

## A free space for expression: Union blog

The 70s saw the birth of UNION Magazine

Union magazine was a paper journal eagerly awaited by all staff at headquarters and in the field. It was an open door to the news of the moment, to all the events taking place within the ILO and around the world. It was a witness to the passage of time, reflecting the decades that followed until 2016, the year of its last paper publication. The paper magazine had to be abandoned because of the lack of staff time to invest in this medium and because of the difficulty of finding authors for the articles. But also because, like the paper press around the world, we had to reinvent ourselves and think about the planet.

As we have to move with the times, the Syndicat wanted to keep the spirit of the magazine alive, but modernise it with a blog.

The blog first appeared in 2017 with an interview with Deborah Greenfield ([link](#)). It was a difficult start. The union blog faced the same obstacles of lack of time and availability. But the Editorial Board hung on as best they could.

Despite everyone's efforts and because of covid, blogging was interrupted from 2020 to 2023.

Once the pandemic was behind us, the Staff Union Committee decided to revive this medium with a view to forging closer links: more user-friendly and more open to civil servants, a free space for expression.

The editorial line remains the same as for the paper magazine: articles written by civil servants for civil servants. The editorial committee is only there to coordinate and assemble the articles and publish them.

It remains a place where everyone can express themselves more freely and more informally than through more traditional networks such as the Union's website.

Like its big brother, the blog publishes a wide range of subjects, from more emotional articles such as "News from Maria Marta Travieso" ([link](#)) to interviews ([link](#)), including humour and poetry/wisdom ([link](#)), as well as more serious subjects and personal accounts ([link](#)).

The Union blog is a place for sharing, exchanging views and sometimes controversy on sensitive subjects: it reflects a period of time.

The editorial board ensures that the articles published comply with the standards of conduct of the international civil service and respect the magazine's historical editorial line. The content of the blog is written by civil servants for civil servants.

The editorial team is always looking for volunteers to write for this medium in order to keep it fresh, diverse and free in tone.

We offer a space of freedom that also allows a right of reply to certain articles. This space is open to anyone who wants to put pen to paper and express themselves. A right of reply in a benevolent and respectful environment, of course.

So why not join in? Come and take part in these rich and varied exchanges. Your contribution can only enrich this place of sharing.