

Letter to Minister on International Women's Day 2008

As the world celebrates International Women's Day 2008, the Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics and co-chair of Asian Domestic Worker Alliance (ADWA), urges Singapore to fully implement the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee at the 39th session 2007, particularly these areas of concern:

Trafficking of Women & Children

- Ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.
- Review its current legal and policy measures in the light of the definition of trafficking contained in the Protocol in order to better identify victims of trafficking and prosecute traffickers.
- Ensure that women and girl victims are not punished for violations of immigration laws and have adequate support so that they can provide testimony against their traffickers and have access to adequate assistance and remedies.

Legal Protection for Migrant Domestic Workers

Review the legal protection afforded to migrant women domestic workers under the Employment for Foreign Workers Act. The Employment for Foreign Workers Act deals mainly with the issue of work permits rather than providing the necessary protection of the rights of migrant women domestic workers.

- Review the situation of migrant women domestic workers, in particular, regular pregnancy testing, mandatory HIV AIDS testing, the prohibition to marry Singaporeans and the security bond deposited by employers which often results in restriction on freedom of movement and the withholding of passport and travel documents.

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers & Members of their Families

- Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families

The Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics is positive that our government will take responsibility to comply with the full recommendations of the CEDAW committee before its next periodic report due on November 2009.

Bridget Lew
Founder President
8th March 2008