



MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS IN FOCUS:

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Africa

Tri-National Workshop: Towards Promotion of Decent Work for Migrant Domestic Workers along the Lesotho-Zimbabwe-South Africa Corridor*

Johannesburg, South Africa, 10-11 October 2014

A tri-national workshop on migrant domestic workers was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 10-11 October 2014. The workshop brought together trade unions and domestic worker organisations from South Africa, Zimbabwe and Lesotho with the objective of strengthening links, discuss how to promote migrant domestic workers' rights and develop a common action plan, sharing experiences between trade unions' representatives and relevant civil society organizations and in strengthening their capacity.



Representatives of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), Zimbabwe Domestic and Allied Workers Union (ZDAWU), South African Domestic Services and Allied Workers Union (SADSAWU), Federation of Unions of South Africa (FEDUSA), Lesotho Trade Union Congress (LTCU), Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) have attended the workshop.



The workshop led to three important outcomes: i) draft action plan towards mobilising and promotion of migrant domestic workers' rights at three levels: Union, Federation and Tri-national level, ii) agreed communication strategy to create a platform for the trade union organisations from the three different countries to exchange information and share experiences relating to activities/campaigns done at national level, successes and challenges and this was identified as essential for supporting and encouraging each other and iii) a declaration signed by trade unions and domestic workers organizations in commitment to support and strengthen capacity of national unions for domestic and migrant domestic workers and lobby the three governments to continue to implement their decent work country programmes incorporating rights of migrant workers.

Related document: [Promotion of Decent Work for Migrant Domestic Workers](#)

Encuentro Trasnacional: Promoción del Trabajo Decente para las Trabajadoras Domésticas Migrantes de Sudáfrica, Zimbabue y Lesotho *

Johannesburgo, Sudáfrica, 10-11 octubre 2014

Dentro del marco de los objetivos del Programa de Acción Global: Trabajadores y Trabajadoras Domésticas Migrantes y sus Familias, se realizó un encuentro trinacional sindical en Johannesburgo, Sudáfrica. El evento reunió a sindicatos y organizaciones de trabajadoras domésticas de Sudáfrica, Zimbabwe y Lesotho con el objetivo de compartir información sobre las tendencias de la migración de las trabajadoras domésticas en la región y promover sus derechos. Se intercambiaron experiencias entre los representantes de sindicatos y organizaciones de la sociedad civil pertinentes con el fin de fortalecer su capacidad organizativa. Un resultado importante del encuentro fue la declaración "Por la promoción del trabajo decente para los trabajadores domésticos migrantes en el corredor migratorio de Sudáfrica, Zimbabwe y Lesotho", firmada por los sindicatos y las organizaciones de trabajadoras domésticas, comprometiéndose a apoyar y fortalecer los sindicatos nacionales. Se comprometieron asimismo a instar a los tres gobiernos a que sigan aplicando sus programas nacionales de trabajo decente, incorporando los derechos de los trabajadores migrantes.

Community of Practice Network for Domestic and Migrant Domestic Workers *

Chile, 22-25 September 2014

Burkina Faso, 18-19 October 2014

Two regional training workshops held in Chile, September 22-25, and in Burkina Faso, October 18-19, 2014, in order to identify priority products and services to be delivered to migrant domestic workers through established Community of Practice Network.

The online URL for the platform is www.idwfed.org and affiliates are in the process of registering. There are 3 levels at which it operates: a space for union leaders to communicate, a space for affiliated members to communicate and a public space open to all members and interested parties of Community of Practice (CoP).

The training workshops were aimed at elaboration of information and communication strategies, discussion of specific challenges for unions to organize domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers, and setting up an online wages and conditions database. The participants identified a number of priority areas in order to actively engage affiliates in developing domestic workers' CoP.

Related links: [International Domestic Workers Federation's CoP](#)

Related video: [New Online Communication Network](#)



Red de Comunidad de Prácticas para las trabajadoras domésticas migrantes *

La red de Comunidad de Prácticas para promover los derechos de las trabajadoras domésticas, realizó dos talleres de capacitación regionales celebrados en Santiago de Chile, el 22-25 de septiembre y en Burkina Faso el 18 y 19 octubre 2014, con el fin de identificar productos y servicios prioritarios que se entregarán a las trabajadoras domésticas nacionales y migrantes.

