



























Little is being said about the massive opportunity that these companies have to uphold labour standards in the construction sector. One way of doing so is by signing International Framework Agreements (IFAs) with Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI).

Out of the 27 European companies that are currently operating in Qatar, only seven have signed IFAs with BWI. Multinational companies that sign IFAs with BWI commit to respect workers' rights based on the core conventions of the ILO. In some cases, the agreements also include a complaint and monitoring system and cover the suppliers and subcontractors. Unlike corporate social responsibility (CSR) responses, IFAs represent a formal recognition of social partnership at the global level: they provide a global framework for protecting trade union rights and encouraging social dialogue and collective bargaining.

Also, the purpose of the IFAs is to assist union affiliates to be recognised as formal unions and to start a social dialogue with the company at the national level, and this includes the extensive web of suppliers and subcontractors that operates with the main subcontractor.

Labour laws in Qatar restrict migrant workers from participating in trade unions; however, a new form of solidarity is taking shape in Qatar thanks to the support of BWI. For example, a recently launched initiative includes the establishment of a formal network of Filipino construction workers in Qatar that conducts post-departure trainings on labour rights and provides assistance to Filipino migrant workers in Qatar.

Construction companies should not miss this opportunity to uphold international labour rights along their supply chains, take responsibility as an industry, and revise business practices that are driving problems along fragmented chains of production. They should also engage constructively with placement and recruitment agencies to guarantee ethical recruitment of migrant workers.



In 2015 La Strada International receives (project) funding from the European Commission, GOOGLE giving, ICCO/Church in Action, the Global Fund for Women and the Norwegian government. La Strada International members are supported by various other donors.

We greatly appreciate financial support from private donors for our work. For more information on how you can contribute to La Strada's work [see our website](#).