

## 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 (LICADHO), 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
- 23. Human Rights Watch, New York
- 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. Persatuan Masyarakat selangor dan wilayah 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. KAAGAPAY, 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