



6 April 2020

A message from UNI Finance on COVID-19

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

This is a difficult and uncertain time for us all. We worry about our families, friends and communities, a large – and growing – portion of our 3 million UNI Finance members is now under some form of ‘lockdown’, and we all wonder when this crisis will end and what a post-COVID-19 world will look like.

We are immensely proud of the dedication the world’s finance sector workers have shown and continue to show during this emergency, with many still at the front line, ensuring that public access to essential financial services continues.

We stand in full solidarity with all our sector workers and are committed to providing the utmost support and recognition for the extraordinary work being done across our regions – with special thanks also to our regional Steering Groups and Presidents Noomen Gharbi, Sergio Palazzo, Michimasa Sakaida and Michael Budolfson for the leadership, help and encouragement they are promoting in UNI Africa, UNI Americas, UNI APRO and UNI Europa respectively.

This emergency has highlighted trade unions’ fundamental role, standing in the front line to protect workers’ rights and conditions. The principles of cooperation and solidarity are more important than ever to ensure we get through this crisis as strongly as possible.

We must show cooperation and solidarity towards finance sector employers – at all levels – in order to reach together the best agreements and solutions on protecting workers and companies not just now but also in the post-crisis period. Only through genuine and constructive social dialogue and collective bargaining can we ensure your rights, jobs and health and safety are guaranteed. We will not tolerate any employer who tries to take advantage of this tragic situation to restructure and cut jobs.

Governments worldwide must also espouse the principles of cooperation and solidarity at the international level. The coronavirus does not respect borders and our challenges require global solutions. Governments must work together with trade unions at the national level to adopt strong and enforceable measures to protect workers, companies and the real economy, during the crisis and in the period that follows.

Please keep reaching out to us – we want to share our sector’s successes and support our affiliates in the battles to protect workers. We will stand together through this crisis, and we will emerge stronger.

Strong finance unions, today and tomorrow!

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rita Berlofa'.

Rita Berlofa
UNI Finance President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angelo Di Cristo'.

Angelo Di Cristo
UNI Finance Head of Department