

THIRD EDITION

"FORGE ON"



NORTHEAST DOMESTIC WORKERS' WEEK
10th - 16th June 2018

Theme 2018

"Your Home is My Workplace:
A Just Wage and a Dignified
Job is My Right."



Message from the Director

It is with great pride and sense accomplishment that I present to you the 3rd Edition of 'FORGE ON' a review of the events conducted during the Northeast Domestic Workers' Week 2018 with the theme "Your Home is My Workplace: A Just Wage and a Dignified Job is My Right". This booklet highlights the notable achievements and continued progress in the pursuit of improved programs for the Rights, Dignity and Solidarity of Domestic Workers. As you read the report, I hope you will gain insight into the breadth and depth of our activities.

Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI) observes a week long programme every year starting from 10th of June and ending with an International Domestic Workers' Day celebration on 16th of June. During this period a series of events are organized with an effort to raise public awareness and lobby with Governments and non-government organizations for the rights and dignity of the Domestic Workers.

The Domestic Workers are the most marginalized community of the society and so they deserve to see the promises of tomorrow become today's reality. The endeavour over the past years and the work ahead has been largely accredited through the support and contributions of our funding partners and dedicated staff. I am immensely grateful and appreciate all the media houses, the schools and colleges, the press clubs, the stakeholders and Government officials from various departments for supporting the programs and for the kind collaborations. Last but not the least a big thanks to the Domestic Workers.

Thank you and I look forward to another amazing year at CDI.



CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Minimum Wage Campaign/Poster Campaign	10
Round Table Conference	12
Anti-Child Labour Day	18
Medical Camp	24
Solidarity March	26
Signature Campaign	30
Leaflet Distribution	33
Press Conference	34
Radio Live Phone In	36
Celebration of International Domestic Workers' Day 2018	38
Conclusion:	42
Newspaper Clipping	43

Your Home Is My Workplace

A Just Wage and a Dignified Job is My Right

অসম চৰকাৰ



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

শ্রমিক কল্যাণ বিভাগ

One Hour: Rs.30/-

One Day: Rs.240/-

One Month: Rs.7200/-



Pay Minimum Wage to Domestic Workers as fixed by the Govt of Assam

Supported By



BMZ



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

DON BOSCO MONDO
JUGEND • HILFE • WELTWEIT

Introduction

Over the last few years, Domestic Workers in Assam and other major cities of Northeast India have noted an increase in the numbers of migrant female domestic workers. This informal work group mainly pertain to poorer and uneducated sections of society. The rise in the population of this mostly female occupation sector is linked to a shift from agrarian-based economy to service-based economy. Escalation of couple working, need for child care and elderly care has furthermore increased the demand. In addition to it, factors like ecological degradation, landlessness and land alienation, unemployment and poverty have attributed in the growing number of domestic workers.

Although the population of this work group has been increasing tremendously but they are often unable to care for their own families, leaving their own children alone for the whole day and sometimes tying children to their cots. And in the workplace, they are mostly underpaid, denied of their rights, unable to get the status of decent work and frequently fall





victim to all forms of exploitation. Their work is undervalued because it is often performed by poor, illiterate and women from lower castes.

In this realm of work the relations between employer and employee are not just limited to work but spill over as larger support systems. There is no conceptual clarity with regard to family and work, custom and contract, affection and duty etc.

Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI) a social development wing of Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC) based at Bullapar, Guwahati has been working for this marginalized community since a decade. In its attempt to advocate for the rights, dignity and solidarity of domestic workers it had observed the International Domestic Workers' Day for the first time in Assam in the year 2008. Again in 2015, a one day celebration was stretched up to a week-long observation. Since then, every year a week long program with a series of event is organized so that it becomes audible and visible to the government and public. This year too, a week long programme based on the theme "Your Home is My Workplace: A just wage and a dignified job is My Right" was organized with an assorted programmes like Street Play, Awareness Campaign in Schools and Colleges about Domestic Workers, Round Table Conference, Signature Campaign and Solidarity March etc. In all the 12 cities of Northeast India where CDI is working have organized the said programmes flawlessly.

The details of the events organized in 12 cities from 10th June to 16th June 2018 are as follows:

Awareness Program on Domestic Workers in Schools and Colleges

Name of the City	Date	Name of the Schools/Colleges	Major Outcome
Agartala	11-06-2018	Maharaja Bir Bikram College	Through the awareness program on Domestic Workers in 2 schools of Agartala, 87 Students were able to reach out.
	13-06-2018	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya	
Aizawl	04-07-2018	Greenland Higher Secondary School	Awareness campaign on Domestic Workers was conducted in 4 schools of Aizawl City in which a total of 950 Students participated.
	14-07-2018	Durtlang Higher Secondary School	
	26-07-2018	JL High School, Khatla	
	28-07-2018	Aizawl North high School, Chaltlang	
Barpeta	5-06-2018	Little Flower English Medium School, Barpeta Road	Altogether 600 Students were reached out through various schools and awareness provided to them.
		St. Mary's High School, Barpeta Road	
	7-06-2018	Sajanikanto High School, Barpeta Road	
		Don Bosco High School, Barpeta Road	
		Adarsh Academy College, Barpeta Road	
Bongaigaon	10-06-2018	Bongaigaon College	Altogether 600 Students were reached out through various schools and awareness provided to them.

