

## LATIN AMERICA: News & Updates December 2014- January 2015

Since December 2014, the region has been very active in the promotion and defence of domestic workers rights. In all countries, domestic worker's organizations and unions have been pushing their campaigns for the ratification of C189 and to advocate for the necessary changes in national legislations that will improve working conditions for the sector. To reinforce these efforts, IDWF affiliates have carried out workshops and capacity-building activities as described below.

In addition, The Federation has been regularly updating and adding information to the Spanish section of the site to facilitate communications and sharing of information among affiliates and other stakeholders in the region.

### UPDATES

#### Chile

01 Jan: Law No. 20.786 for Domestic Workers came into effect with the intention of eliminating abuses and to regulate worker's contracts, tasks and working hours. This law also determines the use of apron in public spaces as non-obligatory and fulfills a promise of President Bachelet to protect and guarantee equality of rights to workers in the sector. The Government is also on the process of ratifying ILO Convention 189.

See interview with Ruth Olate (Sintracap): <http://disq.us/8lu92a>

08 Jan: The Board of Civil Society was formed as part of the Labour and National Service of Capacity Building (Sence) to provide civil society input to different aspects of public management. Members of the Board were independently elected and Ruth Olate from Sintracap will act as Vice President.



15 Jan: Ministry of National Assets made a contribution to make a dream come true for Aida Moreno, founder of the Foundation Margarita Pozo. The Foundation brings together former domestic workers and received a long-term concession of a property tax, a benefit that will allow domestic workers to build a shelter for 60 to 80 seniors. This concession was awarded by Minister of National Assets, Victor Osorio with the intention of guaranteeing dignified old age for domestic workers.

#### Mexico

14 Dec: Domestic workers from the states of Colima, Oaxaca, Chiapas, Coahuila and Puebla met in Mexico City to attend the first National Forum of Domestic Workers in the country. Inter Press Service interviewed the group led by Marcelina Bautista from the *Centro de Apoyo y Capacitación de Empleadas del Hogar* (CACEH) and reported that workers signed a pact to boost ratification of ILO Convention 189 and their intention to build in 2015 the first national trade union for domestic workers.

15 Jan: CACEH attended the television program "Dialogues in confidence" on Channel 11 in Mexico City. This was a two-hour program analyzing the current situation of domestic work in Mexico, the violation of human rights and discrimination faced by domestic workers. Marcelina Bautista also spoke about the progress made in terms of organization and training available for the sector. To access interview: <http://disq.us/8lu8uv>

#### Peru



12 Jan: Deputy Minister of Labour, Alfonso Adrianzén reported the implementation of service modules as part of the second "Plan of action to promote compliance with the labor rights of domestic workers", which like the previous Plan was developed by the Directorate General of Fundamental Rights and Safety and Health at Work. The intention is to facilitate access to information.

19 Jan: Domestic workers leaders demand government to ratify C189 after domestic worker, Maria Vasquez, denounced abuses by her employer Carmen Omonte, Minister of Women Issues in Peru.

Ms Vasquez was denied of social insurance and maternity benefits. Domestic workers leaders attended different television and radio interviews detailing the need to address legislation that protects domestic workers and the fault of the Minister after years of meetings with the sector. The Minister denied knowledge of Law 27986 and a protest was organized by IDWF Vice President Ernestina Ochoa in front of the Labour Ministry on 21 of January.

### **Honduras**

12 Jan: A Social Security Protection Act took shape after President of the Republic, Juan Orlando Hernandez, presented the project to the Congress. With this law, in 2015 it is intended to universalize the social security system in Honduras. Currently only five percent of the population enjoys this benefit, but with the new law coverage will be extended to domestic workers.

### **Uruguay**

01 Jan: The Ministry of Labour approved an agreement to increase 11.17% of domestic workers salaries. This agreement came into effect in January and the main domestic worker's union in the country notified its members to be alert to this change and other financial claims.

