

To our brave sisters and brothers in Iceland

Copenhagen 8th of March 2019

Nordic hotel and restaurant workers support striking hotel housekeepers in Iceland demanding living wages and fair working conditions.

Today, on the international women's day, hotel housekeepers in Reykjavik are going on a one-day strike to demand living wages and better working conditions. Most hotel cleaners in Iceland are low-paid immigrant women. We stand in solidarity with the struggles of marginalised immigrants and women across the Globe and those who support them and to commend the symbolic timing of this action.

The workers who are organized in the IUF and EFFAT affiliated Efling a local branch of Starfsgreinasamband Island (SGS) have been in negotiations with employers for several of months for a renewal of a sectoral collective agreement in the tourism industry and after a compulsory mediation without reaching an agreement, the workers felt the only option left was to go on strike to push for their demands. Further industrial actions are planned later in March and April if no collective agreement will be reached.

A strike is always a brave action, motivated by the belief that workers deserve a dignified life, both at work and at home. It is particularly brave when it comes from those with the least power in society, who are most at risk from retaliation and exclusion, or who face the most barriers to organising with unions. Our federation transcends borders and our fellow workers come from many lands: from across these frontiers, from farms, factories and hotels, way say - "you are inspiration, and may you win!"

Icelandic hotel and restaurant workers urgently need the support of the wider trade union movement. Messages of support, encouragement and solidarity for the workers can be sent to efling@efling.is or sgs@sgs.is

On behalf of Nordic hotel and restaurant workers

Kristjan Bragason
General Secretary of NU HRCT

Clas Delp
President of NU HRCT

The Nordic Union for Hotel, Restaurant, Catering and Tourism sector, is a federation of unions in Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland, all of which organise workers of the HRCT industry. Our member organisations are: Hotell och Restaurang Förbundet (HRF), Sweden Fagligt Fælles Forbund (3F), Denmark PAM, Finland Fellesforbundet, Norway Starfsgreinasamband (SGS), Iceland MATVÍS, Iceland, Unionen, Sweden



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