Guwahati	28-06-2018	Parijat Academy, Gorchuk	Around 100 teachers and the students appreciated and supported the rights of domestic workers which they are entitled to.
Imphal			
Kohima	08-06-2018	Christ King Hr. Sec School	Through the Awareness program in 3 schools of Kohima a total of 482 students were sensitized regarding rights of Domestic Workers
	12-06-2018	Don Bosco College	
	13-06-2018	St. John School	
Shillong	12-06-2018	Mount Carmel Higher Secondary School	In 6 schools of Shillong city 500 students were given awareness on the entitlements which Domestic Workers deserves to get.
	15-06-2018	Mount Carmel Higher Secondary School	
		Catholic Women Evening School Laitumkhrah	
		Presbyterian College	
		Martin Luther University	
		Umshyrpi College	
Sarupathar	04-06-2018	Tengrajan Boys High School	Altogether 350 students and teachers of all three schools supported the cause of domestic workers.
	05-06-2018	Podumoni High School	
	04-06-2018	Tengrajan Boys High School	
Sarupathar	04-06-2018	Tengrajan Boys High School	Altogether 350 students and teachers of all three schools supported the cause of domestic workers.
	05-06-2018	Podumoni High School	
	04-06-2018	Tengrajan Boys High School	

Tezpur	15-06-2018	Government Girls High School	A total of 115 students were given awareness on the rights and dignity of domestic workers.
	15-06-2018	Lokonayak Amiya Kumar Das High School	
Tinsukia	25-06-2018	Holy Child School	Around 800 students were given awareness about the Domestic Workers' rights and Dignity
		Little Angel School	
		Radshick Academy	
	05-06-2018	St. Mary's School	
Tura	08-06-2018	Peragon M. G Academy	In the awareness program conducted in 5 schools& colleges a total of 178 students were reached out.
	11-06-2018	Stephen Memorial School	
	12-06-2018	St. Marys Higher Secondary School	
	13-06-2018	Martin Luther University	
	13-06-2018	Don Bosco Higher Secondary School	
	28-06-2018	Don Bosco College	

Awareness Campaign in educational institutes is a part of the Domestic Workers' Week Programme which started ahead of 10th June 2018 and continued till the end of the month. This campaign was conducted with an objective to sensitise the students who are employers of domestic workers at their homes. They are expected to become sensitized about the living and working conditions of the domestic workers through this campaign. The impact of the program has a multiplier effect on the parents, neighbours and the society. Good responses from the student fraternity were received from all the educational institutes in 12 cities. A total of 5112 students were covered through this campaign.



Minimum Wage Campaign/Poster Campaign

A Poster Campaign was organized in Tezpur City on 10th of June 2018 at Civil Chariali. Shri. Bipul Das (Union Leader, Auto Rickshaw Driver Association) was invited as the chief guest of the function. In the campaign the domestic workers, bus stand leader, auto association leader and staff of FDWA Tezpur city participated. Posters in each of the 50 autos will draw the attention of at least 10 people every day which means in a month approximately 15,000 (fifteen thousand) people will become aware of the minimum wages fixation.





For effective implementation of Minimum wage a campaign was organized in Guwahati city on 10th June 2018. The objective of the program was to sensitize the general public on the minimum wages fixation and the need for its implementation. The Chief Guest of the event, Smt. Anusua Dutta Barua, the Deputy Labour Commissioner of Assam, flagged off more than 30 auto rickshaws from Little Flower School campus, Hatigaon. Posters imprinted with the minimum wage fixed by the government for domestic workers both in English and Assamese versions were pasted on auto rickshaws all over the city. Prior to flagging off the rally a short function was organized where the other dignitaries like Shri. Rakesh Raja (Chief Manager, South Indian Bank), Sr. Ancilla Jose (General Councillor, MSMHC), Sr. Rose Paite (Director, CDI), Shri. Samandrajit Das (Manager, SIB) and Shri Prasenjit Talukdar (Labour Inspector) were present along with the auto drivers and staff of CDI. Post event 140 posters were sent out to be pasted on auto rickshaws in different locations of Guwahati. Posters in each auto/rickshaw are estimated to draw the attention of at least 10 people every day. Thus, taking the monthly toll to approximately 50,000 (fifty thousand) people will become aware of the fixation of minimum wages for Assam and a just wage will be paid to the domestic workers.

FDWA Tura City conducted a poster campaign on 11th of June 2018. Posters were pasted on the back of the auto rickshaws, Maxi Cab and Buses at the following locations: Tura Nazing Bazar auto stands, Dobasipara, Tura Bazar, Rongkhon, New Tura, Dakopgre, Holy Cross hospital, Chandmari, Nazing bazaar, ITI etc. A total of 150 posters were printed in English, Hindi, Assamese and Garo languages. The campaign is anticipated to draw the attention of 45,000 people in and around. The program was covered by the largest local newspaper "Salantini Janera".

Round Table Conference

A Round Table Conference based on the theme, "Your Home is My Workplace: A just wage and a dignified job is My Right" was organized on 11th June 2018 at Hotel Fortune, Guwahati. The chairperson of the event was Retd. Deputy Labour Commissioner, Shri Dhiren Goswami and attended by 23 participants from different stakeholders including government officials from Labour department, NGO heads and representatives, Professor, RJ from Radio Luit, Advocates, 181 Manager, domestic workers and CDI staff. An action plan was drawn towards developing better working conditions and to register domestic workers with the labour department so that they can avail government schemes.



