



RESOLUTION ON ETHICAL AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

This Congress notes the importance of being able to conduct travel while not contradicting the core Aims and Principles of IFM-SEI in doing so. As a global umbrella organisation, IFM-SEI relies on international travel in order to conduct its day-to-day work, including participation in statutory meetings, project activities and international camps. While IFM-SEI attempts use creative and innovative ways to meet and to deliver activities, there is an unparalleled value in face-to-face interactions to promote meaningful dialogue, intercultural learning and cooperation.

This Congress believes that in order to ensure that travel undertaken for IFM-SEI business is done so with our Aims and Principles in mind there is a need for guidelines on ethical travel. With the rise of budget travel, there are an increasing number of transport companies - particularly airlines - running business models that revolve around keeping costs as low as possible at the expense of workers' rights. Abuses of workers' rights are illustrated by increased strikes being called by staff of budget airlines with cabin staff and pilots speaking out against abuses of workers' rights, such as insecure contracts, unregulated hours, low wages and refusing to work within national legislation. While budget airlines and business models evolve around keeping costs as low as possible may lower the economic expense for the traveller, there is an ethical cost to these decisions.

This Congress deems it important that IFM-SEI does not support travel companies that operate in an ethically unsound manner. We believe that to travel with an airline in direct contradiction of our Aims and Principles is complicity in their actions. As a socialist organisation, it is vital that our members do not cross a picket line for an airline and support strike actions in solidarity with workers. We stand by workers in fighting for their rights and we should be conscious of and critical of public relations operations of airlines.

This Congress believes that the biggest culprits in climate change are big business and government. In order to tackle climate change a systemic change is required and heightened responsibility and regulation of institutions and governments is needed. However, considering the impact flying contributes to around 2.5% of total carbon emissions, with the number of passenger aircrafts in our skies is likely to double by 2035¹, we should also take responsibility for a personal reflection on air travel in the context of IFM-SEI activities. This Congress believes that other forms of transport should be prioritised over flying - where possible - in order to reduce the carbon impact of IFM-SEI and its negative impact towards climate change. Initiatives such as only permitting train or coach travel for travelling to neighbouring countries - considering the country and regional realities - should be considered for IFM-SEI activities. Car travel should be only permitted when car sharing is in place.

The Congress recognises the lack of social protection and violation of workers' rights the gig economy² has on workers, for example the lack of sick pay, absence of unemployment benefits, and absence of health insurance. Therefore businesses in the gig economy, such as Uber, should not be supported by IFM-SEI and in its activities.

1 <http://theconversation.com/its-time-to-wake-up-to-the-devastating-impact-flying-has-on-the-environment-70953>

2 <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/what-is-the-gig-economy-meaning-definition-why-is-it-called-gig-economy>



Inclusion and access needs should be considered throughout this policy and these guidelines should be adapted accordingly if they create barriers or exclusion for access reasons (such as when solo car travel is needed to address a specific access need).

This Congress resolves to:

1. Only reimburse or purchase travel tickets for IFM-SEI activities that are not known to have practices of abusing workers' rights and/or in contravention of the IFM-SEI Aims and Principles - specific guidelines will be made explicit to the participants
2. Prohibit travel for IFM-SEI activities with Ryanair and Wizzair until further notice considering their current violations of workers' rights
3. Support strikes actions of transport staff and not fly with any company who is undertaking strike action for IFM-SEI activities
4. Opt for train or coach travel over flights, where possible, and only use cars when car sharing is in place
5. Prohibit travel using Uber and other gig economy companies that do not support workers' rights for IFM-SEI activities until further notice considering their current violations of workers' rights - specific guidelines will be made explicit to the participants

Submitted by IFM-SEI Presidium