



International
Labour
Office

Geneva

ILO RESOURCES ON DOMESTIC WORK

CATALOGUE





ILO resources on domestic work

Deplorable working conditions, labour exploitation and abuses of human rights are major problems facing domestic workers. The ILO undertakes to protect the rights of domestic workers, promote equality of opportunity and treatment, and improve their working and living conditions. Its global strategy consists of strengthening national capacities and institutions including policy and legislative reforms; promoting the ratification and implementation of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) and its accompanying Recommendation (No. 201); facilitating the organization of domestic workers and their employers; awareness-raising and advocacy; and development of knowledge base and policy tools.

This catalogue gives an overview of the most important ILO knowledge resources and policy tools. Next to a short abstract you will find information about the languages the publication is available in. The resources are grouped by categories. All publications can be found online at www.ilo.org/domesticworkers.

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Convention No. 189 & Recommendation No. 201 concerning decent work for domestic workers, 2011

2011, 16 pages

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish



The Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) lays down basic rights and principles and requires States to take a series of measures to promote decent work for domestic workers. Domestic Workers Recommendation (No. 201) supplements the Convention and provides practical guidance concerning possible legal and other measures to implement the rights and principles stated in the Convention.

Decent Work for Domestic Workers: Convention 189 & Recommendation 201 at a glance

2011, 30 pages

Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish



This brochure introduces the issue of domestic work and provides information about the people covered by Convention No. 189. It gives insight into how the Convention can be implemented at a national level and what the processes of ratification, entry into force and supervision look like. In the second part the provisions of the instruments are summarized thematically, with references to the effective articles. For each issue there are concrete recommendations for policy-makers.

Convention No. 189: Decent work for domestic workers

2011, 4 pages

Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, English, Filipino, French, Portuguese, Spanish



This info note provides a list of frequently asked questions on Convention No. 189. It covers the meaning and process of ratification and implementation of the Convention; the definition of domestic work; the identification of employers of domestic workers; and a summary of the content of the Convention, listing the minimum standards.

Snapshot - ILO in action: domestic workers

2013, 8 pages, *English*

This brochure gives an overview of the situation of domestic workers worldwide and the ILO's response to improve their working conditions. It provides information about Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201 and presents concrete country cases of what has changed since their adoption. It presents the ILO's work in this subject area at global, regional and country levels. Three policy areas are highlighted, namely Wages and Working Time, Migrant Domestic Workers and Maternity Protection.



Moving towards decent work for domestic workers: an overview of the ILO's work

2010, 94 pages

English, French, Spanish



This paper summarizes the ILO's work on the issue of domestic workers through 2010, and presents a strategy for further action. It provides an overview of the various ways in which the ILO has addressed domestic work, including through technical cooperation projects, research, standard-setting, key meetings and declarations, capacity building and policy support, national legislation, and initiatives of ILO social partners. It also highlights responses by self-help organizations of domestic workers and by NGOs. Finally, it proposes an interregional programme on domestic work, consisting of data collection, organizing, advocacy, capacity building and direct service provision.

Promoting decent work for domestic workers: ILO in action

2014, 5 pages, *English*

Domestic workers all over the world are still deprived of their right to fair, humane, safe and secure working conditions, and often are exempt from labour law. The International Labour Organization is addressing the excessive working hours, the low wages, the lack of maternity protection, the vulnerabilities of migrant domestic workers, and the issues of child labour and forced labour, amongst others.



Formalizing domestic work through the use of service vouchers - the particular cases of France, Belgium and the canton of Geneva

2013, 25 pages

English, French, Spanish

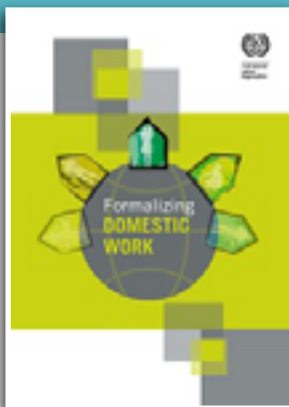
Various countries and regions have set up service voucher schemes that help domestic workers to emerge from the informal economy by easing the administrative burdens on the private citizens who wish to employ them. This report briefly describes how schemes of this kind have been successfully put in place in France, Belgium and the Swiss canton of Geneva.



