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INTERNATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS' NETWORK

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1. IDWN Founding Congress: Montevideo, Uruguay, October 26-28, 2013

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"Domestic Workers of the World Unite!"



Each and everyone of the IDWN affiliates will be represented at the Congress and they will:

1. **Launch the Global Domestic Workers Federation**
 - a. Adopt a name and a constitution
 - b. Elect officers
 - c. Evaluate, review and commit to the organization's priorities and plans
2. **Strengthen domestic worker organizing**
3. **Build meaningful relationships between domestic worker leaders and organizers around the world**
4. **Elevate the visibility and impact of domestic workers among trade unions, governments, and funders**



2. Our Members

By the end of June of this year, 33 domestic workers' organizations worldwide have joined the IDWN, representing a total membership of 192,000. As the IDWN is moving from being a "Network" to becoming a "Federation" of domestic workers, we invite domestic workers' organizations to join us. To do this, they have to be:

- (1) local or national organizations and
- (2) democratic and membership-based organizations of domestic workers with domestic workers as leaders.

3. AfDWN was Launched



On June 16 2013 the Africa Domestic Workers' Network (AfDWN) was launched in Cape Town, South Africa, exactly two years after the adoption of the Domestic Workers' Convention (C189) and at the very time when a diplomatic bag containing South African Government documents ratifying C189 was en route to Geneva for official lodging at the ILO.

- [Story report on the Launch of the Africa Domestic Workers' Network](#)
- [Declaration of the African Regional Domestic Workers' Conference](#)

4. Indonesia: Leaders of Tunas Mulia Domestic Workers have grown in numbers and commitment

Tunas Mulia Domestic Workers Union is the first domestic workers union in Indonesia. It was established in 2003. After 9 months' implementation of the organizing project that was supported by the IUF Asia Pacific, 15 new leaders have emerged. They are now taking the responsibility of recruiting new members, collecting membership fees and holding regular meetings with members at their respective community groups (or Operatas). [Learn more about their achievements and activities >>>](#)



5. How to count working time of domestic workers



Domestic work is not considered as work generally and hence most domestic workers in particularly the live-in domestic workers find their tasks never end. In April and May, together with the Conservation, Hotels, Domestic, Social Services and Consultancy Workers Union (CHODAWU) in Tanzania and the ILO, IDWN conducted a study on the working time of domestic workers.

We recorded the working time of 20 live-in domestic workers using a time recording form we developed at the onset. With increased awareness and a proper tool, we hope that in the near future all domestic workers and their employers will be able to properly record the working time of domestic workers and understand it better. [Read and download the report >>>](#)

6. International DWs Day: June 16


Apart from the launch of the African Domestic Workers' Network, domestic workers around the world rallied and held activities to make their voices heard by commemorating the International Domestic Workers' Day and the 2nd anniversary of the C189. Many were concerned with demands for legal protection of domestic workers. Activities ranged from rallies to poetry writing and the release of research reports:

- [*Programmes for Intl DWs Day & Anti-Child Labour Day by NDWM, Maharashtra Region, India*](#)
- [*Poems from Jamaica Household Workers Union for C189*](#)
- [*Hong Kong: Filipino Unions intensify efforts for "Zero Recruitment Fees and Violations"*](#)
- [*Sri Lanka Domestic Workers Launch signature campaign for Legal Act*](#)
- [*SEWA-Kerala observed International Domestic Workers' Day*](#)

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