

LabourStart Global Solidarity Conference 2023 – Tbilisi, Georgia

About the conference

LabourStart is the news and campaigning website of the international trade union movement. For 25 years, it has been the place where thousands of trade unionists start their day on the net.

Its news and campaigns come from a wide network of trade union and social movement activists. They are working together across borders to defend workers' rights and to support workers' struggles through international solidarity.

The LabourStart Global Solidarity Conference, which is being hosted by the Georgian Trade Union Confederation (GTUC), is an opportunity for all of us to come together in person, to find those who are like-minded, build horizontal links and establish more personal and collective connections. All this will make our movement stronger.

The conference plenary sessions and workshops are being constructed by the participants themselves, and they provide an opportunity to know about ongoing struggles, learn from each other and collectively determine how can we better help each other to win these struggles.

This conference is meeting during a time of crisis – global pandemic, climate emergency, rise of authoritarianism, rising inflation, and the outbreak of a major war in Europe.

Many unions have been weakened and some destroyed in the process. Union leaders have been jailed across the world – in Belarus, Hong Kong, Myanmar and many other countries. We do not forget them and we campaign in solidarity with them.

Organising a global solidarity conference at such a time is fraught with difficulty. And yet it more important than ever.

The LabourStart Global Solidarity Conference in Tbilisi takes place on the eve of May Day 2023 and gives trade unionists from dozens of countries and all sectors of the economy the opportunity to discuss the things that really matter. Things like a post-COVID and post-war world, a world in which workers' rights are respected, and where social justice is on the agenda.

What should we do individually and collectively to make sure a new world is possible? That is why we are coming together in Tbilisi. That is what we will discuss. And together, we will change the world.