Formalizing domestic work

2017, 64 pages, *English*

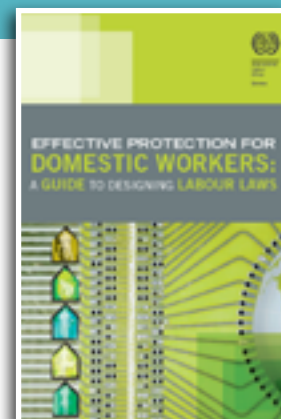
Many countries around the world are at the onset of a care crisis: with the ageing of the population, and continually increasing rates of female labour participation, families are increasingly turning to domestic workers to care for their homes, children, and ageing parents. Domestic work remains one of the sectors with the highest share of informal employment. This report calls for a combination of incentives and compliance to reduce high levels of informality in domestic work.



Effective protection for domestic workers: a guide to designing labour laws

2012, 123 pages

Arabic, Chinese, English, Spanish



This guide was developed to support constituents in establishing effective protections for domestic workers. It present various examples of national legal provisions addressing each provision set out in Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201. Policy areas covered include: legal definitions and the scope of labour laws; written contracts or particulars of employment; fundamental principles and rights at work; protection against abuse, harassment and violence; living conditions; working time; remuneration; and the protection of young workers. In addition, the guide provides an entry point as regards regulating employment agencies and establishing compliance mechanisms. Next to country examples, for each thematic section, the guide provides the rationale for establishing statutory standards and for regulating a particular aspect of the employment relationship as well as references to the relevant provisions of Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201.

The legal regulation of working time in domestic work

Conditions of Work and Employment Series No. 27

2011, 54 pages, *English*



This study examines the nature of working time in domestic work and the working time arrangements of different categories of domestic workers, while suggesting possible frameworks for the regulation of working time. It introduces a model law that could serve as a resource for the design of regulatory measures on working time in domestic work. The model law is grounded on the principle of framed flexibility, which permits reconciling the flexibility needed in many domestic jobs, while simultaneously offering sufficient protection to domestic workers. The model is expressed in everyday language and well-known concepts so that it can be understood in a wide range of settings.

Ending child labour in domestic work and protecting young workers from abusive working conditions

2013, 87 pages

English, French, Portuguese, Spanish



This comprehensive report provides a basis for a better understanding of child domestic work and gives recommendations about how they can be better protected, empowered and how child labour in domestic work can ultimately be ended. It provides information on the main problems related to child domestic work, the relevant ILO and UN Conventions, and current data. It examines policy responses to child labour in several areas, including decent work, social protection, labour markets, education, strategic communication and advocacy and institutional capacity building. The role of governments, employers' and (domestic) workers' organizations as well as civil society organizations is examined. Among other issues, the report explores varied approaches to reaching out to child domestic workers, to preventing their recruitment into child labour situations and ensure the removal and reintegration of those already in such situations, responses to education and training needs, getting employers on board, and how to promote childrens' agency and awareness of their rights so that child domestic workers are empowered to help themselves.

Cooperating out of Isolation: The Case of Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon, Jordan and Kuwait

2015, 27 pages

ISBN: 9789221295730

English



This paper is inspired by examples of domestic workers organizing themselves in different parts of the world through social and solidarity economy enterprises and organizations which have become more evident since the advent of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention 2011, (No.189). It analyses current legislative and policy frameworks, institutional structures and membership-based initiatives that could allow and promote domestic workers' social and solidarity economy enterprises and organizations in three countries in the Middle East; Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon.

Regional Model Competency Standards: Domestic work

2014, 79 pages, *English*



These Regional Model Competency Standards for Domestic Work have been developed by the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. They constitute a set of benchmarks that define the skills, knowledge and attributes required for domestic work as an employment. The standards are designed to be used as a basis for developing national standards and as a regional reference point.

Decent work for migrant domestic workers: Moving the agenda forward

2016, 108 pages, *English*



This report is part of a broader ILO strategy to promote Decent Work for Domestic Workers. It builds on knowledge generated in the context of the European Union-funded Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers and their Families (2013–2016).

