

RESEARCH NETWORK FOR DOMESTIC WORKER RIGHTS

NEWSLETTER No. 12
MAY 2014



Thai Migrant Workers Union, doing outreach in Kowloon City, Hong Kong.

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

You are reading the twelfth newsletter of the Research Network for Domestic Worker Rights, including information on the implementation process of the ILO Convention, campaigns, and news from the world of research. Contributions for the next newsletter are welcome.

1. UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND PANELS

“Do you know who cleans your place? Female migrants and paid domestic work in Czech households” is the name of a conference organized on **June 13, 2014 in Prague**, by the Association for Integration and

Migration, People in Need Foundation and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, as part of the project Equal opportunities on the threshold of Czech homes. The Conference will introduce outcomes of a unique research project which focused on mapping the economic and social situation of migrant domestic workers in the Czech Republic. As part of the program, the problematic of domestic work will be stressed and the successful campaign „Foreign Housekeepers” presented. More at www.pracovnicevdomacnosti.cz

At the **Latin American Studies Association Conference, May 21-24, 2014 in Chicago**, two panels on “Cleaning (Still) Done: Continuities and

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THE NEWSLETTER INCLUDES CONTRIBUTIONS FROM KATERINA DEDEROVÁ, KATEHRINE MAICH, SABRINA MARCHETTI, CLÍODHNA MURPHY, HELEN SCHWENKEN, ALISSA TOLSTOKOROVA

PICTURES: KATHERINE MAICH, VISIONING EVENT OF IDWF, APRIL 2014, HONG KONG

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Ruptures in Domestic Paid Labor in Latin América” will be held. Speakers are Karina E. Vazquez, Mary Goldsmith, Francesca Pereyra, Ania Tizziani, Débora Gorbán, Cecilia Lorena Allemandi, Mirza Aguilar Pérez.

2. CAMPAIGN NEWS

IDWF: Visioning Event: Building a Community of Practice on Domestic Work

by Katherine Maich

The International Domestic Workers Federation recently held its Visioning Event: Building a Community of Practice on Domestic Work in Hong Kong from April 27-29, 2014. Participants included domestic workers and organizers from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Africa,

South Korea, Tanzania, and Thailand, as well as representatives from the IDWF, the International Labour Organization, and the US Department of Labor. Those present at the event had a total of more than 560 years of domestic worker experience, and worked tirelessly to think through possibilities for a domestic work Community of Practice/Knowledge Network. Workers reflected on the key challenges and global issues facing domestic workers, including child domestic workers and migrant domestic workers, minimum wage struggles, agency fees, social security protections, ratification and enforcement of C189, and other pressing concerns. While in Hong Kong, the gathering protested on behalf of Indonesian migrant domestic worker Erwiana Sulistyaningsih who suffered severe abuse from her employer by delivering a petition signed by more than 103,000 people from 160

countries, urging the Hong Kong government to stop the abuse of migrant domestic workers. Participants also shared experiences from their countries and took part in field visits to Hong Kong-based organizations, including the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union, the Hong Kong Domestic Workers General Union, the Union of Nepalese Domestic Workers in Hong Kong, the Overseas Domestic Workers Union & Progressive Labour Union of Domestic Workers in Hong Kong, and the Thai Migrant Workers Union (see also pictures in this newsletter).

3. PUBLICATIONS

Di Bartolomeo, Anna & Marchetti, Sabrina (2014). Care work and the feminization of labour migration to Italy through the current economic



After delivering the petition with more than 103,000 signatures, workers gather to protest. Elizabeth Tang (IDWF), calls for the Hong Kong government to move to action, ending abuse against migrant domestic workers.

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crisis. EUI. <http://blogs.eui.eu/migrationpolicycentre/care-work-and-the-feminization-of-labour-migration-to-italy-through-the-current-economic-crisis/>

Mullally, Siobhán & Murphy, Clíodhna (2014). Migrant Domestic Workers in the UK: enacting exemptions, exclusions, and rights. *Human Rights Quarterly* 36. Murphy, Clíodhna (2013). Researching Barriers to Access to Justice for Migrant Domestic Workers in Diplomatic Households. *Industrial Law Journal*, 42(4).

Roig, Emilia (2014). Care Crisis: Racialised Women at the Crossroads of Migration, Labour Market and Family Policies. Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. <http://heimatkunde.boell.de/2014/03/27/care-crisis-racialised-women-crossroads-migration-labour-market-and-family-policies>

Tolstokorova, Alissa V. (2013). Gender Implications of Care Migration for the Operation of Care Diamond in Ukraine.

Diversities, 15 (1), pp. 37-50. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/resources/periodicals/diversities/current-issue/gender-implications-of-care-migration-for-the-operation-of-care-diamond-in-ukraine/>

Triandafyllidou, Anna & Marchetti, Sabrina (2014). Europe 2020: addressing low skill labour migration at times of fragile recovery. Policy Paper. <http://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/31222>

4. RESEARCH REPORT

'We want to be the protagonists of our own stories!'

The RN-DWR will launch its publication "'We want to be the protagonists of our own stories!'" A participatory research manual on how domestic workers and researchers can jointly conduct research" at **Global Labor University Conference in Berlin on May 15, 2014**. The manual is a step-by-step guide through all phases of a research process, from coming up with

a research question to celebrating its completion. It contains explanations of research methods and practical group exercises. Authors and domestic worker co-researchers share their experiences, offer tips and materials to work with. The manual was developed on the basis of the experience from conducting a study of the social security needs of domestic workers in the Netherlands and South Africa. One of the underlying principles of the project was that domestic workers should be part of the research process as "protagonists of their own story" – as one participant summarized her experience. This manual should be of direct practical use to researchers, trade unions and domestic workers' organizations who would like to conduct participatory research projects. Available at: <http://www.uni-kassel.de/go/rn-dwr>

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