**PRESS STATEMENT**

**Implement and Ratify ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Work!**

We, 33 representatives from 26 civil society representatives from Nepal have gathered today to reflect and deliberate on issues that impact the lives of domestic workers and discussed how we can work together in advancing decent work for domestic workers. We represent domestic workers’ leaders, migrant workers, migrants’ rights organizations, trade unions, and women’s rights organizations, and we call on the Nepal government to ratify ILO C189 and immediately move towards its effective implementation by incorporating its provisions in domestic legislation.

Evidence based reports show that many domestic workers work more than 8 hours a day, with inadequate rest and days off, no decent living quarters, no adequate and decent meals, lack access to communication and information facilities, restricted mobility and at worst, are subjected to various forms of abuses-verbal, mental, physical, and sexual.

**Decent Work for Domestic Workers**

We call for the enactment and implementation of policies that protect and promote decent work for domestic workers. We urge the Nepal Government to enact a law providing specific protection for the rights of domestic workers. There should be special provisions that take into consideration the unique circumstances of domestic work as elaborated in the ILO C189.

**Social Protection for Domestic Workers**

Social protection is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An ILO study on Social Protection reveals that 60 million out of the 67 million domestic workers in the world (roughly 90 per cent) do not have access to social protection and 55 million of them are women. When they do exist, access to these becomes a challenge to domestic workers due to some barriers which could be either legislative or administrative; or it may also lack information about entitlements and how to access these benefits. Special schemes that respond to the nature of domestic work and needs and interest of women domestic workers should be explored. Extending social protection to domestic workers is one way to promote gender equality and address poverty.

**Migrant Domestic Workers**

We call on the Nepal government strengthen protection for migrant domestic workers through the enactment of bilateral agreements with countries of destination specifying protection for the rights of migrant domestic workers. Agreements should also include provisions for standard terms of employment specifying hours of work, rest days, remuneration, social security, and occupational safety and health among others.

We also call on the government to repeal the ban on migration of women to Gulf countries as the ban has lead to increasing irregular and undocumented migration. Migration is a right and bans have put women migrant workers in precarious situations as undocumented and irregular workers.

National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM)

Joint Trade Union Committee Center (JTUCC)

Alliance Against Trafficking of Women in Nepal (AATWIN)

Aprabasi Mahila Kamdar Samuha (AMKAS Nepal)

Asian Human Rights and Culture Development Forum (Asian Forum)

Biswas Nepal

Center for Labour And Social Studies (CLASS Nepal)

Center for Migration and International Relation (CMIR)

Center for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM)

Chhori Nepal

Conquer Nepal

Forum for Law and Development (FWLD)

Federation of Nepal Foreign Employment Orientation Agency (FEONA)

Helping Society Nepal

Law and Policy Forum for Social Justice (LAPSOJ)

Maiti Nepal

Trade Union for Nepal Domestic Work

NEEDS Nepal

National Institution for Development Studies (NIDS)

Women Forum for Women in Nepal (WOFOWON)

Women Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC Nepal)

People Forum for Human Rights

Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee (PNCC)

Pourakhi Nepal

Youth for Human Rights Nepal Chapter

Youth Action Nepal

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Kathmandu, Nepal