



Domestic Workers of the World and the International Domestic Workers' Federation- IDWF

IDWF Founding Congress



* IDWF founding congress 28 Oct 2013, Uruguay;



Why the IDWF

- * To build a strong democratic and united domestic/household workers global organization to protect and advance domestic /house hold worker's right everywhere



Domestic Workers in the World

- * 67 Million in the World
- * 11.2 millions are international migrant domestic workers
- * 73% are Women

IDWF Affiliates

- * 59 affiliates in 47 countries with over 583,585 domestic workers: (DW)
- * **Africa** -20 with 103,000 domestic workers
- * **Europe** – 7 affiliates with 54,515 DWs
- * **Asia** - 12 affiliates with 311,587 DWs
- * **Americas** – 19 with 114,483 DWs



IDWF 5 Years Strategic Plan: 5 goals for 2016-2020

1. federation building : to double IDWF membership to 800,000; with 900 women leaders
2. organizing 200,000 migrant domestic workers and with migrant domestic workers in leadership
3. Through capacity building to develop 950 domestic workers leaders
4. Effective campaigns
5. Domestic workers representation at all levels

Domestic Workers in South Asia

- * No exact data is one of the loopholes
- * According to a recent Socio Economic Caste Census in India, the actual number may exceed 3 million, but this is a gross under estimation as women do not think DW is work
- * Micro studies by SEWA in India indicate that 24% of all poor women workers between 18-60 years of age are domestic workers

Strategy in India

- * There are several kinds of DW organizations in India
- * At National level several unions – some Central Trade Unions and other smaller unions have created a National Platform of Domestic Workers
- * The One common agenda of the Platform is to lobby for a Comprehensive legislation for Domestic Workers which includes regulation of work, rights like all other workers and social security.
- * Several joint actions have taken place both at Central and State levels towards this end

DWs Speak up, India

* Public Hearing in India – 2014 Nov 11



Mobilization Strategy - SEWA

- * Local level
- * Inter state migrants
- * Cross border migrants

At local level

- * Awareness that they are workers and have rights
- * Building up local groups of domestic workers so that they can take up local issues
- * Developing leadership among the domestic workers
- * Interacting with the labour department, police to sensitize them on the issues of domestic workers
- * Interacting with employers to get their support for rights of domestic workers



Interstate migrants

- * Developing awareness on trafficking and forced labour
- * Awareness on safe migration and informed choice
- * Building links between local and migrant domestic workers



Cross Border Migration

- * Creating groups of returned migrants who can lobby for rights
- * Building awareness on requirements for immigration
- * Pre departure education
- * Working for better coordination of public recruiting agencies, labour departments, and NORKA
- * Lots more to be done particularly in receiving countries

Some hurdles and achievements

- * Central Government only developing a Policy and not a Bill on Domestic workers, therefore will not Ratify Convention 189. In fact no South Asian country has yet ratified the Convention
- * But domestic workers recognized as workers and included as a sector for Central Government benefits
- * 11 states have scheduled domestic workers for minimum wages

Successes

- * Got Domestic workers included in the Anti Harassment at the Workplace Act
- * Refused registration by the Police
- * Collectives of DW get higher wages, weekly off
- * In Kerala employers contribute to the worker's welfare fund of the SEWA collective



* Domestic Workers of the World Unite