Indispensable yet unprotected: Working conditions of Indian Domestic Workers at Home and Abroad

2015, 74 pages

ISBN: 9789221298397

English

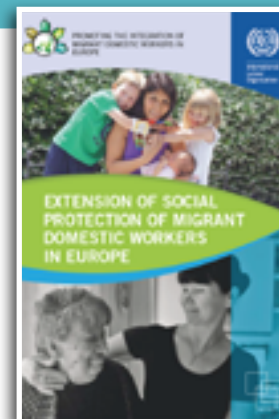
The demand for domestic workers is on the increase within India and in many other countries. This indispensable, yet unrecognised and invisible, labour force is vulnerable and subject to abuse. This study seeks to understand the problems of women migrant domestic workers and to assess the nature of abuse they face, including whether some are victims of forced labour or trafficking for labour exploitation as defined in international law.



Extension of social protection of migrant domestic workers in Europe

2013, 10 pages, *English*

This document tackles the issue of lacking social security for migrant domestic workers in Europe. It lays out the main problems and the existing legal framework of the ILO. It describes the European Union Social Security Legal Framework, including its shortcomings, legal vacuums and good practices.



Cooperating out of Isolation: Domestic Workers' cooperatives

Cooperatives and the World of Work No. 2

2014, 4 pages

English, French, Spanish, Arabic

Domestic workers' cooperatives have great potential to facilitate their members' transition to formality. As worker cooperatives they market their members' services, help negotiate contracts, provide education and advocate for their rights. As service cooperatives, they provide a range of services from finance and education to housing and social protection.



No easy exit – Migration bans affecting women from Nepal

2015, 54 pages

ISBN: 9789221303107

English

The ILO undertook this study with the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW). It explores whether Nepal's age ban deterred younger women from migrating for domestic work and improved working conditions for women migrant domestic workers over 30 years of age. It also explores to what extent the age ban and other bans have had unintended consequences for women, including an increase in irregular migration and trafficking in persons. Finally, it highlights steps the women themselves propose be taken to improve their migration experiences.

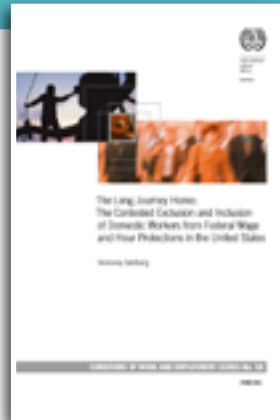


The Long Journey Home: The Contested Exclusion and Inclusion of Domestic Workers from Federal Wage and Hour Protections in the United States

Conditions of Work and Employment Series No. 58

2015, 34 pages, *English*

This paper covers the historical trajectory of domestic workers' contested relationship with minimum wage and overtime protections in the United States. It begins with a brief snapshot of the current coverage of domestic workers in federal-level minimum wage and hour protections, followed by a description of the wage-setting tradition in the United States. It then traces the initial exclusion of domestic workers from foundational minimum wage and overtime protections in the 1930s through their partial inclusion in the 1970s and the on-going struggles for full inclusion today. In the current moment, special attention is given to recent state-level struggles for the full inclusion of privately paid domestic workers and a recent victory that won the full inclusion of publicly paid homecare workers. The narrative concludes with cross-cutting lessons from these histories, offered in the hopes of supporting the efforts of advocates in other nations to win minimum wage protections for domestic workers.



Minimum wage setting practices in domestic work: an inter-state analysis

Conditions of Work and Employment Series No. 66

2015, 73 pages, *English*

This working paper draws lessons from a comparative analysis of the experiences of four states in India that have notified minimum wages for domestic workers. This study tries to capture broad outlines of the effect of statutory minimum wage intervention in terms of setting a wage floor and improving other conditions of work. Some broad issues of implementation such as a lack of awareness among various stakeholders and specific enforcement issues are also discussed.



