

ILO India response to COVID-19

► 6th update October-November 2020

During the current public health crisis, increase in violence and harassment has been reported. The lockdowns and slowing of economy have increased the stress levels. In some cases, this has led to violence and harassment being directed against essential personnel, healthcare workers and others on the pandemic frontlines.

Last year, at the Centenary International Labour Conference, the ILO's 187 member States adopted Violence and Harassment Convention (No. 190) and Recommendation (No. 206). This groundbreaking development is defined as a global commitment to eliminating this scourge.

However, such an all-encompassing commitment needs to be backed by action on the ground. Systems, cultures and individuals that perpetuate harassment or allow it to continue need to be called out and corrected. We all want to build a 'better normal', post-COVID-19. Workplaces free from violence and harassment should be part of that equation. In this update, you will find a few ILO initiatives on this topic.



Everyone has a right to a world of work

free from violence and harassment

Leave no one behind

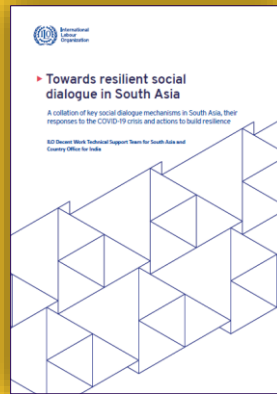
▶ Highlights



The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

ILO supports the global campaign, which began on Wednesday 25 November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women - and will run until 10 December, which is Human Rights Day.

We shared series of 16 posters, social media cards and a video in Hindi and English with partners, constituents and other collaborators to create awareness on the subject. You can download and share them as well. Access [here](#).



Towards resilient social dialogue in South Asia

This report provides valuable information on the main tripartite and bipartite social dialogue mechanisms and processes in South Asia. It captures the extent to which these mechanisms have been involved in responding to the COVID-19 crisis. Crucially, it also provides a strategic set of actions aimed at facilitating the growth of resilient social dialogue mechanisms in South Asia.

To access the full report visit the ILO India website [here](#).



Two sectoral policy briefs -

1. **The supply chain ripple effect: How COVID-19 is affecting garment workers and factories in Asia and the Pacific**
2. **Gendered impacts of COVID-19 on the garment sector**

Assess impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on workers and factories in garment supply chains in Asia and the Pacific

Aims to raise awareness of the gendered reality of COVID-19 and to outline some of the ways in which the pandemic impacts women and men



The Peer Learning Hub for Enterprises in the Asia-Pacific

This is an all-in-one platform providing training materials and information related to the ILO's activity-based and peer learning programmes implemented in the region, allowing partners, providers and beneficiaries to access key resources online. Refer to attached email for more details.

Access here

www.learninghub.ilo.org

▶ Pillars of ILO's response

1 Stimulating the economy and employment

- ▶ A concept note on 'Rural livelihood recovery and stabilisation fund' was developed and presented to the livelihood and financial inclusion team of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. The inputs will influence the COVID-19 recovery measures of the government.
- ▶ Following up with the IHD-ILO-ISLE Virtual Conference on "Implications of the Covid-19 Crisis for Labour and Employment in India: Impact, Strategies and Perspectives", organised during 8-9 June 2020, all speakers contributed articles towards The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, Volume 63, issue 1 published in October 2020. The journal containing 28 articles on the discussed topics is available online [here](#).
- ▶ ILO experts made a presentation on 'Business and Human Rights from

labour perspective' at National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC) organised by Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IIA), under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Company executives, participating at newly launched course on NGRBC will benefit from it.

2 Supporting enterprises, jobs and incomes

- ▶ In collaboration with UN Volunteers (UNV) 52 youths have been guided on starting business applying ILO's Start and Improve your business (SIYB) tool.
- ▶ Through India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility project, ILO and its partners are supporting students willing to pursue higher education in Europe through #GetEUReady campaign. More details [here](#).
- ▶ Technical inputs and capacity building support was provided to Kudumbashree,

rural entrepreneurship development project of Government of Kerala. Women micro entrepreneurs received guidance to re-strategies and improve their business to cope with market disruptions due to COVID-19 through this support.

- ▶ To improve visibility of Home Based Workers (HBWs), enabling their access to decent work and livelihood options ILO established work agreements with All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in four states.
- ▶ Office has completed virtual Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA's) and validation surveys at 12 locations with HBWs.

3 Protecting workers in the workplace

- ▶ ILO provided technical expertise to the 2nd National e-Conference of OSH – towards building a safe workplace and resilient work force

in the new normal.

- ▶ Technical support was offered to Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Training Institute of Government of Kerala inaugurated in October 2020. The first of its kind institute can prove a model for other states.
- ▶ Key stakeholders working on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking were brought together to collaborate for achieving SDG Target 8.7. Two meeting with stakeholders have held to develop action plans for the alliance.

4 Relying on social dialogue for solutions

- ▶ Social partners are supported to prepare recommendations for inclusive and sustainable response to the impact of COVID-19 in the world of work, with emphasis on challenges in achievement of SDGs

▶ ILO experts @ seminars

- ▶ **Virtual Conference on Skilling in Healthcare beyond Covid** organized by CII on 27 October 2020, inaugural address by Dagmar Walter, Director, ILO – New Delhi
- ▶ **'Empowering Women through Sustainable Livelihoods Opportunities: 'Scaling up the creation and growth of women micro-enterprises'** organised by UNDP 10 on November 2020, Satoshi Sasaki, Deputy Director, ILO-New Delhi. Watch [here](#).
- ▶ **South Asian Synergies in International Migration: Identifying Best Practices**, organised by Ministry of External Affairs and India Centre for Migration, 30 October 2020, addressed by Shabari Nair, Migration Expert, Watch [here](#).
- ▶ **Building Back Better: Improving the Situation of Informal Women Workers in Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery Phase**, at India and Sustainability Conference organized by Centre for Responsible Business on 28-30 October, 2020, Bharti Birla, Project Manager, ILO-New Delhi
- ▶ **Piece Rate Wages for Wage Policy and Minimum Wage Training** organized by VV GIRI and Odisha State Labour Department between 2-4 Nov 2020, Bharti Birla, Project Manager, ILO-New Delhi
- ▶ **SDG Watch Tamil Nadu Convention 2020 on SDG 8 - Work And Livelihood**, 7 November 2020, Bharti Birla, Project Manager, ILO-New Delhi

▶ Plans ahead

- ▶ Development of communication toolkit to ensure safe return to work with OSH (Occupational Safety and Health) components in place.
- ▶ Documentation of OSH improvements to deal with COVID-19 initiative with partners.
- ▶ With International Training Centre of ILO-Turin, Training material development initiated towards 'Establishment of Enterprise-Level COVID-19 Task forces'.

▶ News coverage

- THE HINDU**
- ▶ [India becomes chair of ILO governing body](#)
- ORF**
- ▶ [Youth and Covid19: Build back better](#)
- CGTN**
- ▶ [India Economy: Pandemic threatens to worsen labor market inequalities especially for women](#)

▶ ILO's historic Governing Body meeting



In view of the COVID-19 situation and following the safety and health risk assessment, the 340th Session of the ILO Governing Body, was held through virtual platform between 2 -9 November 2020, a unique and first such occasion.

- ▶ **Catch the highlights of the event here** - [A look back at the 340th session of the ILO Governing Body](#)
- ▶ **To access the order of business and key addresses visit here.** - [340th Session of the Governing Body](#)

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