A Round Table Conference with various stakeholders was organized on 17th of June 2018 at Agartala City Centre. The main speaker of the program Shri Ananda Basi Tripura (Chief Labour Officer, West Tripura) enlightened about the pension schemes and the three schemes which Domestic Workers can avail viz. Unorganized Shramik Sahayika Prakolpo, Tripura Nirman Shramik Kalyan Prakolpo and Richshaw Shramik Chikitshya Anudan Prakolpo. The other dignitaries present in the meeting were Mrs. Sipra Das (Domestic Worker) Shri. Suman Kr. Paul (Labour Inspector, Agartala), Shri. Biswajit Deb (Mayor in Council), Shri. Samar Chakraborty (Deputy Mayor in Agartala Municipal Corporation) Mrs. Aparna Dey (Asst. Professor) and Prasenjit Das (Consultant, CDI). The Domestic Workers' rights such as entitlement to minimum wage, weekly off, dignity and workplace safety etc. was supported by all the 15 participants present in the event.

In Barpeta City a Round Table Conference was conducted on 3rd June 2018 based on the theme, "Your Home is My Workplace: A just wage and a dignified job is My Right." The discussion was presided over by Shri. Abhijit Kumar Barua (Officer In Charge, Barpeta Road) and was participated by Shri. Ibrahim Ali Ahmed (BDO), Childline Co-ordinators, (International Human Right Commission), Mr. Dinesh Tudu (Asst. Teacher), Shri. Jayanta Das (Senior Reporter and President of Sahitya Sabha, Barpeta Road), Sisters from St. Mary's and FDSA Staff. A Comprehensive collaboration for implementation of minimum wages for domestic workers in Barpeta District was drawn during the Round Table conference. Around 20 participants were present.



Sarupathar City conducted a Round Table Conference on 9th June 2018 at Block Hall, Sarupathar. The chairperson of the meeting was Smt. Beauty Bora (President Women Association). The other dignitaries present in the discussion were Bilmoli Horo (Project Coordinator Northeast Diocesan Society), Smt. Promita Soren (School Teacher), Smt. Anjan Kullu (Member Zilla Parishad, Sarupathar), Sr. Jyoti Kerketta, Smt. Rupamoni Indwar (Youth Leader) and few domestic workers. Around 15 stakeholders participated in the event. Meeting with the SDO is scheduled to discuss further on the issue.

Post International Domestic Workers' Week 2018 a Round Table Conference was organized in Bongaigaon City on 21st June 2018. The discussion was chaired by Shri. Govind Biswas (District Legal Aid Service, leader of Hindustan Labour Union). The other speakers in the event were Shri. Binayak Choudhury (Manager of Swagat Nursing Home), Dr. Anil (Swagat Nursing Home), Smt. Rita Paul (Executive Engineer, Irrigation and Sanitation Dept.), Sr. Therese (UFS), Smt. Sujata Paswant (NEEF Secretary) Shri. Rijay Choudhury (General Manager, Vishal Market), Shri. Sumatra Passant (President, Northeast Education Forum) and Smt. Kusumber Choudhury (Regional Co-ordinator, NRLM). The event concluded with an action plan to have a tripartite meeting with the Domestic Workers, Employers and Union representatives in the coming days regarding the enforcement of the implementation of minimum wage in the Bongaigaon City.





A Round Table Conference was organized in Kohima City on 13th June 2018 in Catholic Centre Conference's Hall, D. Block. The program was chaired by Mrs. Juliana Medom, Assistant Coordinator State Resource Centre for Women Nagaland, Kohima. The agendas of the discussion were protection and security of the Domestic Workers at their work place, Fixation of Minimum Wage of Domestic Workers and Inclusion of Domestic Workers in the Welfare Schemes. The other participants in the meeting were Rev. Fr. Richard Fernandes Parish Priest, SFS. Parish Kohima, Mr. Abel Lotha Catechist, SFS Parish, Kohima and two representatives each from Sakhi, One Stop Centre Kohima, Child Line 1098, 181 Women Help Line, Social Welfare and Domestic Workers. With a resolute mind the participants promised to support the Domestic Workers who are vulnerable in the society.

On 14th June 2018 the Ferrando Domestic Workers Alliance, Shillong City conducted a panel discussion with the political leaders and bureaucrat based on the topic "Your home is my workplace, a just wage and a dignified job is my right". The delegates present during the meeting were: Mr. Maitshaphrang Nongbet, (Labour Inspector, Office Block Mylliem, East Khasi Hills District), Rev. K. Pyrtuh (Adviser TUR organisation), Sr. Teresa Salemthangi (Regional Coordinator NERDWM), Mr. Sylvester Marboh (Vice president Nazareth Hospital Workers Union, Shillong), Mrs. Elbina Nongkhlaw (President of All Meghalaya Domestic Workers Union AMDWU), Mrs. Joplin Kharmudai, President of National Union

Federation), Mrs. C. Laloo (Principal of Presbyterian College), Mrs. Wanpynhun Kharsyntiew (Advocacy and lobbying coordinator of NERDWM). The topic taken up for discussion marks an effective way since it is seen that domestic work are the work which is not yet recognized by majority of the people and therefore their rights are being neglected and denied. Good rapport building was made with different NGOs, CBOs, and Government Officials.

