



The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and Migrant's Rights International cordially invite you to a parallel event to the 14th session of the UN Human Rights Council on

WEDNESDAY, 9 JUNE 2010, 1.00 – 3.00 PM
GENEVA, PALAIS DES NATIONS, ROOM VIII

THE IMPACT OF THE LACK OF SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Social protection is a universal human right and essential for a life in dignity. It is guaranteed in Art. 9 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; also all major ILO-Conventions call for social protection of all workers including migrant workers. Yet, in most countries the "private" nature of the relationship between domestic workers and their employers does not provide for even minimal levels of social protection. Health insurance and maternity leave remain largely the individual responsibility of domestic workers and unemployment benefits or pensions are inaccessible altogether. The ILO is currently discussing possible ways to overcome this specific vulnerability and will hopefully agree on a legal standard to implement the decent work agenda for domestic workers worldwide.

The side event seeks to discuss the deprivations domestic - and mostly migrant - workers and their families suffer as a result of the lack of security. It also seeks to debate on the remedies that were found in the recent past - on individual, national and bilateral levels - to close the gaps while waiting for an international standard to be set. Among these are "fair contracts" or "model standard contracts" that domestic and migrant workers' groups, as well as agencies and sending countries of migrant workers have drafted as safeguards. Have they been an effective tool and what continues to be the obstacles for their full implementation? Can the existing tools complement the standard that will be set by the ILO or be incorporated into it?

Welcome *Anke Fuchs* (President, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung)

Introduction *William Gois* (Migrant's Rights International)

Panelists

- ❖ *Abdelhamid El Jamri* (Chair, UN Committee on Migrant Workers)
- ❖ *Rex Varona* (Asian Migrant Centre)
- ❖ *Ida Le Blanc* (General Secretary of the Union of Domestic Employees, Trinidad)
- ❖ *N.N.* (IUF)

Moderation *Türkan Karakurt* (Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Geneva)

Interpretation English – French available

☞ Sandwiches and light refreshments will be provided ☞