

Recommendations



While contexts are diverse across the regions, the core demands of domestic workers movements are the same and resonate with one another. Aside the urgent alleviation of the COVID-19 induced hardships, they look into the deeper-seated injustices, to make sustainable change towards the alleviation of economic and gender inequalities of the sector.

1 Information and Outreach



1. Ensure the timely, transparent and rightful access to information, that accurately reflects the figures and cases related to COVID-19.
2. Protect the freedom of expression as crucial for the mutual learning and public sharing of knowledge and information from the ground.
3. Make available information on the symptoms and the prevention of COVID-19 in the languages of DWs, including helplines financially and linguistically.
4. Lead awareness raising campaigns aimed at employers, DWs, and the society at large about DWs rights under COVID-19.
5. The concerned authorities or executives to delegate the identification of informal DWs to workers' organizations in order to facilitate aid distributions.

2 Protective Measures



1. Use international standards, namely C189 and C190, as frameworks of reference in order to guarantee equal labor rights and freedom from harassment for DWs.
2. Monitor employers through reinforcements of direct inspections and legal and financial consequences if the employers:
 - fail to provide food, water, protective gear and necessary hygienic products to the workers,
 - expose the workers to dangerous environments, by not following quarantine measures or forcing workers to perform excessive and unsafe tasks,
 - force workers to quarantine in the workplace and deny their rights to enjoy days-off fully through limiting their freedom of movement.
 - Discriminate against the workers in any shape or form.
3. Provide effective means and procedures for DWs to report labor abuses, unfair dismissals and violations of their rights, through the ministries of labor and domestic workers unions and groups.
4. Engage domestic workers in dialogue with trade unions, employers, and other organizations to design emergency policies in a participatory and informed manner to respond to COVID-19.
5. Issue domestic worker specific guidelines on working during COVID-19.
6. Enforce paid leaves with provision of food and accommodation for domestic workers who are in quarantine. Enforce paid sick leaves for workers who contracted the virus.

3 Accommodation and Safe Housing



1. Allocate alternative accommodation for DW under the “sleep-in” modality, including migrant workers, as they are locked out of their countries due to border closure.
2. Suspend rents and impose consequences on landlords who evict those unable to afford rent during the lockdown.
3. Release domestic workers from detention centers, make safe housing available for them to quarantine in.
4. Allow the opening of shelters and introduce preventative health care services and medication within all these spaces.

4 Income Security



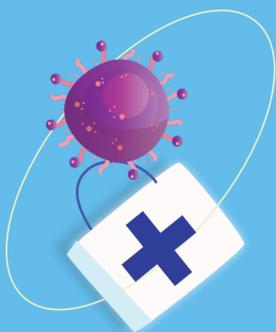
1. Enforce the payment of full salaries to formal and informal DWs. Provide additional compensations to caregivers who continue working during the lockdown.
2. Prohibit forced leaves, dismissal and suspension of DWs during the lockdown.
3. Place additional protective measures for women domestic workers who are pregnant and risk the termination of their contracts.
4. In case the rightful impossibility of continuation of payment of salaries by employers, governments to:
 - facilitate DWs' access to short-time-work regimes equally to other workers in countries where such measure is applicable,
 - guarantee DWs' access to unemployment allowances, paired with additional income (i) provided by employers where appropriate, or (ii) from other basic income grants, existing or created in response to COVID-19.
5. Create emergency funds specific for DWs, formal and informal, to assist them with temporary wage support and relief packages.

5 Domestic Workers with Migration Status



1. Grant automatic amnesty and visa extensions to MDWs whose documentation has expired and facilitate their acquisition of new paperwork.
2. Collaborate with embassies to support MDWs looking to return to their countries of origin, facilitate their travels, and exempt them from paying any pending fees associated to their documentation status.
3. Make available safe shelters with proper quarantine measures, food, protective gears, and medical equipment for MDWs waiting to return to their countries of origin.
4. Facilitate travel and provide legal and financial exceptions for DWs to cross national borders, during their closure, so they can reach their countries of destination and deliver essential work.
5. Guarantee the safety of irregular MDWs from deportation and arrest after the crisis is alleviated

6 Health & social Benefits



1. Upscale health systems and infrastructure, including water and sanitation provision. Exempt, waive, or reduce the payments of essential services such as water, electricity, and gas for unemployed DWs, formal and otherwise.
2. Include DWs in Occupational Safety and Health law coverage as a priority, extend social security services to DWs - and recognize COVID-19 is an occupational disease.
3. Cover the cost of COVID-19 tests and treatment of the virus and its side effects for DWs, irrespective of their documentation status.
4. Ensure the unconditional provision of health services free of racial discrimination, institutionally and individually, to domestic workers. Provide undocumented migrant DWs with the same access to the health system as for residents and formal workers and guarantee their safety from deportation and arrest risks in the present and the future.
5. Enforce the employers' contributions to Social Security Funds where applicable and enforce the payment of DWs health and travel insurance by the employers.

7 Anti-Discrimination Measures



1. Educate the public to fight COVID-19 and discrimination at once. The pandemic is not an excuse for discrimination.
2. Respect and implement the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
3. Terminate unfair immigration laws through reference to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a framework