

Susanna Haapalainen (she/her)

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Passionate trade unionist and human rights defender with expertise in various levels of advocacy in political decision-making, networks and working groups. Extensive networks in international trade union movement. Fluent trainer and presenter and experienced organizational developer. Education professional for whom inclusion and decent work are important.



I have extensive and diverse experience in the trade union movement at the national, Nordic, European, and global levels. I have worked within the trade union movement and in closely related organizations for nearly 20 years. Throughout my career, I have been responsible for a wide range of activities, including campaigns, communications, workplace-level activities, training, student and youth work, organizing, administration, and global development cooperation projects. I have strong political networks and a solid understanding of changes in the global operating environment.

I am currently working as Special Advisor in The Trade Union for the Public and Welfare Sectors JHL, where I am responsible for the union's global activities and advocacy work. My duties also include administrative responsibilities such as budget planning and monitoring, as well as reporting to the union's leadership. Furthermore, I coordinate the union's cooperation at both Nordic and global levels and oversee our human rights work in the Global South. I have been employed by JHL since 2011, during which time I have held a variety of roles and responsibilities within organizational activities.

I have also worked at Trade union solidarity center of Finland SASK focusing on global labour rights, with particular responsibility for global education and the management of volunteer activities. In addition, I have experience working at The Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions SAK in the organizational sector. Prior to my professional trade union career, I served for four years as a full-time President of a national organization for vocational students. I am comfortable working in diverse environments and have a strong ability to identify connections and synergies between different areas of work.

I have studied pedagogy and specialized in organizational development. I am currently completing Master's level studies in the humanities, focusing on organizational work and leadership development. I have also studied the global trade union movement at the Global Labour University in Johannesburg, South Africa. I am a confident public speaker and have received professional media training in Finland for a variety of communication settings.

As a colleague, I am positive and supportive. I am accustomed to working independently, while also valuing collaboration in diverse teams. I am proactive, creative, and results-oriented. I am highly motivated to contribute my expertise, skills, and commitment to NOFS, and to play a role in strengthening our position as a strong and influential voice for the Nordic public sector within trade union networks.