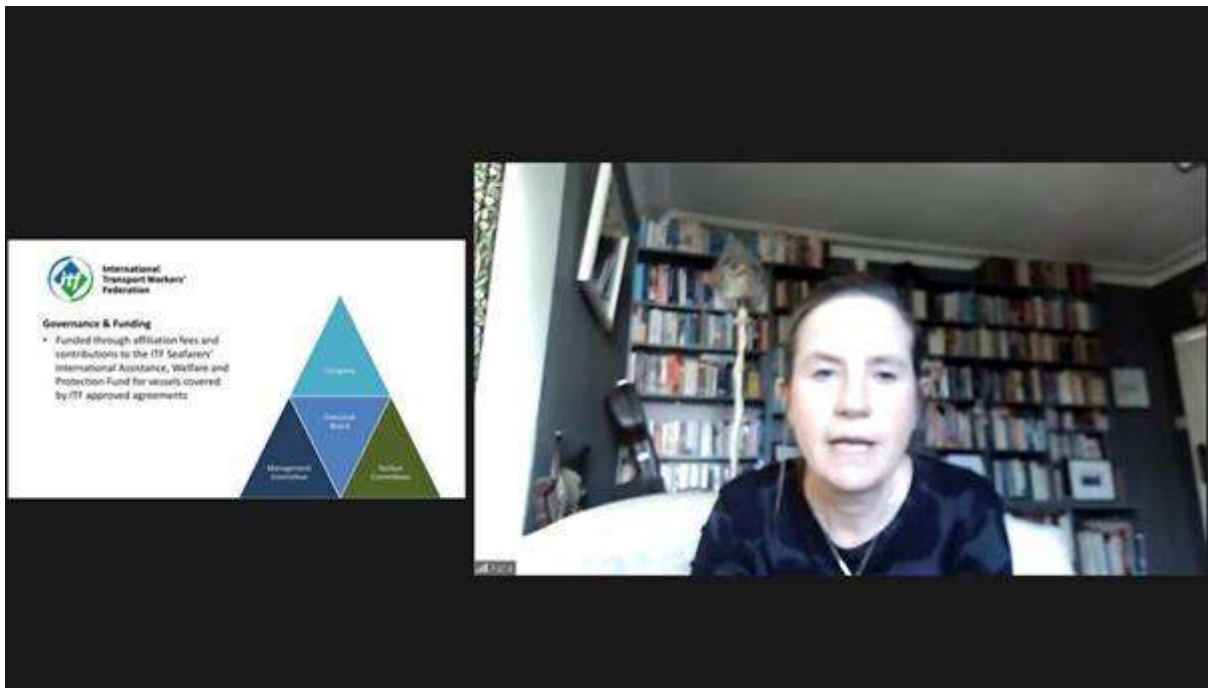


HEAD OF ITF SEAFARERS' TRUST LECTURES AT IMLI

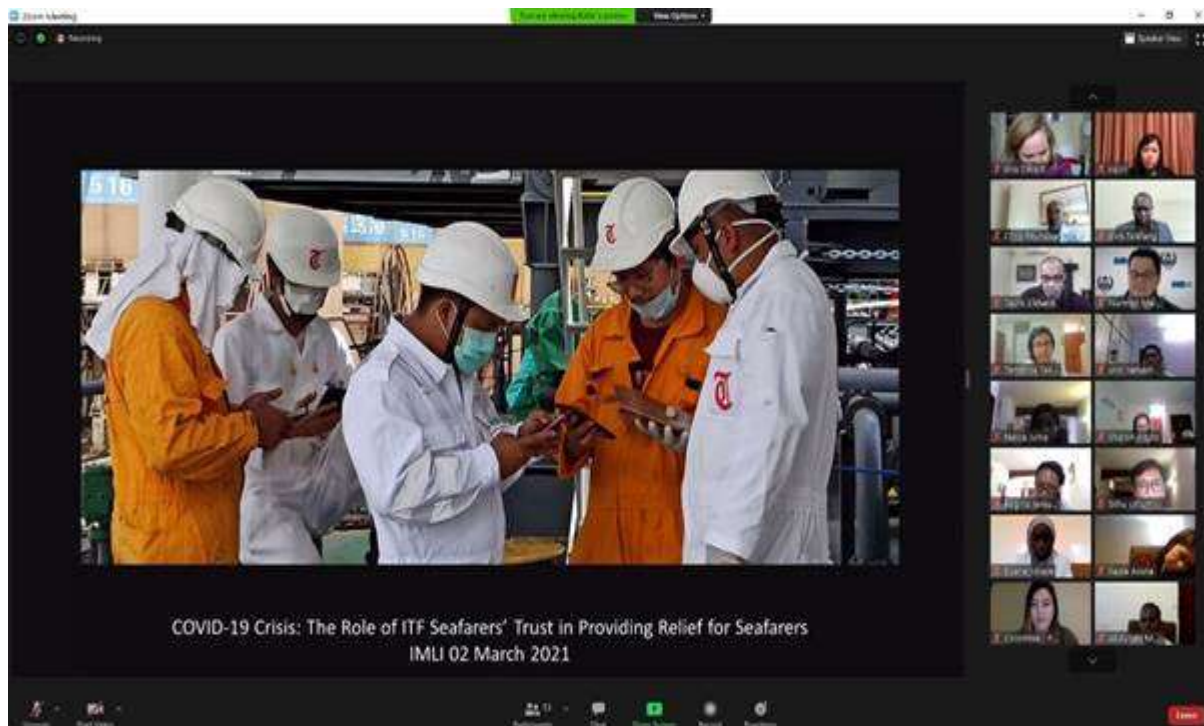
Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarers' Trust) delivered on 2 March 2021 a lecture entitled "*COVID-19 Crisis: The Role of ITF Seafarers' Trust in Providing Relief for Seafarers*" to the IMLI Class of 2020-2021. Ms. Higginbottom was welcomed and introduced to the participants by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer, IMLI).



Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarers' Trust)

In her lecture, Ms. Higginbottom introduced the participants to the ITF which, as she stated, is a democratic, affiliated-led global union federation, with nearly 700 affiliated trade unions from 150 countries, representing nearly 20 million workers. She then discussed the work of the ITF Seafarer's Trust, which includes improving the welfare and wellbeing of seafarers and their families and encouraging cooperation and coordination amongst seafarer's welfare organizations. Ms. Higginbottom informed the participants of the Trust's COVID-19 response

and provided an overview of its different grants, together with other Trust activities, which include seafarers' centres and services, subsistence and accommodation, port based sanitary facilities, counselling and advice, care home, and seafarer's communication opportunity. She concluded her lecture by noting that there is still a vital role which maritime charities can perform in the global maritime industry which faces limitations of international regulations and the use of flags as businesses.



Ms. Katie Higginbottom joined the ITF Seafarers Section in 2005 after a first career in international publishing. She played an active role in the Joint IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on Liability and Compensation Regarding Claims for Death, Personal Injury and the Abandonment of Seafarers and then in the ITF delegation to the ILO during the negotiations and adoption of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC). Through her various roles at the ITF, she has been responsible for training the ITF inspectorate on the MLC and for monitoring the practical application of the MLC, most notably on the issue of abandonment. She has worked extensively with maritime unions in the Black Sea region, East and West Africa and Myanmar.

She took up the role of Head of ITF Seafarers' Trust in July 2018. Since then, she has actively expanded the Trust's reach through her relationships with maritime unions around the world

and sought to increase the impact of the Trust's work through close cooperation with the ITF and with other organisations addressing the welfare and wellbeing of seafarers.

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