



DOMESTIC WORKERS' LINK

publication of the Domestic Workers' Movement

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Editorial

The year 2008 has been a year of fulfilled dreams. Some of the struggles for justice for the domestic workers have paid off and we have seen change. As we come close to the end of the year, let us recall those remarkable milestones that have signified progress in the work of the Movement.

To begin with, the leaders of domestic workers in Andhra Pradesh have been zealously creating awareness for the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act that was passed on 10th Dec 2007. The women in Kerala are proud to receive labour certificates allowing for welfare schemes from the state government and more recently, on 4th November, the domestic workers in the state have been registered as a union in the labour ministry. Active campaign in Tamil Nadu is being carried out for the Minimum Wages Act and the state government has agreed to form an advisory board for fixing the same.

Further, domestic workers in Meghalaya have been provided with AAY/BPL ration cards thereby allowing for food security. A home for the rehabilitation of traumatized children has been opened in Karnataka helping to re-integrate them in society. And active advocacy in Maharashtra has moved the Domestic Workers' Bill in the state assembly.

Inspiring signs of progress! But none of these would have been possible, if it were not for the tireless efforts of our women, animators and co-ordinators; along with the collaborative efforts of the media, government officials, labour ministries, supporters and friends. The struggles of domestic workers are also acknowledged by many well-wishers who equally want to see the rights of the women upheld. In fact, this quarter, we had the privilege of being visited by the Queen of Belgium who has been a great supporter of the work of the Movement. It was the first time the women and children

experienced royalty and were charmed by her elegance and compassion.

We would also like to thank Rector Vervennen and Dr. Peter Adriaenssens of the Catholic University, Leuven, Belgium, for inaugurating the home for the children at Bangalore and for giving us their continual advice and cooperation. Our children are very dear to us and their childhood is precious. We shall do whatever it takes to ensure all children enjoy their rights. We acknowledge the participation of our children in the campaign to eradicate child labour; and on the anniversary of the Ban on Child Labour (10th October) and Children's Day (14th November), children in different states rallied together with the Movement to demand their rights.

It has been a good year but it has also its share of misfortunes. The global financial crisis has become a major concern for governments. These are worrying times; for with the downfall in economy where does it leave the people who are already steeped in poverty. To top it off, India has seen far too many communal and social violence and terrorism. We are still in a state of shock after the siege on Mumbai. While the post mortem is being carried out to seek answers and secure solutions, we cannot discount the fact that India and the world are in desperate need of Peace. Our domestic workers are made aware of the situation and are alerted against all kinds of disruptive forces that seek to destroy peace and harmony among people.

Nature has not siezed to rage its fury. The recent incessant rainfall and flooding at Tamil Nadu caused by the cyclone Nisha has wrecked many families of our domestic workers community. We continue to give our solidarity to our fellow domestic workers in these troubled times.

We do look forward to a better year ahead, and as the country goes into elections this spring, we pray for good governance especially one that will be capable of setting right the peace and economy of the country in the face of all crisis.

We brace ourselves for the new year, taking with us the same dreams forward where we will continue to strive till the ultimate goal is reached when domestic work will be standardized and regularized and domestic workers will enjoy the status of decent employment in the eyes of society.

SANDRA VAZ

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The Queen of Belgium visits the Movement

Domestic Workers in Mumbai marked their calendars and took time off from their rough work commitments to greet the Queen of Belgium. On 6th November, Her Highness, Queen Paola, visited the Movement and attended the programme put up by domestic workers.

She was welcomed to the office of the Movement, at 3:30 pm, by Sr. Jeanne Devos, National Co-ordinator and Sr. Christy, Co-ordinator of the Maharashtra Domestic Workers' Movement. Sr. Jeanne informed her that the year 2008 was referred to as the Year of Dreams, and truly it was a dream to have the privilege of being visited by the Queen. Her Highness and other visiting dignitaries listened intently to Sr. Jeanne as she highlighted the work of the Movement. While Madame was impressed by the empowerment of domestic workers, she



was dismayed to learn about the children who are victims of trafficking for forced labour.



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*domestic workers
and children
perform for the
Queen*

NDWM condemns the barbaric acts of terrorism that sieged Mumbai on 26th November and mourn the deaths of so many people, both civilians and officers, who were victims of the carnage.

We stand in solidarity with all Indians in demanding justice and peace in our lands.

We salute the brave soldiers who fought tirelessly through the 56 hour ordeal against the terrorists. You are the true defenders of peace in our country. Jai Hind!

horrors of trafficking through a street play. The sharing was translated in English, by Fr. Felix D'Souza, President of the NDWM.

The programme ended with a special expression of gratitude given to the Queen and visiting dignitaries. Diyas (mini candle lamps) were presented to our guests, symbolically signifying the solidarity of the Queen with the domestic workers and children in the struggle for dignity in the Indian society. After the programme the Queen and Sr. Jeanne had photographs taken with the domestic workers and children. It was a memorable day for the women and children who cherished the warmth and kindness showered by the Queen.

Domestic Worker rises to take on work of the Movement

We in the Movement have been dreaming of building leaders among domestic workers keeping in mind one day they will become District and State coordinators for the Movement and sustain the work of the Movement. This aspiration is being actualised in Meghalaya, for the first time, in the history of the Movement, in the person of Ms. Merina Basumotary. She has become the District Coordinator of Shillong.

Ms. Merina had five years of experience in domestic work and four years as an animator in the Movement. She will be assisted by Ms. Wanpynhun Kharsyntiew (six years of experience in domestic work and eighteen months as animator) as assistant co-ordinator.

Their election has been conducted by a secret ballot in which Ms. Merina secured the highest votes.

Hereafter all work pertaining to Shillong will be handled by Ms. Merina and Ms. Wanpynhun. We wish them all best. You can contact them by email at the address: nerdwmmegh@gmail.com.

Sr. TERESA JOSEPH, STATE CO-ORDINATOR, NERDWM

Inauguration of Gowpyatha Makkala Kendra

A joint initiative of the Karnataka Domestic Workers' Movement (KDWM) and the Confidential Center for Children of the KU (Catholic University) Leuven at Belgium for the rehabilitation of traumatised children



It has been a dream of the National Domestic Workers' Movement to have a home that would care for and assist traumatised children in the interim period before being re-integrated into society. On 8th November, this dream was fulfilled with the inauguration of the Gowpyatha Makkala Kendra at Bangalore, Karnataka.

