

**24 January 2018 - On 23 January, Ciné-ONU screened ‘*The Workers Cup*’ in order to highlight SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth. The film follows the story of migrant workers in Qatar who are building the infrastructure projects for the 2022 World Cup and was shown in partnership with ILO Brussels (International Labour Organisation) at Cinéma Galeries in Brussels.**



The screening was followed by a conversation on the issues highlighted in the film. The guest speakers included: Rosie Garthwaite (Producer of ‘*The Workers Cup*’); Bert Ballegeer (Co-ordinator of the Belgian Homeless Cup) and Claire Courteille (Director of the International Labour Organisation in Brussels).

The discussion focused on the lives of the characters within the documentary. Ms. Garthwaite highlighted that they wanted, ‘to make a film that represented the workers fairly’. This was key as the filmmakers, ‘wanted to speak only to the emotional truth, through the eyes of the workers’, a point which made their individual stories all the more engaging.



However, it was clear that the conditions in which the migrant workers live and work could be improved. Ms. Garthwaite stated that unfortunately, ‘lots of deaths are recategorised to save the reputation of the country’.

When asked about what was being done to tackle problems such as these, Ms. Courteille noted that the 'ILO and the Qatari Government have signed a three-year technical agreement to tackle problems such as lack of wage payment, prevention of forced labour, fair recruitment and proper accommodation', showing that progress is being made. She went on to highlight that the "kafala system" concerned not only construction workers but domestic and hospitality workers also, with the ILO working on 'the wider problems of forced labour across the board'.



Mr. Ballegeer spoke of his experience of negative stereotyping within his work with the Belgian Homeless Cup. He said that 'there is a stereotype of homeless people but we want to give them a positive image of courage and power', a point made in the film as it strives to show the courage of the workers.



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