A Round Table Conference with various stakeholders was conducted in Tinsukia Town at Community Hall, Loonpuria, Tinsukia on 12th June 2018. The floor was chaired by Shri. Achyut Gogoi, District planning Officer, Tinsukia Dist. The keynote speakers were Shri. Rayag Baruah (Headmaster, Loonpuria ME School), Sr. Lisa Eluvankal (FDWA), Tinsukia Coordinator), Smt. Alaknanda Kakoty (President, Tinsukia Dist Mahila Samiti) and Shri Dipak Borgohain (planning Officer, SSA, & Dy DEEO Tinsukia). A total of 20 members including Domestic Workers and other grass root stakeholders also participated in the event. The Round Table event created awareness to the stakeholders and a networking bond among them. A rapid initiative to implement the minimum wage in Tinsukia City was assured by all the participants. Around 20 stakeholders were in the meeting.





Anti-Child Labour Day

City	Date	Event
Agartala	12-06-2018	Educational Tour & Drawing competition
Guwahati	12-06-2018	Street Play & Free Movie Show for 200 children of Domestic Workers.
Barpeta	12-06-2018	Street Play
Bongaigaon	12-06-2018	Street Play & Free Movie Show
Shillong	12-06-2018	Seminar On "Stop Child Labour in Domestic Work"
Tinsukia	12-06-2018	Drawing Competition
Tura	12-06-2018	Street Play

To commemorate the Anti-Child Labour Day 12th June various events like street plays, drawing completion, and signature campaign were organized in **Agartala, Guwahati, Barpeta Bongaigaon, Shillong, Tinsukia and Tura cities**. The main focus of FDWA was to **Stop Child Labour in Domestic Work**



On the occasion of Anti-Child Labour Day a two day programme was organized in Agartala city. On 10th of June 2018, around 70 children of Domestic Workers were taken for an educational exposure visit at the Heritage Park, Agartala where the various aspects of the state are showcased. The children were explained about the sculptures and its significance. On the second part of the program, 12th June 2018 a drawing competition was organized for 65 Domestic Workers' Children based on the theme 'Illustration of 'Domestic Worker.' Thereafter, 3 winners of the competition were given attractive prizes.

In Guwahati City, Shri. Akash Harizan, a social activist led the team of 30 children for street play based on the theme, "Stop Children in Domestic Work". To attract the crowd the children chanted the word "Aao-ao, Natak Dekho" and clapped their hands. Around 200 children of Domestic Workers' from 4 locations of Guwahati City viz. Birubari, Sijubari, Bhetaparaand Narengi were mobilized to witness the street play and were offered a free movie show at Anuradha Cinema Hall, Bamunimaidam. Both participants and spectators became aware of the dark side of child labour. Around 100 pedestrians watched the street play.