Rector Marc Vervennen of the KU Leuven was the chief guest at the event. He was accompanied by Sr. Jeanne Devos, Fr. Felix, National Co-ordinator and President of NDWM respectively, Mr. Gurudass Bhatt, Commissioner of Bangalore Labour Welfare Board, Prof. Dr. Peter Adriaenssens, child and juvenile psychiatrist and other dignitaries from Belgium.

The programme commenced with a solemn prayer dance by the FSM religious group and followed by the traditional lighting of the lamp. An enlightening skit was performed by the staff of the KDWM, depicting the crisis of a child domestic worker. The performance displayed how the financial burdens of a domestic worker led her to place her child in domestic work. Here, being a vulnerable child, she was subjected to

exploitation and emotional and physical abuse. The skit further highlighted the involvement of the Domestic Workers' Movement in rescuing children in such situations and bringing them to the home for love and attention and to help them find and enjoy their childhood again. The programme included messages delivered by Sr. Jeanne, Mr. Bhatt, Dr. Adriaenssens and Fr. Felix.

In his inaugural speech, Rector Vervennen praised the work of the Movement under the leadership of Sr. Jeanne Devos. He explained about the Jeanne Foundation set up in Leuven and that its collaboration with the National Domestic Workers' Movement will not only help the Movement but also assist with research work in Leuven. He thanked Sr. Jeanne and Dr. Peter for the initiative they have taken to start GMK in Bangalore.

Thereafter, Rector Vervennen, Sr. Jeanne and Mr. Gurudass Bhatt unveiled the inscription stone plate to mark the opening of the Home.

BRO JERSON CUPPA, DIRECTOR OF THE GOWPYATHA MAKKALA KENDRA

Gowpyatha Makkala Kendra



The Gowpyatha Makkala Kendra is a home set up to create a safe, child friendly environment for the rehabilitation of traumatised children. These are children who have been rescued from cruel environments in domestic work and have been victims of abuse: physical, sexual and verbal. Some of these children are in extreme traumatic conditions and these situations of distress disable them from bonding with society and demotivates them from going to school. With the assistance of the Psychiatry Department of St. John's Medical College and the expert advice and training of Dr. Peter and his team at the Confidential Center, Leuven, The staff at the GMK will provide these children a healthy and caring environment necessary for them to rediscover their childhood and re-establish themselves in society.

Dicennial Celebration

The Andhra Pradesh Domestic Workers' Movement celebrated 10 years of dedicated struggle to the cause of domestic workers

10th November 2008 was marked as a milestone in the history of the Movement in Andhra Pradesh. Around 1000 domestic workers gathered together to celebrate the dicennial anniversary of the Movement. It was a day that commemorated the 10 long years of struggle to the cause of domestic workers... and they have much accomplished in this span. The once unheard and unseen domestic workers who had been victims of exploitation and injustice, are now a voice to reckon with. Domestic work and the women have now received recognition and dignity with the passing of the Minimum Wages Act for domestic workers in Andhra Pradesh (Minimum Wages Act AP GO No. 119); and domestic workers can approach the Asst. Labour Officer if this right is denied her or if she has other grievances related to her work. Their unions are now recognised by the Labour Department and at the occasion, members of six unions were issued identity cards signed by the Asst. Labour Officer.

The programme was held at Ravindra Bharathi and graced by the Sr. (Dr.) Jeanne Devos, National Co-ordinator of NDWM, Mrs. Christine Lazarus, Hon'ble MLA and Sr. (Dr.) Christine Rebello, former Principal of St. Francis College for Women, Begumpet who accommodated the office of the Movement in the college for five years and had been a great supporter to the Movement. Also present at the function were Mr. Jeevan Kumar from HRF, Mrs. Sandhya, Progressive Organisation for Women, Mrs. Pasiya Padma,

AP Mahial Samakya, major superiors, sisters, brothers, priests, representatives of NGOs, coordinators, animators and domestic workers from various regions.

At the programme, leaders of domestic workers addressed the guests, shared their experiences and appreciated the recognition they have received as members and participants of the Movement. In turn, the Movement presented awards of appreciation to a domestic worker, employer, a child domestic worker, animator, teacher and local co-ordinator. The guests also spoke of their solidarity with the women and invoked them to continue to assert their rights and work for justice. They stressed that the government should take into account the demand of the unorganised and women workers.

Mr. Y. S. Rajashekar Reddy – Honorable Chief Minister, Mr. G. Vinod Minister for Labour were also invited to the programme but were unable to attend due to the Cabinet meetings. However, the Chief Minister invited a five member delegation from the Movement to meet him at his office at the Secretariat after the programme. The five member delegation included Sr. (Dr.) Jeanne Devos, Sr. (Dr.) Lissy Joseph, State Coordinator of NDWM-AP, three domestic workers presidents of the Union accompanied by Ms. Christine Lazarus.

SR. HEMA, CO-ORDINATOR- HYDERABAD



Award for Domestic Worker: 65 years old, S. Pochamma, for her contribution in advocacy for the rights of domestic workers.

Award for Employer: Mrs. Banu and Mr Sunder Raj employer of domestic worker Mrs. Ramanamma, were honored for their amiable, just and compassionate relationship with their domestic worker.

Decennial award for Animator: Mrs Kamalamma from Tiruvuru appreciated for her capability in organising and empowering domestic workers as leaders.

Award to Local Coordinator: Sr. Nirmala Adanki from Vijayawada, a retired teacher, for her contribution to sensitise employers and invite them to participate in the meetings of domestic workers and organize programmes for them.

Award for Child Domestic Worker: Child Mamatha for her determination to pursue her education after being rescued from forced domestic work. Situations in her family almost led her to be trafficked into domestic work again. However, she resisted and stood by her conviction to be regular to school.

Award for Teacher: Ms. Bharathi for her special contribution to the life of children out of school (Child Labour) motivating them and their parents to the rights and importance of education. She is one of our rare teachers who have understood the value of education for children.



Hearty Congratulations to Sr. Lissy and her dedicated team of animators and city and district co-ordinators who have strived since 1998 to bring recognition, justice and dignity to the domestic workers of Andhra Pradesh

Health Camp for Domestic Workers at Indore

INDORE

Indore domestic workers solidarity organized a health camp for its members in four slums: namely Shivajinagar (7th Nov), Amaertakeri (8th Nov), Geeveankipahel (10th Nov), and Kannupatelkichal, (11th Nov). The camp was conducted with the co-operation of the Indore Health Department. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Mr. Sarad Pandit, accepted our request and made arrangements for the doctors, nurses and common medicines.