Improving working conditions for domestic workers: organizing, coordinated action and bargaining

Issue Brief No. 2, *Labour Relations and Collective Bargaining*

2015, 12 pages, *English*

This Issue Brief examines innovative approaches to workers' and employers' organizations and collective bargaining that protect domestic workers from the risk of being engaged in unacceptable forms of work and afford them effective and inclusive labour protection.



Remuneration in domestic work

Policy Brief No. 1

2011, 11 pages

Bahasa Indonesia, English, French, Spanish



The policy brief tackles the issue of remuneration in domestic work. After reviewing factors behind domestic workers' low levels of remuneration, examples illustrating how countries have used minimum wage setting to protect domestic workers' remuneration are presented. It also explores domestic workers' vulnerability to abusive practices in relation to payment of remuneration, and possible measures to address them. The brief concludes by proposing points for consideration by concerned policy-makers.

Working hours in domestic work

Policy Brief No. 2

2011, 12 pages

Bahasa Indonesia, English, French, Spanish



This policy brief describes the nature of problems that domestic workers face with respect to working time and presents research evidence that regulating working hours benefits both domestic workers and their employers. Some key policy issues are explored: the extent to which domestic workers have been excluded from working time regulations, and the different sides and views of working time in domestic work. The brief provides examples of measures that some countries have adopted to protect domestic workers from excessive working hours, insufficient rest and inadequate payment for actual hours worked, which demonstrate that there are varied and innovative ways of extending protection to domestic workers. It then proposes a number of considerations as a starting point for formulating working time regimes in domestic work, which balances the need of households for flexibility with the right of domestic workers to decent working hours.

Measuring the economic and social value of domestic work

Policy Brief No. 3

2011, 8 pages

Bahasa Indonesia, English, French, Spanish



This policy brief presents a conceptual framework for thinking about what is meant when we refer to the economic and social value of paid domestic work, and proposes ways in which the social and economic value of domestic work might be estimated from a range of different perspectives using relatively commonly available survey data sources. The methods are categorized into four broad groups according to the level at which value may be measured: the worker and his or her family, the employer and his or her household, the country, and globally.

Global and regional estimates on domestic workers

Policy Brief No. 4

2011, 11 pages

Bahasa Indonesia, English, French, Spanish



In response to the lack of robust statistical figures, this policy brief presents preliminary minimum global and regional estimates on the number of domestic workers, in advance of the publication *Domestic Workers Across the World*. The numbers are based on data drawn exclusively from official statistics, mainly labour force surveys and population censuses, covering a total of 117 countries and territories.

Coverage of domestic workers by key working conditions laws

Policy Brief No. 5

2011, 8 pages

Bahasa Indonesia, English, French, Spanish



This policy brief presents factual knowledge on the extent to which domestic workers are covered by or excluded from entitlements commonly enjoyed by other wage workers under national laws. It focuses on three key working conditions laws, namely minimum wage legislation, working time provisions and maternity protection.

“Meeting the needs of my family too”: maternity protection and work-family measures for domestic workers

Policy Brief No. 6

2013, 12 pages

English, French, Spanish

This policy brief explains why maternity protection and work-family policies are relevant to promoting decent work for domestic workers and provides the ILO framework on these topics. It canvasses the issues and gaps in the provision of maternity protection and promotion of work-family balance. In conclusion, it outlines considerations to be made in policy-making, and provides country-level examples of how specific obstacles in policy-making have been overcome.



Working time of live- in domestic workers

Policy Brief No. 7

2013, 8 pages

English, French, Spanish

This policy brief focuses on the specific challenges of live-in domestic workers with respect to working time. It first defines live-in domestic work, providing profiles and numbers of live-in domestic workers. It then presents the key issues in working time of live-in domestic workers, who often work far more hours per day and per week than almost any other category of workers, sometimes without rest. The brief presents findings of two pilot studies about a timekeeping tool and employment relationship practices. Based on these findings, the policy brief presents possible areas of policy intervention to limit and regulate the working time of live-in domestic workers.