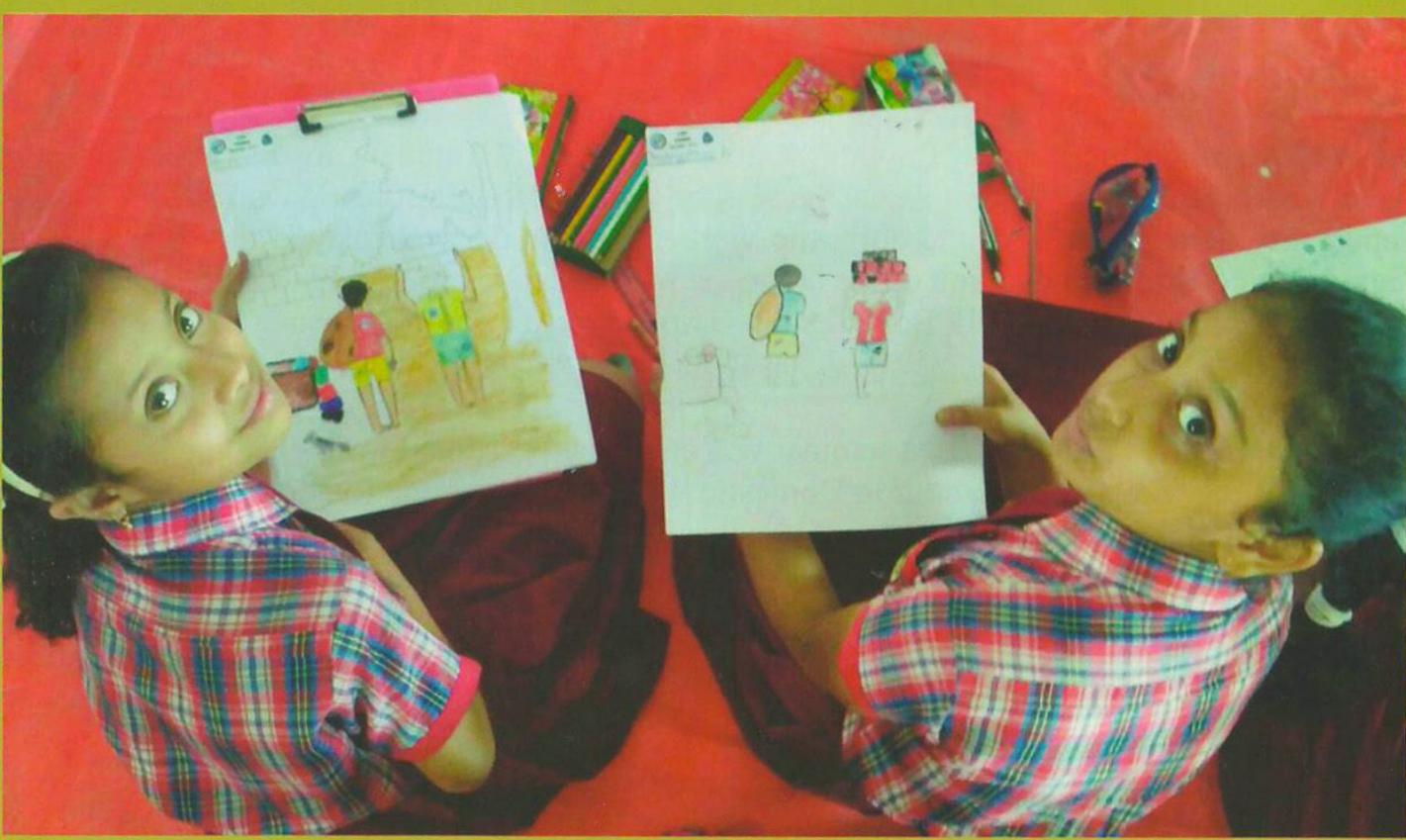


In Barpeta City a street play based on the theme, "Your home is my workplace: A just Wage and a Dignified Job is My Right" was performed by professional artist under the patronage of Shri Jayanta Das (Senior Reporter and President of Sahitya Sabha, Barpeta Road). A drawing competition and talent show were also organized for the children of the domestic workers. More street plays are anticipated by the general public to promote anti-child labour in domestic work. Around 250 people were sensitized in multiple locations.

On 12th June 2018 a Street Play based on the theme, "Provide healthy and safe environment for the Children" was organized in three locations of Bongaigaon City viz. near Paglasthan Police Control Room, Bongaigaon Railway Station and near DC office, Mayapuri area. The children of the domestic workers and students displayed the skit. Also, in collaboration with the Swagat Nursing Home 23 children of the domestic workers were given gifts and given chance to watch a free movie show at Jolly Max 3D Cinema Hall, Bongaigaon. Large appreciation from about 600 people from multiple locations was received.

On the occasion of Anti-Child Labour Day, 12th June 2018 a seminar was conducted at Mount Carmel Higher Secondary School, Shillong. Speaking on the topic "Stop Child Labour in Domestic Work" Mrs. Domina Rytathiang, Principal of the school and chief guest of the event highlighted the importance of education. She cited some examples of the drop out students from the same institution where they have to face many challenges and trials in lives. Sr. Roseline Mukhim (Coordinator, FDWA Shillong City) in her speech enlightened the different Rights and Duties of the Children to the students. She stressed on the points such as their Rights to association with the parents, human identity as well as the basic needs for physical protection food, universal state paid education, health care and criminal law appropriate for the age and development of the child, equal protection of the Childs Civil Rights and protection and freedom from gender discrimination. Through this program the students were sensitized about significance of education and the school authority expressed their hope to continue a strong and productive cooperation in the future.





On the day of Anti-Child Labour Day 12th June 2018 competition on drawing, photography, essay and poetry writing were conducted at Loonpuria Prathamik Vidyalaya in Tinsukia City. The event was based on the topic, "Dignity of Labour with special reference to Domestic Workers" and prizes were distributed to the winner. Around 150 students participated in the program. The competition made the children have a better concept on child labour. Around 150 children participated in the event.

On 12th June 2018, FDSA Tura City in collaboration with Don Bosco School Hostel Boys conducted a Street Play at Chandmari sumo stand and Tura Bazar. A short skit based on the theme "Stop Child Labour in Domestic Work" was performed by the hostellers of Don Bosco School. The spectators appreciated the organizers for bringing awareness about Anti-child labour in the locality. A wide range of media coverage was done for this event and the report and photos were also highlighted in the Facebook Page of District Administrative of West Garo Hills.







Medical Camp

A free medical camp for domestic workers was organized on 14th June 2018 at Jyotikuchi, Guwahati. A 10 member team from the National Mobile Medical Unit proffered the facility. People from the vicinity areas like Jyotikuchi, Adagudam, Bhaskarnagar, Beltolipahar and Maligaon turned up to avail the free medical service. For minor sicknesses, treatment was provided and medicines were given whilst for major issues cases were referred to Guwahati Medical College. Above 180 patients were treated during the camp, including haemoglobin and diabetes test.



Solidarity March

City	Date	Chief Guest
Barpeta	12-06-2018	Smt. Violet Barua (Superintendent of Police, Barpeta)
Bongaigaon	14-06-2018	Shri. Anupam Deka (ADC, Bongaigaon)
Sarupathar	14-06-2018	Jotish Phukan (Sub-Inspector, Sarupathar)
Tezpur	12-06-2018	Smt. Mridu Chanda Bordoloi (Sec. of DLSA Sonitpur)

Only 4 cities could conduct solidarity March during the Domestic Workers Week due to various unavoidable circumstances.

A Solidarity March in support to the domestic workers rights and dignity was conducted in Barpeta City on 12th of June 2018. In the said occasion Smt. Violet Barua, Superintendent of Police, Barpeta was the chief guest on the occasion and flagged off the rally in which around 300 people from all spheres of life participated. Some prominent figures of the city like Mrs. Urmila Bharali (Secretary of International human rights commission and crime control organization), Sr. Anne John (FDWA Coordinator, Barpeta City), Mr. Biplab Saha (Principal, Chitra Bikash School) and Mr. Girish Faujhdar (President of International Human Rights commission and Crime Control organizations & principal of Adarsha Academy, Barpeta Road) also took part in the said programme.