La URL en línea para la plataforma es www.idwfed.org y ya se ha iniciado el proceso de registro de sus miembros . La red opera en 3 niveles: un espacio para que los líderes sindicales se comuniquen, un espacio para el intercambio entre sus miembros afiliados, y un espacio público abierto a todos los afiliados, otros grupos, y personas interesadas en la Comunidad de Prácticas (CoP) .

Los talleres de capacitación abordaron las estrategias de información y comunicación, los retos específicos que enfrentan los sindicatos para organizar a las trabajadoras domésticas, incluidas las migrantes, y el establecimiento de una base de datos online sobre salarios y condiciones de trabajo. Los participantes identificaron una serie de áreas prioritarias a ser desarrolladas por CoP.



Americas

Regional Workshop “Strengthening Labour Rights and Social Protection for Domestic Workers” in Latin America*

Santiago, Chile, 22-26 September 2014

Regional workshop to promote decent work for migrant domestic workers was held in Santiago de Chile with the contribution of the Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and Their Families. It was co-hosted by International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA-CSA), Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Households Employees (CONLACTRAHO) and International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF).

The workshop was attended by 40 representatives of 20 Domestic Workers organizations and trade unions from 10 different countries, who received a training and developed a communication strategy in order to strengthen DWs organizations' national capacities and to develop a regional work plan.



Regional Workshop "Strengthening Labour Rights and Social Protection for Domestic Workers", Santiago de Chile, 22-26 September 2014

Elizabeth Tang, Secretary General of the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF), Ernestina Ochoa, Vice President of the IDWF Americas, Marieke Koning, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) expert on gender equality and domestic work issues, Alexandra Arguedas, ITUC Americas, inaugurated the event.



Regional Workshop "Strengthening Labour Rights and Social Protection for Domestic Workers", Santiago de Chile, 22-26 September 2014

An action plan was agreed to strengthen domestic workers organizations at national and regional level and a joint commitment to promote 12+12 campaign was reached.

Related article (in Spanish): [Sindicalistas de América Latina destacan ratificación de convenio 189 OIT](#)

Sindicalistas de América Latina Destacan Ratificación del Convenio 189 de OIT *

Santiago, Chile, 22-26 septiembre 2014

En Santiago de Chile se realizó el Taller Regional “Fortalecimiento de los derechos laborales y protección social de las trabajadoras del hogar” organizado por la Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores/as de las Américas (CSA), la Confederación Sindical Internacional (CSI) y por FITH. El objetivo del taller, que convocó a dirigentes sindicales y de trabajadoras del hogar de diversos países de América, fue “identificar los desafíos fundamentales y las necesidades de las organizaciones de trabajadoras del hogar en materia de formación y organización sindical, implementación de planes de incidencia política para la ratificación del C189 y de legislaciones nacionales que regulen el trabajo doméstico remunerado”. Se acordó la coordinación y acción mutua de organizaciones sindicales nacionales y regionales, y organizaciones de trabajadoras del hogar de la sociedad civil. También, se identificaron los desafíos principales y necesidades de las organizaciones de trabajadoras domésticas y se discutieron planes

para promover la ratificación del Convenio 189 e impulsar las leyes nacionales que regulan el trabajo doméstico.

Analyzing Status of Migrant Domestic Workers and Their Families in Paraguay-Argentina Migration Corridor *

Asunción, Paraguay, 19 November 2014

A National Workshop to discuss research findings and policy implications of a study on migrant domestic workers' rights in the Paraguay-Argentina migration corridor was held on 19 November 2014 in Asunción. It was inaugurated by the Director of Women Workers department of the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Women, ILO and Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and Their Families (GAP-MDW) CTA and UN Women representative for Paraguay, with participation of the Tripartite Committee on Equal Opportunities, representatives of civil society, domestic workers' and employers' organizations, including League of housewives of Paraguay.

The presentation of the "Country Profile" led to group policy discussion and recommendations around three main issues: legal and institutional framework, social security and organization of domestic workers. The report was conducted under the auspices of the GAP-MDW and elaborated by CDE, a well-known academic center in Paraguay.

