

Justitia et Pax · Kaiserstraße 161 · D 53113 Bonn

International Domestic Workers' Network
c/o Secretaria Regional Latinoamericana de la UITA
Wilson Ferreira Aldunate 1229
Oficina 201
CP 11100 Montevideo / Uruguay

04.10.2013

Dear Ms Witbooi, dear Ms Tang, dear members of the IDWN,

As president of the German Commission for Justice and Peace I wish to congratulate you cordially on the official founding of the International Domestic Workers Federation in Uruguay. On behalf of our commission which happens to meet at the same time – October 25th/26th, 2013 - in Berlin for its autumn - assembly, I express my sincere appreciation and joy about this important step for domestic workers worldwide.

The Commission for Justice and Peace followed the struggle of domestic workers for recognition and rights over the last years closely with interest and support. Every report of the last five years presented by our secretariat told us about the latest achievements and concerns you have faced in your advocacy work and especially in your effort to organise yourself as network and federation.

In June 2011 we rejoiced with you in the great success at the International Labour Conference where with your tremendous effort and cooperation with unions finally the standard setting process for decent work for domestic workers was crowned by the adoption of ILO- Convention 189. Already the process and certainly this success have strengthened your sisterly unity.

We feel honoured for having accompanied you with some small steps of support and encouragement on your way to the founding congress. But we also have to thank you that you trusted in our cooperation and therefore helped us in our work to advocate the right to organise for workers in the informal economy. By joining readily in our debates, following our invitations to conferences and co-organising workshops you encouraged our efforts to cooperate with unions, migrations organisations, faith based organisations to promote the rights of informal workers, especially women all over the world in informal and precarious working and living conditions. Thank you very much for this!

Hence we join you in our thoughts at this important moment for your network.
Rest assured that you will always have supporters in us.

Again on behalf of the whole commission I wish you an inspiring and consolidating congress. The fruits of your work give plenty reason for a joyful celebration of your political success and your promising future. Your sisterly unity is a powerful expression of peace and justice which will be guided and protected by the Almighty.

Cordially Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dr. Stephan Ackermann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Dr. Stephan Ackermann
Bishop of Treves