In Tezpur City a Solidarity March in support of domestic workers right and against child labour was organized on 12th of June 2018. The march in which all sections of the society participated was flagged off by Smt. Mridu Chanda Bordoloi (Secretary of DLSA, Sonitpur) in the presence of the following delegates Shri. Narayan Mini Goswami (Penal Lawyer DLSA), Smt. Abha Bora (Advocate, Sonitpur) and Shri. Nayan Moni (Advocate, Sonitpur). The starting point of the rally was DLSA and touched the following vicinity areas like Court Chariali, N.B road, Civil Chariali, Main Town Road and ended at DLSA office. The march for recognition of domestic workers as workers and the implementation of minimum wage were made visible. Around 250 people supported the cause.

In Bongaigaon City, solidarity march in support to the rights and dignity of the domestic workers was conducted on 14th June 2018. The march was flagged off by Smt. Chandra Devi (DDC, Bongaigaon) in the presence of Shri. Anupam Deka, (ADC, Bongaigaon). Starting from DC office campus the rally ended at Bongaigaon ITI Press Club. Around 150 people including domestic workers, students and law enforcement personnel took part in the event. The solidarity march displayed the support of about 300 people towards the rights and dignity of domestic workers.

Solidarity March with placards depicting the rights and dignity of domestic workers was organized in Sarupathar City on 14th June 2018. The solidarity march was flagged off by Shri. Jyotish Phukan (Labor Sub-Inspector, Sarupathar). The march started from Don Bosco School Road and ended at Rajohuwa Bhawan. A total of 65 domestic workers participated in the march for the solidarity of the domestic workers. The march for unity of the domestic workers was appreciated and supported by all sections of society.



Signature Campaign

A signature campaign covering the general public of Guwahati City was conducted on the day of the International Domestic Workers' Day 16th June 2018. The campaign for seeking support of the domestic workers rights and dignity was conducted in three locations of Guwahati, viz. Chandmari, Ganeshguri and Paltan Bazaar. A good response from the public was received in all the mentioned areas. Altogether 677 signatures were registered and 900 leaflets were distributed to the public.



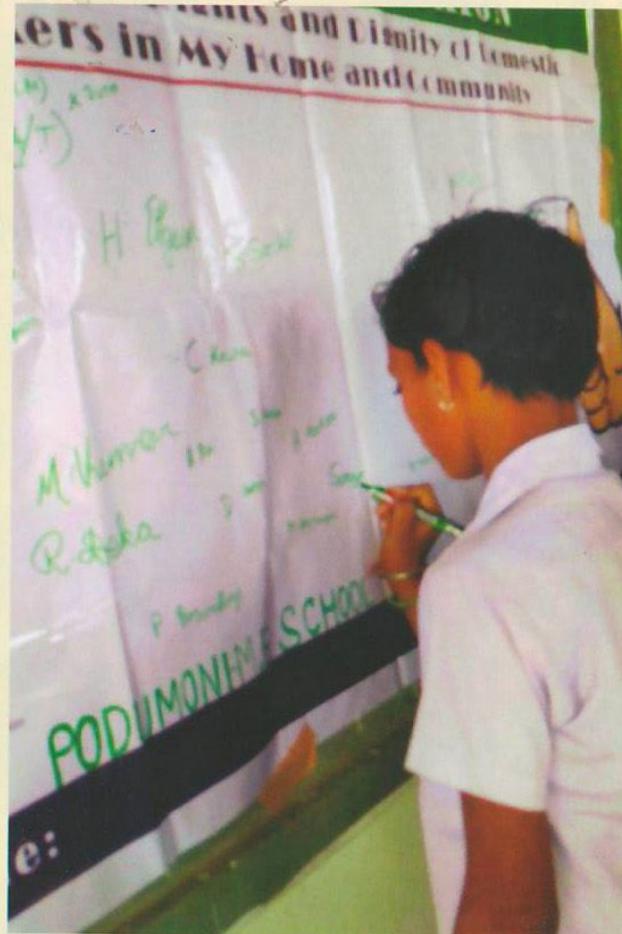
On 11th of June 2018 a Signature Campaign cum Public Conference was organized in collaboration with Sakhi, Child Line and NABARD at Catholic Centre Conference's Hall, D. Block, Kohima. In the event Ms. Mad Niengutuonuo (Counsellor, Child Line) and Ms. Toli K. Assumi (Counselor, Sakhi) and Mr. Poji (Manager, NABARD and Members from Social Welfare Department and Church Leaders participated. Ms. Mad Niengutuonuo stressed on the point that Domestic Workers needs to be treated with respect and their work should be recognized. Whilst, Ms. Toli K. Assumi spoke on the awareness required for the employers, the general public and the government regarding the hardships confronted by the Domestic Workers. Mr. Poji Manager enlightened about the various Social Security Schemes which the Domestic Workers can avail. At the end of the event the participants signed in the banner to show their support for the rights and dignity of the domestic workers.

Agartala City on 18th of June 2018 organised a signature campaign along with the post celebration of International Domestic Workers' Day 2018. Around 135 participants present in the gathering signed in support of the rights and dignity of Domestic Workers.



