



16th of June marks International Domestic Workers Day and 14 years since the adoption of the ILO Convention 189 on decent Work for domestic workers. Asia Pacific is home to more than 21 million domestic workers with many of them women migrants. On International Domestic Workers Day, the Migrant Women Forum joins the international community in celebrating all domestic workers.

We celebrate the valuable contributions of domestic workers to the economic development and social well-being of both countries of origin and destination. They provide essential care services, support households, and fill labour shortages in the care sector, particularly in countries with aging populations. Migrant domestic workers send a substantial portion of their earnings back to their families and communities, which is used for immediate household needs, education, and healthcare. They also gain skills and experience that can benefit them and their communities upon return.



We also celebrate the gains of domestic workers unions, associations and organizations that support them.

Despite the significant contributions of domestic workers, many continue to experience abuse during recruitment, work long hours for little pay, are not allowed to take a day off, and have no access to social protection.

In recognition of continuing struggle for rights protection of domestic workers, the Migrant Women Forum calls on governments to ratify and implement ILO Convention 189 on decent work for domestic workers and ILO C190 Violence and Harassment Convention. Domestic workers should be recognized as workers in national labour laws.

We call on governments to implement sustainable and decent social protection mechanisms for all domestic workers irrespective of their migration status. The ILO indicates that more than two thirds of domestic workers in the Asia and Pacific region are not covered by even one social security benefit.

In many countries, domestic workers are not allowed to form or join trade unions. We call on governments to uphold the right to organize, freedom of association and assembly, social dialogue and decent work for domestic workers.



*The Migrant Women Forum (MWF) is a network of grassroots organizations of women migrants and migrants rights advocates from Asia, the Middle East, and the Pacific, working on issues of gender, women, and migration.*