A group work was conducted during the workshop and set the grounds for dialogue on main contents of a future action plan and agreements between stakeholders.

Related article (in Spanish): [Analizarán situación de trabajadoras y trabajadores domésticos migrantes y sus familias](#)

Análisis del Estado de Trabajadores Domésticos Migrantes y sus Familias en el Corredor Migratorio de Paraguay- Argentina*

Asunción, Paraguay, 19 de noviembre 2014

En el marco del Programa de Acción Mundial sobre los Trabajadores Domésticos Migrantes y sus familias, se celebró el 19 de noviembre de 2014 en Asunción un taller nacional para validar los resultados de la investigación sobre la situación de trabajadoras domésticas en el corredor migratorio Paraguay – Argentina. El evento fue organizado por el Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, Ministerio de la Mujer, ONU Mujeres y la OIT. Representantes de la Comisión Tripartita de Igualdad de Oportunidades de organizaciones sindicales, empleadores, y de la sociedad civil asistieron al evento.

El objetivo del encuentro fue discutir las implicancias de políticas del informe sobre Paraguay con el fin de contar con directrices y recomendaciones específicas para la elaboración de políticas

públicas en el ámbito de la seguridad social, los derechos laborales, y la organización de los trabajadores.

Awareness Campaign on Domestic Workers' Rights in Paraguay*

A campaign to promote domestic workers' rights and to improve compliance with the law was launched by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and all Domestic Workers Unions of Paraguay, with the support of the ILO Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and Their Families (GAP-MDW).

A leaflet on the labour rights of domestic workers was distributed and attached to the electricity bill reaching 22,000 households and potential or current employers of domestic workers.

The leaflet highlights that domestic workers are entitled to a bonus in December, paid annual leave, usually taken in summer time - January-February in Paraguay, and social security.



BRINDAR ATENCIÓN Y SERVICIOS A UNA FAMILIA ES MUY IMPORTANTE

Las personas que trabajan en tu casa cumplen un rol importante. Tienen obligaciones y también derechos:

- A cobrar un salario digno y tener vacaciones remuneradas, anuales.
- A cobrar aguinaldo a fin de año o al término del acuerdo laboral.
- A tener seguro del IPS y más (ver al dorso).

Respetá a las personas que trabajan en tu casa, respetando sus derechos.

Campaña de Sensibilización sobre el Trabajo Doméstico Remunerado en Paraguay*

La Unión de Trabajadoras del Hogar, en colaboración con El Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social de Paraguay, destaca una campaña de sensibilización sobre el trabajo doméstico remunerado. Un folleto sobre los derechos laborales de las trabajadoras domésticas fue diseñado con el fin de llegar a los empleadores potenciales o actuales. El folleto se adjunta a la factura de luz para tener amplia audiencia.

Se destaca en el folleto que las trabajadoras domésticas tienen los mismos derechos que cualquier otra categoría de trabajadores, derecho a condiciones de trabajos decentes, salarios justos, vacaciones anuales remuneradas, licencia de maternidad, licencia por enfermedad, seguro social, y remuneración complementaria al final del año o al término del contrato.

LO QUE DEBÉS SABER SOBRE EL TRABAJO DOMÉSTICO REMUNERADO

Son consideradas trabajadoras/es domésticas/os: choferes del servicio familiar, amas de llave, mucamas, lavanderas y/o planchadoras en casas particulares, niñeras, cocineras de casas de familia y ayudantes, jardineros en relación de dependencia y ayudantes, cuidadoras/es de personas enfermas, de la tercera edad y con discapacidad, mandaderos y trabajadoras/es domésticas/os para actividades diversas del hogar.

