

International Domestic Workers Federation



IDWF e-Newsletter #4 - JULY 2014

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1. IDWF – a member of the IUF and a member of the WIEGO



In **May**, The IDWF [was accepted by the IUF Executive Committee](#) as a "Special Group" of the IUF. In **July**, it became an affiliate of the Women in Informal Economy – Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). [Read more >>>](#)

2. Domestic workers are winning everywhere

IDWF – Winner of Jaap Kruithof Award, Belgium



"The presentation of the Jaap Kruithof award is a huge sign of appreciation and recognition for all the organisations that have banded together in the International Domestic Workers Federation." [Pia Stalparet, President of ACV-CSC Service Union, an IDWF affiliate said at the award-receiving ceremony, July 21.](#)

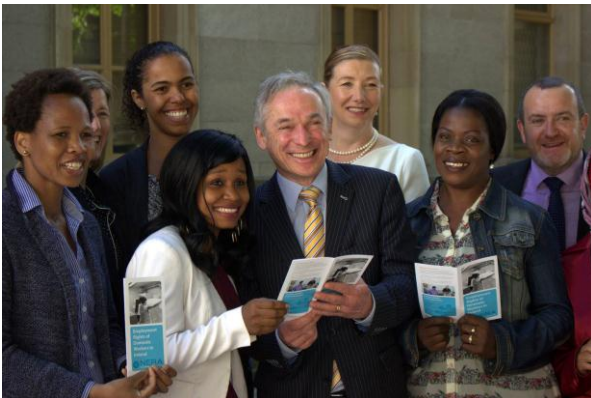
Massachusetts Bill of Rights now law



On **July 2**, the governor of Massachusetts, USA, [signed the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights](#) into law. The [Massachusetts Bill](#) is the most forward-looking bill of rights to date and will protect workers and employers by providing clear guidelines, and imposing requirements on employers, including the provision of:

- a written contract
- just cause for termination
- maternity leave for workers

Ireland ratifies C189



On Wednesday **July 9 2014**, Ireland's Parliament ratified C189. On that day members of [Migrant Rights Centre Ireland's Domestic Workers Action Group \(DWAG\)](#) met [Minister Richard Bruton](#) to welcome Ireland's ratification of the Convention. This is a historic moment for DWAG activists who have been campaigning for this Convention for over five years.

3. June 16 – International Domestic Workers' Day



On **June 16**, [tens of thousands of domestic workers around the world celebrated the third International Domestic Workers Day](#). Three years ago, the C189 was adopted. Domestic workers took this occasion to call on their governments to ratify the Convention and specific legislations in their countries so that domestic workers will have rights and protection.

4. Qatar Protest

**FREE
DOMESTIC
WORKERS
IN QATAR**

The Arabic speaking countries in the Gulf, such as Qatar are among the worst places for domestic workers, according to numerous reports and life stories of migrant domestic workers. The IDWF Executive Committee held a protest in front of the United Nations building in Geneva in **June** to demand legal protection of all domestic workers in Qatar and end the "Kafala System" which enslaves migrant domestic workers. Subsequently [a letter was sent to the Emir of Qatar](#).

Following to this, on **July 1**, together with the IUF, [we sent a letter to the President of France](#) to call on his excellency to take steps reaching our demands.

We are concerned that on the **July 1** visit of the Emir of Qatar to France, the President merely talked about sale of military tools, ignoring the appalling record of human rights violations of migrant workers, including domestic workers in Qatar.

5. Peru: Slow to ratify



Having 8 countries ratified the C189, the Latin American region is the champion of the ratification. However many countries such as Peru have not responded so far. On **July 15**, [we sent a letter to the Mr. Ollanta Humala, the President of Peru](#) to call on his speedy action to ratify the C189. Ernestina Ochoa, the vice-President of IDWF in the country, together with other domestic workers leaders of FENTRAHOGARP, IPROFOTH and others met with government officials at several meetings to press on the ratification.

6. Face to face: IDWF Executive Committee Members Meet



The International Domestic Workers Federation held [a four-day workshop](#) in Geneva, **June 7-10**, 2014 to build the capacity of its leaders to effectively lead a global workers organization.

It was the first face-to-face meeting of the Executive Committee, Coordinators and Technical Team since the Founding Congress in Uruguay last October. The workshop also provided an opportunity for the IDWF leadership team to get better acquainted with one another.

Immediately following the workshop, there was the first Executive Committee face-to-face meeting. All the members, including the titular and alternative members were included. Among other things, the Execo adopted the Action Plan of 2014-15. They made decision on how to improve communication among the members and the coordinators to ensure internal democracy work. They also agreed to improve staffing at the Secretariat to support fundraising and general administration. With better communication and a well-functioning secretariat, the IDWF will be in a better position to support its affiliates to organize and fight. [Read more >>>](#)

7. Uniting for Domestic Workers' Rights - IDWF Communication Network



In close collaboration with the ILO, we are developing a communication network of domestic workers. It will be an on-line platform for the IDWF affiliates to:

- Add, update organization profiles
- Share and find resources in support of the needs of organizations
- Download, modify and share campaign material
- Share upcoming activities
- Share stories
- Want to access internal documents of other members, IDWF and congress reports
- Learn about other organizations working in same areas or located in same geographical area
- Get support to setup own platforms/tools/best practices to set up similar communication networks at the national level (toolkit/training materials)

The IDWF and the ILO Asia /Pacific held [a workshop for the IDWF affiliates in Asia](#) in **April** to kickoff the process. Similar workshops will be held for its affiliates in Latin America in Chile in **September** and Africa in **October**.

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