The camp was held between 4—6 pm, a time convenient to domestic workers. From the four places, in all, 350 domestic workers above the age group of 30+ were examined by the doctors, many of who were lady doctors. Some cases were referred to bigger hospitals and to specialised doctors.

The domestic workers were grateful to the doctors and the staff in the office of the CMO for their care and co-operation during the camp and especially to the time given to the women to examine their health conditions. They now look forward to more regular camps, especially with doctors for specialised cases.



KERALA

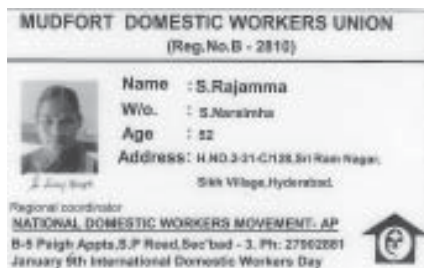
Sr. ROSILY SSPS

The Kerala Domestic Workers' Movement conducted a medical camp and awareness class on diabetes on 16th November. The camp was organized in association with Indian Institute of Diabetic Association. 104 domestic workers participated. The resource team included Dr. Sumam, Dr. Shahin (Medical officers, IDA), Mr. Lawrance, Ms. Deepa and Ms. Latha.

An awareness class on diabetics, its problems, symptoms, medical check-ups, preventive methods, etc. was delivered by Dr. Sumam and Mr. Lawrance. Of the 104 members who were diagnosed, 35 were diabetic. They were referred to hospitals for further treatments.

Sr. SALLY MICHAEL, STATE CO-ORDINATOR, KERALA DOMESTIC WORKERS

Identity Cards for Domestic Workers in Andhra Pradesh



Identity Cards issued to the domestic workers in the State in collaboration with the Labour Department. On 10th December 2007, Domestic Workers were included into the Schedule of Minimum Wages Act.

Minimum Wages for Domestic Workers by Labour Dept. AP
G.O. Ms. No 119 10th December 2007

Category of Employment	Duration of Work	Basic Wages Fixed
Cleaning / Washing / Sweeping/ Swabbing / Cooking / Caring for old / infirm Children / Other house hold works	1/2 Hour 1 Hour 1 1/2 Hours 8 Hours	Rs. 193.00 Rs. 325.00 Rs. 488.00 Rs. 2666.00

Compulsory Weekly off in consultation with Employer
Children below 15 are prohibited from Domestic work

Signature : Asst. Labour Officer

Seeking your Comments

The Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India has prepared a Draft Protocol on Prevention, Rescue, Repatriation and Rehabilitation of Trafficked and Migrant Child Labour since there is an increasing trend of migration and trafficking of children for labour in different parts of the country. In many of these cases, these children are being trafficked by middle men and agents who are bringing them to the employers. These children work under highly exploitative situations like very long working hours, paltry wages, unhygienic and most difficult working conditions. Such children mostly work in industries like zari making, jewellery units, domestic help, dhabas, tea stalls, etc... Considering the complexity of the problem, a comprehensive multi-pronged approach to this problem is required.

Comments are invited by the Ministry. We can send our comments to laborweb@nic.in. You can access the protocol in Ministry Website: <http://www.labour.nic.in/cw1/DraftProtocolPreventionMigrantChildLabour.pdf>

Crisis Intervention

Save the Children



Salem Districts, Vallappady Taluk, Ekkthapoor Village, Sathya (13 years), is the eldest daughter of Moorthy and Marriamma, Moorthy died and Marriamma, due to poverty, placed Sathya as a domestic worker. At the work place, she was sexually harassed and raped by her employer. This situation was only made known to the mother when she became pregnant. The case was reported to the police.

The Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers' Movement came to know of the case through the local newspaper. The Movement immediately contacted Sathya's mother and offered full support and co-operation in getting justice for Sathya. The Movement also came to know that Sathya had five siblings, out of which, four children were already working as child labourers in different places.



Attempts were made to rescue the children from the work place and the Movement has been successful in rescuing three of them, namely: Sonia (9 years), Chinna Thambai (8 years) and Nandini (6 years). But Manigandan, (12 years), was working in bonded labour and the employer refused to send the child because his mother had borrowed

from him Rs. 2000\-. Finally with the support of the local police, Manigandan was also rescued. Now all five children including, Pooja (4 years) who was with her mother were admitted in Manitha Naya Trust and are ensured good education and other basic needs. Sathya has delivered a baby and is awaiting the DNA test.

Unfortunately, Marriamma, Sathya's mother, died due to a snake bite.

The Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers' Movement had played an active role in the case by way of fact finding, giving assistance to Sathya (providing alternate safe shelter), supported her with the delivery of the child. They have also played a vital role in the rescue of all of Sathya's five siblings from bonded child labour and admitted to a safe shelter and is committed for the future support of the children.

P. CLARA, TAMIL NADU DOMESTIC WORKERS' MOVEMENT

Child Labour Free Society and Childhood for all Children

The North East Regional Domestic Workers' Movement (NERDWM) conducted a one month-long campaign against child labour

The NERDWM took the initiative of conducting a one month-long campaign against child labour with the theme "Child Labour Free Society and Childhood for all Children." The signature campaign is an awareness programme for the people to combat child labour in Meghalaya. The campaign was conducted from 10th September to 10th October 2008 in order to mark October 10th as a notable event when the Government of India banned the employment of children in domestic work.

In this regard, the organisation in collaboration with the BSW and MSW students of Martin Luther Christian University and St. Edmund's College respectively organized a speech and sketch competition on 27th September 2008 with the theme Child Labour Free Society and Childhood for all Children. Schools that responded to the events were Holy Child, St. Peter's, All Saints, Little Flower, Gorkha, St. De Sales,

Ferrando, Tender Care, Secret Heart, Seng Khasi, Shishu Mandir and St. Edmund's College.

In connection to this, a door to door campaign was also conducted in Police Bazar, Nongmynsong, Rynjah, Lapalang, Demseiniong, Mawprem, Polo, and Garikhana. The campaigns also covered schools, government departments, tea shops, grocery shops, hotel, garages, Rangbahshnong, NGOs, CBOs, and police etc.

The programme left a positive impact on the people who expressed their willingness to be part of the campaign and to resolve to eliminate child labour.

ST. TERESA, STATE CO-ORDINATOR, NERDWM

The children of the NERDWM joined children of other schools and participated in a Children's Day celebration. The programme was organised by the Rotary Club of Orchid City, Shillong and included competitions like card making, speech, dance, etc. His Excellency, Mr. R.S. Mooshary, Governor of Meghalaya graced the occasion with his presence.

