

# DOMESTIC WORKERS AT THE FRONT-LINES



Newsletter #29

June 19, 2020

## Happy International Domestic Workers Day!

On the 14th of June IDWF had its first global webinar with the title of "In times of COVID-19: Rising stronger from the crisis" to celebrate International Domestic Workers Day.

292 people from around the globe attended this event.

Click [here](#) to watch the recording of the whole event.

*Message from the President of IDWF, Myrtle Witbooi:*

*"When we formed the IDWF we never thought we will face this crisis but we have overcome many storms and have ridden the waves. We will do so again, we will rise stronger from this crisis, we will swim and together we will go forward stronger than before. So stay strong, stay safe the IDWF will remain the beacon of hope for all. We will carry on with our solidarity fund. I salute you all. This was such a powerful event and we showed that our voices won't be quiet."*



*Message from the General Secretary of IDWF, Elizabeth Tang:*

*"Happy International Domestic Workers Day 2020. Nine years ago the ILO convention 189 was adopted. It affirms that domestic workers have rights. As workers, as women, as human beings, we have rights. And we have to live this out, and we have to ask governments to ratify and to implement the convention 189. In the past few months, we have lived through very challenging times. And we feel very honored and very grateful to be able to support you with the solidarity fund. This is a small amount, but because of your creativity, because of your hard work, and because of your heart, you have been able to do a lot to help your members, to help domestic workers. We feel very proud of you. And I would like to appeal to all of our friends and all of our partners, to donate to our solidarity fund, so that we will be able to do more, so that domestic workers will survive and rise up stronger from this pandemic. Thank you very much."*

Click [here](#) to watch Elizabeth's video message.

**On June 12th, the IDWF Latin America regional team organized an online panel discussion: Domestic Workers in Latin America and the Caribbean facing the Covid-19 crisis.**

Click [here](#) to watch a recording of the event.

*From Carmen Britex, our Vice President:*

*“It was a very important event for our region to celebrate IDWD by looking at the victories of our region but also to bring attention to conditions that domestic workers are facing today during the covid-19 crisis. As our regional survey, done by 24 domestic workers unions organizations in 14 countries, shows that more than 49% of domestic workers in the region have been fired and out of those 92% are the main breadwinners of their homes. As you can imagine the effects are devastating for the economies of their families.”*

**The ILO organized a webinar on the 16th of June with the title: "International Domestic Workers' Day: Making decent work a reality beyond COVID-19". Our President and affiliates spoke during this event.**

Click [here](#) for the recording of the event.



**The final episode of the webinar series on GBV & COVID-19 took place with the title of "A Gender Equal New Normal". Watch the recording of this episode by clicking [here](#).**

**In observance of International Domestic Workers Day the Open Society Foundations and Humanity United organized a webinar on the 18th of June tackling the issue of labor complaints mechanisms and increasing the availability of social services in the Arab Gulf. IDWF moderated and participated in this event.**

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