Domestic worker voice and representation through organizing

Policy Brief No. 8

2015, 11 pages

English, French, Spanish



Despite improved labour protections in countries around the world, domestic workers in many places still struggle to claim these rights. Even where laws are in place, the unequal bargaining position of domestic workers in the employment relationship and conditions of poverty compel them to accept unfair labour practices, including unduly low wages, late payments, underpayment or nonpayment of wages, extremely long hours, and sometimes more extreme forms of abuse and exploitation. These unacceptable forms of work are perpetuated by conditions that are particular to the sector: domestic workers work in isolation, behind closed doors, and their unequal bargaining position in the home disables them from claiming rights that may be provided by law, bargaining for better conditions, and, worse, unable to refuse exploitative work.

Making decent work a reality for migrant domestic workers

Policy Brief No. 9

2015, 12 pages

English, French, Spanish



In many parts of the world, domestic workers have the face of a migrant woman. For many of them, migration can represent a positive experience and have important emancipating and empowering impacts. What are the main trends of migration for domestic work? What are the main challenges that persist and how can governance of labour migration policy be improved? What are emerging practices in addressing these challenges throughout the migration cycle?

Trabajo doméstico: un largo camino hacia el trabajo decente

2009, 304 pages, *Spanish*

This book is a collection of essays by sociologists, economists and lawyers about the peculiarities of domestic work in Latin America. They discuss the connection between paid and unpaid domestic work and its effect on the reproduction of gender and class differences. Topics include gender, migration and child domestic work, with special mentioning of Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru.



Domestic workers across the world: Global and regional statistics and the extent of legal protection

2013, 134 pages

English, Russian

This report attempts to capture the size of the domestic work sector and the extent of legal protection enjoyed by domestic workers on the basis of a verifiable and replicable methodology. It provides a benchmark for the situation of domestic workers across the world against which progress in implementing the new instruments can be measured. It takes stock of global and regional statistics on domestic workers and discusses the extent of legal protection for domestic workers with respect to minimum standards for working conditions.

The report provides examples of what governments, trade unions and employers' federations have done to improve the situation for domestic workers. The appendices document the methodology that was used to produce the global and regional estimates and the underlying statistical and legal information at the country level.



Child domestic work: Global estimates 2012

2013, 8 pages

*English, French, Portuguese,
Spanish*

This publication presents estimates on the number and profile of child domestic workers worldwide, building on detailed information from national household surveys on child domestic work. The 2012 estimates on child labour in domestic work are based on the industry approach when measuring domestic work. Statistics are presented according to age group and sex.



Promover la integración de las trabajadoras y los trabajadores domésticos migrantes en España

International Migration Papers
No. 114

2013, 76 pages, *Spanish*

This report of the European research project 'Promoting integration for migrant domestic workers in Europe' provides an analysis of the domestic work sector and its legal context in Spain, with a focus on migrant domestic workers. Results from the research give insight into integration strategies of these workers, their trajectories & the dynamics of labour mobility. With the conclusions come recommendations on how to improve the situation of these workers in Spain.



Promoting integration for migrant domestic workers in Italy

International Migration Papers
No. 115

2013, 76 pages, *English*

This report of the European research project 'Promoting integration for migrant domestic workers in Europe' provides analytical insight on the composition and organization of migrant domestic work and immigration policies, their connections in Italy, and gives information about the socio-demographic characteristics, working conditions and distribution of these workers over the last 10-15 years. The report shows their labour trajectories in Italy, looking at upward mobility and at workers who engage in activities of advocacy and lobbying for the rights and interests of care workers. Recommendations for policy reform are also given.



Promoting integration for migrant domestic workers in Belgium

International Migration Papers No. 116

2013, 91 pages, *English*

This report of the European research project 'Promoting integration for migrant domestic workers in Europe' presents an overview of the major Belgian migration and labour policies regarding domestic work in general and migrant domestic workers specifically. Based on a qualitative analysis of the stories of 57 migrant domestic workers, the complex interplay between the migration trajectory, labour trajectory and social network is analysed, looking at how these factors shape the workers' quality of work and their opportunities to enhance their labour market mobility and broader socio-economic integration. As a conclusion some policy recommendations are made.



