DOMESTIC WORKERS
AT THE FRONT-LINES

Newsletter #38

August 20, 2020

Costa Rica: ASTRADOMES supports domestic workers to report labour abuses in times of pandemic

• ASTRADOMES is delivering relief packages to their members.
• ASTRADOMES has worked with INAMU (National Institute for Women) and the Secretary of Labor to develop a powerful awareness raising campaign addressed to DWs, employers and the whole society.

INAMU provides a tool for DWs to report labor irregularities and abuses, provides DWs and employers with information on labor rights and sanitary guidance during Covid-19 and offers legal advice to DWs whose rights have been infringed.

Click here INAMU to check their website

IDWF Asia Affiliates shared examples on alternative livelihood programs for Domestic workers in times of economic crisis

Last Sunday, August 16, 75 domestic workers learned from the experiences of SEWA Cooperatives (Homecare Services) in India, Food Bank program in Sri Lanka, and Migrants Credit Union in Hong Kong.

Click here to read the report

ASTRADOMES was founded in 1988 by a group of 20 Costa Rican migrant women domestic workers. It had to be registered as an association, and not as a union, because in Costa Rica migrant workers are not allowed to create a union. Led by President María del Carmen Cruz, ASTRADOMES has been a founding members of CONLACTRAHO (Latin American and Caribbean Domestic Workers Confederation) and IDWF. Currently, it has more than 1,500 active members.

Check their Facebook page here ASTRADOMES.
Myrtle reminded the audience of the C.189 victory and highlighted the importance to move forward to the C.190, to protect domestic workers from sexual harassment and abuse at the workplace. “We often find those two coupled because domestic workers find themselves isolated and without a voice in the middle of an unbalanced power relationship with their employers. The employer is always in a position of power and is often prone to abuse this power.

Myrtle reassured that the IDWF plan for the next 3 years will focus on sexual harassment and abuse, where the IDWF will launch a campaign and produce a booklet to help domestic workers understand their rights at the workplace. She also emphasized that COVID-19 has increased sexual harassment and abuse against DWs and the importance of producing educational material tailored and directed for DWs to improve their knowledge on the topic and on how to protect themselves.

“**The time is now to stop talking and start implementing.**”

My message is, support the IDWF and the DWs and help us to speak for ourselves. The time is now to stop talking and start implementing. Let us really start going forward let them become part of the economy. Nothing is possible without us.”