- El pago en dinero que corresponde a trabajadoras/es domésticas/os que viven en la casa donde trabajan, siempre que reciban alimento y habitación digna, no podrá ser menor al salario mínimo vigente para el empleo doméstico.
- Los materiales, uniformes y/o herramientas para trabajar no pueden ser descontados del salario.
- Tienen derecho a cobrar aguinaldo a fin de año, o al momento de terminar la relación laboral.
- Tienen derecho a tener vacaciones anuales remuneradas, de acuerdo a su antigüedad, en las mismas condiciones que cualquier otra persona trabajadora.
- En caso de despido injustificado tienen derecho al preaviso: en forma verbal 24 horas antes, durante el periodo de prueba y pasado este periodo el preaviso se realiza por escrito, de 7 a 15 días antes, de acuerdo a la antigüedad. Además del preaviso, corresponde el pago de días trabajados, vacaciones, aguinaldo e indemnizaciones, como cualquier otra persona trabajadora.
- Las personas empleadas en el trabajo doméstico deben tener seguro de IPS y pueden inscribirse por sí mismas/os, en caso de que el patrón no lo haga.
- En caso de embarazo, la trabajadora doméstica debe notificar a la persona empleadora y a partir de ese momento no puede ser despedida. Tiene derecho al descanso por maternidad y lactancia, como cualquier otra persona trabajadora.

SOLICITA MÁS INFORMACIÓN EN:

MINISTERIO DE TRABAJO, EMPLEO Y SEGURIDAD SOCIAL
Centro de Atención a Trabajadoras Domésticas (CATD)
Paraguari 832 - Asunción - de 07:30 a 14:00hs.
mujertrabajadora.mteyss@gmail.com

ORGANIZACIONES DE TRABAJADORAS DOMÉSTICAS
SINTRADOP 0982 209 069
SINTRADI - Encarnación 0985 145 378
ADESP 0981719770 - 0984702781



CON EL APOYO DE:

Arab States

ILO Regional Meeting on Domestic Work in the Arab States

Istanbul, Turkey, 12-13 October 2014

The regional meeting on “Dignity, Rights and Domestic Work in Arab states” was organized by the ILO regional Office for Arab States on 12-13 October 2014 under the ILO Projects: Action Programme for Promoting the Rights of Women Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon (PROWD) and the Migration and Governance Network (MAGNET), aiming at exchanging experiences and views on ways to better protect domestic workers through improved regulatory and stronger workers organizations.

Representatives of the Domestic Workers Founding Committee in Lebanon shared the experience trying to organize to promote labour rights. Recent estimates show that there are two million of migrant domestic workers in the Middle East. Many of them have highly limited fundamental rights and freedoms and are exposed to the risks of exploitation and abuse.

This meeting was a follow up of another regional conference organized by the ILO in 2012 in Cairo with the view to raise awareness on C189 and gain political commitment to improve domestic workers' rights in the Arab region. The Istanbul conference brought selected experiences and provided a space of dialogue for future priorities to be addressed by a regional strategy on domestic workers with a strong emphasis on migration.

Related articles: [ILO showcases challenges and opportunities in making decent work a reality for migrant domestic workers in Arab states](#)

[Technical workshop on challenges and good practices – background, rationale and programme](#)

Reunión Regional de la OIT sobre el Trabajo Doméstico en la Región Árabe

Estambul, Turquía , 12 a 13 oct, 2014

La reunión regional sobre la "Dignidad, los derechos y el trabajo doméstico en los Estados Árabes" fue organizada por la Oficina Regional de la OIT para los Estados Árabes en octubre de 2014 en el marco del los proyectos de cooperación técnica de la OIT, PROWD, y MAGNET. El evento permitió el intercambio de experiencias y opiniones sobre nuevas alternativas para proteger a las trabajadoras domésticas migrantes. En la conferencia se acordó la elaboración de una estrategia regional sobre trabajadoras domésticas.

Lebanon: Establishing a Trade Union for Domestic Workers

A series of capacity building activities for the founding committee of the domestic workers union has been organized in September-November 2014 with a view to strengthen organization capacities and facilitate the establishment of the trade union for domestic workers in Lebanon. 82 members of the founding committee represented the core nucleus for the future trade union and received training on leadership, organization skills, trade union knowledge and collective work skills.

The Founding Committee was established under the umbrella of the National Federation of Employees' and Workers' Unions (FENASOL) that has adopted an inclusive approach in terms of representation of all workers irrespective of their legal status, nationality, ethnicity, race and employment occupation.

