

December 2015

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What's going on at WIEGO?

Take a look at our

[recent](#) and [upcoming](#)
events and activities!

New on the website!

Waste pickers in Bolivia speak
about challenges for women in
the sector

[A new video](#) produced by Sonia Dias and posted on the WIEGO website highlights the Red de Recolectores de Santa Cruz, Bolivia (Santa Cruz Waste Pickers' Network). Specifically, Neida Clara Tamayo Torrico from Red discusses some of the difficulties facing women waste pickers in performing their job. She highlights the fight to obtain government support and legislation that would recognize their work, explaining that discrimination against women in the sector prevails despite some legislative progress made.

MUFIS General Secretary appointed to Tripartite Labour Advisory Council

In September 2015, **Mwanda Chiwambala, General Secretary of MUFIS (Malawi Union for Informal Sector)** was appointed to the Tripartite Labour Advisory Council. There are 12 members of this advisory council – four each representing workers/union, employers and government – and the names were published in the Malawi Government Gazette. The group had a workshop in Lilongwe that was supported by the ILO (International Labour Organization).

(See photo on right)



Mwanda is seated in the front row on the right in this picture of the TLAC members at the workshop
Photo by MUFIS



WIEGO MBO Newsletter



A Newsletter for Membership-Based Organizations of Informal Workers

GREETINGS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES!

We hope you enjoy this December 2015 issue of the WIEGO MBO Newsletter. We love to hear from you! If you have questions or comments, or would like to submit content for the next issue, please email us at wiego@wiego.org.

Home-based Workers Speak Out for South Asian Home-based Workers Day!

To commemorate South Asian Home-based workers day on October 20th, the Home-based Women Workers Federation Pakistan (HBWWF) held a convention to demand government recognition for the rights of home-based workers and to advocate for the ratification of ILO Work Convention 177 (C177) into Pakistani national law. C177 stipulates a series of rights for home-based workers including the right to organize, collect social benefits, elect collective bargaining agents and fix the minimum wage. The October 20th convention was led by both HBWWF leader Zubeda Awan and Central General Secretary Zehra Khan and was attended by many home-based workers from Multan, Pakistan and surrounding areas.

HBWWF has been very active this fall in advocating for the rights of home-based workers in Pakistan. In August, they arranged a meeting to discuss issues of the glass bangle industry with relevant stakeholders. The meeting aimed to create a platform for workers and employers to come together and discuss industry issues, specifically around the need for higher wages for workers. The meeting successfully resulted in the creation

of a committee including workers, employers and government officials that was charged with revising and fixing minimum wages for the sector. It was also decided to hold a press conference to raise the issues of glass bangle industry through media. It was also decided in the consultation meeting held on October 2015 with the main stakeholder of bangle industry.

While the more than 12 million home-based workers in Pakistan contribute significantly to the national economy, they continue to be denied basic rights. Among HBWWF's chief concerns are a fixed minimum wage for the roughly 12 million workers of this sector in Pakistan, as well as the inclusion of home-based workers' rights into political and economic agendas.

More recently, on the 29th of November, HBWWF organized and led a national convention in Karachi that brought together more than 500 representatives of different sectors of home-based work from across the country. The "All

Pakistan Home-based Workers National Convention" provided a platform for discussing the current state of home-based work in Pakistan and ways forward, the HBWWF organizational agenda, and charters of demands. Also at the meeting HBWWF elected new members to three provincial committees. Chief among the concerns discussed was the ongoing struggle for the ratification of ILO Convention 177 and its adoption into local law.

Related news articles for more information:

- [HBWWF asks government to ratify C177](#)
- [HBWWF demands increased wages of glass-bangle workers](#)
- [HBWWF national convention](#)



Photo by HBWWF

Celebrating 20 years of the Home Work Convention!

In 1996 the ILO adopted the Convention on Home Work (C177). The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) spearheaded the struggle for this Convention. Home-based worker groups and union, NGO and academic allies worked together, putting up a strong fight at the International Labour Conference. Despite the employers' hostility the Convention was adopted. However, few governments and employers have been willing to implement its provisions, and only 10 countries have ratified the Convention as at December 2015. Home-based workers remain largely invisible.