Children demand implementation of Child Labour Ban

Children of the Maharashtra Domestic Workers' Movement rally to create awareness on the Child Labour Ban

The Child Labour Act which prohibits children below the age of 14 years from being employed, was amended on the 10th October 2006 to include children in domestic work. No doubt the number of child domestic workers have been reduced, however, child labour in migrant populated areas is still on the rise.

The growing migration of families from rural areas to the urban for their livelihood causes unpleasant consequences on their children. In many parts of the cities, due to their daily battle for livelihood and survival, parents are unable to cater to the fundamental needs of their children: education, health, participation and protection. Being deprived of their basic rights, the children become vulnerable to exploitation, exclusion and discrimination.

Mahd Island is one such area in Mumbai, where there are large numbers of families from North India. Many of their children are forced to work. The children of Anti-Child Labour task force of the Maharashtra Domestic Workers' Movement mobilised the children of the

area and participated in bringing this issue to the notice of the public and to create awareness among the parents.

More than 300 children participated in the programme. Guest speakers; Mrs. Chetna (advocate from ICHRL), Mr. Ajit, a journalist, Mr. Dinkar, local leader of a political party, and Mr. Gyanesh informed the children of their constitutional rights, the significance of education and the need to realize the hope and dreams. The children were also motivated to play an active role towards the contribution of unity and integration of the country. They were encouraged to express their future aspiration in drawings and share their insights. Their sharing revealed the need of these children to be freed from their work burden and enjoy their childhood.

After lunch, the children staged a rally from the venue to Madh Island jetty. The rally passed the office of MLA, Corporator and police station. They carried placards with captions and posters and shouted slogans: "*nahi chalegi nahi chalegi, bal majduri nahi*



chalegi", and *Bandh karo bandh karo, Bal majdhuri Bandh karo.*" At the end of the rally, the children performed a street play displaying the causes and evils of child trafficking. On Children's Day, the children submitted a memorandum of demands to the MLA of the area and requested him to support the cause of children.

The process of child participation has highlighted that Children have enormous capacity and resource to participate in the process of social change, decision making and to express their views. They join in the campaign to sensitize the public, stake holders and government that "*every child has a right and domestic work isn't child's play*".

SR. CHRISTY ICM, STATE CO-ORDINATOR, MAHARASHTRA DOMESTIC WORKERS' MOVEMENT

Tamil Nadu

Children rally for ban on child labour on the occasion of Children's Day



This programme was held in Villupuram on 14th November 2008 —Children's Day with the purpose of sensitizing the public on the issue and evil of child labour. The campaign encouraged children and their parents to participate in the event and create awareness of their rights. The programme started at 12.15 pm at Periyar Statue, Villupuram where a rally was taken out. Children shouted slogans: '*Ban child Labour,*' '*Give education to all children,*' '*Children's rights are Human rights,*' '*Bring effective implementation on the Ban on Child Labour.*'

By lunch time, the rally reached the railway station. After a break for meals, the public meeting commenced with Mr. Gnagaraj who gave inputs on the issues of children in domestic work and their problems. Mrs. S. Manu Gandhi District Educational Officer spoke about child rights and the Government Ban on Child Labour. She made strong reference to the fact that although the ban has been enforced and already two years has passed since then, yet many children are still working in different areas and fields. She also highlighted how children are trafficked. Children who were working in domestic work shared their situations and their dreams to have different employment opportunities.

It was the first time the Villupuram children and their parents had participated in the rally to demand for their rights.

SR. JOSEPHINE AMALA VALARMATHI, ICM, STATE CO-ORDINATOR, TAMIL NADU DOMESTIC WORKERS' MOVEMENT

MOBILIZING THE RELIGIOUS AGAINST TRAFFICKING

The Movement in Goa in collaboration with the CRI organised an awareness programme for the religious highlighting the issue of trafficking of women for domestic work

On October 2nd, the CRI organized two sessions on the issue of trafficking in girls for domestic work. About 70 religious, predominantly women religious, attended the sessions. Fr. Desmond, Sr. Augusta, Sr. Immaculate and Mrs. Prema Rosario, all working with the Goa unit of NDWM, addressed the 140 participants on their own experiences regarding the trafficking in girls for domestic work, particularly from the source areas of Gajapati in Berhampur diocese to destinations in Goa. They also shared their work with domestic workers from Simdega and Gumla dioceses in Jharkhand, Raigarh diocese in Chattisgarh and Rourkela, Sambalpur and Berhampur dioceses in Orissa.

After the sharing presentations, the religious were given the opportunity to join hands with the team and volunteer their services in any of the following areas: trafficking in girls for domestic work; campaign against children in domestic work; domestic workers (women)—both top and live-in workers; migrant workers (boys); and with lawyers who pursue the growing cases. Thirteen religious volunteered their services despite their other commitments. Many others needed to consult with their superiors before they could volunteer. The aim of the process was to set up a network of religious in each of the 150 or so villages in Goa, who will form vigilance cells at village level with concerned and enlightened local people to monitor and provide feedback to the team.

The CRI took the responsibility of discussing the pay scales of the domestic workers in their institutions so that there is a consensus among the religious communities about salaries to their domestic workers. Two more important decisions came about: 1) to set up a forum of religious cutting across congregational lines, who are involved in social issues, but do not get much support from their own superiors or congregations, nor have an adequate spirituality for their work. 2) to set up a Migrants Forum linking the destination place of Goa archdiocese with source dioceses from where the migrant women and boys come, not only at the level of bishops, but at the level of CRI to CRI and communities of the same congregation across the lines of provinces.

The newly elected CRI team, consisting of young religious – all women – are very enthusiastic about getting involved in social issues through the Forum of Religious, since many of the communities of religious in Goa are involved in schools and houses of formation. The Goa unit of the NDWM promised full support to the CRI and has already started working on establishing a network of concerned religious and communities in each of the villages of the following three areas of Goa – north (51 villages), central (49 villages) and south (55 villages) of Goa.

FR. DESMOND DE SOUSA, CO-ORDINATOR, GOA DOMESTIC WORKERS' MOVEMENT

Orissa strives to give rays of hope for Domestic Workers

Personal interventions, organized awareness programme. and house visits have been intensified in 15 slums among 665 domestic workers in Orissa. We had a two day State Consultation Meet on Women Empowerment in collaboration with Women Commission and Orissa Catholic Bishop's Conference (OCBC). Sr. Lissy from Hyderabad came to animate the proceedings. We have also made good contact with Central Labour Education Board of Workers, State Labour Department, NAC officials and other district officials.