Related page: [Domestic Workers' Union in Lebanon – Founding Committee](#)

Líbano: Establecimiento de Sindicato para Trabajadoras Domésticas

Entre Septiembre y Diciembre del 2014 se realizaron una serie de actividades de capacitación para el comité fundador del sindicato de trabajadoras domésticas del Líbano, con el fin de fortalecer sus capacidades de organización y facilitar el establecimiento de un sindicato para trabajadoras domésticas. Recibieron capacitación sobre liderazgo, organización, y desarrollo sindical 82 miembros del comité fundador los cuales representan el núcleo central del futuro sindicato.

Europe and Central Asia

Workshop for Trade Unions on Migrant Domestic Workers in Ukraine-Poland Migration Corridor*

Kiev, Ukraine, 3-4 November 2014

Two-day training of trainers on Migrant Domestic Workers (MDWs) was conducted in Kiev, Ukraine, and has gathered representatives from three main workers organizations: Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Ukraine, Confederation of Trade Unions and Vost Volya. The main objective was to improve their knowledge on living and working conditions of MDWs in the Ukraine-Poland corridor and to strengthen the capacity of workers organizations. During the workshop the focus was on a better understanding of the contents and requirements of Convention 189 and its accompanying

Recommendation with an aim to raise awareness of the need and benefits of its ratification.

During the event, policy discussion was held in the framework of research findings on migrant domestic workers in the Ukraine – Poland migration corridor. An information tool to provide basic guidelines to MDWs coming from Ukraine to Poland was also validated.



Workshop on Migrant Domestic Workers in Ukraine - Poland migration corridor, Kiev, Ukraine, 3-4 November 2014

All the activities were divided in three main parts, concentrating on understanding the problems related to domestic work and domestic workers as defined by the ILO instruments, preventing abuses as well as campaigning and networking for ratification of the Convention 189. Training materials were developed in Ukrainian and training tools are available for consultation by stakeholders.

Furthermore, the training was accompanied by a lively discussion of challenges the workers organizations face and sharing a good practices of improving living and working conditions of migrant domestic workers.



Participants agreed on the following priorities: conducting research of current living and working conditions of MDWs in the Ukraine-Poland corridor; informing members of the union of the risks that MDWs face as well as their rights; carrying a social dialogue with other organizations, including civil society and authorities in Poland to ensure a meeting with TUs.

They highlighted as well the need to raise awareness among members through meetings and seminars and to try engaging different circles of influence, including, family, neighbors and friends.

Related article (in Ukrainian): [Семінар-тренінг для представників профспілкових об'єднань щодо захисту домашніх працівників-мігрантів](#)

Ucrania: Sindicalistas discuten acerca de las Trabajadoras Domésticas Migrantes en la región*

Kiev, Ucrania, 3-4 noviembre 2014

Un taller de dos días sobre la situación de las trabajadoras domésticas migrantes se llevó a cabo en Kiev, Ucrania. El taller reunió a 17 representantes del Sindicato de Trabajadores de Educación y Ciencia de Ucrania, la Confederación de Sindicatos y Vost Volya . El objetivo fue de sensibilizar a los sindicatos sobre las realidades de las trabajadoras domésticas migrantes que trabajan en Ucrania-Polonia y promover la organización entre trabajadoras. El resultado principal del evento fue el compromiso de las organizaciones sindicales de promover la ratificación del Convenio 189 y el trabajo decente para las trabajadoras domésticas migrantes

Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Ukraine discussing the Ukraine-Poland Migration Corridor under the Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers*

Lviv, Ucrania, 12 November 2014

In follow up to the training of trainers for workers organization held in Kiev on 3-4th of November, a regional workshop took place in Lviv on 12th of November. The event was organized by the Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Ukraine with an aim to discuss the challenges migrant domestic workers face and legal grounds of their protection, including the ILO Convention 189.

Many of migrant domestic workers going to Poland are members of the union and are highly qualified workers – teachers or nurses, for example. It was acknowledged during the meeting that trade unions will be a driving force in protection of migrant workers' rights.

