

## Excluded workers International Conference

AFL-CIO/NDWA partnership agreement signing

press conference

Barbara Young, National Organizer with the National Domestic Workers Alliance,  
and nanny

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Today is a proud day for domestic workers, and for the entire labor movement. We stand here together and commit to continuing our work together to build a strong and powerful labor movement for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We domestic workers from all across the country are proud to sign this agreement with our union brothers and sisters to deepen our collaboration to defend and expand the right to organize for all working people. Together we will ensure that one day soon the workers who make all work possible –the women who clean homes and who care for children, the elderly and disabled will have the right to organize have recognition and to work with dignity and respect.

Legally domestic work has not been recognized as real work. We must recognize some people's homes are other people work places. There are an estimated 2.5 million domestic workers in the US working in isolation and excluded from major labor laws. In the face of this exclusion domestic workers have used innovative and creative strategies to organize and this provides an important source of strategic leadership for the broader labor movement.

This partnership agreement builds on work we are already doing together with the AFL-CIO working towards an international labor convention for decent work for domestic workers. We know it will passed this June and for the first time will set forth international law and standards for domestic workers. This will be a huge step forward in the fight for our work to be recognized as real work

Domestic workers have an important role to play in the labor movement. As we stand here to formalize this partnership with the AFL-CIO we stand proud, united

and in solidarity with working people across this country. Together we are building a movement of millions of workers, women and immigrants.

We know this partnership will make us all stronger, and we look forward to the victories we will have together.