The rapid industrialization growth in Orissa has caused

lot of social, economical, and cultural problems. The poor people have been displaced, landless and exploited. The women started domestic work as their livelihood and men folk do daily labour and manual works.

After having analyzed the economic and social situation of the state, the need to help the domestic workers is priority for us at Rourkela. We are determined to help them experience a dignified life. All our domestic workers have great hope for the same and are committed to work for justice.

GLORIA DUNG DUNG & PROMILA KINDO, ORISSA DOMESTIC WORKERS' MOVEMENT

A couple of years ago the Vatican called a meeting to address the issue of global trafficking in women, mainly for sexual exploitation. They discovered that the only people actually involved in Europe and America were the women religious. On Oct 22, 2007, at the conclusion of a five day seminar of women religious held at Rome entitled, 'Building a network: the Prophetic Role of Women Religious in the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons,' more than 30 women religious from 26 countries including India, launched the International Network of Religious Against Trafficking in Persons (INRATIP). It formed its own website. Delegates at the Conference committed to use their personnel, resources and historical commitment for those living in situations of poverty to eradicate human trafficking—a modern day form of slavery.

Understanding the importance of Social Security

A one-day consultation Meet was organised by the North Eastern Regional Domestic Workers' Movement (NERDWM) to highlight and inform about social security schemes

The Meet was held on 27th October 2008 at Don Bosco Youth Centre, Shillong Laitumkhrach and was supported by Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS). The programme allowed for clearer understanding on the concepts of social security schemes. In addition, the meet was held to judge the adequacy and effectiveness of social security schemes in Meghalaya. The programme was inaugurated by Madam I. Langwa, Deputy Director of Social Welfare

The participants were given information that in the social security is a strong support system at times of unemployment, illness, and old age. It helps standardise income for maintenance of life at an optimum level and protects against fall in income due to any contingency. The resource people were from the various government and municipal departments, viz, District Rural Development Agency, National Bank for Agriculture and Development, National Rural Health Mission, Director of Social Welfare- Social Defends, among others. In between the presentation, interaction was elicited from the various NGOs to clarify doubts with regard to social security schemes.

In the light of analysis and discussion carried out during the Meet, an attempt was made to critically appraise the operations of the various social security schemes. It was concluded that these benefits need to reach the target groups faster and at all levels its efficiency needs to improve.

SR. TERESA JOSEPH, STATE CO-ORDINATOR, NERDWM

Crisis Intervention Dispute of land between a Domestic Worker and her sister-in-law

Ms. Bilashini is a domestic worker, age 30 years, a widow and mother of one son. On a house visit on 2nd July 2008, Ms. Shriya, the animator of Manipur Domestic Workers' Movement, learned that Ms. Bilashini was facing some domestic issue with her sister-in-law. Ms. Bilashini explained how with the financial grant she had received from the village Pradhan (panchayat), she had decided to build a house on her husband's property. However, her sister-in-law interfered, threatened and prevented her from placing the foundation to her house. She claimed that the property entirely belonged to her. In fact, the land did belong to Bilashini with the birth of her son. Bilashini tried her best to defend herself and get back her land but it was in vain. Due to fear, as well as being alone in her fight, she disappointingly gave up the struggle.

When Shriya visited Bilashini, she shared her troubles and appealed for help. The Movement approached the local women organisation, met the Pradhan (Panchayat) and explained about the work of the Movement and Bilashini's case. The Pradhan appreciated the work of the Movement for the marginalised in Manipur. The authorities then contacted a lawyer, went to domestic worker's house along with the staff and the local women organisation. The issue was discussed and at last Bilashini's sister-in-law agreed to give back the land to her. She even apologised for her behaviour and resolved not to harass Bilashini. The lawyer and Pradhan measured the land and registered it in the name of Bilashini. Bilashini was very grateful to the staff of Domestic Workers' Movement in Manipur and expressed her sincere thanks and loyalty to the Movement.

SR. MARIA GORETTI,

STATE CO-ORDINATOR MANIPUR DOMESTIC WORKERS' MOVEMENT

North East Animators' Meet

The North East Animators' Meet was called on 30th September 2008 at Shillong. The topics covered for the animators meet were on Capacity Building for Project Team and Stakeholders and on Human Trafficking. The newly appointed State Co-ordinator, Mrs Merina Basumatary, and Asst. Co-ordinator, Mrs Wanpynhun Kharsyntiew, of Shillong Region were introduced.

A proposal was made to have a regional office which would be independent from the Shillong region and it should mobilize funds for other regions. The regional office would connect all other regions of the North east. The office would be responsible for facilitating training to all staff in order to get wider perspective on how to handle situations effectively and to be aware of various issues. The regional office will systematize the plans of all regions in the North east.

On the topic of human trafficking, Sr Teresa Joseph explained that human trafficking is the third biggest illegal trade. The pull factors to the human trafficking menace is mainly the recruitment of persons and transportation within and across the national border for work or any services by means of illegal action (violence, abuse, domination). This is nothing but a "modern form of slavery." All participants concluded by sharing their views and opinions.

SR. TERESA JOSEPH, STATE CO-ORDINATOR, NERDWM

State level Campaign of Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers for Minimum Wag

On 13th November, the Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers' Movement along with Aronodhaya organized a State Level Campaign to enforce the Government to fix minimum wages for domestic workers. The day started on a wet note with rain showers that left everyone wondering what would be the outcome of the rally. But it surely was a miracle when the rain stopped at the exact time the rally had commenced. And to our surprise we were blessed with very good weather for the rest of the day.

The rally started with drum beats inviting the attention of the public and proclaiming the message that the domestic workers are here to demand their rights. Mrs. Panumathi, State President, Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers' Union inaugurated the rally. After her inaugural speech, slogans were raised by the domestic workers. With drum beats and slogans the rally started from Munroe Statue towards the TV Station. The public was amazed to see the large crowd of domestic workers who powerfully raised their voices saying: 'Give our rights, Fix Minimum wages, Provide social security.' Once they reached the venue, the eminent personality, Mrs. Virgil D' Samy inaugurated the demonstration and Mr. Supurayan, MP (CPI) delivered his guest speech.

Also present were other Trade Union people and NGO representatives. Domestic workers shared their experiences and struggles and assured their solidarity to continue to stand for the rights of all domestic workers. More than 1500 domestic workers participated and made the day a significant one.

**SR. JOSEPHINE AMALA VALARMATHI, ICM,
STATE CO-ORDINATOR, TAMIL NADU DOMESTIC WORKERS' MOVEMENT**

Minimum Wages Campaign of the North Eastern Regional Domestic Workers' Movement

The North Eastern Regional Domestic Workers' Movement tried to pressurize the state Government to achieve various goals, most importantly recognizing domestic workers as labourers and including them in the labour code thereby helping them have the same rights as other employees.

