

Evolution of the National Platform for Domestic Workers and 'Domestic Workers Regulation of Work & Social Security Bill, 2017'

The National Platform for Domestic Workers (NPDW) was created in 2012 and comprises of several domestic workers unions and member based organizations from around the country that are demanding Comprehensive Legislation for Domestic Workers. Since this time, there has been a coordinated effort all over the country first of all to demand that the GOI ratifies the ILO Convention 189 Decent Work for Domestic Workers which was passed in June 2011. There have been signature campaigns all over the country with worker organizations attempting to sensitize their local MPS to the issues of this very marginalized and vulnerable section of workers with a hope that this issue would be raised in the Parliament.

The Ministry for Labour, GOI earlier in 2010 and 2011, created a taskforce and developed a draft National Policy for Domestic Workers. This was the time when the ILO was involving governments in the work up to the International Labour Conference that would take up the discussion on a Convention for Domestic Workers. The position of MOLE was that since this is a sensitive area and where very little data exists, the GOI should move gradually and therefore a Policy would gain more headway than a legislation. MOLE was of the opinion that providing some welfare and minimum social security would meet the needs of these workers. The worker representatives on the Task Force –the SEWA Union and the National Domestic Workers Movement – emphasized the fact that such minimal welfare was not sufficient but that the work of these workers should be regulated and therefore the need to register the workers, the employers and the placement agencies and that the workers should receive their due social security. Hence the Draft Policy that MOLE made public on its website in November 2011 was a very comprehensive Policy.

At that time, the National Advisory Council also created a Working Group headed by Ms. Mirai Chatterjee of SEWA, and further looked into the matter. Subsequently, MOLE presented the Policy and it was then held up by the parliamentary Standing Committee and has still not seen the light of day. In the meanwhile, the GOI included the domestic workers in its RSBY (Health insurance scheme) and some states implemented it. When the Sexual Harassment at the Workplace Bill was being discussed in 2012, domestic workers were specifically not covered by this Bill. Hence members of the Platform campaigned for inclusion and this was finally achieved.

On the 31st July 2013, the National Platform conducted a Public Meeting at Jantar Mantar where over 3000 workers from all over the country gathered.

National Platform for Domestic Workers (NPDW) consists of the following organisations which have been participating regularly in the joint activities besides organizing their independent programmes for the cause of Domestic Workers of various levels. NPDW welcomes all other Organisations of Domestic Workers to work together for the cause of Domestic Worker.

Constituents of NPDW

- Domestic Workers Federation of Andhra Pradesh**, Regd. No. H-187/2017/AP)
Andhra Domestic Workers Union, Regd. No. H-162
Andhra Pradesh Domestic Workers Federation (APDWF)
Andhra Domestic Workers Union, Regd. No. H-162
Domestic Workers Union Delhi, under process - 23.12.2016
Confederation of Free Trade Unions of India (CFTUI)
Bangalore Domestic Workers Trade Union, Regd. No. 3/2017-18
Bihar Gharelu Kamgar Union, Regd. No. 4135/2011
Delhi Gharelu Kamgar Sangathan, Regd. No. F/10/DRTU/NWD/2011/16
Delhi State Domestic Workers Welfare Sangathan, F.10/DTRU/NWD/2017/62
Self Employed Womens Association, Delhi
Gharelu Kamgar Panchayat Sangam, Regd. No. DRTU/ND/24/lab/2017 dated 14/11/2017
Goa Domestic Workers Union, Regd. No. 521
Gharelu Kamgar Sangathan, Gurugram
Jharkhand Gharelu Kaamgar Union, Regd. No. 186/2011
Karnatak Domestic Worker Union, Regd. No. ALC-3/TUA/CR-11/2003-2004
Kerala State Domestic Workers Union, Kerala
Self Employed Womens Association, Kerla
Akhila Karnataka Domestic Workers Trade Union, Regd. No. 3/TUV/CR-8-2011-2012
Kerla Garhika Thozhilali Union, Regd. No. 01/19 of 2008
Madhya Pradesh Domestic Workers Trade Union, Regd. No. 6621
Mahila Gharelu Kamgar Sangh Lucknow, Regd. No. 10142/ dtd18/05/2018
Maharashtra Rajya Gharkamgar Union, Regd. No. 12612200000000016306
Maharashtra Rajya Sarva Shramik Mahasangha, Regd. No. -17/10455
Griha Karya Shramik Sewa Sangathan, Maharashtra
Pune Seher Molkarin Sangathan
All Meghalaya Domestic Workers Union, Regd. No. 136/2012
Nagaland Domestic Workers Union, 2014 (processed)
Nikhila Odisha Gruha Mazdoor Sabha, Regd. No. 203/RKL dtd -03-09-18
Pune Sahar Molkarin Sangathana, Regd. No. 3609/04
Rajasthan Domestic Workers Union, Kota
Rashtriya Gharelu Mahila Sharmik Sangathan, Regd. No. ARTU/udr/39/12
Tamilnadu Domestic Workers Union, Regd. No. 3032 CNI
Gruhakarmikula Union, Telengana State, Regd. No. H-64/2017/TS
Telengana Domestic Workers Union, Regd. No. H-125
Unorganised Workers Federation, Tamilnadu
Vidharbha Molkarin Sangathan, Maharashtra
Streevani , Pune