



QUALITY PUBLIC CHILD CARE FOR ALL WORKERS!



Every day women informal workers face the difficult decision of what to do with the young children in their care while they work.

Child care responsibilities can push them into more flexible, irregular and less well paid employment and decreases productivity leading to lower incomes. Women informal workers end up working long hours to try to meet their households' basic needs, leaving little time to care for themselves and their children. Street vendors often take their children with them when they go out to sell in crowded cities. Home-based workers care for their children and work at the same time, which creates stress. Migrant domestic workers usually leave their children behind with extended family members while they are working in another city or country. Waste pickers may have to choose between bringing their children to unsafe waste dumps and collection centres or leaving their children unattended at home. Most domestic workers and child care workers earn low wages and cannot afford the cost of child care for their own children.

We want national governments and local authorities to understand that women informal workers need quality public child care services so that they can work and earn more income. The children of women informal workers deserve care to grow, learn and be healthy. Workers in old age also have the right to rest without taking on the responsibility of earning an income and caring for young children.



We want societies that care for children, workers and elders. All workers must benefit from maternity protections and have access to quality child care services wherever they work through national social protection systems.

Women informal workers, their organizations and allies can call on national and local governments to take action by:



- Ensuring that child care is recognized as part of the national social protection system and, if it does not already exist, that a policy of provision for all workers, including informal workers, is developed and implemented.

- Ratifying ILO Convention 102 on Social Security, ILO Convention 156 on Workers with Family Responsibilities, and ILO Convention 183 on Maternity Protection as the key relevant labour standards.

- Implementing ILO Recommendation 202 on Social Protection Floors and ILO Recommendation 204 on the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy by introducing national laws in support of universal maternity protections and quality public child care services.

- Working with municipal and national authorities to increase government spending for quality public child care services.

- Ensuring that child care workers in public or private child care centres have decent work including a living wage, access to social protection and appropriate skills training.



To give your feedback and input to the campaign or to share a story about how your organization is mobilizing around child care, please email childcare@wiego.org



About WIEGO:

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing is a global network focused on securing livelihoods for the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. For more information please visit the WIEGO website where you will find stories and experiences of women informal workers from around the world.



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