The Movement has been engaged in the advocacy programmes demanding for Minimum Wages Campaign, intensifying the Government for hike of minimum wages in the state and to early amendment to the Minimum Wage Act. The Movement under the banner "Minimum Wages Campaign" demanded enhancement of the wages from Rs. 70 to Rs. 175 for unskilled and Rs. 250 for skilled works. The Movement emphasized a review of wages so as to enable the daily wage earners to cope with the sky rocketing of prices of essential commodities.

SR. TERESA JOSEPH, STATE CO-ORDINATOR, NERDWM



Above: Mr. Supurayan, MP (CPI) addresses the domestic workers, Below: With the beating of drums, domestic workers announced, "our voices shall be heard."

**Respect our work,
Give dignity,
Fix Minimum Wages,
Provide Social Security**

1st State Level Leadership Training Programme

Maharashtra Domestic Workers Movement organized its 1st State Level Leadership Training for the leaders

Fifty leaders from six districts (Mumbai, Thane, Nagpur, Kolapur, Raighad and Nashik) participated in the leadership training programme held in Mumbai from 2nd to 4th November. The programme commenced with the inaugural ceremony. In her keynote address, Sr. Jeanne Devos appreciated the contribution of the leaders to communicate the vision and mission of the movement to their fellow domestic workers. She

also stated that it is easy to sympathize but it is very difficult to actively work with the movement for a cause. The Chief Guest, Mr. Kapil Patil (MLC), in his speech expressed his solidarity towards the movement and encouraged us to continue our struggle towards the cause of our domestic workers knowing with great confidence that we would soon achieve our goals. He said that he did not want to build false hopes but he assured us of his support and collaboration. The leaders from Nagpur sang a song expressing their joy for participating in the training. After the inaugural session all participants were formally welcomed to the three-day session, and were encouraged to participate in the training effectively.

The three day programme included: the importance of leadership qualities, awareness on the vision and mission of the Movement, motivation for the greater participation in the life of the movement, learning from the good practices of each district, drawing strategies for effective planning and implementation of the upcoming programmes to create awareness on the issue of child rights. Fr. Felix, President of NDWM, applauded the efforts of the women in the struggle for justice and encouraged them to not to give up the fight. Citing the terrorism and communal violence in Orissa, he



warned the leaders not to be deceived by the divisive forces which spread hatred and violence among the innocent common people.

A film, 'Vision' was screened which portrayed the struggle of a domestic worker, her daily battle with her drunkard husband, the pressure of her dual responsibility—both at the workplace and at home. Mr. Gnyanesh analysed the learning of the movie to facilitate inputs from the women. The women related with the

worker in the movie as they recalled similar hardships like early marriage, alcoholic husbands, struggles in educating their children, ill-treatment by in-laws, humiliation and work pressure on the jobs. However, they acknowledged the hope given to them through the empowerment and fight for justice in the Movement.

Other sessions in the programme included: importance of health—care, nourishment and prevention of illness and legal literacy—women and workers' rights, filing FIR, offences like rape, dowry, etc. Mr. Ram Puniyani, gave a session on the contribution of domestic workers to promote unity and peace. He brought to their notice the hatred campaigns organized by the politicians and called upon them not to be instigated by them but to be work for unity and peace in the areas.

Districtwise action plans were drawn out with time frames and presented to the forum. The training programme gave the participants more clarity on the work of the Movement and imbibed in them the strength and teamspirit necessary to get organized and to organize their co-workers to fight for their cause. They were eager to share the knowledge they have attained from the training.

Sr. CHRISTY ICM,

STATE CO-ORDINATOR MAHARASHTRA DOMESTIC WORKERS' MOVEMENT



Warm Gratitudes of Appreciation to the Members of NDWM

Karen and Lisbeth sends this message to the co-ordinators, office bearers and domestic workers of the Movement



May I ask you to forward this message to all involved, so that our gratitude and appreciation will reach everybody.

How can we ever express our gratitude and appreciation for your sincere hospitality and all the opportunities you gave us to experience India in this intense and enriching way? There are not enough words to describe what we experienced, next to the beauty of your country, you showed us the beauty of your people, the intensity of a smile and the face of hope. Colors, tastes and smells we never experienced before. But what impressed us the most is the magnitude of your strength and the power of true co-operation. Even after a couple of days we still feel India and stay connected with the women and children of your movement.

We thank Sr. Maggie in Patna, for introducing us to the brick kiln workers, where we saw in children's eyes the pride education can give. The meeting with domestic workers showed renewed self esteem that comes from overcoming abuse. We are grateful to Sr. Jacinta, for showing us around Mumbai with great patience, answering all our questions and teaching us so much. We enjoyed the effort and love of Anjali and her colleagues, as also the show their children performed for our Queen.

Brother Gerson, Brother Saji and Sr. Nisha in Bangalore impressed us too. You organized a huge event for the opening of the shelter, immediately followed by a work meeting where important decisions were made and co-operation was agreed upon. We truly look forward to our collaboration, and are

convinced that our students will enjoy and contribute their part to your endless effort and compassion for the traumatised children. Sr. Lizzy in Hyderabad,

we sincerely hope your 10 year celebration went well, and thank you and your team for welcoming us so warm in those busy days. The schools in the slums of Hyderabad were inspirational, with so little possessions people have so much to give, it is truly miraculous.

Words of thanks are insufficient, words of gratitude are not strong enough. We can only say we feel enriched and privileged to have met you, your collaborators and members. We are honoured with your hospitality and blessed by your warmth. Believe us when we say 'thank you', from the bottom of our hearts. We are inspired to work against inequality in our own city, we are motivated to find ways in which we can support your work, and we are proud to call you our friends. All our love and best wishes to you and yours,

KAREN AND LISBET, KU LEUVEN, BELGIUM

Your Rights to Joining a Union

What is a union?

Labour unions are made up of working people, working together to solve problems, build stronger workplaces and give working families a real voice. A union gives workers a voice on the job about safety, security, pay, benefits—and about the best ways to get the work done. Unions stand up for the rights of working people. Unions can bring fairness into a workplace.

How do unions help workers?

A union can improve working conditions, protect workers' rights, ensure dignity and respect on the job, and advocate for

fair treatment of workers. Through their unions, workers can negotiate benefits such as: job security, job safety, hours of work, fair wages and benefits, pay equity, family responsibility leave, vacation and protection from personal and sexual harassment. A union can also offer workers training and educational opportunities. Non-unionised workers have little or no say in how pay raises or benefits are given. They also have little say in their hours of work, and do not have anyone to represent them if they have a problem with their employer.

