icem.org

International Federation of Journalists: www.ifj.org

International Metalworkers' Federation: www.imf.org

International, Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation: www.itglwf.org

International Transport Workers' Federation: www.itf.org.uk

International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Federation: www.iuf.org

Public Services International: www.world-psi.org

UNI – Global Union for Skills and Services: www.union-netwwork.org

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions is always willing to help you find the most relevant part of these structures or to help you decide who you should call on for advice on any particular area. Please contact David Joyce in Dublin on (01) 889 7746 or by e-mail at david.joyce@ictu.ie or else Neil Alldred in Belfast on (028) 9024 7940 or by e-mail at neil.alldred@ictuni.org