To read more updates in the region, please follow this link: <http://www.idwfed.org/es/relatos>

## **ACTIVITIES**

Throughout December 2014 and January 2015, IDWF affiliates carried out C189 campaign and capacity building activities on women's empowerment, gender issues, communications and trade unionism:

### **December 2014**

- In Costa Rica, Carmen Cruz from *Astradomes* carried out a workshop on domestic workers rights and organized a press conference to increase dissemination of activities;
- In Dominican Republic, Elena Perez of the *Asociación de Trabajadoras del Hogar* (ATH) participated in a National Forum on domestic work, freedom of trade unions and collective bargaining. This Forum was organized in conjunction with CNUS.
- In Bogotá, Colombia Yenny Hurtado from the *Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadoras del Servicio Doméstico* (SINTRASEDOM) organized a successful workshop on gender issues for domestic workers.
- In Buenos Aires, Argentina Alcira Burgos of the *Sindicato de Personal de Casas de Familia* (SINPECAF) organized a National Meeting. To access interview: <http://bit.ly/1yI2YMc>
- In Mexico City, Marcelina Bautista from CACEH organized the First National Forum of domestic workers and signed a pact with the commitment of everyone involved to form the first national domestic worker's union in 2015. This pact was supported by representatives of the National Council to Prevent Discrimination (CONAPRED), the Ministry of Labour and Employment (STyFE) as well as academic and civil organizations in the meeting. In addition to this activity, CACEH continued its campaign for a "Holiday Bonus for Domestic Workers" and "Put your gloves on"
- In Lima, Peru Ernestina Ochoa from IPROFOTH organized a national capacity building workshop with the participation of 20 domestic workers in Cusco.



### **January 2015**

- In Santiago, Chile Ruth Olate from the *Sindicato de Trabajadoras de Casa Particular* carried out a Seminar to discuss the challenges faced by domestic workers after the enactment of Law No. 20.786 for Domestic Workers as well as to set up the agenda post 2014.
- In Lima, Peru Ernestina Ochoa from IPROFOTH and Adelinda Uriarte from SINTRAHOGARP together with other domestic workers leaders met the Vice-Minister of Labour, Pablo Checa Ledesma to talk about C189. After the meeting, the group joined the march against the enactment of a new labour law affecting youth, best known as "Ley Pulpin"

In addition, this group also protested outside the Ministry of Labour the practices of employers who abuse their domestic workers as was the case of the Minister of Women Issues, Carmen Omonte. To read letter of demands: <http://disq.us/8luaod>

- In Lima, Leddy Mozambique from the *Sindicato de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores del Hogar* de la Región de Lima (SINTRAHOL) organized a meeting at the offices of ILO to discuss perspectives and analysis in regards to C189. See interview: <http://disq.us/8luam8>

To read more details of activities above, please follow this link: <http://www.idwfed.org/es/actividades>

## RESOURCES

Spanish resources are now available under this link: [http://www.idwfed.org/es/recursos#b\\_start=0](http://www.idwfed.org/es/recursos#b_start=0)  
Under Resources, “*Compendio de Poemas*” by Aida Moreno has been made available to the public for the first time.

### **Trabajadora del hogar**

*Las trabajadoras del hogar  
Trabajaremos siempre unidas  
Para construir un futuro mejor.*

*Unidas y organizadas  
Acompañada de nuestros valores  
Lucharemos por una justa legislación.*

*Nuestro lema siempre será  
Unidas y organizadas  
Nada nos detendrá*

*Trabajemos unidas en la organización  
Con fe, esperanza y mucho amor  
Fortaleceremos nuestra lucha con pasión*

*Siempre con la frente en alto  
Marcharemos hacia un futuro mejor.*

*Buscaremos nuevas rutas  
Para el crecimiento  
De nuestra organización.  
Fuerza necesitaremos para avanzar  
En nuestra lucha laboral.  
Por Aida Moreno*

### **Domestic Worker**

*Domestic workers  
Always working hand in hand  
To build a better future.*

*United and organized  
With our values to our hearts  
We will fight for justice and law.*

*Our motto:  
United and organized,  
There will be no force that can hold us*

*We will work united in the organization  
With faith, hope and much love  
And with emotion we will strengthen our  
struggle*

*Always standing tall  
We will march towards tomorrow*

*We will look at new routes  
For the growth  
Of our organization.  
Strength we will need  
To advance our labour fight  
by Aida Moreno*

**Download Book of Poems:** <http://www.idwfed.org/es/recursos/trabajadoras-del-hogar-un-compendio-de-poemas>

### **Contacts**

Latin American Affiliations: <http://www.idwfed.org/es/afiliaciones/america-latina>

Coordinators & Facilitators: <http://www.idwfed.org/en/help/help>