Promouvoir l'intégration des travailleuses et travailleurs domestiques migrants en France

*International Migration Papers
No. 117*

2013, 92 pages, *French*

This country report of the European research project 'Promoting integration for migrant domestic workers in Europe' analyses the trajectories of migrants working in the domestic services sector in France. It looks at working conditions, administrative status and education and qualifications of migrant domestic workers, as well as at labour market mobility. In the end Recommendations are given about how to promote better integration and more decent working conditions for migrant domestic workers in France.



Promoting integration for migrant domestic workers in Europe: a synthesis of Belgium, France, Italy and Spain

*International Migration Papers
No. 118*

2013, 38 pages, *English*

This paper synthesizes the results of a research project entitled 'Promoting integration for migrant domestic workers in Europe'. Its synthesis of perspectives, opinions, and strategies of migrant domestic workers and social actors in their efforts to improve the work quality and integration opportunities for migrant domestic workers in Europe is based on the findings of the four national reports (International Migration Papers Nos. 114, 115, 116, and 117). In conclusion, it provides policy recommendations to European governments, employers, trade unions, and other social actors on how to improve the integration and decent working conditions for migrant domestic workers.



Domestic work, wages, and gender equality: Lessons from developing countries

GED Working Paper
No. 5/2015

2015, 25 pages, *English*



This paper seeks to contribute to a better understanding of developments regarding labour market participation and remuneration in the domestic work sector in comparison with other sectors, drawing on latest available household and labour surveys data and legal information from a diverse group of developing countries (Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Indonesian, Mali, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, and Viet Nam). The paper looks at the basic characteristics of female domestic workers, gaps in minimum wage coverage, compliance, and the extent of minimum wage violations. Presenting empirical evidence on labour market inequality along gender lines, the paper discusses the role of minimum wages for reducing gender disparity and questions of regulatory design. Finally, the paper examines strategies for compliance and enforcement, arguing that there is a need for comprehensive and innovative approaches in order to ensure respect for minimum wage legislation in the domestic work sector. It concludes that minimum wages for domestic workers are indeed an important tool for promoting gender equality within a broader approach to addressing informality and worker's empowerment.

ILO global estimates on migrant workers: results and methodology

Special focus on migrant domestic workers

2015, 118 pages, *English*



The ILO estimates that 150 million people are migrant workers. According to recent ILO estimates, there are 150.3 million migrant workers in the world. Of these, 11.5 million are migrant domestic workers. The term “migrant worker” refers to all international migrants who are currently employed or are unemployed and seeking employment in their present country of residence. The data on migrant workers that have been used to calculate the estimates refer to migrant workers in the country of destination and measure the migrant stocks in 2013.

Working around the clock? A manual for trainers to help live-in domestic workers count their working time

2014, 68 pages

English, Spanish



This manual explains working time concepts in relation to live-in domestic workers. It contains a working time tool to help domestic workers keep a basic overview of their working time and tasks, and instructions on how to use this tool in different legal settings. It also provides a detailed set of modules, materials and resources to assist trainers in organizing and delivering a training for live-in domestic workers on how to use the tool and the implications of recorded hours.

Labour inspection in domestic work

Module 16 of the ITC-ILO Curriculum on "Building modern and effective labour inspection systems"

2014, 85 pages

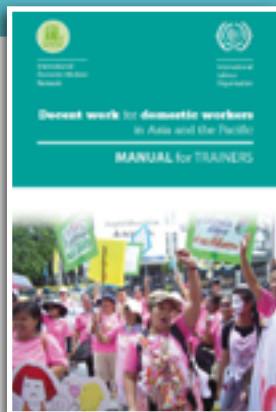
English, Spanish



This module presents labour inspectors and policy-makers with the main challenges that the labour inspectorate will encounter when carrying out their work in the domestic work sector. It provides an overview of the provisions of ILO Conventions, of the most common risks of non-compliance and how labour inspection can tackle them. There is a description of challenges for labour inspectors and a collection of possible ways forward to address the challenges faced. In the second part of the publication, a collection of practical exercises with handouts on different topics can be found.

