

8th March 2010

Greetings on International Women's Day!


According to the Asian Migrant Centre, there are two to four million Migrant Domestic Workers in Asia, over 95 percent of whom are women. They mostly come from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Nepal, Lao PDR and work in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macau, India, Taiwan and the Middle East.

HOME continues in the last five years to advocate for the rights of migrant women domestic workers under the UN Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In solidarity with the global campaign to eliminate the discrimination of women domestic workers, HOME shares these concerns:

“despite the significant contributions of women to their households and families (both their own and where they work), to communities and countries (both of origin and destination), and to the industries and economies to which they selflessly invest their time, skills, sweat and tears, these women have yet to enjoy the recognition they have so long deserved.”

In Singapore and many other countries, women migrant domestic workers are excluded from local labour legislation, which covers all other workers. “As a result, domestic workers are subjected to discrimination and abuses that other workers may not face. Domestic workers often face the following issues: lack of national legislations that specifically address the situations of domestic workers; vulnerability to abuse, violence and discriminatory policies; the lack of recognition of domestic work as work and extending the rights of workers to domestic workers; the framing of the language surrounding domestic workers; recruitment related abuses; deplorable working and living conditions; trafficking of women and children domestic workers; and lack of legal mechanism to seek redress”.

We urge the Singapore government, signatory to CEDAW to remove the various forms of discrimination against 200,000 women in our country, who suffer discrimination in their exclusion of their rights as women and workers. We uphold the right to “Work with Dignity” for migrant women domestic workers.



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