

**International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant,
Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations**

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E-MAIL CIRCULAR

Geneva, October 2009

**To: IUF Affiliates
(To the Executive Committee for information)**

**Concerns: Update on the International Domestic Workers' Network (IDWN)
Preparations for 2010 ILO discussions on a convention**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

ILO questionnaire on Domestic workers

We would like to thank all of you who have responded positively to our circular of 19 June. As a result of joint efforts by IUF and ITUC affiliates and by the International Domestic Workers' Network, IDWN, and its regional co-ordinators, the ILO has now received replies from over 100 trade union organisations from 70 countries, which probably is a record. Regrettably, the response rate from the governments and employers organisations is far from satisfactory.

Consolidation of the IDWN

Representatives of domestic workers' organisations from around the world attended the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva in June. They followed the work in committees on standard setting in preparation for next year's ILC when the first discussion on a convention for domestic workers will take place.

In conjunction with the 2009 ILC, a Steering Committee (SC) meeting of the IDWN was held. The SC discussed activity and financial reports, elected office bearers and endorsed the appointment of regional co-ordinators. The SC also noted the resignation of Anneke van Luijken, the first international co-ordinator of the IDWN. All the members of the SC expressed their gratitude for the groundbreaking work that Anneke has done and without which the IDWN would not have existed today. Karin Pape, has been seconded by WIEGO to IUF to take up the position of international co-ordinator (on an interim basis). Enclosed, you will find the current composition of the SC.

The SC confirmed that organisations that address the issues of domestic workers through research, direct service or advocacy (but do not organise domestic workers as their main activity) and agree with the principles of IDWN, are invited to join the network without voting rights. Only trade unions and other membership-based organisations of domestic workers are eligible for seats on decision-making bodies of the IDWN. The SC members will serve for three years and rotate responsibilities each year.

The web site of the IDWN (www.domesticworkerrights.org) is being updated. Affiliates are welcome to send in news regarding domestic workers to the following address: workersnet@gmail.com.

The importance of using the ILO process as a tool to organise domestic workers and strengthen existing domestic workers' unions at all levels: local, regional and international was reflected in the SC discussion and plans.

We are therefore looking forward to your continued support to the IDWN and for an ILO convention for domestic workers.

Yours in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Oswald', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ron Oswald

CC: SC of the IDWN

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The Steering Committee of the International Domestic Workers' Network is as of June 2009 composed as follows:

Africa

Myrtle Witbooi, SADSAWU, South Africa, *Chair of the SC*,
(myrtlewitbooi@gmail.com)

Vicky Kanyoka, Tanzania, *Regional Co-ordinator* (VickyKanyoka@yahoo.co.uk)

Asia

Sonu Danuwar ADWN and Nepal IDWU (nidwu@gefont.org)

Lita Anggraini, Jala PRT Indonesia, *Secretary* (jala_prt@yahoo.com)

Ip Pui Yu "Fish", Hong Kong, *Regional Co-ordinator* (fiship@hotmail.com)

Latin America and Canada

Ernestina Ochoa Lujan, IPROFOTH, Peru, *Vice chair* (ernestinaochoa@hotmail.com)

Marcelina Bautista Bautista; CONLACTRAHO, Mexico, *regional co-ordinator*
marce_baumx@yahoo.com.mx)

Caribbean

Ida Le Blanc NUDE, Trinidad and Tobago, *regional co-ordinator*:
and *Financial Monitor* (domestic@tsstt.net.tt)

USA

Supervisor of the international co-ordinator (to be nominated by NDWA)

Europe: to be determined

International co-ordinator: Karin Pape (karin.pape@wiego.org)

Technical advisors: Chris Bonner, WIEGO (chris.bonner@wiego.org) Barbro Budin, IUF (barbro.budin@iuf.org)