The main result of the meeting was a letter sent by the Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Ukraine to the Head of Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine. The Letter includes the overview of those challenges that Ukrainian MDWs face, promotion of ratification of the ILO Convention 189, legislation analysis in terms of protection of MDWs' rights - vis-à-vis Labour Code of Ukraine and OSH issues - and recommendations on the TU's work to protect MDWs. The document contains as well a legal justification and request to initiate the ratification process and to suggest the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Social Policy to draft the Law on Ratification of the ILO Convention 189. This is the first step to push the Government to include the MDWs issues into its agenda.

Related article (in Ukrainian): [Відбувся семінар «Глобальна програма із захисту домашніх працівників мігрантів: коридор Україна – Польща»](#)

[Letter to the Head of Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine](#) (in Ukrainian)

Sindicato de Educación y Ciencia Trabajadores de Ucrania: Discusión sobre Trabajadoras Domésticas el Corredor Migratorio de Ucrania - Polonia*

Lviv , Ucrania , 12 de noviembre 2014

El Sindicato de Trabajadores de Educación y Ciencia de Ucrania se reunió con el objetivo de discutir los desafíos que enfrentan las trabajadoras domésticas migrantes. La discusión se concentró en la base legal de la migración y los canales legales de empleo. En las conclusiones, los participantes subrayaron que los sindicatos van a ser la fuerza impulsora en la protección de los derechos para las trabajadoras migrantes.

Publications

ITUC Publication “Facilitating Exploitation: A Review of Labour Laws for Migrant Domestic Workers in Gulf Cooperation Council Countries”

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) has released the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) legal and policy brief on domestic workers “Facilitating Exploitation: A Review of Labour Laws for Migrant Domestic Workers in Gulf Cooperation Council Countries”.

The brief gives an overview of the legal framework and compliance with the ILO Convention 189 on decent work for migrant workers in Gulf countries, namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In the publication such abuses of migrant domestic workers as non-payment of wages, lack of daily and weekly rest, physical confinement and isolation, physical and sexual abuse were reported. In accordance with the legislation analysis, recommendations to the GCC Countries were provided.

Migrant domestic workers in the Gulf are excluded from labour laws and remain subject to restrictive kafala sponsorship laws that grant employers extraordinary control over them. It is concluded in the brief that no bilateral agreement will provide adequate protection against exploitation. Moreover, in most GCC countries, the labour inspection and justice system have proven to be highly inadequate in enforcing the few rights of migrant domestic workers. Fundamental rights to freedom of association and non-discrimination are not granted, thus, migrant domestic workers, not being able to join the unions, are prevented from speaking for themselves and defending their collective interests.

The GCC legal and policy brief is available here: [Facilitating Exploitation: A Review of Labour Laws for Migrant Domestic Workers in Gulf Cooperation Council Countries](#)

Publicación de la CSI "Facilitando la Explotación: Una revisión de las leyes laborales para las trabajadoras domésticas migrantes en países del Golfo"

La Confederación Sindical Internacional (CSI) ha publicado un informe sobre el marco legal político del Consejo de Cooperación del Golfo (CCG) sobre los trabajadores domésticos "Facilitando la Explotación: Una revisión de las leyes laborales para las trabajadoras domésticas migrantes en países del Golfo". El informe reveló que las trabajadoras domésticas migrantes están excluidas en esta región de la legislación laboral y permanecen sujetas al sistema de patrocinio llamado (Kafala) que otorga a los empleadores extraordinario control sobre ellas. El escrito da una visión general del marco legal y el cumplimiento del Convenio 189 de la OIT sobre trabajo decente para los trabajadores migrantes en los países del Golfo, en particular, Bahréin, Kuwait, Omán, Qatar, Arabia Saudita y los Emiratos Árabes Unidos (EAU).

Case of Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon, Jordan and Kuwait

As part of the “Regional Advocacy Strategy on ILO’s Domestic Workers C. 189 Action in the Middle East”, the ILO has produced a comprehensive study entitled “Cooperating out of isolation: the case of migrant domestic workers in Lebanon, Jordan and Kuwait”. The study is an attempt to map the current legislative and policy frameworks, institutional structures and membership-based initiatives that can provide domestic workers with the space to economically organise in the Middle East.