2016 marks the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of C177. At the [Global Conference of Home-based Workers](#), held in New Delhi in February 2015, it was decided that home-based workers worldwide would use this anniversary year, to highlight the situation of home-based workers and to campaign globally for governments to ratify the Convention and implement other demands contained in the [Delhi Declaration](#).

Plans are afoot to hold awareness raising events and to engage trade unions and governments. HomeNet South Asia is planning a series of consultations with home-based worker MBOs, trade unions and government officials. Home-based workers in our developing global network will all celebrate Home-Based Workers' Day on October 20th 2016, using this platform to promote the campaign. WIEGO and the HomeNets also plan to organize a side meeting during the 2016 International Labour Conference to engage the trade unions, ILO and governments to support ratification of C177.

Additional Information:

- [Myths and Facts About Home Based Workers](#)
- [Promoting the ILO Home Work Convention \(C177\) & the Rights of Homeworkers: A Manual for Workers' Educators & Facilitators](#)

(See photo on right)

Jala PRT Condemns Violence Against Domestic Workers in Indonesia

Jala PRT (Jaringan Nasional Advokasi Pekerja Rumah Tangga) is the National Network for Domestic Workers Advocacy in Indonesia. Current work of Jala PRT continues on its founding goals to advocate for national and international laws protecting domestic workers, to conduct campaigns to support the protection of domestic workers, and to work on organizing, capacity building and networking for domestic worker organizations, unions and other partner organizations.

Jala PRT has been working for over 10 years to urge the Government to take active steps to realize the protection of domestic workers and to encourage discussion and enactment of a domestic work protection act and the ratification of ILO Convention 189 Decent Work for Domestic Workers. They filed the Domestic Workers' Protection Bill to the Parliament and Government in 2004. This domestic workers' bill has been traveling in the House of

Representatives since 2004. After being Priority National Legislation in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, the Domestic Workers Protection draft bill was erased from the National Legislation Program in 2015.

This work to protest violence against domestic workers and to protect workers from this violence is especially urgent. In October 2015 Jala PRT coordinator, Lita Anggraini and Jala PRT members went to Parliament with a Statement of the urgent need for a domestic workers' protection law and of the urgent need to change the attitude of the Parliament with regards to violence against domestic workers that was allegedly committed by members of the Parliament. They described the situation reported by domestic workers and argued for the need for government to pass laws guaranteeing rights and protection for domestic workers. The organization noted that

"Human rights violations, violation of rights as workers, confinement, torture, abuse of domestic workers are common. There is a legal vacuum for the protection of domestic workers and migrant workers both at local and national level. This condition is increasingly giving space for the systematic violation of the rights of domestic workers, torture, and slavery."

The organization has held press conferences, issued press releases, and written directly to members of government, but they are extremely concerned about the slow process of prosecuting perpetrators of domestic violence. Cases of violence against domestic workers have been increasing, according to Jala PRT.



Photo by Jala PRT

Bijal Brahmatt from Mahila Housing SEWA Trust Chosen as WomenChangeMaker India Fellow!

Bijal Brahmatt, director of the Mahila Housing SEWA Trust, was chosen as a WomenChangeMaker (WCM) India Fellow by the Womanity Foundation for her work on increasing access to proper housing and infrastructure for women living in slums. She was one of two fellows chosen from a range of applications whose work aligns with the Womanity Foundation's focus on women's

empowerment and social entrepreneurship.

Through the fellowship, Bijal and the Mahila Housing SEWA Trust will have access to technical support, professional services and a network of supporters and partners from the Womanity Foundation. "The fellowship is committed to help Bijal form the knowledge hub that she envisions to strategically share information

on affordable housing and environment conservation by engaging with a large number of women as partners in change from their beneficiary network." (Womanity)

For more information:

- [Article](#) about the award on the Womanity website
- [Interview](#) with Bijal Brahmatt on the Mahila Housing Trust website



Global Conference of Home-Based Workers

Photo by Kendra Hughes

