

## **International Campaign for an ILO Convention for Decent Work for Domestic Workers**

### **Who are domestic workers?**

Tens of millions of us worldwide work in the private homes of others caring for the young, elderly and infirm, cleaning others' homes and cooking so that they can go out to work. We look after other people's most precious things – their family members and their homes.

### **Why we need an ILO Convention with Recommendation**

Today – in all regions of the world – there are domestic/household workers surviving exploitative living and working conditions. Many are at risk of extreme abuse. Some are even in slavery. And all over the world, domestic workers are organizing and we have come together as an International Domestic Workers Network. POWER, Mujeres Unidas y Activas, and the SF Day Labor Program Women's Collective of La Raza Centro Legal are San Francisco based domestic worker organizations that are part of this international network and campaign. We are calling for an ILO Convention and Recommendation.

### **What is an ILO Convention and Recommendation?**

The International Labor Organization (ILO) is part of the United Nations. Most countries of the world belong to it. It is the organization that sets standards on international labor rights, and monitors how well they are applied.

The ILO is 'tripartite' which means that employers, governments and workers sit down together there. Workers are represented by national and global trade unions. The three parties discuss, negotiate, and vote. **For the United States in 2010, John Kloosterman of Littler Mendelson represents the US employers and Juana Flores of Mujeres Unidas y Activas and the National Domestic Worker Alliance represents US workers as part of the AFL-CIO delegation.**

An ILO Convention creates international law setting forth standards that guarantee labor rights. There are 'core' ILO Conventions that set out the fundamental rights that all workers everywhere have, whoever and wherever we are, and whether or not we have a formal contract. Other ILO Conventions are for certain types of workers, or they cover particular issues such as night work, or health and safety at work. With these Conventions, national governments are invited to 'ratify' – they agree to put them into national legislation and then report back to the ILO about how well they are implementing them.

ILO Recommendations are only guidelines to help governments shape their national labor laws, if they want to use them-- on their own they are weaker than Conventions. However, when combined with a Convention, a Recommendation can offer important specificity about the standards set forth in the Convention. We seek an ILO Convention and Recommendation to create minimum standards for domestic work around the world.



**National Domestic Worker Alliance**

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