



The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Migrants' Rights International, the International Union Federation and the International Domestic Workers' Network cordially invite you to a parallel event to the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the UN HRC on

**TUESDAY, 7 JUNE 2011, 1.00-3.00 PM**  
**GENEVA, PALAIS DES NATIONS, ROOM VIII**

## **Decent Work for Domestic Workers**

The concept of Decent Work has transcended the labor rights debate and become a mainstream goal of the United Nations. Yet, there are groups for whom decent work remains a distant aspiration. Precarious work situations are indicative for employment of migrant workers and domestic workers; additionally a clear gender gap is apparent. This results in a multiple discrimination of migrant domestic workers, most of whom are women.

It is only in the recent past that the idea of a standard contract between domestic workers and their employers came to govern their relationship, which had always been considered private. Groups working with domestic workers have also made efforts to produce fair model contracts. A major change brought about by a contractual relationship is the inclusion into social security schemes for domestic workers. This will be further strengthened by the current elaboration of standards at the International Labour Organization.

At the same time, social security is a human right. Thus, unequal treatment of migrants vis-à-vis nationals of their host countries, low compliance of domestic workers' employers and, if they are undocumented, complete lack of social security coverage can amount to human rights violations.

Using the coincidence of the sessions of the Human Rights Council and the International Labour Conference, we would like to stress the importance of using tools developed by both systems and feel out what impact the international agreements can have on the situation on the ground.

FES Geneva <http://www.fes-geneva.org>

## Agenda

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### Moderation

- ❖ **Matthes Buhbe** (Director, Geneva Office, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung)
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### Panelists

- ❖ **Fr. Peter O'Neill** (Director, Hsinchu Catholic Diocese Migrants and Immigrants Service Center, Taiwan)  
“The Importance of Social Security for Migrants”
  - ❖ **Marcelina Bautista** (Secretary –General, Confederación de Latinoamérica y el Caribe de las Trabajadoras del Hogar)  
“Situation of domestic workers – how can international instruments strengthen their rights and contribute to decent work?”
  - ❖ **Elizabeth A. McGee** (National Steering Committee, Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Association)  
"Why domestic employers will benefit from international regulations on domestic work"
  - ❖ **Abdelhamid El Jamri** (Chair, UN Committee on Migrant Workers)  
“Implications of the General Comment on Domestic Workers to the Convention on Migrant Workers and their Families”
  - ❖ **Barbro Budin** (Gender & Equality Officer, IUF)  
“How would an ILO Convention and Recommendation on Domestic Workers facilitate access to social security?”
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∞ Interpretation English – French – Spanish available ∞

∞ Sandwiches and light refreshments will be provided ∞