



TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

08 March 2013

We the representatives of the members of the South African Domestic Service and Allied Workers Union (SADSAWU) nationally and the over one million domestic workers in our country, call upon the President of South Africa to sign the International Labour Organisation (ILO) C189 Domestic Workers Convention, 2011, into law.

ILO Convention 189 is a milestone in the history of domestic workers' struggles worldwide, as it recognises the significant contribution of domestic workers to the global economy.

Domestic workers are amongst the most exploited workers. Their work is undervalued, underpaid, invisible, not recognised and not respected. They further:

- Work excessive hours for low wages
- Are exposed to all kinds of abuse
- Are dismissed because their employer is having a bad day
- Often live in the back yards of the homes of the employer
- Stay long periods away from their children
- Work seven days a week
- Cannot afford their own homes as they earn poverty wages

We are aware that our country South Africa, has some of the best laws on paper, and has, made huge strides to protect domestic workers in relation to other countries, but the ILO Convention 189 goes further in protecting the rights of domestic workers internationally. SADSAWU believes in the slogan the labour movement was built on...***"An Injury to one is an Injury to All"***.....

We therefore call on our government to take the lead in Africa and that President Jacob Zuma today puts his signature to the document that will make Convention 189 law, by so doing setting the example for other leaders on the continent to follow.

We are aware that ratifying Convention 189 will not solve our problems that it remains the collective strength, organisation and action of workers on the ground to fight and bring about the changes they want.

SADSAWU commits itself to continue fighting for:

- A living wage, a wage that will feed our family every day, pay for our children to go to school and allows us to live a decent life.
- The right to occupational health and safety as set out in COIDA.
- Retirement or provident funds like other workers have. Our level of social protection is very low.
- Inclusion in any Health Plan the government is planning.

Domestic workers are mainly women, so we see our gathering here this morning, as we celebrate International Women's Day, as part of

the global wave of protest by women. We are outraged by the rape and abuse of women and children.

We call on our government to listen to the voice of the workers not tomorrow but today!

We need an answer today and we will not stop until our voices are heard and Convention 189 is signed.

We are workers also; we are fully supported by the International Domestic Workers Network (IDWN) that represents more than a million workers globally.

We stand in solidarity with women around the world saying “Enough” to the violence against us!

Signed this day the 08 MARCH 2013 in CAPE TOWN and accepted by

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For GOVERNMENT

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for SADSAWU