With regards to restrictive kafala sponsorship and exclusion of migrant domestic workers from labour rights in the Middle East, a video promoting freedom of movement and assembly, in particular participation of migrant domestic workers in cooperatives, has been launched on the ILO website. It has been underlined that despite the existence of informal networks and community-based initiatives, at times led by religious institutions, the level of formal organisation of migrant domestic workers continues to be limited, and their voices remain largely unheard.

Publication [Cooperating out of Isolation: The Case of Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon, Jordan and Kuwait](#) (available in English and Arabic)

Video [Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon, Jordan and Kuwait](#)

Caso de las Trabajadoras Domésticas Migrantes en el Líbano, Jordania y Kuwait

La OIT ha elaborado un amplio estudio titulado "Saliendo del aislamiento por medio de la cooperación: El caso de las trabajadoras domésticas migrantes en el Líbano, Jordania y Kuwait" analizando los actuales marcos legislativos y políticos, las estructuras institucionales y las iniciativas de carácter asociativo que fortalecen la organización de trabajadoras en el Medio Oriente.

En el sitio web de la OIT se encuentra además un video que promueve la libre circulación y asociación de trabajadoras domésticas migrantes.

Publicación: [Saliendo del aislamiento por medio de la cooperación: El caso de los trabajadores domésticos en el Líbano, Jordania, y Kuwait](#) (inglés y árabe)

Video (inglés): [Trabajadoras Domésticas Migrantes en el Líbano, Jordania y Kuwait](#)

Quarterly highlights

Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and Their Families*

Geneva, Switzerland, 24 October 2014

Since the establishment of the Steering Committee for the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Migrant Domestic Workers and Their Families back in September 2013, it has provided an effective strategic guidance, taking in consideration a multi stakeholder nature of the GAP that combines global advocacy, country-based interventions and includes a research component. The Committee is composed of members representing UN

Women, European Commission, Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF) and International Labour Office (ILO).



Steering Committee Meeting for the Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and Their Families, Geneva, Switzerland, 24 October 2014

The aim of the second meeting of the Steering Committee was to discuss the achievements and problems in each of the migration corridors and to set the milestones for the upcoming year. Research results were presented and it was decided that a mechanism to exchange information will be established by creating of an on-line accessible database that covers tools, studies and other relevant information.

Related article: [Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and their Families](#)

[Report of the Second Steering Committee Meeting](#)

La Reunión del Comité de Dirección del Programa de Acción Mundial sobre los Trabajadores Domésticos Migrantes y sus Familias*

Ginebra, Suiza, 24 de octubre 2014

El Comité Directivo del programa se reunió por segunda vez para discutir los logros del programa y establecer metas para los próximos meses. Sus miembros destacaron la importancia de contar con espacios accesibles a diferentes organizaciones para suprir el deficit actual de información.

El Comité esta integrado por representantes de la Oficina Internacional del Trabajo (OIT), Comisión Europea, la Oficina del Alto Comisionado para los Derechos Humanos (ACNUDH), ONU Mujeres, la Confederación Sindical Internacional (CSI), y la Federación Internacional de Trabajadoras del Hogar (IDWF).

International Migration Day

As a way to highlight the situation of migrant domestic workers, the ILO news covered the positive outcomes of migration and employment policies in Argentina, showing impact of the legislation on migrant domestic workers' human and labour rights.

Related article (available in English, Spanish and French): [New law leads to new life for migrant domestic workers](#)

Nueva Ley Ofrece Nueva Vida a los Trabajadores Domésticos Migrantes

Con motivo de la Celebración del Día Internacional de la Persona Migrante, el servicio de noticias de la OIT publicó un artículo sobre los derechos de los trabajadores domésticos migrantes procedentes de Paraguay a Argentina, mostrando el impacto positivo de la legislación migratoria y laboral sobre los derechos de los trabajadores domésticos en Argentina.

Publicación: [Nueva ley ofrece nueva vida a los trabajadores domésticos migrantes](#)

Domestic Workers in Argentina and Paraguay create a joint facebook page

As an outcome of the workers bi-national Argentina-Paraguay meeting held in Santiago de Chile on 20-21 September 2014, a joint communication platform for migrant domestic workers has been created. The new social media complements the one created some years ago by the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), the regional structure of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), and promotes ratification of the ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers and decent work.

