



# The International Domestic Workers' Network – IDWN

The IDWN is a network of domestic workers' organisations across the world. Today the IDWN brings together over 70 organisations in some 35 countries.

In the IDWN there are trade unions and associations of domestic workers, local or national. We welcome any organisation that is member-based and democratic – where domestic workers are in the driving seat.

We also work closely with our supporters – trade unions, the Global Union Federations, the ILO, networks of women workers and of migrant workers, academics, the media, and more.

Domestic/household workers demand respect for our rights as workers, and recognition for the vital work we do.

We have been servants, maids, 'helpers', and even slaves. Many suffer abuse from employers. **We say, "No more!"**

Happily, many fellow workers and others in society, governments – and even some employers – now agree with us.

Our mission is to help build strong, democratic domestic workers' organisations to protect domestic workers' rights everywhere.



Today the IDWN brings together over 70 organisations in some 35 countries.

# How the IDWN was formed



Domestic/household workers' organisations came together for the first time ever at a global meeting in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in 2006. There we decided to unify our fight for our rights as workers and for recognition of our vital work.

So the IDWN was formed, with a Steering Committee of representatives of domestic workers' organisations from across the world – currently South Africa, Peru, Indonesia, Trinidad & Tobago, Nepal, USA and the Netherlands. The day-to-day work is carried out by an International Coordinator, supported by Regional Coordinators.

For these years, the IDWN has been given a home by the global union federation for food and allied workers, **IUF**. We are grateful too for the immense support from **WIEGO** (Women in Informal Employment Globalising and Organising). We are now discussing becoming an international federation in our own right, with a formal membership.

## Yes we won it!

The commitment and energy of domestic workers and their organisations, brought together by the IDWN, led us in June 2011 to win the first ever international standard for domestic workers – ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Work (C189).

C189 confirms that all domestic workers have the fundamental rights of other workers. It sets out employment standards that we should expect from employers and governments. Now governments must 'ratify' C189 – put it into national employment law. Then we will make sure they implement it properly.





## Empowering more domestic workers to be leaders



## What the IDWN does



- Supporting domestic workers' organisations around the world to lobby their governments to ratify C189 (see opposite), monitor implementation of national laws, and report complaints to the ILO
- Attending international forums – UN Women, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the Global Union Federations, etc. – to continue influencing international policies
- Empowering more domestic workers to be leaders, helping to develop more educators and trainers
- Providing a platform for constant exchange amongst our members, so they can continue sharing and learning from each other
- Bringing yet more domestic workers' organisations into the IDWN, especially from parts of the world where they are new or relatively weak
- Fostering alliances with trade unions and other social justice movements to get domestic workers the maximum solidarity
- Continuing to do all we can to help raise public awareness about the situation of domestic workers







# Contact the IDWN



The IDWN is a global network of democratic, membership-based domestic workers' organisations from local and national levels.

**WE WELCOME ALL SUCH ORGANISATIONS TO BE IN TOUCH AND JOIN IN.**

## International Coordinator:

Elizabeth Tang, based in Hong Kong: [elizabetht.idwn@gmail.com](mailto:elizabetht.idwn@gmail.com)



## REGIONAL COORDINATORS:

**Africa:** Vicky Kanyoka, based in Tanzania: [vickykanyoka@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vickykanyoka@yahoo.co.uk)

**Asia:** Fish Ip Pui Yu, based in Hong Kong: [fiship@hkctu.org.hk](mailto:fiship@hkctu.org.hk)

**Europe:** Karin Pape, based in Switzerland: [karin.pape@wiego.org](mailto:karin.pape@wiego.org)

**Latin America:** Marcelina Bautista, based in Mexico: [marce\\_baumx@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:marce_baumx@yahoo.com.mx)

**North America:** Jill Shenker, based in USA: [jill@domesticworkers.org](mailto:jill@domesticworkers.org)



[www.idwn.info](http://www.idwn.info)

email: [idwn@idwn.info](mailto:idwn@idwn.info)

facebook: idwn

