

Media alert: ETUC joins the launch of the world-wide Campaign "12 by 12: decent work for domestic workers!"

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MEDIA ALERT

ETUC joins the launch of the world-wide Campaign
"12 by 12: decent work for domestic workers!"

16 December 2011



**European Trade Union Confederation [ETUC]
Confédération européenne des syndicats [CES]**

On Monday 19 December, hundreds of domestic workers from Europe and third EU countries will symbolically clean the square in front of the European Parliament in Brussels.(1)*

This initiative is meant to kick off the world-wide Campaign "12 by 12" led by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in partnership with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the International Domestic Workers Network (IDWN) and several national unions and NGOs fighting for women's and migrants' rights.

There are over 100 million workers employed to do domestic work in someone else's house all over world. Exact figures are hard to come by given that domestic work is not only a significant sector of work but also an important part of the grey economy.

The aim of the 12 by 12 Campaign is to get the first 12 countries to pass decent laws for domestic workers in 2012 and ratify the C 189 Domestic Workers Convention.

Domestic workers are campaigning for one day off a week, a minimum wage, an 8-hour day, the right to join a union, protection from exploitation and abuse, social protection and the regulation of employment agencies.

"The European Union should be a driver in promoting the rights of domestic workers who are heavily under-protected and victims of harassment everywhere in Europe" said Bernadette Segol, ETUC Secretary General. "We call Member States and the EU to provide these workers with adequate legislative and contractual protection, in line with the spirit of ILO Convention C189".

**(1)*

When: 12:12pm Monday 19th December, 2011

Where: The square in front of the European Parliament

What: Domestic workers in aprons, with scrub brushes will clean the square in front of the European Parliament, starting at 12:12 pm

Who: 100s of domestic workers; Bernadette Ségal, General Secretary of the ETUC; Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation; Solidar; International Domestic Workers Network; Alejandro Cercas MEP, and the Belgian trade unions CSC, FGTB and CGSLB-ACLVB.

The ETUC exists to speak with a single voice, on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 84 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 12 industry-based federations.

The ETUC is also on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#). If you would like to subscribe to the [ETUC newsletter](#), please [click here](#).

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