A call for ACTION now

February 28, 2012

CAMBODIA’S BAN ON DOMESTIC WORKERS TO MALAYSIA IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

On October 15th, 2011 the Prime Minister of Cambodia announced a ban on the recruitment, training and sending of domestic workers to Malaysia. This announcement was made following various media and NGO reports of abuses, exploitation and even deaths of Cambodian domestic workers in Malaysia. The key purpose of the ban was to put into place new laws, processes and mechanisms that will ensure safe migration.

In June 2011, the ILO adopted Convention 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers. The time is ripe for the Cambodian and Malaysian governments to take measures to ensure the rights of domestic workers, including a decent minimum wage, and define the rights and responsibilities of domestic workers, employers and recruitment agencies.

With a clear recognition of rights and an effective rights monitoring mechanism, we can stop the needless suffering of thousands of often very young Cambodian women and girl domestic workers in Malaysia.

Support and lobby for the actions proposed overleaf.....
We call on the governments of Cambodia & Malaysia to:

1. Sign a bilateral agreement that ensures the protection of rights enshrined in ILO C189.

2. Adopt and enforce mandatory standardized employment and job placement services contracts that adhere to the standards established in ILO C189.

3. Ensure that the regulation of private recruitment agencies meets the standards in ILO C189.

4. Ratify ILO C189 and bring national laws and enforcement into alignment, including covering domestic workers under national labor laws.

5. Establish effective monitoring mechanisms for greater accountability and transparency in recruitment, placement, and employment of domestic workers.

6. Ensure effective access to redress, legal remedies and grievance procedures in Cambodia and Malaysia for victims of rights violations and abuse.

7. Improve screening to identify victims of abuse and survivors of trafficking, and provide them with legal aid, shelter, counseling, repatriation and reintegration services, as needed.

8. Ensure protection and support for domestic workers already working in Malaysia at the time of the issuance of the ban.

9. Work through regional mechanisms to strengthen the ASEAN Declaration on Migrant Workers and the ASEAN Plan of Action through the promotion of minimum standards for domestic workers.

10. Recognise the special needs and vulnerabilities of female and male migrants and tailor systems to respond.

11. Ensure extensive consultation with civil society organizations working on domestic workers, migration and trafficking to implement the above.

We call on the governments of Cambodia and Malaysia to act expeditiously to enact effective protection measures for domestic workers.

We are encouraging the public to show their support for this Call to Action by visiting CWGDW’s Facebook Page: http://www.facebook.com/CWGDW
Endorsed by:

1. Cambodian Working Group for Domestic Workers (CWGDW), Cambodia
2. Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW), Cambodia
3. Community Legal Education Center (CLEC), Cambodia
4. Cambodian League for the Defense and Protection of Human Rights (LIJACDHO), Cambodia
5. Cambodian Human Rights and Development Organization (ADHOC), Cambodia
6. Gender and Development Cambodia (GADC), Cambodia
7. The Cambodian NGO Committee on CEDAW (NGO CEDAW), Cambodia
8. Strey Khmer, Cambodia
9. Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center (CWCC), Cambodia
10. American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS), Cambodia
11. Cambodian Food and Service Workers’ Federation (CFSWF), Cambodia
12. Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association (IDEA), Cambodia
13. Coalition of Cambodian Farmer Community (CCFC), Cambodia
14. Cambodian Tourist and Service Worker Federation (CTSWF), Cambodia
15. Cambodian Workers Center for Development (CWCD), Cambodia
16. Healthcare Center for Children (HCC), Cambodia
17. Chab Dai Coalition, Cambodia
18. Cambodian Youth Network, Cambodia
19. Positive Change for Cambodia, Cambodia
20. People’s Action for Change (PAC), Cambodia
21. Social Action for Change (SAC), Cambodia
22. Women’s Network for Unity (WNU), Cambodia
24. World Solidarity, Belgium
25. International Association of Scalabrinian Sisters for Migrants (AISSMI)
26. Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)
27. Mekong Migrant Network (MMN)
28. Coalition to Abolish Modern-Day Slavery in Asia (CAMSA)
29. Tenaganita, Malaysia
30. Penang Office For Human Development (POHD), Malaysia
31. PusatKebajikan Good Shepherd, Malaysia
32. PersatuanMasyarakatselangordanwilayah Persekutuan (PERMASI), Malaysia
33. Dignity International, Malaysia
34. PusatKomunikasiMasyarakat (KOMAS), Malaysia
35. Foreign Spouses Support Group, Malaysia
36. Community Action Network (CAN), Malaysia
37. Center for Indonesian Migrant Workers (CIMW), Indonesia
38. Migrant CARE, Indonesia
39. International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), Indonesia
40. Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2), Singapore
41. St.Francis of Assisi, Singapore
42. National Union of Building and Construction Workers (NUBCW), Philippines
43. Center for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines
44. Scalabrini Migration Center, Philippines
45. UnladKabayan Center Foundation, Philippines
46. KAAAGAPAY, Philippines
47. Alliance of Progressive Labor, Philippines
48. Kanlungan Foundation Center, Philippines
49. Batis Center for Women, Philippines
50. Woman Health, Philippines
51. Hope Workers Center (HWC), Taiwan
52. Hsinchu Migrants and Immigrants Services Center, Taiwan
53. Coalition for Migrant Rights (CMR), Hong Kong
54. Asian Monitor Resource Center (AMRC), Hong Kong
55. Center for Indian Migrant Studies (CIMS), India
56. National Domestic Workers Movement, India
57. Andra Pradesh State Domestic Workers Union, India
58. Center for Human Rights and Development, Sri Lanka
59. Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC), Nepal
60. POURAKHI, Nepal
61. Youth Action Nepal (YOAC), Nepal
62. Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee (PNCC), Nepal
63. Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, Bangladesh
64. WARBE Development Foundation, Bangladesh
65. Association for Community Development, Bangladesh