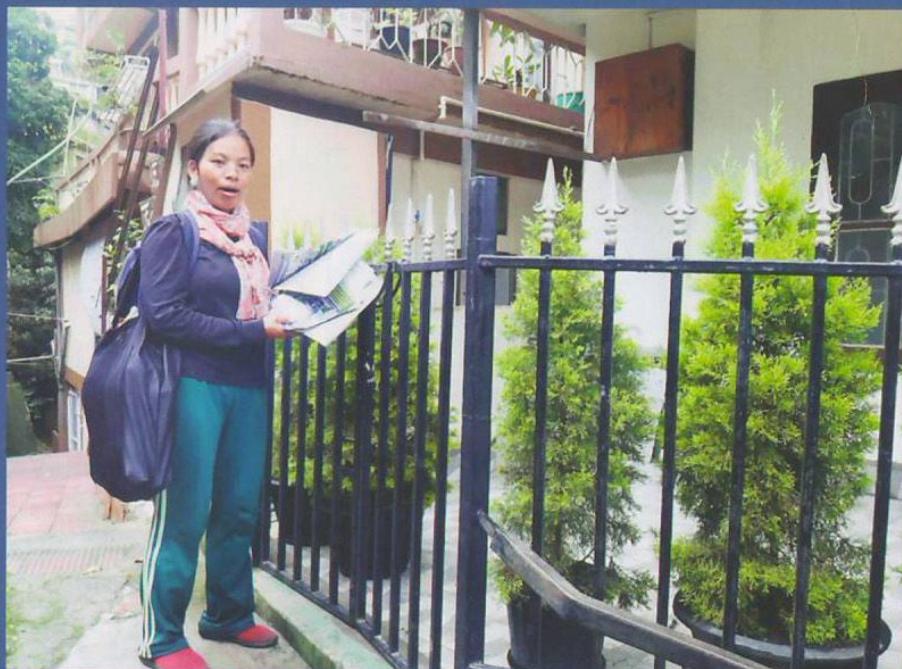
In Sarupathar City a signature campaign based on the theme "STOP CHILD LABOUR" was conducted on the day of world against child labour on 12th June 2018 at Podumoni ME School, Sarupathar. The students were given awareness on the rights and dignity of domestic workers and also issues and reasons leading to child labour were enlightened. The Signature Campaign got the support of 94 students as well as teachers.

Tezpur City conducted the signature campaign on 11th of June 2018 at two locations viz. ASTC Bus Stand and Civil Chariali. A total of 145 people from different walks of life signed for the support of domestic workers rights and dignity. A good feedback was received from the public regarding the campaign.



Leaflet Distribution

As a part of the domestic workers week campaign leaflets were either distributed hand to hand or given to the newspaper vendors to be distributed door to door along the daily newspapers. This campaign was a great success with regard to the reaching out to the target group. Through this campaign approximately 20,000 people were reached throughout the 12 cities of North East India.



Press Conference

City	Date	Major Outcome
Aizawl	18-06-2018	The conference was telecast in Zonet. LPS and DKK and News 18 (North East) channels. Leading newspapers viz. Vanglaini, The Zozam Times, Romei, Youth Herald, Zalen etc published mostly as their Headlines.





A press conference based on the topic "Your Home is My Workplace: A just and a dignified job is my right" was organized on 18th June 2018 at Press Club, Aizawl with an objective of Sensitizing the public on the issues and problems of Domestic Workers. The panellisst in the conference were Dr. T Vanlaltlani (Proffessor Aizawl Theological College), Mr. Raymond Lalbiakzama (Advocate), Ms. Vanlalruatfeli Sailo (Senior call responder, 181 Universal Women Helpline) and Mrs. Mary Lalparliani (FDWA Coordinator, Aizawl City). Amongst the speakers, Dr. T. Vanlaltlani recommended of having proper guidelines to be followed by both the employers and employees. Mr. Raymond Lalbiakzama stressed on the medical facility of Domestic Workers to be provided by their employers. Ms. Vanlalruatfeli Sailo informed that any women or DWs can call 181 to report their grievances whether related to their work or personal problems and collaboration with FDWA regarding Domestic Workers cases were also expressed by her. In the conference a Domestic Worker also gave her testimony on how she had been exploited and sexually harassed by her employer. The program was telecast in the news at three channels at Zonet, LPS, DKK and News 18 (North East). The news was covered leading newspapers viz. Vanglaini, The Zozam Times, Romei, Youth Herald and Zalen.

Radio Live Phone In

A Radio Live Phone In program based on the topic "Domestic Workers and the Mizo people" was aired in All India Radio on 15th June 2018. The FDWA Aizawl City Coordinator Mrs. Mary Lalpariani and Field Animator Ms. Zodinpuii were invited for the show in which direct interaction on phone with Employers, Domestic Workers and General Public was done in the Radio. The coordinator in her speech stressed on the following points:

1. The vulnerable condition of Mizo DWs and their limited monthly income.
2. About the ILO Convention C 189
3. Importance of public awareness and right approaches towards Domestic Workers

There was a mixed response from both the employers and the Domestic Workers. Few Domestic Workers shared their dreadful experience as a Domestic Worker whilst some employers stressed on the need of training them in soft skills and etiquettes.



Celebration of International Domestic Workers' Day 2018

City	Date	Chief Guest
Agartala	18 th June 2018	Ananda Basi Tripura(Chief Labour Officer)
Kohima	16 th June 2018	Mrs. Juliana Medom (Assistant State Coordinator, State Resource Centre for Women Nagaland, Kohima).
Tezpur	12 th June 2018	M.C. Bordoloi, (Secretary of DLSA)
Sarupathar	14 th June 2018	Mr. Amush Tete (Panchayat Leader, Sarupathar)
Tura	16 th June 2018	Smt. Mary T Sangma (Additional Deputy Commissioner of West Garo Hills)



A post celebration event of the International Domestic Workers' Day was conducted on 18th of June 2018 at Samar Smriti Bhavan, Jogendranagar, Bankumari. Shri. Ananda Basi Tripura (Chief Labour Officer), the chief guest in the program whilst addressing speech to the Domestic Workers appreciated the contribution made by them towards their employers, family and society. He further stressed on the employer-employee good relationship in promoting decent work and getting justice for the domestic workers. A total of 135 Domestic Workers including eminent figures like Shri Rakeshkar, Journalist and Ms. Sutapa Homeroy, Childline were also present during the event.

