

# DOMESTIC WORKERS AT THE FRONT-LINES



Newsletter #32

July 9, 2020

We partnered up with informal economy workers' organizations across the global economy to call for our inclusion in relief, recovery and resilience efforts led by governments. Nothing for us without us: we are 2 Billion Strong and #RecoveryStartsWithUs. Join us in the 2 Billion Strong campaign, which raises the demands of workers of the informal economy. This week, we are shedding light on the demands of Domestic Workers and their conditions under COVID-19. Help us visibilize our struggle and #CareForThoseWhoCareForYou.

Click [here](#) to check out our call.

Covid-19 and the World's Two Billion Informal Economy Workers- Hear what Elizabeth Tang our General Secretary says by clicking [here](#).

**WORKERS IN THE  
INFORMAL ECONOMY  
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN  
ESSENTIAL WORKERS!**



Domestic workers are on the frontlines of meeting hygiene standards and providing care, including for the sick and elderly.

**The global economy can't recover without us.**



**"..... we will be awaiting for an effective implementation of the Convention so that the more than 2 million workers in Mexico can access what is in our slogan as a union: FOR A DIGNIFIED WORK" said Norma Palacios, General Secretary of SINACTRAHO, National Union of Domestic Workers in Mexico after the ratification of C189 on July 3**

On December 12, 2019, Mexico finally ratified ILO Convention 189 and its Recommendation 201. On July 3, 2020, the Mexican government deposited this instrument with the ILO office. As the National Union of Domestic Workers (SINACTRAHO), we feel very strengthened and we share this great advance with all the domestic workers of the world and with those who made this instrument possible, those who have demanded and raised their voice since 2009. This achievement is for all the generations that did not have the opportunity to do it and for those that will come and for those that at this moment are committing themselves to achieve the objective of our Federation. This is the greatest proof that there are no impossibles for us: to build organizations of STRONG DOMESTIC WORKERS: DEMOCRATIC AND ABOVE ALL UNITED.

We have already made progress (modification of chapter XIII of the federal labor law, pilot program of the Mexican Institute of Social Security for domestic workers). However we will be awaiting an effective implementation of the Convention so that the more than 2 million workers in Mexico can access what is in our slogan as a union: "FOR A DIGNIFIED WORK".

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Federación de Sindicatos de Trabajadoras de Casa Particular (FESINTRACAP) is a domestic workers national federation and has been an affiliate of IDWF in Chile since 2013. It was founded in 1926 and currently has about 1,500 members belonging to different regional unions inside the country. FESINTRACAP has been mostly working on advocacy talking with newspapers, magazines, blogs and radio stations to share their problems and to ask the Government and employers to respect their labor rights, as they have no protection from Chilean Government.

Recently, as a response to the vulnerability faced by Chilean domestic workers during the COVID-19 pandemic FESINTRACAP sent a letter to the president Sebastián Piñera, with the support of congresswomen Maite Orsini and Claudia Mix, demanding him to urgently approve the Law “Take care of the people who care for us: preserving life, health and rights of Domestic Workers”.

Their main demands were:

- o Including domestic workers in the unemployment benefit.
- o Granting an emergency subsidy to domestic workers.
- o Monitoring employers and punishing those who don't respect domestic workers labor rights.
- o Amending labor laws and policies, according to ILO C189, in order to guarantee equal labor rights for domestic workers.

They were able to get the Chilean congress to approve the Unemployment Insurance for DW!!!

Also, to commemorate International Domestic Workers' Day in times of COVID-19 FESINTRACAP launched a campaign sharing stories of its members in order to raise awareness.



Check out their Facebook page by clicking [here](#).



Jacky, a domestic worker from the Philippines, shares her struggle in Qatar with us via WhatsApp. She has been working in the State of Qatar for 1 year and 8 months.

Click [here](#) to read the testimony.

*“As if our suffering is not enough, this COVID-19 made it even worse.”*

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