# Transcript: CISL\_Sharan Burrow

Brother Spare, members of the executive, delegates, I very much regret not being able to be with you in that beautiful city today for those deliberations, that are so important. We know that the convergence of crises for working people is actually demanding that we change the nature of our economy, that we ensure that the rights of workers that have returned to full employment, that social protection, all of these things sit at the heart of the social contract that we demand, particularly in a context of equality and inclusion. But let me begin by saying two things. One, acknowledging the abhorrence of the war in the Ukraine. There is no doubt that this threat hanging over Europe, hanging over the world is something that none of us expected. It is, of course, tragic for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, for the people fleeing from Ukraine for safe haven. We know that peace is the answer, not war. We know that dialogue is the only way to resolve conflict. And we demand peace. We demand a ceasefire. We demand that the bombs stop, that the bullets stop. But we demand that unions are actually at the table to negotiate the peace settlement, because peace and reconstruction can only come when people are indeed part and parcel of the solution. So we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters. But I also want to thank you for your incredible solidarity, because with the other Italian unions, you have been there from day one.

I'm proud of the union movement. We've raised more than $1,000,000 on our public platform, plus the solidarity fund commitments that make it possible for us to support the Ukrainian affiliates and the affiliates in neighbouring countries harbouring refugees or providing humanitarian efforts. We will need to maintain a strong solidarity. We can't dismiss, of course, the threat of nuclear war again on our doorstep. Peace, democracy these issues again are on our agenda in a serious way. And the ITUC just released with the International Peace Bureau and the Olof Palme Centre a report that actually talks about our common security. But this time, as well as looking at the end to nuclear weapon, to demilitarization, we also put the social contract at the heart of the agenda, the common security foundations for all our nations. And I want to thank you, not just your solidarity generally, but for your support and your involvement in the work of the ITUC. Because it's your commitment that allows us collectively with other affiliates, the power to influence international organizations, to take up the fight against the conditionality of the international financial institutions, where they can strain economies with austerity measures to actually work with those elements of the UN that have responded to our demands for social contract issues, for jobs, for just transition. We have the commitment of the UN Secretary General to a jobs and social protection accelerator, to return to full employment, to look at what it will take to finance social protection for the poorest countries.

We have a commitment to a common agenda again by the UN Secretary General, a summit in 2025 on the way to 2030. And of course we need to realize the Paris Climate Agreement struck in 2015 where we won the concept of just transition, the inclusion in the Paris Climate Agreement. Now we need to deliver the transition in every industry to indeed protect our common home, the only home we know, this planet. So people and planet must be at the heart of what we call just transition. We will leave no one behind. So as we go to our Congress, as we think about what sort of future we want to shape, then we know that it's got to be jobs, jobs and jobs, climate friendly jobs with just transition. We've got to create those jobs in Care, in the Care economy. We've underinvested in health, education, in child care, in aged care. But we also need to make sure that there's investment in infrastructure, in the transition to a net zero future. We know that we need a floor of rights to be refreshed. We need to see not just occupational health and safety added to the fundamental rights, but every nation to look to their labour laws to protect working people.

And we need corporate accountability with mandated due diligence, with grievance and with remedy that we can actually ensure that working people who are exploited have the tools to ensure that they're treated fairly, that labour rights, the human rights are guaranteed as a floor of decent work. We need to make sure that indeed universal social protection with a global social protection fund to support the poorest of our nations is at the heart of the global agenda. We need to see indeed multilateral reform, effective multilateralism that makes those things possible with a global trading system that actually has environmental standards and labour rights as a fair competition floor. But we need equality. We need equality of income, minimum wages, indeed, collective bargaining, shared prosperity, the tools to share prosperity. We also, though, need equality of gender and equality of race. Women lost $800 billion throughout the pandemic. We see women progress for women stalling on every indicator. So equal participation in the workforce, eliminating violence in the workforce that ratification and the laws to support C190. But the notion that equal pay matters, that women deserve an equal share of the fruits of our labour, the economies that we want to have where equality is at the centre. And of course, for refugees and migrants, your work, your compassion, your commitment, I commend you.

We need to make sure that we are inclusive, an inclusive union movement, an inclusive society. Inclusion is really important if we are to face a future where people and planet actually are at the heart of what we demand. What workers want is really important to us. Building workers power is really important to us. Supporting your fights at the local and national level, that's critical. But actually taking that solidarity to collective action to influence the international organisations. Your commitment to a global organisation, the ITUC in terms of the world actually matters, and I thank you with all of my heart. I also thank you for the friendship over ten years, more than ten years. By the time we go to Congress and I say goodbye to you, it will actually be 12 years. You have always been there. You've always been responsive. You've always stood up for others. And I can only say: I salute your solidarity, I thank you very much for your fighting spirit, and I really treasure the friendships that I've made with not just your leaders, but many of your delegates and workers in Italy over the years. And I genuinely love Italy as a nation. Your red wine particularly is of significance for me, but I've been very, very honoured to be part and parcel of your family as well as the global family. Thank you very much.