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INTERNATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS' NETWORK

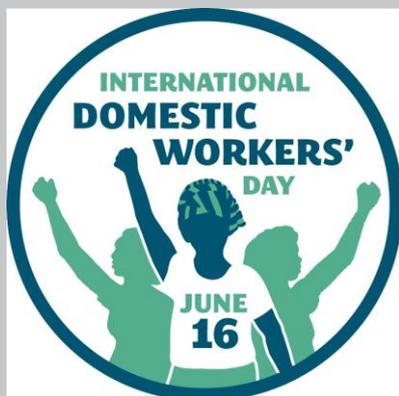
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IDWN News
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1. International Domestic Workers' Day: June 16



On June 16, we will celebrate the second anniversary of the C189 with 7 countries already having ratified the Convention: Uruguay, Philippines, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Italy, Paraguay and Bolivia.

The IDWN will join with domestic workers, members of trade unions and other organizations to mobilize and act on this

special day to remind each and every government to ratify and implement the Convention:

"Domestic Workers are Workers. Ratify C189 Now!"

Please share information on your activities with other domestic workers by sending us email to info@idwn.info or post on [IDWN FaceBook](https://www.facebook.com/idwn).

[Download the International Domestic Workers' Day and Ratify C189 logos for your activity HERE >>](#)



2. IDWN Founding Congress, Montevideo, Uruguay, October 26–28, 2013

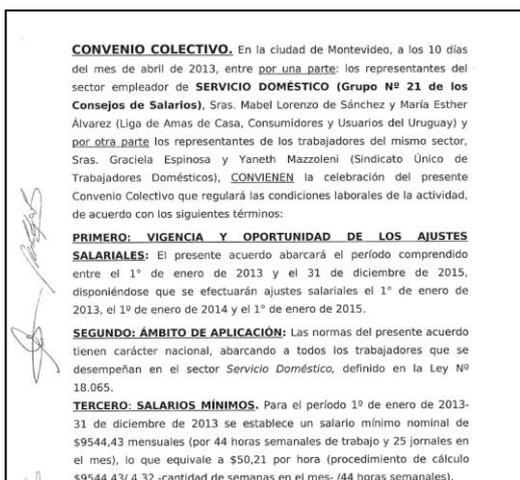


"In Montevideo, support for the IDWN Founding Congress is strongly felt", said Elizabeth Tang after her visit to the country in May. The Congress will be jointly hosted by the IUF Regional Organization, the domestic workers union, SUTD and the trade union national centre, PIT-CNT. The local government has offered the City Town Hall as the venue. Over 40 domestic workers' organizations worldwide will be represented at this historic event. [To Read the interview of Elizabeth Tang by the IUF Regional Secretariat, UITA in Montevideo \(in English and Spanish\) >>](#)

3. Domestic Workers Collective Agreement signed in April in Uruguay

In April, in Uruguay, the domestic workers union, SUTD, concluded the third collective agreement with the employers' organization, the Housewives League. For domestic workers in Uruguay, this is

a major achievement. The agreement provides for 8-hour work day, coverage of minimum wage legislation, social security benefits including 12 weeks maternity leave, household labour inspection upon court order and others.



The full text of the Collective Agreement (in Spanish), as well as the presentation of its main stipulations (in English), prepared by Ms. Maria Elena Valenzuela of the ILO for the Asian Regional Knowledge Sharing Forum on Realizing Decent Work for Domestic Workers in April 24–26, can be read and downloaded from the IDWN website. [To Learn more >>](#)

4. Sign on to Pass the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights in California

In the U.S.A., the Hawaii State Government adopted the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights in May. It is the second State to do so after New York, giving protection to domestic workers on minimum wages and paid leave. The National Domestic Workers Alliance is now targeting the State of California. The state Assembly has passed the Bill which is now with the Senate.

Please [sign on](#) to support the NDWA.



Together, we will win.

5. Domestic Workers at the ILO Forums in Bangkok and Tanzania

In April and May, IDWN participated actively at the ILO Regional Knowledge Sharing Forums in Asia and Africa.

An IDWN delegation, consisting of leaders of domestic workers' organizations from Indonesia, Hong Kong, Philippines and India, together with the IDWN International Coordinator, attended the ILO Regional Knowledge Sharing Forum on Realizing Decent Work for Domestic Workers in Bangkok, Thailand, on April 25–27.

There was strong participation of domestic workers at this tripartite forum, with Parichat Jaroennon from Hong Kong Federation of Asian Domestic Workers Unions, Lita Angraini of the JalaPrt Indonesia and Elizabeth Tang speaking on various panels. It was encouraging to see the employer representatives at the Forum recognizing the need to improve the rights and protection of domestic workers in Asia, and showing a more open attitude towards the ratification of C189. On May 28–30, the IDWN was represented by its Chair, Myrtle Witbooi and Regional Coordinator, Vicky Kanyoka at the ILO African Regional Knowledge Sharing Forum in Tanzania. They did not only speak at panels, but also led the singing of the famous song: *My Mother was Kitchen Girl*. A group of domestic workers came with placards to demand for speedier ratification of C189.

6. Domestic Workers and Trade Union Leaders Pledged to Organize Many More

At the ITUC/IDWN/FES "12 By 12" (Asia) Regional Workshop in Cambodia on April 29 and 30, representatives from domestic workers organizations and trade union national centres worked at small workshop groups to map out their targets and activities of organizing more domestic workers in the next 12 months. It was another momentum reached. The domestic workers organizations and trade union national centres represented at the workshops were from India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and S. Korea.

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