HOLLY PAGE, RESEARCH & CAMPAIGNS DEPARTMENT
BC GOVERNMENT AND SERVICE EMPLOYEES' UNION, CANADA



The Domestic Workers' Union of the Kerala Domestic Workers' Movement was registered on 4th November 2008. Congratulations to the women on your day of empowerment and all the best wishes for smooth functioning of the Union. The inaugural ceremony was held on the 21st November at AICUF Centre, Trivandrum.

Second Global Forum For Migration and Development

The GFMD Civil Society Days opened its two-day meeting in Manila on October 27-28 with over 270 delegates, resource persons, and speakers representing almost 60 countries around the world. The 270 delegates from all over the world, representing concerns for some 200 million migrants, met at the second Global Forum on Migration and Development in Manila to consider the rights and protections of migrants, the expansion of legal avenues for migration and the challenge of coherence within nations and across borders.

Our deliberations took place at an extraordinarily challenging time: as the world's governments struggle for responses to the global financial crisis, and the threat of climate change, and as migration policies in many regions became more restrictive. We see the

challenge to develop global architecture for recognition, respect, rights and protections for migrants as the responsibility of the UN is no less urgent than the need for transparent global governance of the financial system or that required to reduce carbon emissions.

The ILO predicts that some 20 million workers will lose their jobs as economic growth stalls, and the number of people who struggle to live on less than US\$ 2 a day will grow by another 100 million. Many migrant workers will be affected, and their families will be amongst the newly impoverished. We must work to see that all migration is by free and informed choice.

Governments of migrant-origin countries must not allow the short-term financial benefits of emigration—



ITUF President Sharan Burrow (conference chairperson)

remittances—to divert them from the imperative of pursuing sustainable development with, at its core, an empowered citizenry that migrates only out of choice. Governments of destination countries, on their part, should not use development policy—or development assistance—as a tool for enforcement. In an increasingly integrated world, migration can carry benefits for both origin and destination countries as well as for those who migrate out of choice.

CONTRIBUTED BY **SR. JOSEPHINE VALARMATHI**

Sr. Josephine Amala Valarmathi, Co-ordinator of the Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers' Movement attended the programme. These were her views: "I must mention the people I met in PGA and GFMD were cordial, friendly and generous. First of all I must thank Migrant Forum India for allowing me to respond to the invitation of Ayala Foundation and Migrant Forum in Asia. The conference on PGA, RCM and GFMD challenged me to open myself to the border issues of migrants and join together to work for the rights of the Migrants."



Adverts target abuse of domestic workers

A new public service campaign aimed at better treatment for domestic workers such as maids and drivers began airing throughout the Arab world on MBC last week. The campaign also includes provocative print ads, which are running in several newspapers in Saudi Arabia.

MBC, the Saudi-owned satellite station based in Dubai, is bearing the cost of three adverts being broadcast to the Middle East and North Africa. In one of the adverts, an employer unleashes a torrent of abuse at his driver and maid over a request for unpaid wages. "You should thank God it's only two months," screams the angry head of the household. The scene is followed by the message: "He who has no mercy will not receive mercy."

The adverts were created by Full Stop Advertising, a Saudi company that has also produced a print campaign to appear in several Saudi newspapers. One of the print adverts shows a maid on her hands and knees before a dog food bowl, while another depicts her wearing a dog collar and leash.

Kaswara al Khatib, the company founder, said domestic abuse of foreign workers in Arab countries was an issue that needed to be addressed. The three adverts started last week. They cost about US\$100,000 (Dh367,340) to produce and were financed by a non-profit subsidiary of the Saudi Binladin Group. "It's a noble cause, certainly," said Mazen Hayek, MBC Group's director of marketing. "As a consumer, when I watch it, it calls for good treatment of housemaids... it's basic human rights."

That the adverts are allowed at all in the UAE indicates the Government is acknowledging the issue, Ms Varia, acting deputy director of the women's rights division, said, "It's a movement forward when a government admits that the way to respond to a problem is not to deny it, but to address it."

ANN MARIE McQUEEN, THE NATIONAL [HTTP://WWW.THENATIONAL.AE](http://www.thenational.ae)

My experiences in the live-in caregiver program

Remarks delivered at West Coast Domestic Workers' Association, WCDWA, Canada, by Helen

I came to Canada in May 2003 to work as a live-in caregiver. What enticed me to work here was the promise of pay higher than my salary as temporary staff at the Philippine Senate. Hence I enrolled in a live-in care-giver course so that I could qualify to apply in the Live-in Caregiver Program. I was also enticed by the assurance that I would be able to get permanent residence after completing the 24-month requirement. It never occurred to me that I would face so many challenges while trying to complete 24 months of live-in caregiver work in Canada.

I began looking for a new employer a few days after my arrival in Canada because my original offer of employment was no longer available since it took about a year to get my visa from the Canadian Consulate in Manila. I did not even have time to get used to the weather as I immediately searched classified ads and applied to different placement agencies. I thought I was lucky when an agency offered me a prospective employer in Surrey, but as soon as I signed the contract for the new employer, the agency charged me \$150 in "professional fees" for finding the employer. Being new in a foreign land and not knowing the employment regulations, I grabbed the offer thinking that at least I would have a place to stay and would be able to start working immediately. However, it took five months before I received my new work permit, as the agency delayed in processing my employer's application at the HRSDC and my work permit application at CIC.

After a year had passed, my employer informed me that they no longer needed a full-time nanny for their kids. Once again, I had to begin another job search for a new employer. The agency offered me a job to look after an

elderly lady in Port Alberni who was suffering from encephalitis. I began work for this employer in September 2004. The agency later told me that they would deduct \$300 in "professional fees" from my pay per month, in payment for services they rendered to me, and that this would continue until my work permit was issued. The agency instructed the daughter of my employer to make salary payments directly to them.

Making ends meet on \$550 each month after the agency's deductions was a nightmare. To make things worse, since the agency had submitted my work permit application late, my work permit had expired. To make up for their negligence, the agency took an additional \$350 from my net wage to pay for the restoration fee so that my status could be restored with a new work permit application. Because I lost my status, my work permit took much longer to be released. On top of the illegal fees that the agency charged me, they made statutory deductions on my gross wage but never remitted it to Canada Revenue Agency. So I did not have a T4 Slip to support my claim when I filed my Income Tax Return.

