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DW i-UPDATE

Domestic Workers News Update from Indonesia & India



Sarnijem (Chairperson KSBSI Yogyakarta)



NDWM (National Domestic Workers Movement), India

“Protection of women against sexual harassment at workplace”. The original bill introduced in the Lok Sabha in 2010 did not

Domestic workers comprise 30% of the female workforce in the unorganized sector. There are 47.50 lakh registered domestic workers in the country. Domestic workers are often victims of physical assault and verbal abuse.

the National Commission for Women (NCW) - set up for protection of women's rights which works under the ministry of women and child development said that reservations of enforcing the provisions of the bill within the privacy of the home were "unfounded" as the Domestic Violence Act had broken this myth allowing legal scrutiny and extending

protection to the confines of the home. The committee has also recommended change in the definition of an employer to make it more broad-based and to include contractors, home-owners and landlords. The committee had received representations from several domestic workers associations including 5,000 postcards advocating "domestic work is work and domestic workers are workers" for inclusion.

Resources: Sr Lissy NDWM, Hindustan Times, Times of India, Indian express, etc

Though the Indian Government is reluctant to create laws that involve reaching into private homes, it has recently done so through new domestic violence and child labor laws. Designating a home as a workplace would require amending laws, like the Minimum Wage Act and the Maternity Benefits Act, to include domestic workers. A handful of state governments have extended the minimum wage rule to domestic workers but there are no nationwide laws regulating their basic rights.

include domestic workers. The bill was referred to the parliamentary standing committee on HRD, which recommended that the proposed legislation safeguard domestic workers as well. The bill ensures a safe environment for women at workplace—be it public or private, organized or the unorganized sector. The bill provides protection not only to women who are employed but also to any woman who enters the workplace as client, customer, apprentice, and daily wage worker or in ad-hoc capacity. The bill mandates setting up of Local Complaints Committee (LCC) at district level where a victim of sexual harassment can lodge complaint and take action.

Sr Lissy from NDWM said that It is a news of great joy that the Women & Child Development Ministry of India has decided to include Domestic Workers into the bill of



WSM, KOY & KSBSI: discussion on local regulation of domestic workers

Visit of WSM Belgium to Domestic workers of KOY and KSBSI Yogyakarta

The Informal sector of KSBSI and KOY (Yogyakarta Domestic Workers Union) received a visit of Andre Kiekens (Secretary General of WSM Belgium) during his mission to Indonesia. Mrs Sarnijem (Chairperson of KSBSI Yogyakarta) said that some of her members whose selling food at the touristic beach of Pa-

rangtritis have changed their jobs to domestic workers following the earthquake and tsunami in 2006. Domestic workers becomes a 'safety valve' of survival for her members. Therefore, most of them have no knowledge and information about the rights of domestic workers. Thanks to Murtini (Chairperson of KOY)

who wants to share her knowledge about the rights of the domestic workers. KOY was one of the first domestic workers union in Indonesia

and actively involve in the advocacy of Yogyakarta local regulation on domestic workers which is also the first local government in Indonesia who have specific regulation on domestic workers.



KOY (Yogyakarta Domestic Workers Union)