On the occasion of International Domestic Workers' Day, 16th June 2018 a celebration program was organized at Catholic Centre Conference's Hall, D. Block, Kohima. The programme was chaired by Mrs. Juliana Medom (Assistant State Coordinator, State Resource Centre for Women Nagaland, Kohima). In her speech she said that Domestic Workers deserves to live with dignity and respect and we should accept and recognize them like any other workers in the society. Mr. N. Lungshiyanger, Labor Commissioner asserted that very soon more laws for the protection of Domestic Workers would be implemented. The important dignitaries present in the program were Rt. Rev. Dr. James Thoppil DD (Bishop of Kohima as Functional President), Shri N Lungshiyanger (Labor Commissioner of Kohima), Shri Chansang Soted (EAC, Kohima Nagaland), Mr. James (Vice President of Catholic Association of Nagaland, Kohima) and Mrs. Meneno V (Research Officer, State Resource Centre for women Nagaland, Kohima).

The International Domestic Workers' Day 2018 was observed with a celebration program on 16th June 2018 at Rubber Bagan, LP School, Tezpur. Mrs. Mina Choudhuri, Secretary of Agnigarh Social Welfare Organization was the chief guest of the event in which she spoke on the rights of Domestic Workers and stressed on the right to work in a free zone of sexual harassment, verbal abuse or exploitation. A Domestic Worker named Mrs Bokul Mandal expressed her dream of being recognized domestic work as work by the society in the coming years.

A Pre-International Domestic Workers Day 2018 was celebrated on 14th June at Rajohuwa Bhawan, Sarupathar. The chief guest of the event Mr. Amush Tete (Panchayat Leader, Sarupathar) in his speech shared about the Social Security Schemes available and extended his support for solidarity in the difficulties faced by the Domestic Workers regarding their wage. Mr. Krishna Amus Sobadi (Gaon Panchayat, Podumoni), Anima Nag (Panchayat Leader of Tengrajan), Jyoti Nag Kullu (Zilla Parishad Chairman, Sarupathar) were the other distinguish guest present in the event. There were 65 participants for the program.



The International Domestic Workers' Day 16th June 2018 was marked with a grand celebration program organized by FDWA Tura City at the District Auditorium Tura. The chief guest of the event, Smt. Mary T Sangma (Additional Deputy Commissioner of West Garo Hills) expressed her concerns for domestic workers who are often victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and exploitation of wages. Smt. Junichi K Marak, the guest of honour and the Rt. Rev Andrew R Marak Bishop of Tura Diocese also appreciated the hard work and commitment of the Domestic Workers who are always behind the curtain contributing for the smooth running of a family and the society at large. The other distinguish guest were Sr. Eashabella D Sangma (Headmistress of Stephen Memorial School), Sr. Mary Sangma (Provincial Counselor) and Sr. Paul R Marak (Youth Animator of Tura). At the end of the event a memorandum was also read out and submitted to the chief guest by Sr. Eashabella D Sangma. The Programme was later telecast in Doordarshan Kendra Tura and news was published in Shillong Times and Salantini Janera.



Below given is the chart of number of people covered through the various programmes conducted during the Domestic Workers' Week 2018 in 12 cities of Northeast India

Sl/No	Events	Approx. Participants
1.	Awareness on Domestic Workers in Schools and Colleges	5,112
2.	Minimum Wage Campaign	1,10,000
3.	Round Table Conference	148
4.	Street Play	1,505
5.	Medical Health Camp	180
6.	Solidarity March	765
7.	Signature Campaign	1,091
8.	Leaflet Distribution	20,000
9.	Press Conference	10,000
10.	Radio Live Phone In	5,000
11.	Celebration of International Domestic Workers' Day	650
	TOTAL	1,54,451



Conclusion:

The observation of Domestic Workers' Week 2018 was a great success as far as creating awareness of the minimum wage and to advocate for the rights, dignity and solidarity of this large but hidden workforce. As a part of the Domestic Workers Week semi group and collective meetings were also held in Guwahati and Sarupathar. The stakeholders both from administrative and grassroots level were actively involved in the events which were organized during the week. However, due to heavy monsoon in Imphal Valley, programs for the Northeast Domestic Workers' Week couldn't be conducted in the said city. A total of 54 Domestic Workers houses were affected, to which some relief materials were provided by FDWA Imphal Office. Domestic workers in this part of the region are denied of their status as a worker, they are not paid decent wage and often falls prey to various kinds of exploitation. Thus, the government must reform their laws and policies to protect domestic workers' rights, and ensure that such rights are made a reality.



CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES (CDI)

Bullarpur, Mirza Road P.O. Guwahati Airport
Guwahati 781 015, Assam

Website : www.cdimsmhc.org

E-mail: cdimsmhc@gmail.com/cdi@cdimsmhc.org
Contact No. : 0361-2842955

Ferrando Domestic Workers' Alliance in 12 cities of Northeast India

- Aizawl
- Agartala
- Barpeta
- Bongaigaon
- Guwahati
- Imphal
- Shillong
- Kohima
- Sarupathar
- Tezpur
- Tinsukia
- Tura



"Decent work for domestic workers begins at home"

Funding Partners