Although I experienced many problems with the agency in processing my work permit, I was still able to provide excellent in-home care for the elderly lady despite it being a very challenging and demanding job. After about a year of working, my doctor told me in September 2005 that I had Stage II breast cancer and that I had to undergo a radical mastectomy and a chemotherapy treatment. After hearing the bad news, I felt my whole world collapsed. To make matters worse, my employer's family decided to end my contract right because I would not be able to perform my duties with their mother. When I had no place to go, a

Filipino friend in Port Alberni welcomed me to their house wholeheartedly and they took care of me and gave me the moral support that I needed at that time. I had a successful operation and I was able to manage the after effects of my chemotherapy treatment.

I thought everything would be sailing smoothly after all the trials that had happened to me, but another problem came. Since I had no employer, I was unable to renew my work permit, which was expiring in February 2006. This meant that my MSP coverage would expire in the same month and MSP would not continue to pay for my chemo treatment. This started my relationship with the West Coast Domestic Workers' Association when a friend told me that they provide education and legal assistance to caregivers. Grace Balbutin, legal advocate of WCDWA helped me get a bridge extension of my work permit and MSP coverage for 8 months which enabled me to continue my chemotherapy. Further, WCDWA assisted me in submitting my application for permanent residence under the Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds in May 2007. After months of waiting, I am happy to inform you that I received my Open Work Permit in February 2008.

In addition, with the aid of WCDWA, I filed a complaint in mid-July against the agency for recovering illegal fees. I got a call from the Employment Standards Branch office and hopefully will get my money back. WCDWA helped me avail of EI Insurance for regular benefits. Receiving EI benefits when I was not able to work due to my illness was a big help to me since I was able to have some money to pay for my food and shelter needs and I was not forced to find employment in order to survive.

Indonesian Migrant Workers Fear Job Losses

Japan and other Asian stock markets have slide further this week as fears of a global recession continue to rattle investors. Migrant workers across Asia may not own shares or have large bank balances but they're worried they will become victims in the global financial storm. There are more than 50 million migrant workers from poor Asian nations employed as maids and labourers in wealthy hubs such as Kuala Lumpur, Taiwan and the Middle-east. Migrant workers rights groups are worried that the economic slowdown could hit their employers' pockets, and leave them without jobs. This would mean that the flow of remittances they send home to their poor families will dry up — and with it money for food, clothing and school fees.

Indonesia's central bank estimates that money sent home by Indonesia's working abroad totaled four billion US dollars for the first seven months of the year. In neighbouring Philippines the amount is expected to hit a record 16 billion dollars for the whole of 2008. Wahyu Susilo a political analyst with the lobby group Migrant Care fears this source of money will now dry up with the global economic crisis. He predicts that once employers feel the impact of the slow-down migrant workers will be the first to suffer. "Most of the people in Hong Kong and Singapore who employ domestic workers have investments, most Indonesians work in the homes of fund managers who are facing potential job losses because of the financial crisis. To ease their financial burden they will either

reduce the wages of their foreign staff or start taking away some of their workers' rights."

Migrant workers are already a highly vulnerable group and each year there are hundreds of cases of unpaid wages or domestic violence abuse. Another problem is the large numbers of migrant workers without proper documents—almost half the Indonesian workers in Malaysia are undocumented. Migrant Care analysts, Wahyu Susilo, says that during economic slumps, the first thing that governments do is crack down on these workers. We have seen this happen many times in the past he says, undocumented workers are used as a scapegoats and human rights are often violated in the processes.

But fellow Migrant Care activist Alex Ong who is based in Kuala Lumpur doesn't share his concerns. He says that despite a pending economic recession, Malaysia will still be heavily dependent on Indonesian migrant workers. "...Most of the migrant workers work in dirty, demeaning and dangerous sector which many Malaysians do not like to work." He predicts Indonesian domestic workers remain in high demand throughout the global crisis. "As far as the domestic worker is concerned it is not a luxury it is a necessity for the Malaysian family to have both working husband and wife working in the industry to cope with the increasing cost of living. There is a huge demand for domestic workers compared to the supply."

EXCERPTS FROM STORY BY REBECCA HENSCHKE IN JAKARTA

Serious violations of workers' rights

Brussels, 12 November 2008: Violations of trade union rights and discrimination against migrant workers must be addressed in Jordan, according to a new ITUC report on core labour standards. Abuses against many Asian women who migrate to work as domestic workers in Jordan persist. They are subject to forced conditions of work, withholding of passports, restrictions on movement, abusive treatment, non-payment of wages, threats and physical or sexual abuse, long working hours, and high deductions for food and shelter.

The report also refers to issues related to child labour, discrimination and forced labour. It notes that child labour is prevalent in Jordan, including in informal work in agriculture and domestic work in addition to a growing number of street children. Rights of working children are violated as 70% of them earn less than the minimum wage and almost half work more than nine hours per day. While forced labour exists in the Qualified Industrial Zones and among migrant workers in domestic work, agriculture and construction, the report states that trafficking of people for forced labour is a major issue.

In its conclusion, the report strongly recommends the putting in place of implementation mechanisms for the right to organise and collective bargaining as well as increased labour inspection in all areas. It stresses the need to introduce adequate penalties in cases of violations. The report urges increased protection for children and more urgent measures to address the instances of forced labour in domestic work and agriculture and the trafficking of people for the purpose of forced labour. It calls upon the government to increase efforts and measures, including legislative changes, in line with ILO standards, in order to reduce wage and occupational inequalities. Finally, the report calls for urgent and effective measures to regulate recruitment agencies for domestic migrant labour and to stop abuses.

ITUC ONLINE THE ITUC REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT: [HTTP://WWW.ITUC-CSI.ORG/IMG/PDF/JORDAN_FINAL_REPORT_2008.PDF](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/PDF/JORDAN_FINAL_REPORT_2008.PDF)

I am the Child

I am the child,
All the world waits for my coming,
All the earth watches with interest to see
what I shall become.
Civilization hangs in the balance,
For what I am, the world of tomorrow
will be.

I am the child,
I have come into your world
about which I know nothing,
Why I came I know not;
How I came I know not;
I am curious;
I am interested.

I am the child,
You hold in your hand my destiny,
You determine, largely, whether I shall
succeed or fail.
Give me, I pray you,
Those things that make for happiness.
Train me, I beg you
That I may be a blessing to the world.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



*Merry
Christmas
with every
good wish for
a Happy New
Year*

*Best Wishes from all
at the National Office of the
National Domestic Workers' Movement,
Mumbai*