



### About the Project

“Awareness-raising and capacity building on human rights in Rwanda, with an emphasis on labour rights”

- Is part of the wider Programme “Voice and Accountability” which aims at strengthening the voice of citizens and the accountability of authorities in Rwanda and is co-funded by the European Union.
- Has the overall objective to promote human rights, in particular labour rights, in the country.
- Draws on the position of the Media, the Judiciary and the Parliament as key actors that can make a leading contribution in this respect.
- Consists of three main components which mirror its target groups and specific objectives: (1) to enhance the knowledge of journalists and media professionals of ILS and their ability to use them in their reports; (2) to strengthen the knowledge of judges and lawyers of ILS and of other human rights instruments dealing with labour issues and their capacity to use them to resolve labour disputes; and (3) to raise the awareness of Parliamentarians on ILS and the role they are called to play on them.
- Is implemented by the International Training Centre of the ILO in partnership with the Institute of Legal Practice and Development and the Rwanda Journalists Association.

For further information on the course, please contact:

Gonzag Muganwa  
Executive Secretary  
Rwanda Journalists Association  
Phone: +250.0788586225  
E-mail: muganwa@gmail.com  
Website: www.arj.rw

Maura Miraglio  
Programme Officer  
International Training Centre of the ILO  
Phone: +39.011.693.6920/6922  
E-mail: ils@itcilo.org  
Website: www.itcilo.org

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A176561

## Communicating labour rights: a training course for journalists

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Nyamata, Rwanda



www.itcilo.org

# Communicating labour rights: a training course for journalists

This training is part of the Project “Awareness-raising and capacity building on human rights in Rwanda, with an emphasis on labour rights” (FED/2013/315367), which is co-funded by the European Union.

The training is organized and implemented by the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO),<sup>1</sup> in partnership with the Rwanda Journalists Association.

## Background

Work is one of the few experiences common to all humanity. So the conditions under which we work – and the standards that govern them – concern all levels and all kinds of societies; whether we are employees, self-employed, small business owners, managers, public service employees, politicians or policy-makers. Work-related issues include immediate, practical questions – forced and child labour, equality and non-discrimination, wages, safety and health, social security – and broader issues such as building productivity and competitiveness, creating employment laws and policies, labour migration, the right to organize and express opinions.

Journalists and media professionals play a leading role in shaping the public debate about social and development issues. They seek to both reflect and influence public opinion. But they are also pressurized by limited time and resources, making it hard to report and analyze these complex, important issues in a way that draws their audiences back, again and again.

By highlighting the relevance of international labour standards (ILS) adopted and supervised by the International Labour Organization (ILO)<sup>2</sup> to accurate and responsible media reporting, the ITC-ILO trains media professionals to equip them to handle labour issues in an effective way, broadening their news agendas, improving their reporting and analysis and its relevance to readers, viewers and listeners.

## General objectives

The course aims to equip media professionals with the knowledge and competencies to use ILS and the work of the ILO’s supervisory bodies at the national level.

## Specific objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- understand how ILS are elaborated and supervised;
- determine when and how information on the ILS system can be referred to in the coverage of labour and social affairs; and
- use ILO’s databases and documents to research and/or strengthen stories on labour and social issues.

## Participants’ profile

The course is tailored for newcomers to the ILO and its ILS system. It is intended to journalists, correspondents, reporters, editors and publishers, working in all types of media (print, radio, television and the Internet).

Participants should be computer literate and experienced in using databases and the Internet for research. They should also have access to the Internet for the last phase of the training, which will be conducted online.

## Structure and content

The course will cover the following:

- introduction to the ILO and its ILS system, with a special focus on the potential and relevance of ILS for media work;
- when and how to incorporate ILS into journalism, with concrete case studies;
- the substance of selected ILS relevant to the Rwandan context;
- ILO’s databases and documents on ILS, which will be used extensively during the course; and
- experience-sharing of labour and social reporting.

Practical exercises will enable participants to appreciate the importance of substantive research on ILS, and identify relevant source material.

Participation will include a major assignment, namely the preparation of a story on labour or social affairs related to ILS. Stories will be drafted during the course and then completed and submitted after it.

## National journalistic prize “Media for Labour Rights”

Participants’ stories completed after the course will participate in the national prize “Media for Labour Rights in Rwanda”. The winner will be given a grant to attend an international training course for the media run by the ITC-ILO.

## Methodology and materials

Training methods will take full advantage of the participants’ competencies and experience. Subjects will be dealt with through presentations, computer demonstrations, practical exercises and plenary discussions.

The ITC-ILO learning approach is:

- participative: engaging participants and designing dynamic learning experiences;
- based on experiential learning processes: recognizing adult learning styles and building from concrete experience to active experimentation;
- using collaborative learning strategies: participants have the opportunity to use complementary skills, recognizing different strengths and weaknesses within the group;
- validating and building on existing experience: developing learning processes that respect the experience that the participants bring and empower them in the learning environment; and
- needing diversity: encouraging and valuing diversity within the group in terms of professional background and experience.

Training materials specifically developed for this type of training will be used throughout the course. They include a guide to international labour standards summarizing the content of a selection of ILS in the form of “key points” that incorporate the main features of the instruments in question.

## Resource persons

Resource persons will include ILO experts and a trainer from the ITC-ILO.

## Certificate

A certificate of attendance will be awarded to participants after submitting the assignment.

## Applications

Candidates must fill in and submit the online application form by 13 June 2014. The form is available at:

<http://intranetp.itcilo.org/MIN/A176561/en>.

Women are particularly encouraged to apply.

## Preparation

In preparation for the course and to facilitate the sharing of information and experience, each participant will be required to select one local news story on labour issues.

1. The ITC-ILO is the training arm of the International Labour Organization. It provides training and related services that develop human resources and institutional capabilities, thereby contributing to achieving the ILO’s goal of decent work for all. Website: [www.itcilo.org](http://www.itcilo.org)

2. The ILO is the UN agency dealing with labour issues and is uniquely qualified to provide help in this area. It promotes social justice and human and labour rights. Its overarching goal is to achieve decent work for all so everyone can work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. In addition, the ILO has a unique tripartite structure that allows employers, workers and governments to act as equal partners in its decisions, making the Organization representative of the real economy. Website: [www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)