

Mr. Tan Chuan Jin
Minister of State
Manpower Ministry

Dear Mr. Tan

Happy International Domestic Workers' Day!!!

On this day we wish to extend to you our appreciation on your recent moves to mandate a weekly rest day for domestic workers and your imposition on a ban on the cleaning of window exteriors from high rise residences subject to safety measures in place. Our domestic worker community greeted these announcements with cheer and hope that your Ministry will continue to do more to protect and safeguard the rights of domestic workers in Singapore.

On this day I appeal to your good office to consider the following:

Mandatory weekly rest day

to apply to all existing contracts in 2013 (not just new contracts) - to provide a 24 hours period for the rest day rather to leave it flexible - to enforce this law and not make it a mockery where the employer can get off easily by compensating money to a DW and giving her no choice to say 'no'.

Ban on dangerous window cleaning and hanging laundry

Since this is a life and death issue, we urge the ministry to impose a total ban on such dangerous duties. A total ban communicates the seriousness of subjecting domestic workers to unnecessary death risks. We have the petitions of more than 1000 domestic workers who support our call for a total ban. Let these voices be heard by your Ministry to show that you care and will do the right thing for their protection.

Ratify ILO C189 Decent Work for Domestic Workers

The Philippines Government and the Indonesian Government will soon go for the ratification of the ILO DW convention C189. These are our source countries and our ASEAN members - Singapore should be prepared to show world leadership by also going forward with the ratification of the convention without hesitation. Under our CEDAW obligations - we have to commit to this ratification and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against migrant domestic workers by excluding them from national labour legislation.

Thank you sir and may I have the opportunity to meet you soon and to present to you the signed petitions by more than 1000 domestic workers in response to tragedies in this year.

Warmest Regards

--Bridget Tan

Founder-President

Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics

"Building a Culture of Welcome where no Man, Woman or Child is a Stranger. We are Family." www.home.org.sg

STATEMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS' DAY

16 June 2012

Ratify and Implement ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers Now!

Today, as we commemorate the first anniversary of the adoption of ILO Convention 189 (C189) on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, we call on ILO Member States to immediately ratify and implement C189 as a demonstration of their global commitment made at the 100th Session of the International Labour Conference on 16 June 2011.

Ratifying C189 is important, urgent and a priority! Wide ratifications of C189 would benefit an estimated 100 million domestic workers around the world who for long have been unrecognized, neglected, and forgotten.

We commend Uruguay for being the first country to ratify C189. We are optimistic that this step forward will encourage rest of the world to follow in particular the Philippines which also committed to be among the first countries to ratify the Convention.

We call on States, employers, recruiters, civil society, religious groups, and the general public to become instruments of change and reinvent their views on domestic work. Specifically, we raise our call to the following:

- · Governments to ratify C189 and follow through on their ethical and legal obligations to extend to both local and migrant domestic workers the same rights as those of other workers.
- · Governments are urged to provide an enabling environment that will facilitate respect for rights, provide ample protection and promote holistic development of domestic workers.
- · Governments to include domestic workers in national labour laws and enact provisions that address the specific needs and concerns of domestic workers especially child domestic workers and migrant domestic workers.
- · Governments to repeal policies that disproportionately discriminate and criminalize domestic workers and effectively enforce existing policies that seek to promote the rights and welfare of domestic workers.
- · Governments, employers and the general public to recognize the contribution of domestic workers to the development of societies where they work and treat them with respect and dignity.
- · Recruiters to stop the exploitation of migrant domestic workers through collection of exorbitant recruitment fees which lead domestic workers into forced labor and debt bondage.
- · Trade unions and labour rights advocates to show their concrete support by assisting domestic workers to exercise their right to association and to join or form a trade union
- · For trade unions to expand solidarity with migrant domestic workers across borders.
- · Religious groups to take an active role in promoting public consciousness with respect to
- the culture of inequalities and stereotypes that work against domestic workers particularly women domestic workers.

Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW)- Cambodia
Migrant Care- Indonesia
Migrant Forum in Asia
Migrant Forum India – India
National Domestic Workers Movement- India
POURAKHI- Nepal
Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee (PNCC)-Nepal
Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA-Academy) – India
Serikat Buruh Migran Indonesia (SBMI)- Indonesia

Solidarity Center

Sr. Immaculate De Alwis, ACTFORM- Sri Lanka

SUMAPI- Philippines

Transient Workers Count Too- Singapore

Unlad Kabayan Migrant Services Foundation, Inc. - Philippines

Visayan Forum Foundation Incorporated- Philippines

WARBE Development Foundation – Bangladesh

Youth Action Nepal (YOAC) - Nepal

· Religious groups to continue with their role of providing refuge and comfort for domestic workers who have been exploited and abused.

· Domestic workers to organize, speak for themselves and mobilize support for the ratification and implementation of C189.

Domestic Work is Work! Domestic Workers are Workers!

Domestic Work is Not Slavery! Ratify C189!

Signed by:

ACTFORM- Sri Lanka

AFL-CIO

Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK)- Bangladesh

Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL)– Philippines

Association for Community Development - Bangladesh

Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines

ATIKHA- Philippines

Bangladesh Institute of Labor Studies-Bangladesh

Cambodia Legal Education Center (CLEC) - Cambodia

Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC)- Lebanon

Center for Indian Migrant Studies (CIMS)- India

Center for Labour and Social Studies (CLASS) – Nepal

Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA) – Philippines

Coalition for Migrants Rights (CMR)- Hongkong

Federasi Serikat Pekerja Metal Indonesia (FSPMI)- Indonesia

Federation of Free Workers (FFW)– Philippines

German Commission for Justice and Peace- Germany

Global Network- Asia

Helpers for Domestic Helpers (HDH)- Hongkong

Hongkong Confederation of Trade Unions (HKCTU) - Hongkong

Hoe Workers Center (HWC)- Taiwan

Hsinchu Migrants and Immigrants Services Center (HMISC)

Humanitarian Organization for Migration and Economics

(HOME)- Singapore

Institute of Social Development (ISD) - Sri Lanka

International Domestic Workers Network (IDWN)

JALA PRT- Indonesia

KAKAMMPI- Philippines

Kanlungan Centre Foundation- Philippines

Konfederasi Serikat Pekerja Indonesia (KSPI)-Indonesia

Labor Education and Research Network (LEARN) - Philippines

Labour Education Foundation (LEF) - Pakistan