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INTERNATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS' NETWORK

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Take Action!
Give Governments a Final Call: Ratify C189 Now

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The first global activity in the Action Plan is fast coming. Let us mobilize all domestic workers to join with trade union members and other allies to take action on days around December 12th. For campaign materials, please go to the ["12 by 12" web page on the ITUC website](#). Share news of your actions with domestic workers and others globally by posting them on [FaceBook: IDWN](#) and [FaceBook: "12 x 12"](#). Or simply send us an email.



2. The "12 by 12" Action Plan

Over 80 participants at the ITUC-IDWN-FES meeting on the "12 by 12" Campaign in 2012/2013, held on the 26th and 27th September 2012, Brussels, Belgium developed the new Action Plan. The IUF/IDWN delegation consisted of Myrtle Witbooi, IDWN Chair, Rebeca Pabon, member of the Steering Committee, and the Coordinators, Elizabeth Tang, Fish Ip, Marcelina Bautista and Vicky Kanyoka, together with Barbro Budin of the IUF. [To Read the Action Plan >>](#)

3. C189 Update

There are now 6 ratifications:



Uruguay,



Philippines,



Mauritius,



Bolivia,



Nicaragua,



Paraguay.

The last three countries have yet to register with the ILO to complete the process.

4. IDWN Joins Forces with Domestic Workers in the UK to Retain their Rights

Since last year, the UK Government has been holding consultations about proposed changes to its existing visa system for migrant domestic workers. If changed, this will have a serious negative impact on the rights of migrant domestic workers, such as their current right to change employers to avoid an abusive situation. The Justice 4 Domestic Workers (J4DW), an organization of migrant domestic workers, linked with the UNITE trade union, and Kalayaan, a supportive NGO, together with allies have been campaigning against such a move. With the consultation process still underway, the IDWN Chair, Myrtle Witbooi, sent a letter to the MP to express her concerns and give counter proposals. [To Read the IDWN letter >>](#)

5. Organizing Domestic Workers begins in Cambodia

The Cambodia Domestic Workers' Network was launched in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on November 11th 2012, at the end of a two-day Conference. Even the media in Cambodia was surprised to see that domestic workers in Cambodia are beginning to organize. Over 100 domestic workers, cleaners and security guards attended the Conference.





"I have suffered. I want to know what's going on, and the importance of our association and how to link it with human values", said Sothy Yim, the newly elected Vice-President of the Network. She has been a domestic worker for 21 years, having worked in both Cambodia and Thailand.


6. Baseline Studies of Domestic Workers and their Organizations in Philippines, Nepal and Indonesia

Baseline studies are being conducted in the Philippines, Indonesia and Nepal to document the current situation of domestic workers. Through this qualitative research, the IDWN aims to understand the current key issues facing domestic workers, and how they are organizing. The results of the studies will inform the IDWN and partners about the priorities to focus on, and strategies needed to support domestic workers in organizing and strengthening their organizations in these countries. Similar studies will soon begin in Tanzania and Guinea in Africa.

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