

Funded by EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls

Online Consultation on a “Manual for Trade Unionists on Organizing Women Migrant Workers”

Date: 24 June 2020

Time: 11:30am Yangon
12:00pm Bangkok/Hanoi/Jakarta/Phnom Penh/Vientiane
1:00pm Kuala Lumpur/Manila/Singapore

Venue: WEBEX platform, sign in details to be sent to participants

Registration: Please email confirmation to coordinator@aseantuc.org / hatairat@ilo.org

Background:

ASEAN Trade Union Council (ATUC), with support from International Labour Organization’s Bureau for Workers’ Activities (ACTRAV) and ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific through the Safe and Fair Programme (an ILO-UN Women joint programme funded by the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative), is organizing the virtual consultation with ATUC affiliates.

ILO ACTRAV in collaboration with the Safe and Fair programme has drafted a **Manual for Trade Unionists on Organizing Women Migrant Workers**. Inputs to the manual have included interviews with trade unions and confederations in the ASEAN region and beyond.

This manual, which builds on the 2008 ACTRAV manual “In Search of Decent Work: Migrant Workers’ Rights: A Manual for Trade Unionists”, presents good practices and case examples of trade unions protecting the rights of migrant workers, especially women. It includes important developments in cross-border cooperation, international labour standards, organising, and gender-based analyses.

This manual is prepared to provide trade unions with information and training and to further support their efforts to organize migrant workers. The manual showcasing good practices and tools will be a helpful resource for trade unions to move towards greater protection of the rights of women migrant workers. It highlights the importance of women’s empowerment, gender equality, women-dominant job sectors. It builds capacity on preventing and addressing abuses including, violence and harassment in the world of work, pregnancy discrimination, and lack of maternity leave.

Issues related to promoting women’s leadership are important for all trade unions and women workers. Organizing strategies are an entry point to achieving gender equality for women migrant workers. The manual also discusses ways to build women’s leadership in unions and associations, where women migrant workers predominate. A

world in which women migrant workers are organized is one in which women can have the agency, tools, and bargaining power to combat violence and harassment and to realize fundamental labour rights at work.

Objectives of the online consultation:

- 1) To introduce the outline of the draft **Manual for Trade Unionists on Organizing Women Migrant Workers**
- 2) To share initial reflections and gather any factual corrections
- 3) To gather feedback on the manual and any complimentary and relevant information, and
- 4) To brainstorm plans for the immediate and long-term use of the manual.

Target participants:

- ATUC affiliates
 - Migration focal points
 - Youth and women's committee representatives
- SARTUC representatives working on the issues of women migrant workers
- ITUC-AP representative working on the issues of women migrant workers
- ILO - ACTRAV Regional Specialist in Workers Education; Senior Migration Specialist Decent Work Team ROAP; Senior Specialist on Gender, Equality and Non-Discrimination Decent Work Team ROAP
- Safe and Fair Programme Team from ILO and UN Women

Agenda (based on Bangkok time GMT+7):

Time	Agenda item	Speaker	Note
12:00 BKK	Facilitator's Welcome	Dom Tuvera, Coordinator, ATUC	
	ATUC Opening Remark	Maung Maung, Vice President, ATUC	3 minutes
	ACTRAV Opening Remark	Mr. Pong-Sul Ahn, ACTRAV Regional Specialist in Workers Education, ILO	3 minutes
	Roundtable of introductions	All participants	Participant introductions of name, title, and organization – in chat box function
	Overview of COVID-19 impact on women migrant workers	Mr. Nilim Baruah, Senior Migration Specialist, Decent Work Team, ILO	3 minutes



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12:20 BKK	Introduction of the draft Manual for Trade Unionists on Organizing Women Migrant Workers	Ms. Reena Arora, ILO consultant and researcher	
12:50 BKK	Discussion of 4 Key Questions, and Open Q&A	Facilitator Ms. Deepa Bharathi; Ms. Reena Arora	
13:40 BKK	Plan for immediate and long-term use of the manual among ATUC affiliates	Facilitator Mr. Pong-Sul Ahn	Considerations at regional and national levels
14:20 BKK	Closing Remarks	Milagros Ogalinda, Women's Committee Chair, NTUC	