Decent work for domestic workers in Asia and the Pacific: Manual for trainers

2012, 124 pages, *English*



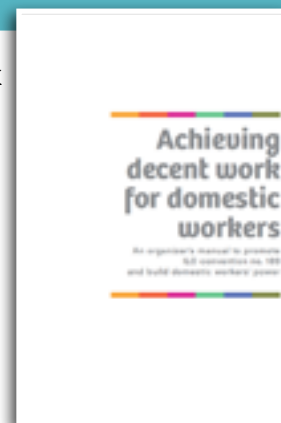
The aim of this training manual is to stimulate reflection and discussion on domestic work and how to gain recognition of domestic work as work like any other, how to ensure respect for and dignity of domestic workers, and how to achieve decent working conditions for domestic workers, including organizing strategies and lobbying.

The training manual consists of three modules. Each module starts with a guide containing the aims, contents, trainers' notes, a suggested lesson plan and a list of materials and equipment. Every module is divided into sessions with activities, tools and handouts for participants. The sessions can be used separately or one after the other as a complete step-by-step guide for training courses and workshops, study groups, information sessions, meetings and assemblies.

Achieving decent work for domestic workers: an organizer's manual to promote ILO Convention No. 189 and build domestic workers' power

2012, 65 pages

English, French, Spanish, Arabic



This manual was designed to support domestic worker organizations and unions in their efforts to promote the ratification and application of ILO Convention No. 189, and to organize domestic workers. It presents approaches to organizing based on successful experiences of domestic worker organizations and trade unions. A User's guide shows the necessary steps that must be taken for a Convention to be ratified. And finally examples of victories that have resulted from successful organizing around the world are presented. At each stage, reference is made to the relevant provisions in the new instruments (Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201), both of which can be found in the appendices.

Labour inspection and other compliance mechanisms in the domestic work sector

2015, 95 pages, *English*



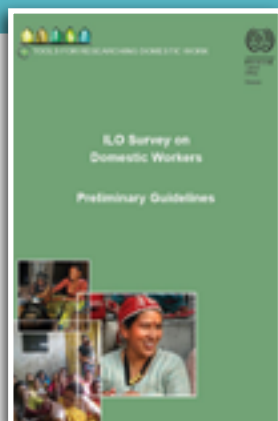
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ILO survey on domestic workers: Preliminary guidelines

Tools for Researching Domestic Work

2014, 42 pages

English, French



This report draws from the experience gained from two surveys of domestic workers conducted in Tanzania and Zambia to provide preliminary guidelines on the design and implementation of surveys of domestic workers in countries of interest. The different sections of this report describe the measurement objectives of surveys of domestic workers, the main concepts and definitions, questionnaire and sample designs, the particular aspects of survey operations, and finally some results of the ILO surveys in Tanzania and Zambia.

Qualitative research on employment relationship and working conditions: Preliminary guidelines

Tools for Researching Domestic Work

2014, 78 pages, *English*



This research guide presents a qualitative research methodology for investigating the employment relationship between domestic workers and the employer-household, with special attention on employment practices and working conditions. The guide is based on research from Tanzania, Zambia and the Philippines conducted in 2013. It presents practical methods and tools for collecting and analysing data, challenges that the researcher might encounter and strategies how to tackle some of these difficulties. Three example topic guides (one for interviews with domestic workers, one for interviews with employers and one for focus group discussions) give researchers ideas about how to structure their interviews and what questions to ask.

Measuring the economic and social value of domestic work: Conceptual and methodological framework

Conditions of Work and Employment Series No. 30


2011, 44 pages, *English*



Because domestic work has long been ignored and undervalued, policy and legislation need to be accompanied by a change in thinking about the value of domestic work. Making visible its economic and social worth through tangible and quantifiable measures will help change perceptions, and lend legitimacy to and reinforce actions aimed at improving the working and living conditions of domestic workers. The paper addresses two key questions: What is the true value of domestic work? Can this value be measured and how? It presents a conceptual framework about what is meant by economic and social value of paid domestic work, and explores possible methods of measuring and estimating its value to the worker and his or her family, to the employer and her or his household, to the country, and to the world. Some of the approaches are tested using data from South Africa and Uruguay. The conceptual and methodological strengths and weaknesses of each approach are also assessed.

All resources are available online

www.ilo.org/domesticworkers



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