

President's Message on Human Rights Day – 10th December 2009

HOME has been for the last five years, a voice for migrants living and working in Singapore whose rights under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 have been violated by State policies, laws and regulations enacted not on the basis of universal moral standards but on national interests alone, which are essentially pro control, pro business and pro talent. The economic miracle of Singapore does not rest on just these policies but also on the sweat and sacrifice of a migrant workforce.

We therefore call upon the Singapore government, a member of the United Nations to review its policies and laws on migrant workers that are in contravention against any of the thirty articles on the declaration for human rights.

We also call upon the Singapore Government to ratify the Migrant Workers' and their Families Convention.

We call upon members of the legal profession to provide more pro bono services to migrant workers so that they could avail of their legal and contractual rights which are often violated by their employers and agents.

We call upon community leaders and groups to join us to defend the human rights of migrant workers and give recognition to their contribution to community services, in schools, hospitals, families and other trade sectors.

We call upon the media to advocate for the upholding of the dignity and rights for migrant workers.

We call upon our labour union movement to organise migrant workers including migrant domestic workers and to advocate their rights as workers and protect them against unjust termination of their services and forced repatriation.

We call upon youth in Singapore to rally in support of Human Rights for all. The future is in your hands and you are now called upon to build a society that observe human rights and dignity for all especially marginalised migrant workers.

As we commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, we are thankful to His Excellency, Mr. Johannes Lansing, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands for the presentation of a grant of S\$80,000 to HOME in the defense of Human Rights.

We wish also acknowledge also the growing community of human rights defenders in Singapore and regionally who share with us the conviction that there is '**no peace without justice**'.



Handwritten signature of Bridget Lew Tan.

Bridget Lew Tan
President, HOME