JAMES BOLAND, MÁRIO DAVID AND SHAHNAZ KAPADIA-RAHAT JOIN THE GLOBAL FAIRNESS INITIATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Distinguished union President, former member of the European Parliament, and social entrepreneur join international team of leaders on the GFI Board.

Washington, DC – The Global Fairness Initiative (GFI) has announced that James Boland, Dr. Mário David and Shahnaz Kapadia-Rahat will join the GFI Board of Directors. The three new members bring union expertise, legislative experience in the European Union, and social activism to GFI’s diverse Board of Directors representing government, civil society, labor, and private industry from throughout the globe.

"It is our pleasure and great fortune to welcome three exceptional leaders to our Board of Directors,” said Dr. Danilo Türk, former President of Slovenia and GFI Board Chair. “These three new colleagues represent an important cross section of our shared social and economic development - from Dr. David’s government and multilateral experience, to Mr. Boland’s labor leadership, and finally the powerful grassroots voice of Ms. Kapadia-Rahat. We are delighted and enriched to have them join this distinguished Board.”

Mr. Boland has spent his career working to promote and secure workers’ rights as President of the Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers. Dr. David, a former Member of the European Parliament, has championed social and economic access for working people in the continent and his come of Portugal where he served the Portuguese Social Democratic Party. Ms. Kapadia-Rahat, a social entrepreneur and innovator, founded Empowerment Through Creative Integration in Pakistan and served as the former Senior Group Head of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund. She has worked for more than 28 years leading projects and people to promote effective and sustainable socio-economic development.

“GFI strives to break the barriers of access and opportunity of the working poor, and we are simply thrilled to welcome three leaders who have committed their lives to these principals.” said Global Fairness Initiative founder Karen Tramontano. “This Board is a diverse, thoughtful and powerful voice for the rights and opportunity of working people, and Jim, Mario and Shahnaz will serve to strengthen that voice and broaden its resonance, and we are thrilled to have them as part of the Global Fairness Initiative.”

The Global Fairness Initiative is an international NGO that works to create a more equitable, sustainable approach to economic development, and to make our global economy work for those who need it most – the world’s working poor. For over a decade GFI has steadily built a track record of success through innovative programs to reduce poverty, enfranchise informal communities, and advance human rights and livelihoods in all parts of the world.

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**James Boland (Ireland)**

James Boland has served as President of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) since 2010 and has served as a member of the Executive Board since 1995 during which time he served as Executive Vice President and as Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Boland joined BAC as a member in 1977 and spent the next decade working on commercial projects in the San Francisco Bay area in brick, block, stone, and marble. He became Business Agent in 1988 and then President in 1992 of BAC Local 3 California. One year later he was appointed to serve as a member of the International Union’s highest advisory body, the BAC Executive Council. In 1994 Boland he joined the International Union’s headquarters staff before being elected as the International Union President, where he now is responsible for formulating and supervising the IU’s programs and activities consistent with the policies established by the IU Convention and in accordance with the Union's Constitution. He also serves as Co-Chair of the International Masonry Institute (IMI), the training and industry development arm of the organized masonry industry.

In addition to leading BAC, he is a Vice President of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, and Chairs the Immigration Committee, is a member of the International Affairs, and Legislation/Policy, and Political Committees, and the Labor Commission on Racial and Economic Justice. He serves on the Governing Board of Presidents of the North America’s Building Trades Unions, and the General Presidents’ Committee on Contract Maintenance and the National Joint Heavy and Highway Committee.

President Boland is an At-Large member of the Democratic National Committee, and serves on the Boards of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust, the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, and the BlueGreen Alliance.

**Dr. Mário David (Portugal)**

Mário Henrique de Almeida Santos David served as MEP in the VII Legislature of the European Parliament (2009 – 2014), elected by the Portuguese Social Democratic Party (PSD). In the European Parliament, he served on the Committee of Foreign Affairs, the Committee of International Trade, the Sub-Committee of Security and Defence, and he was the Vice President of the European People’s Party (EPP). Dr. David was born in Angola and moved to Lisbon where he finished he received a his degree a a medical doctor and then practiced in several hospitals and health centers. He then served as Head of Cabinet of Francisco Pinto Balsemão, Paulo Mendo, Fernando Nogueira, Faria de Oliveira, and António Capucho. His entry into Portuguese politics then led him to the European Parliament, where he was elected Secretary General of the Parliamentary Group and Member of the Presidency of the European Liberals, Democrats and Reformists (ELDR). He assumed the role of Special Counselor for the enlargement of the European Union to the Eastern European countries and was also responsible for the follow-up team for the twelve candidate countries, and the relations with Russia and the Balkans.

After working as a senior advisor to Portugese Prime Minister Durão Barroso, Dr. David then led the election process and transition of Durão Barroso as the 11th President of the European Commission. He was invited by the Prime Minister Santana Lopes to be State Secretary for European Affairs, during the XVI Constitutional Government where he was founder of the Movement of friends of the cohesion countries and created the basis for successful negotiations on the financial perspectives 2007-2013 for Portugal. Dr. David currently serves as a Partner at Alpac Capital in Lisbon.
Shahnaz Kapadia-Rahat (Pakistan)

Shahnaz is a social entrepreneur and livelihood innovator who founded Empowerment thru Creative Integration in Pakistan and who served as the former Group Head of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation. She has worked for over 28 years leading projects and people to promote effective and sustainable socio-economic development. In addition to her leadership on program in Pakistan, she has run multi-sector projects in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Egypt, Iran, India, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Senegal, Thailand, Turkey, and Uganda.

Her Empowerment thru Creative Integration (ECI) enterprise began as a one-(wo)man business and grew into Pakistan’s 18th fastest growing company, providing training and consulting services that earned and international reputation. ECI designed and implemented cascade training programs for federal, provincial and local governments as well as international development organizations with outreach to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries across Pakistan. With ECI Shahnaz designed and conducting over 5000 training days to audiences ranging from corporate senior management, government officials to non-literate rural farmers. Most recently, Shahnaz has completed the Harvard Kennedy School’s mid-career Masters of Public Policy program in the US and will be returning to Pakistan to launch her next social venture.

ABOUT GFI

The Global Fairness Initiative (GFI) promotes a more equitable, sustainable approach to economic development for the world’s working poor by advancing fair wages, equal access to markets, and balanced public policy to generate opportunity and end the cycle of poverty.

Since 2002, GFI has partnered with hundreds of marginalized working communities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia to enhance economic opportunities and build sustainable livelihoods. We have developed innovative programs to preserve and create jobs, empowered women by removing barriers to economic success, advanced fair wages, and expanded revenues so that communities of promise can become centers of prosperity. GFI programs achieve this success through targeted initiatives that Engage Government, Invest in Women Producers, Build Workforce Capacity, Improve Access to Markets, Bring Fairness to Free Trade, and Catalyze Financial Innovation to Bridge the “Missing Middle.”