

DOMESTIC WORKERS AT THE FRONT-LINES

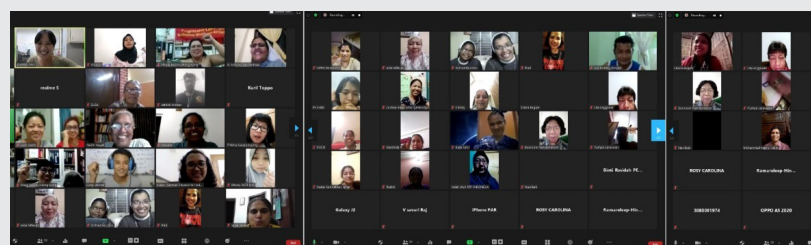


Newsletter #38

August 20, 2020

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

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** 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

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 **CONACTRAHO** (Latin American and Caribbean Domestic Workers Confederation) and **IDWF**. Currently, it has more than 1,500 active members.

Check their Facebook page here
[ASTRADOMES](#)

In the spotlight

Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon want to go home, please help!

Faced with crisis after crisis, the MDWs in Lebanon are now only asking to return to their countries. need your help now more than ever. The IDWF is partnering with the [Anti-Racism Movement](#) (ARM) in Lebanon to provide the support to:

- conduct a needs assessment
- provide direct assistance e.g. temporary shelter and basic needs for survival and
- most importantly support for return home.

Click [here](#) To read IDWF Statement

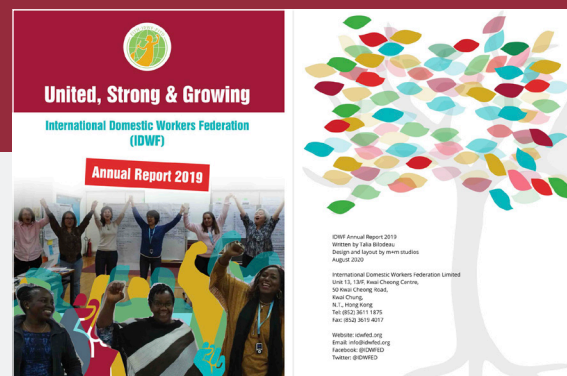
To support MDWs in Lebanon

click [here](#) and click “Donate Now”

It can be a one-time or recurrent donation.

IDWF Annual report 2019
United, Strong & Growing
is now available in English,
soon in French and Spanish

CHECK IT OUT NOW



[IDWF ANNUAL REPORT](#)

Myrtle Witbooi, IDWF President spoke at the UN Women webinar titled: Sexual Harassment in the Informal Economy: Spotlight on Domestic Workers and Farmworkers, August 18.

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.”

CHECK US OUT



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