Activities organized by the TUCA and publicized on the page intend to highlight the importance for social dialogue and to reinforce the labour union trainings of domestic workers about their rights and the way to exercise them.

The TUCA is the largest regional workers' organization in Americas and represents more than 50 million workers belonging to 53 national trade union organizations in 23 countries. The main principle of the TUCA is a full respect and promotion of human and labour rights without any discrimination and irrespective whether workers are nationals, residents or foreigners in rural or urban areas, active or passive workers, of formal or informal economy, of the public or private sector, with or without a contract, of different age groups and gender, dependent or autonomous.

TUCA - [http://www.csa-csi.org/](#)

Fb - [Trabajo Decente para las Trabajadoras Domésticas](#)

La Confederación Sindical de las Américas en América Latina crea página de facebook para Trabajadores Domésticos

Como resultado del encuentro sindical binacional entre Argentina y Paraguay, las organizaciones presentes crearon una pagina de Facebook para mejorar la comunicación.

Esta página es parte de la campaña de información sobre la ratificación del C189 y está destinada a fortalecer capacitaciones sindicales de sus miembros y de las trabajadoras domésticas en general. Así mismo, su propósito es facilitar el acceso a información sobre los derechos laborales de las trabajadoras domésticas en América Latina.

TUCA - [http://www.csa-csi.org/](#)

Fb - [Trabajo Decente para las Trabajadoras Domésticas](#)

Media Spotlights on Migrant Domestic Work

Americas

[America's most invisible workforce is the one we need the most](#)

[Chile approved bill of rights for domestic workers and C189](#)

[USA: Crafting A Bill To Protect Domestic Workers, And Employers](#)

[USA: Groundbreaking Ordinance Includes Domestic Workers in Minimum Wage, But Many Statewide Left Out](#)

[USA: Domestic workers lead surprise march on home of millionaire Elyse Slaine](#)

[Behind Closed Doors NYT Photo Exhibit](#)

[Meet the Domestic Worker Organizer Who Won the 'Genius' Grant. A small bio of Ai-Jen Poo](#)

Arab States

[Gulf agrees new contract for domestic workers ahead of Asia meet](#)

[Kuwait opens shelter for 'runaway maids'](#)

['Runaway maids' tracked down on Kuwaiti Instagram](#)

[Lebanon: Labor minister seeks end to migrant worker](#)

[Lebanon: Job-swap redefines Fletcher's 'domestic' duties](#)

[Philippines calls for more facilitation for its domestic labor](#)[Saudi Arabia: Pact to hire Indian domestics cleared](#)[Saudi Arabia: Hiring of domestic workers from China and Chile](#)[Saudi Arabia: Manual issuance of visas for house workers halted](#)[Saudi Arabia: ‘Musanned’ adds more countries for domestic workers’ recruitment](#)[United Arab Emirates: Trapped, Exploited, Abused](#)[Saudi government repatriates 1,896 maids in 5 months](#)

Asia and the Pacific

[National Campaign Demand Dignity for Domestic Workers in Australia](#)[IDWF: New Online Communication Network Helps Domestic Workers around the Globe Unite](#)[Bangladesh: Enactment of new law for domestic workers underway: Chunnu](#)[Landmark court case puts plight of Hong Kong's immigrant workers in spotlight](#)[Indonesia: Long road to justice - human rights of female migrant](#)[Indonesian maid says tortured with vacuum cleaner tube in Hong Kong abuse case](#)[Nepal: Parliamentary Discussion on Law on Domestic Work and C189](#)[Philippines welcomes new labour contracts for the GCC](#)[Buy a discount maid at Singapore's malls](#)

Europe and Central Asia

[First step in better protecting domestic workers in Belgium \(Dutch only\)](#)[Czech Republic: Bringing the issue of domestic workers \(migrants\) to the public](#)[Switzerland: Officially ratifies the Domestic Workers Convention](#)

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[Domestic workers rally on Human Rights Day to oppose the return of slavery in the UK](#)[Jail bosses who exploit migrants, says Ed: Labour leader proposes creating criminal offence for those who undercut domestic workers' wages](#)[UK: The government overlooks foreign domestic workers being treated as slaves](#)[UK: Fix Bill to Protect Migrant Domestic Workers](#)

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