



16th July 2020

By Email: steking@gosl.gov.lc

Honourable Minister Stephenson King
Minister for Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour
Ministry of Infrastructure Complex
Union
Castries
St Lucia

Dear Minister King,

The International Labor Organization (ILO) has determined that the economic aftershock of COVID-19 will result in further deterioration of our social safety nets and workforce standards.

For a small island developing state such as Saint Lucia, these impacts will be catastrophic if more measures are not taken to mitigate these threats.

The SLHTA on the heels of our displaced employee assistance program (DEAP) proposal submitted to Government in April 2020, hereby makes an appeal for the establishment of a taskforce to address remedial efforts to cushion increased redundancies, loss of health benefits, bankruptcy of small and medium enterprises which earn their living from a vibrant tourism industry.

Over the coming months the SLHTA envisions amendments to workforce engagements which will include job sharing, remote working and job rotation as tourism enterprises struggle to contain revenue loss, increased cost of doing business and depleted market share.

The need to explore opportunities for health insurance for unemployed persons, establishment of a job bank, provide assistance for small and medium enterprises through micro loans facilities, advocacy for moratorium on housing and utilities etc are critical to our adjustments over the coming months.

The SLHTA hereby appeals to your Ministry to lead a multi Ministerial public/private sector taskforce to discuss the solutions. Engagement of workers' organizations on social dialogue for solutions, is also critical to creating an enabling environment for sound labor relations.

We look forward to your call to action on this matter at the soonest.

Yours sincerely



Karolin Troubetzkoy
President

CC:

Honorable Prime Minister Allen Chastanet
Minister of Education, Gayle Rigobert
Minister of Tourism, Dominic Fedee
Permanent Secretary for Education, Michelle Charles
Permanent Secretary for Tourism, Donalyn Vittet
Head of NCPC, Fiona Hinkson